

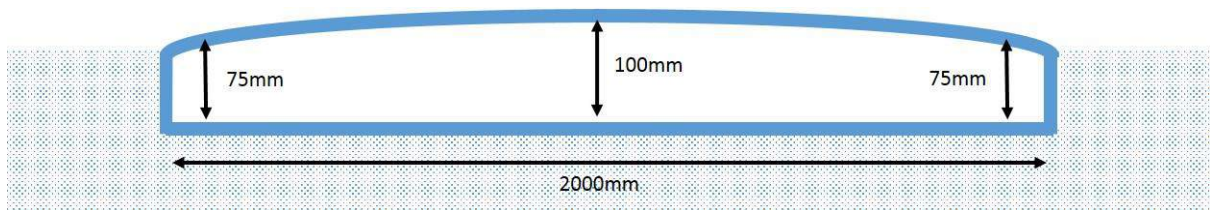
Bikes in Schools

Notes on limesand riding track construction

The riding track usually follows the outside edge of the schools playing fields - although some schools have designed tracks that go part way around the fields and then double back and return parallel to starting point instead. Typical track lengths schools have used are from 300m to over 500m.



- We recommend that riding tracks are 2m wide. The feedback we have had from schools is that this width works best: it allows kids to cycle side by side if they want and to overtake slower riders - as well as giving plenty of room for wobbly new riders.
- Riding tracks work best if a few curves are introduced – these will make the route more fun, and long straights can encourage kids to ride too fast.
- We recommend that tracks are built with a slight crown at the centre so that rainwater flows off the sides. Rainwater can scour tracks and cause ruts if it is allowed to run along them.



- Excavating the path – some contractors have used a rotary hoe to break up the ground before excavating. It may also help to weedkill the grass along the route before starting work. Some of the spoil may be used in building a pump or skills track, or raising the path in boggy areas – rather than all being carted away.
- Not all limesand is the same, depending on the region and supplier. Finer and coarser limesands have very different binding characteristics, so it's a good idea to see an example of the material already in place if possible. As a rule of thumb, for the track dimensions above allow 0.2 m³ of limesand for each metre of your track, plus up to 30% extra to take into account compaction.
- Compaction is important: the limesand will need to be well compacted with a roller – the best finish can be achieved if this is done when the limesand is wet (some contractors have used a water truck for this). The path will then form a hard crust that better resists weathering, weeds and day to day use.
- Maintenance – a well-constructed track formed with a crown and good edging will need only minimal maintenance, other than occasional weedspraying.