

Press Information

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Attention: Immediate

Boxing clever

Arborslot tree surrounds guard against risk of root spread and clay heave in Bradford scheme



Photo ref: Victor Road (L) 8520; (R) 8522; On top, the Arborslot's curved impact guard provides robust yet aesthetically pleasing tree protection. Concealed below, a root retention box sustains healthy but contained root growth, to eliminate the risk of roots fouling underground services and the possibility of clay heave.

Arborslot recessed tree surrounds from Jones of Oswestry, with integral root retention box and special curved tree guard, have been specified for the Victor Road Environmental Improvement scheme in Bradford.

The improvements are creating a link between Bradford's historical Lister's Mill, with its landmark 250 ft high chimney, and Lister Park, via Victor Road.

Saira Ali, the project designer for the Landscape Design Unit at the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, said: "We wanted a tree surround that would tie into the surrounding area and bring the whole thing together, as continuity was important. Due to the proximity of services, we also needed some form of root retention and a sympathetically designed tree guard to protect against impact. Arborslot, with its root-box and tree guard additions, met these needs."

The root retention box prevents root spread that could affect underground services and structures, and has an integrated aeration/irrigation system to ensure healthy tree growth. It also answers concerns about potential clay

heave resulting from trees taking up moisture. According to the Association of British Insurers, as much as 70% of subsidence claims are due to trees.

Rigidity

Curved in plan and elevation with offset anchor points, the tree impact guards were fabricated from heavy duty tubular steel to maintain their rigidity under impact. They were finished in black paint to harmonise with other street furniture.

Arborslot's recessed design also allows paving to be carried close to the tree bole. This provides a pleasing visual harmony with surrounding paving design and continuity of the tone, quality and treatment of predominant paving materials.

Saira Ali added: "One of the key objectives of the Victor Road environmental improvement scheme was to form a key axis between the new public space planned at the base of the mill chimney and the Park. This would be achieved by improving the quality of the public realm and visual environment of the street and houses on Victor Road to create a calm, leafy avenue."

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