

Selbourne Playground // Concept Design ~ Introduction

We have taken our inspiration from naturalist Gilbert White and his love of the natural world for our playground. The chosen equipment enables all ages from toddlers to adults to play and socailise together and is built from chunky, round pole robinia timbers and decorated with carvings and timber stains.

The toddler play space is situated nearest to the car park and Hall. It contains sliding, swinging, climbing, rocking and balancing play opportunities and celebrates Gilbert White's discovery of a harvest mouse. The Wheat Pole Jungle and Mouse House are decorated with tactile carvings and splashes of colour to bring the theme to life and encourage imaginative play.

The Junior play space contains a challenging high level Pole Jungle with wild flowers carved at the base of the poles and insects and birds towards the top. A wise owl is perched on top of one of the tower poles watching over the whole playground. A 2.5m wide spinning disc also sits within this space, but can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities.

There are also a few carvings of White's prized pet tortoise Timothy (who loved to explore and go missing!) to find on the poles throughout the play space.

The two areas are connected by the joint double swing set (with 2 junior and 2 toddler seats) and balance trails of boulders and timber items, which will be carved to link the themes.

We suggest that the perimeter is defined by the introduction of wilder grass areas. Reducing the frequency of the mowing regime will allow the grasses and other plants to grow tall and flower. This will increase the diversity of habitat on the recreation ground and encourage insects, butterflies and bees. We also recommend that the base of the all poles are not strimmed to protect the timbers from damage.

The robinia timber is natural shaped and tactile, it has had the bark and sapwood removed so it is extremely strong & durable with an expected lifespan of 15 years. It does not require any chemical treatment as preservation making it a natural and sustainable choice. The uneven shapes increase challenge and encourage decision making.

The addition of a shaded seating space and lavender bushes make the Recreation Ground a unique and popular destination for parents to meet other families and for children of all ages to play together.



NB. All our play equipment adheres to safety standard BS EN1176/77 and we provide the client with a ROSPA Post Installation Inspection. All images are purely inspirational to demonstrate similar play outcomes, quality of workmanship and material choices.

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