

Customer name: Janet Dedicoat
Location:
Bittell Farm, Barnt Green, Birmingham
Arena size: 40 x 20 m
Contractor: Self Build
Main usage/profession:
Livery yard/riding school

flexiride all-in-one surface



Bittell Farm Livery yard is a very busy mainly DIY livery yard normally housing up to 50 horses at any one time. The riders range from young (and less young) beginners to actively competing riders in dressage, show jumping and Eventing. Because of this Janet needed a surface that would suit this wide range of disciplines and riding ability. Janet's qualifications include; BHSII level, Chief Instructor of the West Warwickshire Pony Riding Club, Riding Club/B.E/Dressage judge, not to mention over 30 years equine experience.

Bittell Farm has two arenas one is situated on an old silage clamp with a concrete base. It was this arena that had been causing Janet some problems with finding a suitable surface. "I have used all manner of surfaces on this area with varying results; none of which were particularly successful. The area does tend to drain slowly down the channels on the concrete base, but this meant that the sand surfaces we used could become very waterlogged and could freeze in winter and the woodchip surfaces broke down very quickly. Even when conditions were good, maintenance was an ongoing issue as it is with any busy yard and having a surface suitable for all riders was difficult to achieve," she explains.

"The flexiride has addressed every issue that that is important to me in a surface for my yard. It has proved to be very popular with all of my liveries as it gives a cushioning ride, but still gives a stable ride underfoot and is secure even when jumping as well as having no dust."

Because of the success of the first arena, Janet has stripped the woodchip from her larger arena and installed more flexiride. This time the surface has been laid directly onto a compacted stone drainage base with no membrane separating the surface from the flexiride. *The surface is performing equally well and has proved to reduce maintenance costs without any drawbacks on quality or performance.*

Customer name: Emma Castle
Location: Earlswood, Solihull
Arena size: 40 x 20m
Contractor: Self Build
Main usage/profession: Livery / Eventing

flexiride with sand base



Emma runs a very successful event horse training business as well being a competitive event rider winning such accolades as the 'Patey Hats' Southern Pre- Novice Owner and Rider Series 2004. Her stables at Earlswood are partly rented out for livery use and are mainly occupied by ponies and amateur riders.

The original surface was made from foundry sand and had been topped up with PVC. The surface had several drawbacks. It became dusty in the summer, but always maintained quite a hard base. In wet periods water would pool mainly in one corner and despite extra drainage being installed, this problem still persisted.

One load of flexiride was delivered to the arena, it was easily installed by hand with just three people in matter of just a couple of hours straight on top of the existing surface.

Emma has been very impressed with the results. "Maintenance of the arena has always been a problem on this yard with the amount of liveries using the arena. There are several ponies using the yard which tend to go over and over again on the same circle and used to track the surface quite badly. *Since the flexiride has gone down I hardly have to maintain the arena at all. To add to this, the drainage problems on one corner of the arena seem to be addressed. I feel that the flexiride does absorb some of the water and helps with poorly draining arenas.*"

As well as using the arena for liveries, general schooling work, and some jumping, Emma also uses another flexiride with a sand base arena for her business and personal training. "As a professional rider" she comments "I do need a surface that will not have the potential to cause concussion problems, not to mention being secure underfoot to give the horses confidence both with jumping and any faster flatwork. The flexiride in this scenario addresses all the needs I have from the surface. *It is very adaptable, suitable for all levels and as close to being maintenance free as you could possibly expect.*"

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Tel: +44 (0) 870 124 0020
Fax: +44 (0) 870 124 0030
E-mail: info@equestriandirectltd.com
www.equestriandirectltd.com

Grimshaw Hall Estate
Grimshaw Hill, Ullenhall
Warwickshire B95 5NJ
United Kingdom

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