

UNITING A COMMUNITY THROUGH PLAY IN BASINGSTOKE!



MATHIAS WALK, BASINGSTOKE

Client:	Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council
Address:	Mathias Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 4BZ
Budget:	£100,000
Age Range:	Toddler, Junior
Ranges:	Inclusive, Kanopé, Traditional, Educational & Sensory
Surfacing:	Wetpour

Project Story: Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council released a tender with high expectations, emphasising the need for play value, inclusivity, and durability. The brief called for dynamic play solutions that catered to users of all abilities, aiming to create a space where everyone could engage and interact.

Out of four simultaneous tenders, Mathias Walk emerged as a standout project due to its creative potential and the opportunity it presented to install highly accessible and inclusive play equipment. This site provided a blank canvas to introduce innovative play solutions and liven up an under-used space. The existing play area at Mathias Walk featured a large multi-play unit situated in a bark pit. To make way for the new, more inclusive design, the old equipment was removed, and substantial excavation work was undertaken to clear out all bark. The site was then built up using a layer of 6F5 aggregate, followed by MOT stone, and finished with wetpour safety surfacing. This method was chosen to prevent subsidence and ensure a level, dry, and safe play surface for years to come.

« The previous play area had very poor access and limited play value - I am so proud of the improvements we have made - it's a massive transformation and such a colourful, inclusive and welcoming space. »

Tim Bird
Area Manager
Proludic Ltd



In response to the client's brief for dynamic play equipment accessible to users of all abilities, we incorporated a (J2409) wheelchair accessible roundabout and a wheelchair-accessible seesaw (J987), both of which promote inclusive play. The seesaw can accommodate up to eight users at a time, allowing both disabled and non-disabled children to play together. To further enhance accessibility, a SUDS bond permeable path was installed, ensuring that the play equipment is reachable in all weather conditions.



Located at a junction between three local schools, the play area serves as a central hub for the community. To reinforce the theme of inclusivity, symbols representing each of the schools — fruit, a bumblebee, and a rabbit — were incorporated into the wetpour graphics. This design choice provides a subtle yet powerful message that the play space is open and welcoming to everyone.

To cater to a broad age range and varying abilities, the play area was equipped with a variety of climbing, sliding, and swinging options. Equipment from the Kanope range was selected to ensure that the play structures harmonised with the green, natural surroundings, creating an inviting and aesthetically pleasing environment.

To address community concerns, especially from residents near the play area, we engaged with locals and took measures to minimise disruption during construction. Despite the project beginning just before Christmas and facing challenging weather and ground conditions, we managed these obstacles by consolidating deliveries, using trackpads, and performing thorough turf reinstatement. This careful planning and execution led to the successful creation of a vibrant, inclusive play area that exceeded expectations, demonstrating the effectiveness of thoughtful design and community-focused development.

