



AllAboutTrees

Arboricultural & Ecological Consultancy
Chartered Arboriculturalists & Environmentalists

Arboricultural Method Statement

For Trees On

Land At Church Lane,

Whitburn - Revision E



For

Fitz Architects Ltd



4. Construction Methodology

4.1 Porous Surfacing

4.1.1 As discussed in the accompanying AIA, the use of a 3D cellular confinement system is not considered necessary. However the use of a porous final surface is encouraged.

4.1.2 Final surfacing options include;

- **Block paving or paving slabs** – The use of porous blocks such as 80mm Piora by Marshalls are particularly tree friendly and allow natural rainfall to reach the rooting area.
- **In-situ concrete** – in-situ concrete forms an impermeable surface though can be made permeable with by forming drainage holes (diameter 50mm) at regular intervals (between 300-600mm) and backfilling the resultant holes with no fines gravel or aggregate
- **Porous tarmac and resin bonded gravels** – many different products exist, some of which are permeable and some are not. Product specification must be consulted.
- **Loose Gravel**
- **Gravel infilled blocks** - Lay Turfpave sub-surface paving system and infill with gravel.

4.2 Service Runs

4.2.1 It is assumed that the existing service runs will be exploited where possible, but if new works are required it is important that they comply with the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) 'Guidelines for the planning, installation, and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees' and BS 5837:2012. The excavation of open trenches by machine will be unacceptable within the protective zone of any of the retained trees.

4.2.2 Wherever possible, services should be routed outside of any retained trees RPA. When this is not possible apparatus should be routed together in a common duct and any inspection chambers sited outside the RPA.

4.2.3 Acceptable techniques for the laying of services in order of preference are:

- **Trenchless-** by use of thrust boring or similar techniques. The pit excavations for starting and receiving the machinery should be located outside of the root protection area. To avoid root damage, the mole should run at a depth of at least 600mm.

Use of external lubricants on the mole other than water (eg oil or bentonite) should be avoided.

Trenchless Solutions For Installation Of Underground Services					
Method	Accuracy (MM)	Bore ^(A) diameter (MM)	Maximum subterranean length (M)	Applications	Not suitable for
Microtunnelling	<20	100 to 300	40	Gravity-fall pipes, deep apparatus, watercourse/ roadway under crossings	Low-cost projects due to relative expense
Surface-launched directional drilling	≈100	25 to 1200	150	Pressure popes, cables including fibre optic	Gravity fall pipes, e.g. drains and sewers ^(B)
Pipe ramming	≈150	150 to 2000	70	Any large-bore pipes and ducts	Rocky and other heavily obstructed soils
Impact moling ^(C)	≈50 ^(D)	30 to 180 ^(E)	40	Gas, water and cable connections, e.g. from street to property	Any application that requires accuracy over distances in excess of 5m.

- (A) Dependant upon strata encountered
- (B) Pit-launched directional drilling can be used for gravity fall pipes up to 20m in subterranean length
- (C) Impact moling (also known as thrust-bore) generally requires soft, cohesive soils.
- (D) Substantial inverse relationship between accuracy and distance
- (E) Figures given relate to single pass: up to 300mm bore achievable with multiple passes

4.2.4 If trenchless insertion is not feasible the alternatives are detailed below in order of preference.

- **Broken trench-** by using hand dug trench sections together with trenchless techniques. It should be limited to practical access and installation around or below the roots. The trench must be dug by hand (see following comments re continuous trenching) and only be long enough to allow access for linking to the next section. The open sections should be kept as short as possible.
- **Continuous trench-** the trench is excavated by hand and retains as many roots as possible. The surface layer is removed carefully and hand digging of the trench takes place. No roots over 2.5cm diameter or clumps of smaller roots (including fibrous) should be severed. The bark surrounding the roots must be maintained. Cutting of roots over 2.5cm diameter should not be attempted without the advice of a qualified Arboriculturalist.

If roots have to be cut, a sharp tool (defined as spade, narrow spade, fork, breaker bar, secateurs, handsaw, post hole shoveller, hand trowel) should be used.

Backfilling

4.2.5 Reinstatement of street works must comply with the code of practice New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991 (Specification for the reinstatement of openings in highways), but where tree roots are involved backfilling should be carefully carried out to avoid direct damage to retained roots and excessive compaction of the soil around them.

4.2.6 The backfill should incorporate an inert granular material mixed with top soil or sharp sand (not builder's sand) around the retained roots. This will allow a measure of compaction for resurfacing whilst creating an aerated zone around the roots.

4.2.7 Roots and in particular fine roots, are vulnerable to desiccation on exposure to air. The roots are at greatest risk when there are rapid fluctuations in the air temperature around them (especially winter diurnal temperatures). It is vitally important that the roots are covered with sacking whilst the trench is open. The sacking should be removed once the trench is backfilled.