



A WORLD OF DISCOVERY AWAITS IN NEW INCLUSIVE PLAY AREA



OXFORD ISLAND PLAY AREA

Client:	Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
Address:	Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island National Nature Reserve, Craigavon, Co. Armagh, BT66 6NJ
Budget:	£380,000
Age Range:	Toddler, Junior
Ranges:	Bespoke Origin
Surfacing:	Grassmat, Rubber Mulch

Project Story: Oxford Island is a designated nature reserve on the banks of Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland. It is situated on the largest freshwater lake in the British Isles and is an area of special environmental and bio-diversity interest. The client stipulated that the playground theme had to be harmonious with the marine and woodland natural setting as well as reflect the local flora, fauna and biodiversity of the area. It was also essential this play area provided a very high level of inclusive play and accessibility for users of all ages and abilities.

The finished Robinia wood design features two major play towers with a huge wheelchair-accessible ramp, boardwalk and play deck attached. Inclusive play mounds, roundabout, swings, rockers and numerous educational and sensory play experiences were also included throughout the multi-level and multi-faceted play area. Installation took 3 months to complete and was scheduled outside of bird nesting season so as not to affect their hatching period.

« The design of the play area had to reflect the educational and environmental ambitions of the client. Proludic instituted a collaborative design process with all stakeholders from the outset; conducted design days, brainstorming sessions and high-level design consultations. »

Richard Stuart, MD Garden Escapes
(Proludic Agent)



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The completed new play park has seen the old play area replaced and extended over green space to reach a size of 1,440 square metres. This trebling in size now means the park is able to accommodate 200 users at any one time offering another reason to visit this destination attraction. It is now hoped this will lead to more visitors making use of the facilities in this area of outstanding natural beauty and special scientific interest.

Designs

Proludic conducted a detailed design day with the client, their educational team, environmental team, playground management and maintenance teams and local stakeholders to develop a concept for the play area that catered to all requirements. The final design went through further revisions with client consent following a collaborative process.

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