



A Case Study  
**Riding Facility**



**Project Details****EcoGrid E40, S50 used for Eiblhof's turnout area and outdoor stabling****Client Details****Eiblhof Open Stable (Equestrian)****Contractor Details****Ecora GmbH, Germany**

Eiblhof Open Stable is the latest Ecora reference project in west Munich. The long-standing Eiblhof was established in 1687 by a fisher named Matthias Eibl. For the various different families who have lived on the property since then, the Eiblhof has always provided security and a reliable livelihood, even in tough times.

The Eiblhof is currently home to the fifth and sixth generations of the Abenthum family. They made the switch from dairy farming to drystock farming at the beginning of the 1970s. Back then, they had 81 young bulls and bulls. Eventually in 1998 they ceased this line of business and fully devoted themselves to tillage and agricultural services until 2006.

At first, they no longer kept any animals on the farm, the Abenthum family remedied this "unnatural" state for a traditional farm, with their plan for and construction of a optimised open stable. Or, to be more precise, active stable system, for keeping horses. Natural horse management was chosen!

"In the Autumn of 2007 we opened our active stable," Alexander Abenthum tells us, not without an element of pride in the achievements of recent months. Making the decision to pursue a project on this scale, planning it and then implementing it required foresight and perseverance. Which makes the result all the more impressive for brothers Stefan and Alexander Abenthum.



A win-win situation for both man and animal. Thus a brand-new 300 sq m indoor area was built, divided into stable, straw and hay store, and tack room. Adjoining the stable, the horses have access to a 1500 sq m reinforced, all-year-round exercise yard and 4.6 ha paddock. There is also an outdoor riding arena (20 x 40 m) as well as a separate trail around the entire facility.

**EcoGrid is the product of choice!**

Part and parcel of effective open stable management is the optimum ground reinforcement! "We researched ground reinforcements in-depth at the Equitana trade fair, and compared many service providers and manufacturers," says Mr Abenthum, "and the products all seemed fairly similar at first glance. It wasn't until we began to look more closely and ask specific questions that the advantages of EcoGrid set it further and further apart from the other products."



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### **You save time and money with EcoGrid!**

Costs can quickly spiral out of control with a project like an active stable. Any way of cutting costs is welcome, such as doing the installation oneself, something which is entirely possible with EcoGrid. The reduced preparatory work alone makes a noticeable difference to the budget. Not only is less of a substructure required, a footing of only a few centimetres was applied in the case of this turnout. So, the daily task of removing dung does not take long. The environmentally neutral EcoGrid – weatherproof and shatter-proof!

According to Mr Abenthum, "The fact that the sun is unable to harm EcoGrid was one of the deciding factors for us!" The elastic polyethylene is frost- and UV-resistant and the grid tiles keep the laid surfaces perfectly stable at all times, thanks to the safety interlocking system. There's no lifting or warping. In addition, no edging is required! Even the largest tractors can safely drive around the turnout. The EcoGrid grids can easily take loads of up to 350 t per sq m, and this is TÜV-certified. For many horse owners, daily riding out is critical!

### **No more mud or sludge!**

For many livery stable owners, however, it is one of the most intractable problems, especially in bad weather. For the Abenthum family, this will never be an issue even in persistent rain, thanks to EcoGrid ground reinforcement. If the filling is water-permeable, then the ground is optimally drained at all times. With EcoGrid, the footing is not mixed with a coarse base layer and the horses are always dry underfoot.

The horses used to spend most of their time outside, even in snowy and icy weather, to the amazement of their owners. "It was only mud and muck they used to hate being out in. They would stand around the whole day long as if rooted to the spot. But rain and snow no longer bother them, thanks to the new surface," says one of the riders, delighted, whose horse is lucky enough to have got a place here.

### **The health of horse and rider has top priority!**

"The grip in the new riding arena surface in particular is very good. Excellent conditions in which to work with the horses." EcoGrid promotes a horse's natural gait! More than 200 curved bars/sq m mean that EcoGrid S50 is highly elastic.

The flexible bars of EcoGrid yield under the pressure of the hoofs. This spares the entire locomotor system and gives the horses more pep. This positive effect can be enhanced further using a suitable footing. Since the bars move up and down slightly when loaded, especially with the ECORASTER S50, the footing is automatically loosened every time the arena is used. Thus, the horses always have a good ground feel and this improves the drainage function.

So it's no surprise that Eiblhof Active Stable in the densely populated Munich region is now fully occupied with livery horses, and a lengthy waiting list of horse owners has formed, who can hardly wait to get their trusty steeds into natural accommodation at last.