

CELEBRATING LOCAL HERITAGE THROUGH ACTIVE, IMAGINATIVE AND INCLUSIVE PLAY



SPILSBY RECREATION GROUND

Proludic has been proud to support Spilsby Town Council in delivering a multi-phase transformation of Spilsby Recreation Ground, creating a distinctive and inclusive play environment that celebrates both the community's needs and its unique local heritage.

The project has been shaped around the life and legacy of Sir John Franklin – the famous Arctic explorer born in Spilsby. It uses imaginative play, educational features, and a strong focus on accessibility to ensure that children of all ages and abilities can enjoy meaningful play experiences.

Two phases have now been completed, with a third planned when further funding becomes available. The council's decision to return to Proludic for each phase demonstrates their trust in our design expertise, quality of equipment, and collaborative way of working.

- Client:** Spilsby Town Council
- Address:** The Recreation Ground
Ancaster Avenue Spilsby PE23
5HL
- Budget:** £140,000
- Age Range:** Toddler, Juniors, Teens
- Ranges:** Aquatica,
- Surfacing:** Wetpour

« It's been fantastic to help Spilsby Town Council create a play space that not only celebrates Sir John Franklin's heritage but also delivers inclusive, imaginative play experiences that truly bring the community together. »

Kiran Chouhan
Senior Area Manager, Proludic



Phase 1: The HMS Terror, High Play Value, and Interactive Learning: The first phase centred on introducing a **large flagship multiplay unit** themed on the HMS Terror, one of Sir John Franklin's expedition vessels. This substantial play structure provides a wealth of physical, social and imaginative play value. With multiple levels, climbable elements, balancing and sliding opportunities, and rich role-play features, the ship encourages children to create their own stories, cooperate with peers, and develop key physical skills.

The **double perch seesaw** and new **swing set** introduce movement-based play, which supports vestibular development and sensory stimulation. These items help broaden the appeal of the play space by catering for a wider range of abilities, confidence levels and play preferences.

A unique element of Phase 1 was the installation of a **bespoke information panel** and **interactive object search game**. Developed specifically for this site, the board introduces children and carers to the life of Sir John Franklin, linking the play experience with local history. By incorporating search-and-find symbols hidden within the multiplay unit, the sign encourages intergenerational engagement and supports inclusive, non-physical play for children who may prefer quieter, discovery-based activities. This addition reinforces the site's educational value by enabling children to explore history through tactile and visual means.



Phase 2: Enhancing Inclusion with Fully Accessible Equipment:

The second phase placed a stronger emphasis on inclusive play, ensuring that children with mobility or sensory needs could share the space equally and confidently. The installation of a flush-mounted **inclusive roundabout** allows wheelchair users and ambulant children to play side by side, without barriers or segregation. The design supports social interaction, enabling children of all abilities to enjoy the thrill of spinning motion together.

Phase 2 also introduced a smaller **tug boat play unit**. Deliberately paired with the large HMS Terror, this secondary vessel symbolises the progression of Franklin's voyage and continues the nautical narrative established in Phase 1. The tug boat offers lower-level access, making it suitable for younger children or those with additional needs who may find the larger ship daunting. This purposeful combination of two boats not only strengthens the storytelling element of the play space but ensures that imaginative play is accessible across all age and ability groups.

A Trusted Partnership and a Vision for Phase 3: The council's decision to commission Proludic for multiple phases reflects a strong confidence in our understanding of local priorities, our ability to integrate heritage themes meaningfully, and our proven track record in delivering high-quality, durable and inclusive play spaces.

Phase 3, subject to future funding, aims to complete the wider of the overall design proposal. Additional items will extend both the play value and the site's inclusive offer, ensuring that every corner of the recreation ground play area provides opportunities for adventure, creativity and community engagement. Completing this final phase will allow the council to realise a cohesive, thematic play environment rooted in Spilsby's history yet designed for accessibility and play equity.

The Spilsby Recreation Ground project demonstrates how thoughtful design, local storytelling, and a strong partnership between council and supplier can create a memorable and inclusive play space. By weaving Sir John Franklin's legacy into the heart of the play experience, Proludic has helped create a destination that honours local identity while delivering high play value for all children. As the town looks ahead to Phase 3, this evolving project continues to stand as a testament to the council's trust in Proludic and to the power of high-quality, inclusive play in strengthening community spaces.

