

BIODIVERSITY REPRESENTED IN PLAY LANDS IN DONALD WOOD!



DONALD WOODS GARDENS, SURBITON

Client:	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Address:	Donald Woods Gardens, Surbiton, KT5 9NS
Budget:	£50,000
Age Range:	Toddlers, Juniors
Ranges:	Diabolo, Rotating, Traditional
Surfacing:	Wetpour

Project Story: The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames sought to revitalise the local play opportunities for residents in the Donald Wood area. Their vision was to create an engaging, themed play space that would captivate local children while incorporating educational elements to promote biodiversity and environmental awareness. The existing playground equipment was outdated, not in keepin with the site, and unsuitable for children of all ages. Proludic was entrusted with transforming this small, grassed area, enclosed by fencing and located in the corner of an existing housing estate, into a vibrant and functional play space.

Proludic approached the project intending to provide a play space with age-appropriate equipment installed on a new wetpour surface to ensure safety and accessibility. A significant feature of the new design was a large rubber clamber ladybird, centrally positioned to symbolise the biodiversity message and blend educational elements with play activity. This centerpiece was intended to engage children and instil an appreciation for nature.



Despite its compact size, this play space is thoughtfully designed to maximise every inch, providing a vibrant and engaging environment for children and families in the surrounding communities. It's a perfect example of how even small areas can be transformed into dynamic spaces that bring joy and foster connections among local families.



Anne Parkin
Key Account Manager
Proludic Ltd



Proludic facilitated a consultation with the community to gather feedback and ensure the play area met the needs and expectations of the residents. Any changes suggested during this consultation were incorporated into the final design, demonstrating a commitment to community involvement and responsiveness to local needs. The project was funded through the RBK Parks and Playground programme, reflecting the local authority's dedication to improving community spaces. This funding enabled the creation of a high-quality play area that would serve the residents for years to come.



The equipment selection process was meticulous. A Diabolo multiplay unit (J38124A-C) was positioned at the rear of the site, complemented by a new set of swings, a spinning bowl, and a trampoline to offer a diverse range of play opportunities. Additionally, educational boards and bug hotels were integrated into the design to spark the interest of budding scientists and enhance the educational value of the play area.

The transformed play area at Donald Wood Gardens now stands as a testament to Proludic's expertise in creating inclusive, educational play spaces that foster community engagement and a connection to nature, even with limited space. The project successfully combined play with learning, providing children with a space that is both fun and informative.

