

Trinkle & Pearce Landscapes Ltd

Millhams, Brandish Street, Allerford, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8HR

TREE PLANTING

**SITE ADDRESS – FISHERY LANE, SOUTHERN WATER
COMPOUND ADJACENT TO TIP, SOUTH HAYLING. PO11
9NF**

SITE REF – 130542

INTRODUCTION

We have been instructed by Harlequin on behalf of Wireless Infrastructure Group (WIG).

We have been asked to study the feasibility of planting a 9m high Leyland Cypress tree to comply with planning permission, we have been instructed to consider the sourcing of the tree, planting and future maintenance.

Please refer to correspondence between Carolyn Wilson (Head of Town Planning for the Harlequin Group), and Daphne Haywood (Principal Planner Havant Borough Council) regarding-

Application Number: APP/18/01165

Site Address: Telecommunications Mast, Fishery Lane, Hayling Island

Proposal: Retrospective planning application relating to existing 15m high Hutchinson T Range Monopole and associated works; proposed Leylandii tree planting scheme.

The site is within a Southern Water compound with associated buildings and a network of underground sewage pipes with access on a concrete track through a double gate. The site is surrounded by a 2.1 metres high palisade fence. Existing 12 metres high Leylandii afford screening on the western boundary. Presumably the new planting requested is to replace a Leylandii removed during installation of the telecom mast.

The mast is a 15metre high 'HUTCHINSON T-RANGE MONOPOLE' on a root foundation, the two cabinets to service the mast are positioned adjacent the existing Leylandii.

Adjoining the site is a recycling centre and the area is surrounded by mobile homes and caravans.

It is proposed to plant the tree in the space where the original tree was removed, this is a rectangular area approximately 1.5 metres by 3 metres. It is bordered by a palisade fence to the west, the monopole to the east, the remaining 12 metres high Leylandii to the north and the concrete access track to the south. All these features restrict the area available for planting.

SOURCING TREE

A tree of this size would have to be ordered from a specialist nursery or possibly imported. The tree would be supplied either root-balled or container grown with a spread of between 2 & 4 metres.

Root balled is where the root system has been held in place with fabric and, sometimes, wire mesh. Root balled trees have usually been 'undercut' (root pruned) or transplanted several times to encourage the development of a fibrous root system. They often establish better than container-grown trees as they have been grown in soil in the open ground rather than commercial potting compost. The root ball for a 9m Leylandii could be up to 2 metres across and weigh 1500kg.

Container grown trees are normally field grown trees that are lifted and planted into plastic containers to allow roots to regenerate prior to planting. This is more expensive but better value method, compared to bareroot and root balled, with a good success rate that enables year-round planting. The main disadvantage of the container method is that it does not promote production of fibrous root system, but rather the familiar 'pot-bound' effect of thick, spiralling roots, which are not very efficient at water absorption. Container size for the required tree is up to 1000 litres.

PLANTING TREE

- PREPARING THE PLANTING HOLE

Ideally the planting hole should be at least 1.5 times the diameter and no deeper than the root ball, to give the tree an optimum start in the new and final location.

When digging the hole, the topsoil and sub soil should be kept separate so that they can be replaced accordingly.

Any material from the hole which may hinder root growth should be removed, and the bottom and sides of the hole should be loosened to make it easier for the roots to establish; this is especially important in heavy soils.

- UNLOADING & PREPARING THE TREE FOR PLANTING

When unloading, trees should only be lifted by the root ball as lifting from the stem can cause considerable damage.

Any plastic packaging or bags from the root ball should be removed before planting. Air-pot grown, and root balled trees are dispatched wrapped with hessian and wire mesh. **The hessian and wire mesh should not be removed** as they help reduce root damage when planting. They are bio-degradable and will start to decompose quickly, releasing the roots.

The head of the tree should be untied, and the branches gently teased back into position.

- PLANTING THE TREE

The root ball should be lowered into the planting hole. The loose soil in the base of the hole will gradually settle so it is very important that the root ball is not planted too deep. A plank should be laid over the hole to show the soil level across the tree pit. Ideally, the top of the root ball should be raised at least 5cm above the level of the soil. It is advisable to add slow release fertiliser and water retentive gel to the planting hole.

The hole should be backfilled, and the soil firmed. If possible, compacted or poor quality soil should not be reused in the hole. Replacing it with a high quality topsoil is recommended.

ANCHORING TREE

The anchoring of a freshly planted tree can be as important as ensuring it has been planted properly. The new roots have to be able to develop undisturbed, therefore movements due to wind which can affect the roots as well, must be limited. If the trees roots cannot establish, the tree will not grow.

Various types of anchoring systems are available depending on the size and weight of the tree, for a tree of this size we would suggest a Deadman system below ground (see attached drawing) and also guys above ground.

WATERING

Drought stress is common with newly planted trees (in the first three years), particularly when specimens have a large root ball. Dry, windy conditions are especially likely to lead to water shortages so correct watering is essential.

If a standpipe is available, being a Southern Water compound, we assume it would be, an automatic watering system could be installed using a timer and seep hose.

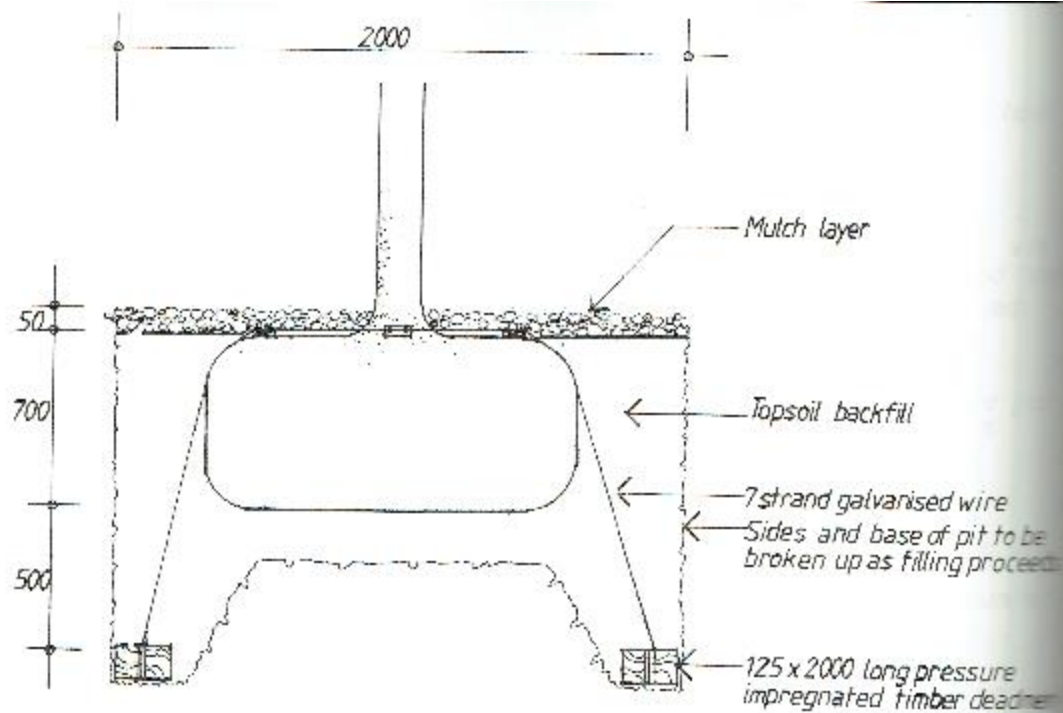
Alternatively, if no standpipe is available a perforated 50 mm pipe can be installed at the time of planting and the tree watered from a bowser as necessary.

CONCLUSION

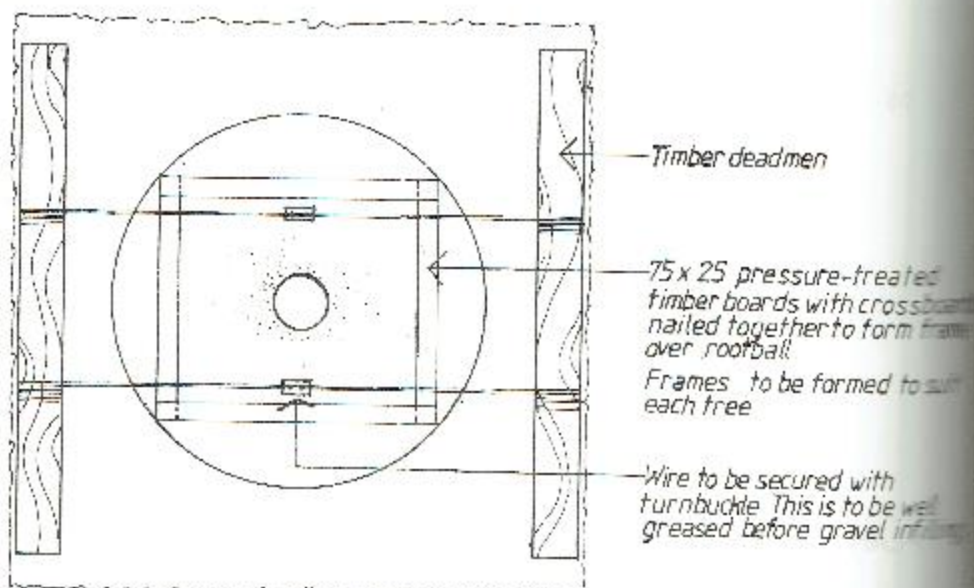
From the above it can be seen that a planting pit of at least 2 x 2 x 1.2 metres would be required for the proposed tree.

- The planting site which is approximately 1.5 metres by 3 metres is too small to form the planting pit.
- Excavation of the planting pit would intrude into the Root Protection Area (RPA), see BS5837:2012, of existing tree and jeopardise its survival.
- We have been advised by the design engineer at Harlequin that no deep excavations should be carried out within 3 metres of the root foundation of the existing monopole.
- There is also concern regarding the proximity of the sewer pipe, see Southern Water publication "A Guide to Tree Planting near water Mains and Sewers".

For the reasons outlined above, we do not consider this site to be suitable for planting such a large tree.

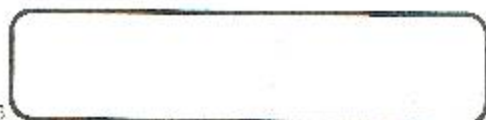


SECTION



PLAN

86



ANCHORAGE
Semi-mature tree

Scale 1:20

