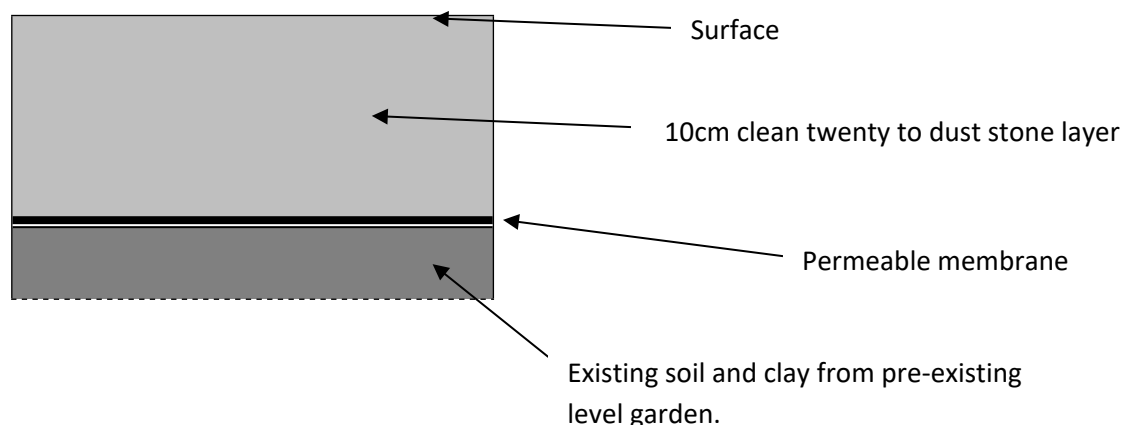


## Rationale for All-Weather Turnout Area

### 1. Increase sustainability of land

- Our field is on clay, so potentially easily poached by the presence of grazing livestock during winter months, especially. Having access to an all-weather turnout area will reduce poaching, thus reducing soil erosion, compaction and therefore increasing the rain water infiltration of the land.
- Having the ability to rest areas at various times of the year should help improve the biodiversity of the land, by allowing improvement of soil structure, encouragement of diversity of plant species and associated invertebrates. Reducing over-grazing will help alleviate the growth of opportunistic weed species, such as creeping buttercup and white clover, that can result in over-grazed areas of pasture becoming horse-sick. This should enable us to reduce the need for chemicals in the form of herbicides and fertiliser on the land.
- Water, bulk forage in the form of hay and shelter will be provided in this area. This should also help reduce the stress of grazing horses on the land.
- The stone used for the all-weather turn-out area is clean twenty to dust, straight from the quarry (see pictures below). The stone is laid in a 10cm thick layer on top of a permeable membrane (see diagram). Underneath there is a trench filled with larger stone, running diagonally downhill across the area, leading to a stream at the border of the property, to help with drainage. As the garden was already flat and elevated from the field the remaining area will drain naturally in to the field.



## 2. Improve animal welfare

- The all-weather turnout area will help provide exercise and enrichment for two large ponies during periods of inclement weather. One is a veteran horse with arthritis who can not tolerate long periods of time standing in a stable. This area will provide an excellent surface with a safe, secure footing for general movement. This area will be available to them at all times of the year, open from all areas of the field, encouraging them to move around seeking forage, water and shelter, thus encouraging natural behaviour. They will also be able to socialise naturally in this area, mutually grooming, etc.
- Natural foraging behaviour will be encouraged by the set-up of hay feeding stations at various points around the area. A clean, safe water station will also be available. They will also have access to their shelters if they choose. The all weather turnout area will allow them to be out of any potentially wet and muddy areas, thus reducing the risk of associated health conditions such as mud fever, thrush and hoof abscesses.
- Whilst stabling overnight will be required throughout the year, this area will reduce any necessity for stabling for long hours and consequently help alleviate the stress, anxiety and related stereotypical behaviours that can be caused by this.