

FUN MEETS NATURE IN NORTH WALLS, WINCHESTER



NORTH WALLS RECREATION GROUND, WINCHESTER

Client: Winchester City Council

Address: 53 Nuns Road, Winchester, SO23 7EF

Budget: £150,000

Age Range: Toddler, Junior

Ranges: Inclusive, IXO, Biibox, Diabolo, Dynamic, Traditional

Surfacing: Wetpour

Social Values: £300 donation to Winnall Moor Nature Reserve, Carbon offsetting, Maintenance training.

Project Story: North Walls Play Area needed complete refurbishment as the equipment was dated and tired-looking. The client, Winchester City Council, had tendered out the work and of six submissions, Proludic were successful. Proludic's design heavily referenced local flora and fauna which is in abundance around this natural site, through use of colourful ground graphics and a stunning bespoke wall mural. A large multi-coloured kingfisher was referenced in the wetpour as this can be found along the nearby River Itchen and Winnall Moors Wildlife Reserve adjacent to the park. The play area also references the river and its tributaries flowing through the play space in its floor design. Now completed, the new space boasts access for 80+ child users and offers 65+ different play values once the play commences.

“As play areas come forward for refurbishment WCC are particularly keen to ensure that not only is as much of the play area inclusive but that it is also accessible where possible. Where an item of equipment can be installed to allow wheelchair access WCC are keen to make sure it has different play values to items installed in other play areas thereby providing a holistic approach to the city centre play areas.”

Katie Morgans

Landscape Architect for Winchester City Council



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Prior to work beginning, the client undertook consultation work with local school children and residents to find out what kinds of play equipment they would ideally like to see in the new play area. Satisfyingly, Proludic were able to deliver six of their top seven play choices incorporated into the design. The children unanimously voted for a 'giant hamster wheel' so Proludic included its unique and colourful Rollrunner rotating equipment which totally fulfilled their wishes ([J3510](#)).



Residents also requested challenging climbing and hanging equipment and are delighted by our IXO unit with arched monkey bars ([J2535](#)), Biibox Skyrail ([J515](#)) and themed boat multiplay unit. North Walls is considered to be Winchester's flagship play destination site, so the specification called for a high level of inclusivity. Therefore, one of Proludic's highly innovative wheelchair-accessible Seesaws units was installed ([J987](#)) as well as a low-level Diabolo multiplay item with wide-access steps and handholds and a double-width slide.



The Council looked for a sustainable partner for the project and in Proludic they found this as the installation was made carbon-neutral by offsetting carbon production via a tree-planting partner. Proludic also donated £300 for the upkeep of the nearby Winnall Moors Nature Reserve and included cycle racks to encourage as many users as possible to visit the play area by bike. To better ensure the space remains well maintained long into the future, a day of maintenance training was also offered to the clients' team.

