

NEW INCLUSIVE PLAY AREA, FIT FOR A QUEEN!



PLATINUM JUBILEE PLAY PARK, THATCHAM

- Client:** Thatcham Memorial Foundation
- Address:** Brownsfield, Bath Road, Thatcham, RG18 3AG
- Budget:** £80,000
- Age Range:** Toddler, Junior, Teens
- Ranges:** Kanopé, Inclusive, Traditional,
- Surfacing:** Wetpour, Grassmat

Project Story: Thatcham Memorial Foundation were looking for a reputable play provider able to deliver a locally relevant, themed design which would withstand a high volume of traffic and potentially anti-social behaviour. They also wanted to make the play space reflect the Queens Platinum Jubilee in its design and be accessible to all children.

To meet this broad brief Proludic initially collaborated with the client on consultation boards, which local school children gave feedback on to help select desired play equipment to be included in the design. The finalised design features all the play values a great playground needs - climbing, spinning, rocking, swinging, hanging - as well as sensory items for users with impairments. The completed design offers access to thirty-five users at any one time and an twenty-five enjoyable play values to interact with.

“It is so lovely to see the children so happy and enjoying themselves. It is a lovely occasion and I am very happy to be here. It is very important that it is in the Queens memory.”

Mr James Puxley CVO
HM The Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire



The brief called for a high level of inclusivity and accessibility and the final design includes one of Proludic's unique wheelchair-accessible seesaws (**J987**) as well as an inclusive Ka'Yop multiplay (**J56004**) unit that has wide access with hand holds, 2 levels of play features and a double-width slide. The natural aesthetic of the Ka'yop range adds a touch of class to the play area and creates a statement centrepiece fit for a Queen. The design also references local history via a bespoke play panel about royal history and Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee via the two golden crowns in the wetpour graphics.



As the playground is in a space prone to waterlogging, Proludic intentionally created a raised wetpour pad for the roundabout (**J2404**), multiplay unit and the inclusive seesaw, providing users of all abilities with a dry, flush play surface year-round.

Any play area would not be complete without a set of swings. Therefore, an inclusive pod swing, flat seat and cradle basket (**J469**) catering to all needs and swinging tastes. A set of stainless-steel robust set of monkey bars (**JPS21**) was also included as this was a piece of equipment requested during the consultation phase.

Year 3 pupils from Whitelands Park Primary School were invited to the ribbon cutting and did the all-important job of being first to test the play equipment. The opening event was really well attended as The Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire James Puxley cut the ribbon on the new facility and said it was an honour to be present.

