

## ENSURING A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP IN PLAY



### MARWELL WILDLIFE ZOO, WINCHESTER

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| <b>Client:</b>    | Marwell Wildlife Zoo                                             |
| <b>Address:</b>   | Marwell Wildlife Zoo,<br>Thompsons Lane, Winchester,<br>SO21 1JH |
| <b>Budget:</b>    | £62,500                                                          |
| <b>Age Range:</b> | Toddler, Junior                                                  |
| <b>Ranges:</b>    | Diabolo, Sensory & Educational,<br>Traditional                   |
| <b>Surfacing:</b> | Wetpour, Rubber Mulch                                            |

**Project Story:** Marwell Zoo has always been committed to providing an inclusive play experience that allows children of all abilities to engage in active and imaginative play. As part of this commitment, they sought to create a new play area addition that would both reflect the zoo's environment and provide an educational reference to the animals nearby. The resulting play space, named Fur, Feathers, and Scales, caters to two primary age groups: toddlers aged 2-4 years and juniors aged 4-10 years.

Situated near the wildlife enclosures and surrounded by tropical plants, this play area serves as an excellent addition to the zoo's attractions for families, offering both a resting spot and an engaging play experience for children.



I worked to deliver the original Aboriginal themed project at Marwell over 15 years ago, which looks like new! It is of course with a great sense of pride we are still working with Marwell Zoo and to see this new inclusive play area be installed adjacent to our original project.



**Anne Parkin**  
Area Manager  
Proludic Ltd



This project builds upon a long-standing relationship with Marwell Zoo. Over 15 years ago, Proludic collaborated to install play equipment that remains in excellent condition to this day. With minor refurbishments, including spare part replacements and surface repairs, the original play structures continue to provide value. This investment in high-quality play equipment demonstrates the long-term benefits of durability and thoughtful design. The new inclusive play area sits alongside the existing space designed for older children, expanding the zoo's play offerings.

## Project Overview

The newly developed play area is strategically positioned alongside the animal enclosures, creating an interactive and engaging space where children and their families can pause, play, and learn as they explore the zoo.



For this project, Proludic utilised our Diabolo range (J38200), chosen for its full accessibility and integral ramp access, ensuring that children of all abilities can play together. This range allows for an inclusive play experience both within and outside the unit. Additionally, the zoo designed unique bespoke play panels that enhance the thematic experience. Featuring printed images of a kangaroo and a parrot, these elements bring the play equipment to life, making it an immersive part of the zoo environment.

### Key features of the project include:

- Inclusive Diabolo Unit (J38200): Designed for accessibility, ensuring all children can participate in play.
- Bespoke Play Panels: Custom-designed by Marwell Zoo, these panels offer an engaging educational element tied to the zoo's theme.



- Standalone Interactive Panels: Additional interactive elements to enhance sensory and learning experiences.
- Integration with Existing Play Areas: The new play equipment complements Marwell's original Kanope range, providing a diverse play offering for children of various ages and abilities.

## Challenges & Solutions

Managing access during installation was a key challenge, requiring coordination with Marwell Zoo's management to minimise disruption and ensure safety. Through careful planning, Proludic scheduled work within operational hours for a smooth process.

The Fur, Feathers and Scales play area reflects Marwell Zoo's commitment to inclusive, educational play. Using durable materials and a design that complements the zoo's theme, Proludic created a space that will engage young visitors for years, highlighting the value of long-term partnerships and strategic investments in play infrastructure.

