

A DELIGHTFUL THEMED PLAY AREA AT CENTER PARCS SHERWOOD



THE DOZING DUCK, SHERWOOD FOREST

Client:	Center Parcs
Address:	Sherwood Forest Holiday Village, Newark NG22 9DN
Budget:	£72,500
Age Range:	Toddlers, Juniors, Teenagers
Ranges:	Origin', Themed, Educational & Sensory
Surfacing:	Wetpour, Loose Fill, Traditional, Dynamic

Project Story: Center Parcs is a leading short-break holiday provider in the UK and Ireland, renowned for its family-friendly accommodations and activities. As part of its commitment to exceptional hospitality, Center Parcs places great importance on creating high-quality external play areas as families are at the heart of their offering. For the refurbishment of the new Dozing Duck hospitality and entertainment complex, Center Parcs sought to design an external play area that would complement the pub's nostalgic, family-oriented atmosphere and its wide scenic forest views.

The external play area was envisioned to align seamlessly with the Dozing Duck theme. Positioned at the main entrance to the gastropub, the play area features a mallard duck piece of play equipment, symbolising the nearby lake's wildlife. This playful and eye-catching design, featuring the distinctive green and white markings on its head, welcomes the child and sets a magical tone for all visitors.



Designing a unique themed play space for Center Parcs was a privilege. I collaborated closely with the project team to ensure every detail met their brand guidelines. The goal was to create a natural, inclusive space for all children visiting Sherwood Holiday Village. We look forward to continuing our partnership.



Anne Parkin
Key Account Manager



Situated in the iconic Sherwood Forest, home to the legendary Robin Hood, the play area needed to harmonise with its natural surroundings. Sustainability was a critical factor, as Center Parcs has ambitious goals to achieve net zero by 2050.



By using natural wood, sustainably sourced by Proludic under the PEFC scheme (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification), the project supported both Center Parcs' and Proludic's own sustainability policies.

Through our bespoke design service, we created a play area that complements the natural forest setting while offering an engaging and inclusive experience for children. Key elements from our wide range of equipment ensured diverse play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities, fostering creativity and exploration

Key Features

- **Wooden Mallard Duck (J49137):** A large, interactive mallard duck with rope access, creating a sense of wonder and adventure for children.
- **Market Stall Play Areas:** These offer younger children opportunities for role play and imaginative interaction.
- **Musical Play Items:** Encourage creativity and provide sensory stimulation, allowing children to explore sound while their families relax nearby.
- **Lily Pads (J49105):** Foster balance and coordination through hopping and stepping challenges.
- **Origin' Multiplay Unit (J4947):** Featuring 29 play functions, this structure accommodates up to 34 children, offering activities for juniors and above.



- **Mikado L Log Stack (J49157):** Provides climbing and exploration challenges in line with the forest theme.
- **Swing Set:** Includes a pod swing and an inclusive chair, ensuring accessibility for all children.
- **Natural Surfaces:** A combination of rubber mulch and bark chippings enhances safety while maintaining a natural aesthetic.

The majority of the equipment was selected from Proludic's Origin' range, crafted from natural wood. This range was chosen for its durability, sustainability, and ability to blend into the forest environment.

Challenges and Solutions

The play area's development faced numerous challenges:

- **Limited Space:** The compact area required innovative design solutions to maximise functionality and aesthetics.
- **Underground Services:** Utilities running beneath the surface necessitated careful planning and adjustments to avoid interference.
- **Tight Deadline:** Collaboration between our team and Center Parcs ensured swift problem-solving to meet the completion timeline so it was ready in time for Christmas.

By working closely with the client, Proludic successfully addressed these challenges, delivering a high-quality play area on schedule.



Outcome

The new play area at the Dozing Duck entrance has been a resounding success. It provides a delightful and inclusive space for families to enjoy, blending seamlessly with the forest surroundings and reinforcing Center Parcs' reputation for exceptional family-friendly facilities. The design's alignment with sustainability goals also underscores Center Parcs' commitment to environmental stewardship. This project exemplifies how thoughtful design and sustainable practices can create magical, enduring play spaces that delight visitors and support ecological harmony.



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