

Press Information

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Attention: Immediate

Arborslot tree surrounds suit narrow planting space and minimalist look of retail park



Limited width for tree pits in external landscaping to Foss Islands retail park has been solved using elongated Arborslot recessed tree surrounds from Jones of Oswestry.

Developed on land close to York's historic walls, the landscaping design by project landscape architects, Planit, has been softened with the planting of over 100 trees to meet tight planning requirements.

The car park construction did not provide sufficient room for standard 2m by 2m tree grilles, so Planit asked Jones of Oswestry if they could adapt their Arborslot surround to suit.

Dave Wilson, project landscape architect for Planit, said: "We had a maximum width of 1.5m for tree planting so we used a narrower, elongated Arborslot surround. This allowed us to plant in trenches while also getting sufficient volume of soil under to sustain a robust tree system."

Additional underbracing was engineered into the 'stretched' Arborslot to provide sufficient rigidity through the slightly longer span of the unit to withstand vehicle overrun. Integral bollards protect the tree itself from impact.

More overleaf.....

Minimalist

Arborslot also met the minimalist look of the design aesthetic, using as few upstands and hard edges as possible.

Mr Wilson said: "The recessed unit provides a soft, subtle addition where you see the paving rather than a metal grid. It also helped us to create the impression of trees emerging naturally from the ground."

The surrounds provide generous void areas for water penetration, essential for healthy tree growth, while keeping slot widths compliant with Part M and DDA considerations. A proprietary dosing point in the corner, connected to buried irrigation pipes, allows watering of the root system.

The edge-of-town Foss Islands Retail Park has been developed by Keyland Gregory (Retail) Limited in conjunction with City of York Council, with The Harris Partnership as project architect.

The £50M scheme comprises a Morrison plc food supermarket of 82,000 sq/ft with 430 car spaces, plus 75,000 sq/ft of additional retail, including Homebase, with 214 car spaces and extensive landscaping.

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