Did you know?

Using the correct pipe bedding class could save you a fortune.

For further details on the materials cost calculator visit the CPSA website: www.concretepipes.co.uk/calculators/material-cost

Potential savings of up to £174.94 per linear metre*

*Figure quoted is the difference between Class S (Plastic Flexible Pipe) and Class N (Concrete Rigid Pipe) costs, based on a DN1800 pipe. Potential cost savings are based on normal ground conditions, including granular bedding costs of £15 per tonne and cost of material being taken off-site to landfill at £6 per tonne (figure shown is independent of pipe costs). The bulk density of granular bedding material is assumed to be 2.0 and for excavated material is assumed to be 2.1.

A leading UK manufacturer of precast concrete products
**Class S**

360° Granular bedding and surround / Bedding factor = 2.2

Lay, joint and bed pipes as for Class B. Place sidefills and densely compact the layers using the same bedding material at each side, up to crown level, taking care not to displace the pipes. This is followed by 300mm of the same granular bedding material but lightly compacted directly over the pipe, after which ordinary backfilling is commenced.

**Class S Bedding Costs** Full pipe granular surround cost per metre for:
- DN1800 £225.29 / DN1500 £173.63 / DN1350 £140.62 / DN1200 £110.95
- DN1050 £88.52 / DN900 £68.49 / DN1800 Plastic £221.20

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**Class B**

180° Granular bedding and surround / Bedding factor = 1.9

Lay pipes on a layer of granular bedding material on the formation. Scoop out socket holes, lay and joint pipes. Place sidefills and densely compact the layers of the same bedding material at each side of pipes, up to springing level, taking care not to displace them.

**Class B Bedding Costs** Partial pipe granular surround cost per metre for:
- DN1800 £135.77 / DN1500 £102.94 / DN1350 £83.29
- DN1200 £65.84 / DN1050 £52.23 / DN900 £40.14

---

**Class F**

Granular bedding / Bedding factor = 1.5

Lay pipes on a flat layer of the granular bedding material on the formation. Scoop out socket holes with 500mm minimum clearance; lay and joint pipes, which will settle slightly into the bedding. Place sidefills and densely compact the layers.

**Class F Bedding Costs** Partial pipe granular surround cost per metre for:
- DN1800 £91.35 / DN1500 £66.16 / DN1350 £53.28
- DN1200 £42.10 / DN1050 £32.72 / DN900 £24.52

---

**Class N**

Flat Granular layer / Bedding factor = 1.1

Lay pipes on a flat layer of all-in or selected material.

**Class N Bedding Costs** Partial pipe granular surround cost per metre for:
- DN1800 £83.21 / DN1500 £59.99 / DN1350 £48.30
- DN1200 £38.16 / DN1050 £29.60 / DN900 £22.13

---

**Potential savings of up to £174.94 per linear metre**

*Figure quoted is the difference between Class S (Pre-Flexible Pipe) and Class N (Concrete Rigid Pipe) costs, based on a DN1800 pipe. Potential cost savings are based on normal ground conditions, including granular bedding costs of £15 per tonne and cost of material being taken off-site to landfill at 15p per tonne (figure shown is independent of pipe costs). The bulk density of granular bedding material is assumed to be 2.0 and for excavated material is assumed to be 2.1.

For further details on the materials cost calculator, visit the CPSA website: www.concretepipes.co.uk/calculators/material-cost
Below we have listed eight industry specifications and guidance references justifying the use of bedding classes for rigid pipes with a lower bedding factor than Class S


*Structural design of buried pipelines under various conditions of loading. Part 1: General requirements*

Most standard stiffness flexible plastic pipes are 2kN/m² or 4kN/m² and this is significantly lower than the minimum recommended stiffness of 10kN/m² if Class B bedding is to be considered. In other words, all standard stiffness flexible plastic pipes will generally require Class S embedment, unlike rigid concrete pipes where there is a range of bedding choices and the opportunity to reduce installation costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rigid Pipe embedments: Class B (Table NA.7)</th>
<th>Flexible Pipe embedments: Class B (Table NA.8)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wide trench</td>
<td>B1 and B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9 (See ref 4, B.1.12)</td>
<td>Class B1: Upper surround as for S3 or S4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 (See ref 9, B.1.12)</td>
<td>Lower surround as for S1 or S2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embankment</td>
<td>Class B2: Upper surround as for S5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9 to 2.3 (See ref 4, B.1.12)</td>
<td>Lower surround as for S1 or S2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BS 9295:2010 Guide to the structural design of buried pipelines**

*7. The design of flexible pipelines*

*7.1 General*

- It is important to remember that flexible pipes derive much of their structural strength from the embedment that is the sides of the installed pipeline. Considering the response of flexible pipes to loading (see 4.2), it can be appreciated that THE EMBEDMENT SELECTION AND COMPACTION ARE VERY IMPORTANT WHERE CONTROL OF OVALISATION IS REQUIRED.

**Annex A: A1 removal of trench support systems**

For flexible pipes, the void formed by removing the trench support systems between the trench wall and the backfill will reduce support from the native soil significantly and increase pipe deflection. Where the pipe installation relies on the sidefill compaction, then it should be carried out in layers and the trench support pulled progressively to enable the specified compaction to be achieved.

**WITH FLEXIBLE PIPE MORE CARE AND TIME IS NEEDED TO ENSURE THE SIDEFILL EMBEDMENT IS SATISFACTORY.**
Foreword

Selection of suitable bedding and sidefill materials

Where the structural performance of the pipeline does not depend on the sidefill, (e.g. for some rigid pipe installations), sidefill may contain stones up to 37.5mm and clay lumps up to 75mm for any pipe diameter. For rigid pipes larger than DN 500, stone sizes up to 10% of the pipe diameter will normally be acceptable.


SfS3: 2.14.7 Bedding details, materials and backfilling of pipelines shall be in accordance with Part 4 of this specification. Unless otherwise agreed, CLASS B BEDDING SHALL BE USED FOR RIGID PIPES AND CLASS S BEDDING FOR FLEXIBLE PIPES.

SfS3: 4.5.2 Pipe Bedding. Note (iii) Full bed and surround may not be required for rigid, large diameter pipes. Reference should be made to the manufacturer’s instructions.

SfA6: 5.5.2 (iii) Pipe Bedding / 5.5.4 (i) Pipe Surround. Full bed and surround may not be required for rigid, large diameter pipes. Reference should be made to manufacturer’s instructions.

SfA7: E5.2 (iii) Pipe Bedding / E5.4 (i) Pipe Surround. Full bed and surround may not be required for rigid, large diameter pipes. Reference should be made to manufacturer’s instructions.

CESWI7: 5.2 (iii) Pipe bedding / 5.4 (i) Pipe Surround. Refer to BS EN 1295-1 for pipe bedding design details. Further guidance is available in BS EN 1295-1.


Specification for thermoplastic structured wall pipes

Foreword

For pipes greater than 500, lower long-term stiffness classes than quoted in 6.15 are permitted, but structural soil calculations must be carried out for every installation technique modified to suit the results of that calculation.

Most standard stiffness flexible plastic pipes are 2kN/m² or 4kN/m² and this is significantly lower than the minimum recommended stiffness of 10kN/m² if a Class B bedding is to be considered. In other words, all standard stiffness flexible plastic pipes will generally require Class S embedment, unlike rigid concrete pipes where there is a range of bedding choices and the opportunity to reduce installation costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal short term stiffness (kN/m²)</th>
<th>2 year stiffness (kN/m²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1 Design Considerations. Range of bedding types

Methods of bedding pipes are shown in the Highway Construction Details, drawing F1 (see below) for carrier drains and F2 for filter drains (see Appendix B). These different beddings provide varying degrees of support to the pipe. In the case of filter drains, the granular bedding and surround additionally functions as a filter medium. Not all possibilities that would give a satisfactory bedding are included in the HCD, THE CHOICE HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO SAVE GRANULAR MATERIAL and to combinations most likely to be of use. Bed types A, B, F, N and S in drawing F1 are for use with rigid pipes (section 2.5) and bed types S and T with flexible pipes (section 2.7).

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Highway Construction Details - Drawing F1

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Specification For Highways Works Series 500 Drainage And Service Ducts

Bedding, Backfill and Surround Material

(11/03) All systems shall be installed in accordance with the pipe and bedding combinations given in Advice Note HA 40 (DMRB 4.2.5). Other combinations shall be supported by calculations in accordance with BS EN 1295-1 UK National Annex. Bedding, backfill and surround materials are classified in Clause 503 and Clause 505.
2.41 The choice of bedding and backfilling depends on the depth at which the pipes are to be laid and the size and strength of the pipes.

2.42 Rigid pipes – The types of bedding and backfilling which should be used for rigid pipes of standard strength laid in a trench of any width are shown in Diagram 10.

2.43 Flexible pipes – THESE WILL BECOME DEFORMED UNDER LOAD AND REQUIRE SUPPORT TO LIMIT THE DEFORMATION. The bedding and backfilling should be as shown in Diagram 10.
Complete UK Coverage

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