



Transplanting Trees from Frontage of Christies Hospital

The five smaller trees, although displaying signs of limited rooting area are because of their young age are not showing signs of stress yet and make good candidates for transplanting. Their smaller size, combined with their restricted rooting area negates the need to root prune these trees. All trees currently have very deep layers of mulch.



A working area around each tree will be created with heras panels.

The planters will be removed and the soil behind and roots will be protected with damp hessian from UV rays, desiccation and frost. The team will craft the rootball using Air Spades, the rootball will be supported with hessian and rootballing wire. The tree will be undermined so that it stands on a pedestal. The tree will be leant over and supported. The area at the base where no rootball wire is present till be patched.

A hiab (locations to be agreed) will then carefully lift each tree on the rootball (not the trunk), under our supervision. The tree will be secured on the lorry. At the planting site (which will be fenced off) the planting pits will have been pre-dug by the team. Every pit will be surrounded with ground protection boards to protect the grass.

The excess spoil will be stockpiled on boards at the planting site and removed by grab lorry. Each tree will be located in the pit and held vertical by underground and overhead guys.

An aeration/irrigation tube will be installed to deliver air and water deeper to encourage deeper rooting. The tree will be backfilled with boosted spoil, incorporating peat free compost with a 2 year fertilising effect, zeolite (micro porous habitats for microbes, 25%+/- will have 9 of the best Mycorrhizal Fungi species and 16 of the most optimal Soil Bacteria strains inside.

The rootball and planting pit will be drenched with Soil Biology (all of the good parts, none of the bad of the Soil Food Web, apart from worms and insects that will migrate to this improved soil). This drench will include a bio-stimulant to encourage microbe activity and a drench that aerates the soil, releasing a cocktail of benefits.



The trees will be mulched, primarily to help feed the soil microbes as its composts down, leading to upto 15 times the Mycorrhizal activity. This will also suppress weed growth, retain moisture, keep strimmers and mowers away from the trunk, stop the sun from baking the top of the soil (killing the Soil Biology in this area) and moderating soil temperature.

Whilst the trees are growing a natural root system, they will need assistance, primarily competent monitoring and watering. Ruskins will train and support others to ensure delivery of competent monitoring and aftercare. Bespoke aftercare guidelines will be provided after completion of works. Ruskins could if required undertake the aftercare, particularly in the crucial first two years, with stakeholders on site trained to monitor the trees on a week to week basis.

We strongly recommend that the planting location is close to a water supply so that an automated watering system can be installed. This will greatly reduce the cost of aftercare. The quantity and frequency of watering will be determined by the prevailing weather and the response of the trees to transplanting. After transplanting, once we can gauge how the transplanting went and the nature of the soil at the planting location we will provide initial guidance as to watering.

All trees should be mulched and these trees will have mulch topped up during the five years of aftercare and this should continue into the future, due to the huge benefits it provides.

It will take around 5 years, as per BS8545 for the root systems to grow to a size that will support the trees. The level of aftercare and monitoring will reduce after the second summer if the trees are establishing well. After the third winter, the overhead guys can be removed, leaving only the underground to help secure the trees. After the fifth winter the underground guy wires over the rootball can be cut and removed.

After the fifth summer the trees should be monitored and consideration for watering should only occur during droughts and/or very hot weather. Ruskins will be available to assist with the care of these trees not only during the five year establishment period but into the future.

Outline Aftercare Programme

Based on an automated watering system and week to week onsite monitoring (that we will train and support). During each visit the automated watering system will be checked and re-programmed if necessary. The team will be able to repair the system if required. Each tree will be inspected and photographed from fixed points. Epicormic and basal growth will be removed. The guys will be checked and adjusted if required (and removed over time, as detailed above). Twice a year at set times, the leaves will be tested with a BRIX test to gauge their health. The mulch will be topped up every year. Each visit will generate a brief report that will be circulated.

Year 1 & 2 - 9 visits

Year 3 - 7 visits

Year 4 – 6 visits

Year 5 – 5 visits