

A close-up photograph of a horse's hindquarters, showing the tail and the lower legs with hooves. The horse is standing in a grassy field. The image is used as a background for the top half of the page.

Spirit helps Westpoint to 'Xplore' a new data capture solution for cattle hooves

Data capture devices are used for a wide range of applications and in all sorts of conditions. One unusual requirement that emerged recently was for a device that could be used to record data relating to the health of the hooves of cattle. The Westpoint Veterinary Group needed a mobile computer that could withstand the rigours of a farming environment. It approached Spirit Data Capture Limited, who recommended and sourced Xplore C5 tablets – the toughest solution of its kind currently available.

The Westpoint Veterinary Group specialises in the provision of veterinary services to farms throughout the UK. The Group has a dedicated team of vets who work in partnership with farmers, with the aim of improving the welfare and production of their stock, and therefore ultimately also enhancing their overall profitability.

Westpoint recently started looking for suitable data capture devices that could be used on farms by its Foot Technicians (who examine the health of the livestock's feet). The devices needed to be rugged, as they would be used in all weathers. They also had to be able to withstand the rigours of the farm environment (including the inspection of large bulls!)

Previously, the technicians were recording the data using pen and paper. In poor weather, this could often lead to soggy bits of paper - and the information could be difficult to read at a later stage. IT Technician, Vincent Rees, explains: "We basically needed the toughest solution currently available for farm work."

The group started looking for a supplier that could provide friendly and helpful support whenever things went wrong. It came across Spirit Data Capture Limited, an independent consultancy that recommended the Xplore C5 tablet. This is a fully rugged PC, and has been built to withstand the harshest

working environments, with an impressive IP67 rating. The tablet offers an extensive range of features, including a 10.4" full colour display, a 3 megapixel camera and a 6.5 hour battery life.

Vincent continues: "We have now had our data collection software installed on the Xplore tablets. This collects information about the hooves of the cattle, which in turn helps us to provide the farmer with a foot trimming report. This is compiled into a health plan for their cattle and enables us to help them to keep their herd more healthy and productive."

He adds: "The technicians are very happy with the Xplore tablets - they can't do without them now. It means that they no longer have to carry pieces of paper around but instead they have a reliable piece of kit that they are able to use in all weathers, with confidence that it won't let them down. The tablets have been performing really well and we don't foresee any problems with them - unless a bull charges at them head-on!"

Vincent concludes: "Spirit's support has been first-class and they are always very polite - and they can't do enough for us. They even provided advice when we were provided with a faulty scanner by a third party supplier. We wouldn't use anyone else now for our data capture needs."

