



Media Information BILSTER BERG

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BILSTER BERG– From Vision to Reality

On June 1, 2013, the day had finally come. After a planning and approval phase of nearly seven years and a construction phase lasting almost 20 months, BILSTER BERG officially opened. It was the first new racetrack in Western Germany to open in over 80 years.

However, the 4.2-kilometer-long asphalt track was not meant to be a racing circuit, even though it was designed and built by Formula 1 architect Hermann Tilke. Automobile manufacturers often rent the BILSTER BERG as a test and presentation track, and due to the track's white label principle, it is also a popular venue for product presentations and film crews.

BILSTER BERG also includes an off-road course, a club house, and a restaurant run by local restaurateurs Marcus Schuster and Thorsten Federschmid, as well as a driving dynamics' testing area.

From a NATO ammunition depot to a racetrack...



In 1993, the British Army of the Rhine closed its ammunition depot, which had been opened 19 years earlier. The 86-hectare property returned to the Federal Republic of Germany and its previous owner, Johann Friedrich Freiherr von der Borch. Together with Marcus Graf von Oeynhausen-Sierstorpf, von der Borch took a bicycle tour around the grounds in April 2005. The idea of building a racetrack was born.

In March 2006, current Managing Director Hans-Jürgen von Glasenapp and his team began project development. Formula 1 circuit architect Hermann Tilke was skeptical at first. A visit to the site changed his mind and he drafted an initial track plan. Moreover, two-time World Rally champion Walter Röhrl helped the team to develop a challenging circuit layout by contributing with his extensive expertise and volunteering as a test driver.

In the following years, the project attracted more than 180 private investors. The 34 million euros budgeted for the project could thus be financed entirely without public funds. Just as it had been intended in the plan from the very beginning.

The construction permit and operation license were issued in August 2011, and the foundation was laid on September 27. The construction period lasted 20 months and involved a total of 200 construction workers. The track was finished in April 2013, and the official opening took place on June 1, 2013. In 2023, BILSTER BERG celebrated its 10-year-anniversary with, among other events, an Open House event which 2,500 people attended.



One Track – Countless Possibilities



Even without being a racetrack, BILSTER BERG offers versatility, whether as a perfect setting for a product launch, as a test track, for a track day, or as a photo and film set.

The heart of BILSTER BERG is the 4.2-kilometer-long asphalt track. Walter Röhrl called it the world's most emotional racetrack. With 44 crests and dips, 19 curves, a 26 percent downward gradient and a 21 percent incline, the circuit has a greater height difference per kilometer than the legendary Nordschleife of the Nürburgring.

Two for One

The track can be split into a 1.8-kilometer Westschleife (West track) and a 2.4-kilometer Ostschleife (East track). This allows two groups to use the track independently, including separate entrances.

Two separate paddocks, the upper paddock measuring 9,000 m² and the lower measuring 6,500 m², can also be used independently of one another. Each paddock has its own pit lane with four pit buildings. In addition, there are 19 rental halls, all of which are equipped with sanitary facilities, electricity, and water connections. This makes them suitable for a wide range of corporate events.



An off-road course with obstacles and a driver safety course with skid training



A separate, five-kilometer-long off-road course offers a number of obstacles for off-road vehicles such as traverses, water ditches and a 100 % downward gradient.



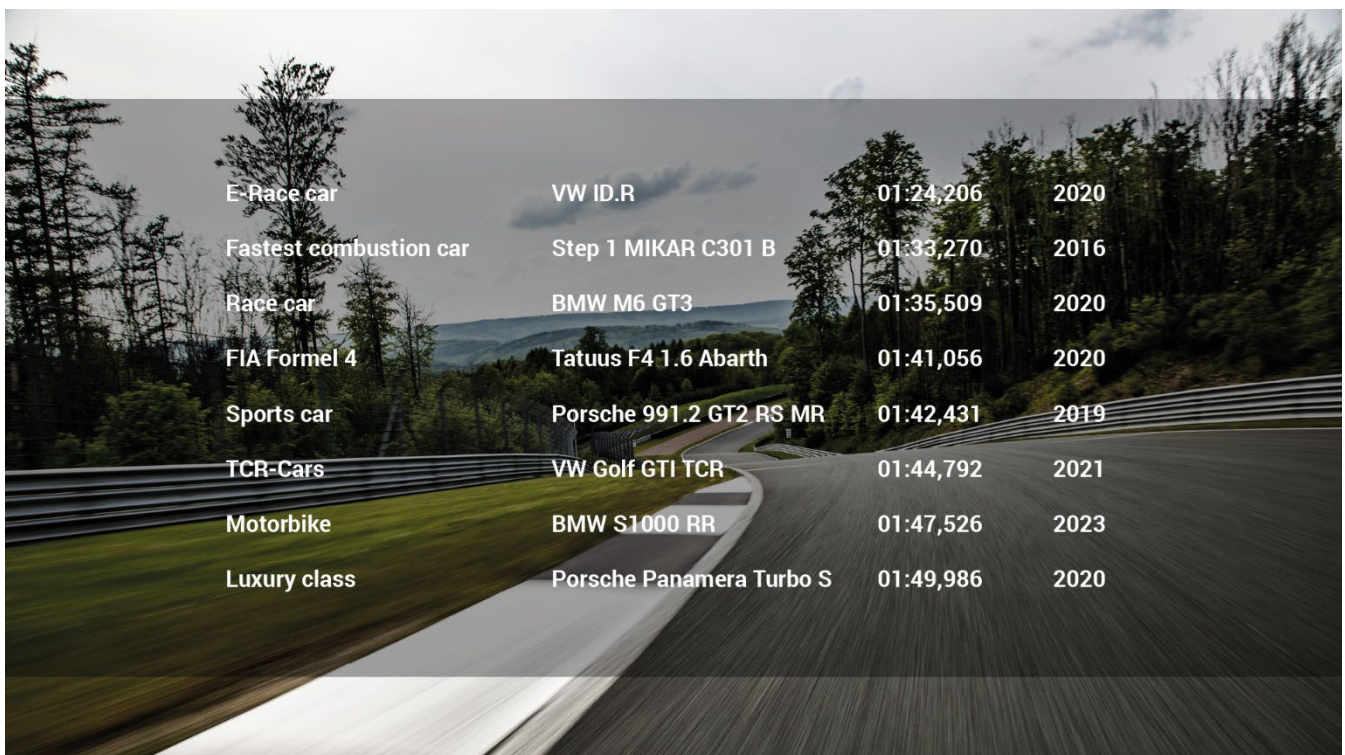
For driver safety and perfection training, BILSTER BERG offers a 320 × 60-meter floodable dynamic track. This area can be used to simulate various driving situations and train drivers how to handle them.

Outside of the car

The modern clubhouse on the Westschleife offers a 360° view of the pristine Teutoburg Forest. At TURN ONE, the restaurant on the Ostschleife terrace, visitors can let an exciting day come to an end with delicious food and drinks.



Current Lap Records (Updated: September 12, 2023)



E-Race car	VW ID.R	01:24,206	2020
Fastest combustion car	Step 1 MIKAR C301 B	01:33,270	2016
Race car	BMW M6 GT3	01:35,509	2020
FIA Formel 4	Tatuus F4 1.6 Abarth	01:41,056	2020
Sports car	Porsche 991.2 GT2 RS MR	01:42,431	2019
TCR-Cars	VW Golf GTI TCR	01:44,792	2021
Motorbike	BMW S1000 RR	01:47,526	2023
Luxury class	Porsche Panamera Turbo S	01:49,986	2020

BILSTER BERG: Facts & Figures

Grounds, ecological compensation area

86 hectares of fenced-in grounds with driving modules

106 hectares of ecological compensation land outside of the fenced-in area

Topography and Facilities	Investments, construction measures	Environmental measures
4.2 km track 44 crests and dips 19 curves 26 % downhill gradient 21 % uphill gradient 28 track marshals 26 HD cameras 8 pit buildings, each with an area of either 380 or 570 m ² 19 rental halls, each with an area of 380 m ² 9,000 m ² upper paddock 6,500 m ² lower paddock Photovoltaic panels installed on 26 roofs of BILSTER BERG buildings	EUR 34 million total volume EUR 8 million in start-up costs EUR 27 million in construction costs (of which EUR 15 million went to regional contractors) 180 shareholders 20-month construction period 200 construction workers Excavated soil = 400,000 m ³ Crushed rock = 80,000 m ³ Concrete = 4,500 m ³ Sand/gravel = 25,000 m ³ Asphalt = 22,000 m ³ Steel = 700 metric tons Pipes/pipelines = 55,000 m Drainage channels = 4,400 m Cabling = 86,000 m Crash barriers = 25,000 m Tire walls = 50,000 tires (held together with 250,000 screws) Fencing = 8,500 m	400 big trees (Oaks, hazels, lindens, wild pears, maples, etc.) 20,000 small trees and bushes (new plantings of field maples, sycamores, wild cherries, blackthorns, hawthorns, etc.) 6,100 m ³ of orchid-rich rough pastureland preserved 20 Galloway cattle 40 dormouse boxes 2 pond biotopes for great crested newts 21 bee colonies looked after by the Hensel beekeeping company, which produces the popular BILSTER BERG racing honey. 100 replacement bat roosts 2 bat houses and 1 bat hill 4 mapped burial mounds (historic preservation)

Nature & Environment

The Bilster Berg Drive Resort GmbH & Co. KG has made the protection and preservation of the natural habitats around BILSTER BERG its basic principle. To ensure this, an environmental management system DIN EN ISO 14001 was implemented in 2012, which was replaced by the DIN EN ISO 14001:2015 in 2017. Internal and external environmental audits document the continued development of BILSTER BERG, focusing not only on species' protection, but also on topics such as CO₂ reduction, handling of hazardous substances, sound monitoring, resource consumption, and much more.

As part of the environmental management system, 100 hectares of ecological compensation areas for flora and fauna were created. This area is divided into 46 hectares of CEF (Continuous Ecological Functionality) and 54 hectares of forest area. Additionally, 20 Galloway cattle, various species of bats and frogs, hazel dormice, and about 60 bird species feel at home here. A mapped orchid meadow is assisted in pollination by our 20 bee colonies. With about 1,000,000 million happy bees, BILSTER BERG thus contributes to the continued existence of species on the Red List.

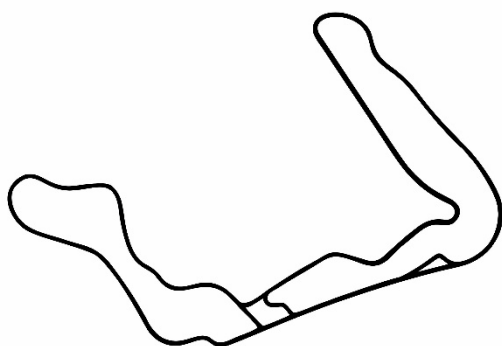
Furthermore, BILSTER BERG relies exclusively on 100 % renewable energies (including the neighboring wind turbines), which make the electricity consumption climate neutral. At the beginning of 2024, the installation of photovoltaic panels on 26 roofs of BILSTER BERG buildings was completed and put into operation. In addition to energy from wind power, BILSTER BERG now obtains around 1.5 megawatts of power from those solar modules, making it the largest surplus feed-in photovoltaic rooftop system of all European racetracks.



Nomen est omen?

How the curves at BILSTER BERG got their truly unusual names

Have you ever driven on a racetrack? If you have, you will know that most of the curves have names. Often named after defining features of the region or famous race drivers, curves like Blanchimont, Rascasse, Müllenbachschleife or Schumacher-S are well known even outside the world of motorsports. Not so at BILSTER BERG. The names of its curves reflect the racetrack's history, mainly as a former military base...



Kugelkopf (Bullet) – Since BILSTER BERG is located on a former British ammunition depot and the first curve is bullet-shaped, the name is quite self-explanatory.

Fledermaushügel (Bat Hill) – BILSTER BERG is home to a large number of bats. This part of the grounds also includes a hill that serves as a hibernation roost for the bats.

Pumpenhaus (Pump House) – BILSTER BERG has its own water source. The pump house pumps water throughout the entire property and into the track's extinguishing pipe system.

Munitionsfeld (Ammunition Field) – This long section name refers to the fact that the area was used as an ammunition depot, which was operated by the British Army of the Rhine until 1993.

Jägerbuche (Hunter's Beech) – The track is surrounded by many old beech trees and, originally, a hunting hide as well.

Driburger Lichtung (Driburg Clearing) – This curve was named as a tribute to the town of Bad Driburg.

Hermannsschneise (Hermann's Path) – This section is dedicated to racetrack architect Hermann Tilke...

Sauwechsel (Boars' Crossing) – ... who encountered a horde of wild boars at exactly this spot the first time he visited BILSTER BERG.

Telegrafbogen (Telegraph Bend) – This curve is located close to the Oeyenhausen telegraph station, which sent optical telegraph signals between Berlin and Koblenz from 1833 to 1849 and which still stands to this day.

Kommandatur (Command Headquarters) – Former site of the British command center. Today, this is where BILSTER BERG's state-of-the-art administration building, the heart of the racetrack, is located.

Mausefalle (Mousetrap) – Inspired by the legendary *Streif* downhill course in Kitzbühel, BILSTER BERG also has a mousetrap, the most treacherous section with the steepest downhill gradient of 26 percent and the biggest compression.

Steilwand (Steep Climb) – After the Mousetrap with its 26 percent downhill gradient, drivers are immediately faced with a steep climb with an incline of 21 percent.

Bilster Kuppe (Bilster Peak) – After the climb, drivers arrive at Bilster Peak. This section name describes the fact that drivers are unable to see what comes next.

Hochsitz (Perch) – During the project development phase, this spot was home to a five-meter-high observation tower that offered excellent views of the entire area.

Clubhaus-S (Clubhouse S) – The S-curve winds its way past BILSTER BERG's modern clubhouse.

Pömbser Höhe (Pömbsen Plateau) – This is the longest straight section of the track, located near the village of Pömbsen.

Mutkurve (Courage Bend) – This impressive blind bend with a slight downhill gradient and right tilt demands a great deal of courage from even the most experienced drivers.

Nieheimer Senke (Nieheim Dip) – The dip is the lowest point of the circuit and points in the direction of the town of Nieheim.

Hügelgrab (Burial Mound) – It is believed that there are five to seven burial mounds in this part of the track. The area is protected accordingly.

Oeynhaus-Kehre (Oeynhaus Turn) – The track's last loop points in the direction of the neighboring village of Bad Oeynhaus.

BILSTER BERG Over the Years

June 1970	The NATO troops of the British Army of the Rhine start the construction of an ammunition depot.
1974	Commissioning of what was, at the time, the most state-of-the-art ammunition depot in Western Europe.
1993	Closure of the depot and return of the land to the Federal Republic of Germany, which return it to the previous owner Johann Friedrich Freiherr von der Borch.
April 2004	Marcus Graf von Oeynhausen-Sierstorpff and Johann Friedrich Freiherr von der Borch visit the abandoned property of the former ammunition depot while on a cycling trip. The idea of building a racetrack is born and they start developing the initial concept.
November 2004	Graf Oeynhausen and Baron von der Borch meet Hermann Tilke in Aachen.
2005	Numerous discussions and presentations are held to find investors and supporters for the project.
March 2006	Graf Oeynhausen brings Hans-Jürgen von Glasenapp, the current Managing Director, to Bad Driburg to look after the project development.
Spring 2006	Submission to change the regional plans to the Authorities.
September 2006	The regional council approves the altered land-use plan.
April 2008	The first shareholders come on board.
October 2008	Walter Röhrl, two-time World Rally champion, supports the project and offers advice in terms of the track layout.
January 2009	First shareholder meeting at Gräflicher Park in Bad Driburg with three shareholders.
Spring 2010	Start of the technical project management by Hans-Joachim Pillich from bmp Baumanagement Pillich.
September 2010	Start of the implementation of ecological compensation measures by landscape architects Kortemeier Brokmann Landschaftsarchitekten GmbH and Dr. Thomas Esser from the Cologne Office of Faunistics.

October 2010	Application for construction permits and operation license submitted in accordance with the German Federal Emission Control Act (BImSchG).
January 2011	A number of Galloway cattle are relocated to BILSTER BERG and have been grazing on the ecological compensation areas ever since.
February 2011	The Higher Regional Court of Münster dismisses the case brought by a farmer from Nieheim against the approval of the construction plans. The construction plan is finalized. Land is cleared in preparation for construction under the supervision of experts regarding the legal requirements for the conservation of species.
Spring 2011	Implementation of an environmental management system in accordance with the requirements of DIN EN ISO 14001.
August 2011	The Höxter administrative district issues the construction permits and operating license.
September 27, 2011	Groundbreaking and cornerstone ceremony.
November 2011	Temporary withdrawal of the operating license by the Minden Administrative Court on the basis of necessary improvements to the soundproofing concept. During this time, construction work was permitted to continue.
January 2012	The banks withdraw their financial support due to the Temporary withdrawal of the operating license.
February 2012	The shareholders decide to completely fund the project with equity capital.
March 2012	The first Galloway calves are born: Paule, Anton, Felix, Lotte and Paula.
May 2012	The Higher Administrative Court in Münster dismisses the motion to uphold the suspension of construction work.
July 2012	The asphalt pavement is completed.
August 2012	After withdrawal of the petition for special operating days, the Höxter administrative district issues a change authorization.
October 2012	The Minden Administrative Court confirms the change authorization and dismisses complaints from local residents with no possibility to appeal. The complaints did not demonstrate a sufficient legal basis. The request for immediate enforcement in terms of operation is granted.

November 2012	The management moves from the premises of Gräflicher Park Hotel & Spa to the newly constructed BILSTER BERG Welcome Center.
March 2013	Calibration test runs for partial approval in accordance with emission control laws are carried out.
April 2013	Official track approval and start of activities at BILSTER BERG.
May 31 – June 2, 2013	Grand opening of BILSTER BERG. 40,000 visitors attend the open house day.
December 2013	Certification for the environmental management system DIN EN ISO 14001.
2013	BILSTER BERG is chosen as the "Track of the Year" at the "Professional MotorSport World Expo", the annual trade fair in Cologne.
April 2014	First Racetrack Training carried out, now known as "Racetrack Training".
Spring 2014	Donkervoort Automobielen B.V. (GmbH) expands to Germany with a subsidiary at BILSTER BERG.
2015	BILSTER BERG receives the environmental award from the German Motorsports Federation (DMSB). The second change permit for operational improvements is applied for (3dB increase).
May 19, 2016	BILSTER BERG appeals against the judgment of the Regional Court in Paderborn. BILSTER BERG Drive Resort GmbH & Co.KG has asked the former managing director and managing partner Graf von Oeynhausen-Sierstorpf to repay project management services.
May 23, 2016	New brand identity with an online magazine putting the customer at the center of operations. New slogan: "Driving Business," "Ihr Business ist unser Antrieb." ("Your business fuels us.") Six new service pillars are proposed: Driving Experiences, Product Launches, Tests, Track Days as well as Photo & Film Set and Training Location.
November 9, 2016	The Minden Administrative Court dismisses another complaint by residents against BILSTER BERG.
2016	The environmental management system is adapted to the requirements of DIN ISO 14001:2015 with external expert support.
January 2017	BILSTER BERG achieves the DIN EN ISO 14001:2015 certificate.

June 28, 2017	Application for the third amendment permit for operational improvements.
Late summer 2017	German TV presenter Joko Winterscheidt races against Formula 1 driver Nico Hülkenberg at BILSTER BERG. The horsepower duel can be seen in Joko's show "Beginner versus Winner".
November 23, 2017	The Making-Of of the latest INFINITI commercial at BILSTER BERG. The commercial of NISSAN's luxury brand is shot during two days by a crew of 80 members and broadcast nationwide in the USA.
2017	The ADAC Ostwestfalen-Lippe e.V. organizes the "BILSTER BERG Trophy" at BILSTER BERG for the first time.
2018	The "Performance Expo 2018", the in-house exhibition of Schwenker, attracted 2,500 people to BILSTER BERG, the highest number of visitors since its opening.
October 7, 2018	For the second time, the cycling pros of "Müller - Die lila Logistik Rad Bundesliga" face the challenge of BILSTER BERG. Around 1,200 visitors and cycling pros are on-site on this day.
2018	More and more international organizers come to BILSTER BERG, e.g. Porsche Danmark or the foundation 'Dag met een Lach' from the Netherlands.
May 26, 2019	Fitness on Track: For the first time, tires are replaced by running shoes. Around 200 professional and amateur runners work up a sweat running the track.
September 7 – 8, 2019	BILSTER BERG goes retro: open-air cinema I at BILSTER BERG. The movies "Rush" and "Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw" provide a unique car atmosphere.
October 2019	"BILSTER BERG BATTLE" – online racing. In cooperation with RaceRoom and Sector3, the BILSTER BERG track is created as a digital version for the online game RaceRoom.
October 2019	Since the first Racetrack Training in 2014, 2000 drivers have already taken part in this event.
March 2020	The Covid-related lockdown results in the cancellation of nearly all events in the period from March to April 2020.
May 2020	Cancellations of events can usually be made up for by postponements.

Summer 2020	Due to Covid, the BILSTER BERG team is implementing cost-cutting measures, including short-time work and the takeover of services previously executed by external contractors.
June 2020	Thanks to in-depth hygiene concepts, events can once again take place under certain conditions.
January 2021	The Federal Court of Justice confirms the non-admission of the appeal in the legal dispute with Marcus Graf von Oeynhausen-Sierstorpff and his company group.
April 2021	Opening of a TÜV Nord test station at BILSTER BERG. This is a first for a racetrack in Germany. The inspection center is operated and managed by local company Classic & Speed GmbH.
Spring 2021	The start of the track day season is postponed due to the ongoing lockdown. In April and May, all track days have to be canceled.
June 2021	Covid cases decrease, vaccination rates increase: looser regulations by the regional state government make events at BILSTER BERG possible again.
March 2022	The BILSTER BERG erFahren event is brought back to life, after being put on pause for nearly 2,5 years.
April 2022	Charging facilities for electric vehicles are available for the first time and are to be expanded in the future. In addition, the planning and implementation of the installation of photovoltaic panels on around 20 roofs of the old munitions halls is underway.
July 2022	Filming with Walter Röhrli, Tim Schrick and Benny Leuchter at BILSTER BERG.
Beginning of August 2022	Continental-Film shoot the second part of <i>Manta-Manta</i> on the BILSTER BERG track.
August 2022	The Tourenwagen-Legenden come to BILSTER BERG for test- and set-up runs.
August 2022	Slotcar racing finals of the RCCO at BILSTER BERG.
2023	BILSTER BERG celebrates its 10th anniversary. After the opening event in 2013, BILSTER BERG organizes an Open Door Day for the second time. All local residents and interested parties are invited. Nearly 2,500 people attend.

December 2023

Final judgement after 8 years. In the legal dispute with Marcus Graf von Oeynhausen-Sierstorpf and his company group. The higher regional court Hamm orders Marcus Graf von Oeynhausen-Sierstorpf to repay 1.9 million euros to BILSTER BERG.

January 2024

The photovoltaic system, which was installed on 26 of the former ammunition halls' and other buildings' roofs, goes into operation. In addition to energy from wind power, BILSTER BERG now obtains around 1.5 megawatts of power from the installed solar modules. This makes it the largest surplus feed-in photovoltaic rooftop system of all European racetracks.

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