



Planit-IE

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RE: Planit-IE Responses to Tree Officer's Comments

Can we make sure that Tree size is min 18-20cm/20-25cm subject to service location (Please note that Utilities Service plans are indicative only and trial pits will have to be carried out to establish if there are opportunities to plant trees).

Planit response: Specified trees are 35-40 or 40-45cm girth.

What investigation has there been on this in terms of ensuring that trees can be planted in the proposed locations?

Planit response: While no trial pits have been dug in this location, we have reviewed the tree locations (19B203/001) against the utilities survey carried out by Survey Operations on 16/02/19 and no services were located in the zone surrounding the trees. Furthermore, all proposed infrastructure is diverted around the tree pits.

With regards to pit specification we would advise the following pit dimensions as follows to meet the City Centre standard that we are now working to achieve (Depth up to 1m, width 1-1.2m and length 3m), preferably modular systems containing top soil and subsoil conforming to BS 3882:2015 and BS 8601:2013 respectively.

Planit response: As a principle we are working to 15m³ volume for each tree pit.

For Tree Pit 1 the area of soil measures **1350mmD** x 1800mmW x 1800mmL = 4.4m³. The stratacell makes up the remaining 10.6m³. Since the stratacell has a depth of 950mm (750mm + 200mm drainage layer), the width/length to make up the remaining volume surrounding the area of soil would be **3800mm x 3800mm** or equivalent dimensions depending on each tree pit's constraints.

For Tree Pit 2 the area of soil measures **1265mmD** x 1800mmW x 1800mmL = 4.1m³. The stratacell makes up the remaining 10.9m³. Since the stratacell has a depth of 700mm (750mm + 200mm drainage layer), the width/length to make up the remaining volume surrounding the area of soil would be **4000mm x 4700mm** or equivalent dimensions depending on each tree pit's constraints.

For Tree Pit 3 the area of soil measures **1500mmD** x 1800mmW x 1800mmL = 4.9m³. The stratacell makes up the remaining 10.1m³. Since the stratacell has a depth of 950mm (750mm + 200mm drainage layer), the width/length to make up the remaining volume surrounding the area of soil would be **3500mm x 4000mm** or equivalent dimensions depending on each tree pit's constraints.

The surface should be permeable to allow water and oxygen through.

Planit response: Tree Pit scenarios 1 and 2 have permeable surfaces to allow water and oxygen through, while Tree Pit 3 is covered by impermeable in-situ concrete. Despite this all tree pit details incorporate irrigation and aeration systems to ensure sufficient water and oxygen supply to the tree roots.

In relation to the above and the submitted details - Industry advice from soil scientists such as Tim O'Hare is that the top 300-350mm should be topsoil with subsoil below this.

Planit response: All tree pits consist of 300mm of topsoil and a minimum of 760mm subsoil below.

Use of tree grilles will not be supported by MCC Tree officers - all specs should show resin bound / gravel or permeable block paving should be used.

Planit response: All instances specify either permeable block paving, lawn or resin bound gravel.

Specification shows a soil depth of 1500mm - Added up this comes to 1000mm (4 x 250mm strata cells) can this be clarified?

Planit response: Tree Pit 1 has a total soil depth of 1150mm. The stratacell system has a depth of 750mm (3 x 250mm layers). The depth of stratacell is shallower due to the paving build-up above it (490mm).

Tree Pit 2 has a total soil depth of 1065mm. The stratacell system has a depth of 500mm (2 x 250mm layers). The depth of stratacell is shallower due to the paving build-up above it (490mm).

Tree Pit 3 has a total soil depth of 1300mm. The stratacell system has a depth of 750mm (3 x 250mm layers). The depth of stratacell is shallower due to the paving build-up above it (590mm).

Staked weld mesh tree guards will be required to reduce vulnerability to vandalism during formative years.

Planit response: As the trees specified are semi-mature 35-45cm girth we feel that there isn't a need for a tree guard to prevent damage through vandalism. The problem identified is normally related when tree sizes are much smaller. We also don't foresee any damage through wildlife as it's an urban environment.

MCC prefer tree staking rather than underground guying as if tree fails replacement is easier.

Planit response: We would never recommend staking a 30-35cm girth tree as the rootball would be damaged with the stakes. A large rootball is ideal for underground guying and this is a standard operation on trees of such a size. Also, due to the location of the trees within a hard standing environment we feel that the underground guying system is more appropriate for this location. As the area along the river where the trees are located is going to be used during events the underground guying system will prevent any potential trip hazards that can be caused through the timber staking.

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