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Ananova :

Riding school manager jailed for campaign of rape

A manager at a riding school for children has been jailed for 20 years for a prolonged campaign of rape and sexual assaults against his victims.

Gary Hinds, 38, was convicted of 32 counts of rape, indecent assault and buggery while working at the Windsor Horse Rangers Club in Berkshire.

Sentencing him at Reading Crown Court Judge Stanley Spence said it was the worst case of its kind that had ever come before him.

He said: "You carried out a campaign of rape and sexual degradation selecting and isolating girls. You ruined their childhood and blighted their early lives as young women."

During the three-week trial the court heard that Hinds, of Alder Close, Desborough, Northants, attacked eight girls, one just 11 years old, over an eight-year period beginning in 1991.

He was convicted by the jury of seven women and five men of 15 counts of rape, 14 counts of indecent assault and three counts of buggery.

The court was told he exploited his position while working at the equestrian centre in Windsor, which was managed by his mother, and carried out a systematic campaign of abuse against young girls learning to ride ponies and horses.

Detectives who investigated the case believe he may have attacked numerous other girls who never reported the offences.

The married father of two was also ordered to remain on the sex offenders' register for the rest of his life and has been stopped from ever working with young children again.

Story filed: 13:05 Wednesday 27th March 2002

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