



A Case Study
Equestrian Centre 1



Harting's Holf gets a facelift! Our distributor Ecora was contracted with the ground reinforcement of the riding arena and paddocks. The Harting family has been steadily expanding the existing facilities since it acquired the centre in Autumn of 2006, developing it into a promising stables and riding school where both rider and animal feel at ease. The first building phase comprising outdoor paddocks and riding arena has since been completed using the original EcoGrid grids, the ground reinforcement product made of recycled and environmentally neutral plastic.

Horse keeping in a family setting! The Harting family's stables are in a very idyllic location close to Franconian Switzerland. Gentle hills alternate with low mountain formations, a splendid landscape for horseback riding. The centre offers livery, training, and riding lessons, including on ponies for children since 2010. The people at Harting's Holf share a close friendship with the animals that live there. Their philosophy is to abide by the principles of natural management and their motto is: plenty of exercise, the best of feed and good air are key to the health and enjoyment of these noble animals.

No more mud or sludge!

When the centre was taken over in Autumn of 2006, there were no reinforced all-weather paddocks. With the mild winter that year, the ground didn't freeze solid, and horses were standing up to their hocks in mud. This led to the construction of the all-weather paddocks, which began in March 2007. Since the centre had no outdoor riding arena – just an indoor one – this was top of the “to do” list after it was bought. The only question was how to go about it. That was soon to change however! The numerous advantages prompted the move. The decision on the optimum ground reinforcement solution for the paddocks and the outdoor arena had to be made before the following spring. At a stand on the periphery of Munich Indoors 2006, Mr and Mrs Harting thoroughly informed themselves about ground reinforcement. However, it was the distinct advantages of EcoGrid – the excellent drainage for one and the load-bearing capacity of an incredible 20 t axle load certified by TÜV acc. to DIN 1072

for another – that made the Hartings choose EcoGrid. The connectors on the individual floor tiles interlock with absolute precision and security, ensuring that an even surface stays even and completely eliminating the possibility of tiles lifting and, with that, dangerous trip hazards. Vital for a riding arena!



Starting with the paddocks first.

First the topsoil was removed, then the clay layer beneath levelled. Next, the first of the cost-efficient and time-saving merits of EcoGrid came to bear as extremely labour and cost-intensive substructures could be dispensed with. 10 cm of gravel was enough.

Once filled in and levelled, the easy installation of EcoGrid E40 could begin.

Lastly, the grid chambers were filled with water-permeable chippings. Done! 80 sq m was reinforced in total, making four paddocks.

The biggest challenge: the riding arena on the slope!

The process for this site on a hillside plot took considerably more steps than for the paddocks. First of all, on one side 120 cm of soil was removed and used to build up the other side. Because of the very clayey soil, there were concerns initially that the base layer would be too “pliable” and that faults might arise in the surface in a few years’ time. So the challenge consisted of making the clay base impermeable to water so that it wouldn’t be “pliable”.

EcoGrid can even cope with such unconventional ground reinforcement jobs as this! This challenge was met by constructing a sandwich of EcoGrid E30 and E50. The first layer of ground reinforcement, the EcoGrid E30, sits on top of approx. 15 cm of compacted gravel. This layer was filled with recycled sand, which was also compacted to make it as impermeable to water as possible.

A further 15 cm of gravel then formed the “filling” of the sandwich. The top layer of ground reinforcement, the EcoGrid E50, was filled with chippings to allow the water to percolate gradually and drain away through the gravel beneath, and the EcoGrid E30 below that clean and free of toxins, as EcoGrid grids are made of environmentally neutral polyethylene conforming to DIN 38412. This material is also used for food packaging.

There is hardly any task so complicated that EcoGrid would not be up to it! Happy faces all round! Incidentally, initial feedback on the newly constructed paddocks is coming in: all great, the water is draining away well, the horses are dry underfoot and the ground gives good grip. The paddocks are easy to keep clean.