

## Case Study

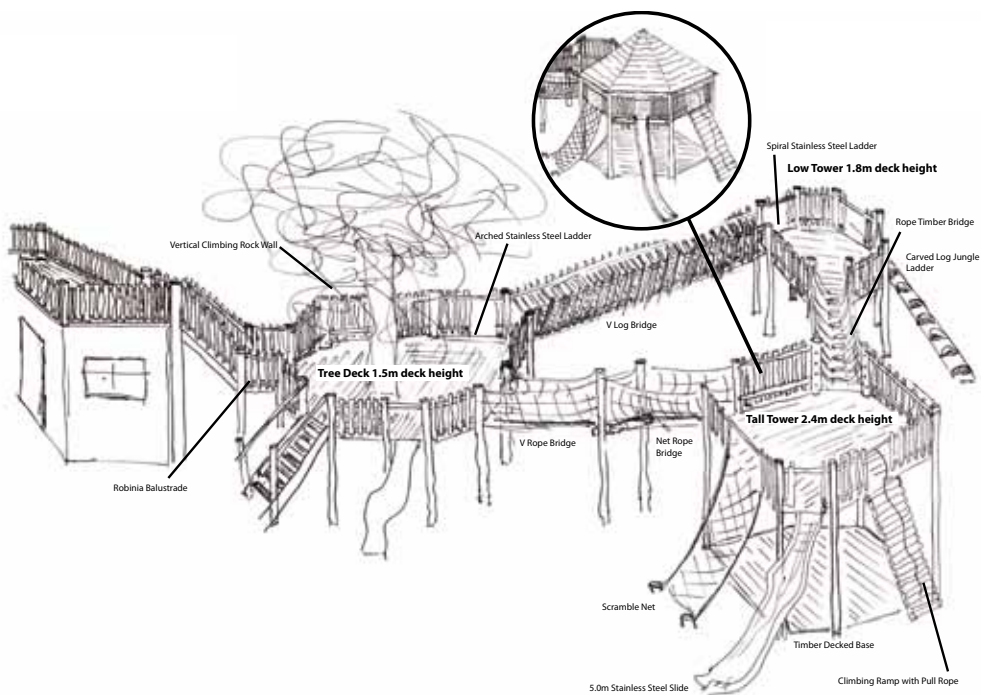
### Hetland Garden Centre - Dumfries



Hetland Garden Centre's Dino Park is a popular attraction for families. Situated near Dumfries the park offers a large range of activities for children and adults of all ages.

The owners were looking to develop their outdoor play area within a woodland area behind the Dino Park. After working carefully with the clients Caledonia Play proposed a fantastic bespoke-built timber play area built around an existing oak tree that would have minimum impact to the woodland setting and be an asset to the site. The structure was designed so that in future more elements could be added as required.

The proposal was to build a tree deck around an existing oak tree and then connect it to further platforms and a viewing deck over an existing small building.







## **Caledonia Play installed the following:**

### **Tree Deck**

Approximately 5.0 x 4.5m x 1.5m high - this is the main access structure positioned around a semi-mature oak tree.

### **Free-standing Octagonal Towers x 2**

These towers connect to the main tree deck and to each other using a selection of bridges. All ages and abilities of children are accommodated with the differing sizes of towers, bridges and access points.

### **Container Platform**

A robust timber deck constructed with pressure treated timber joists dressed with redwood decking, mounted on a metal frame to fit the container.

All the towers have robinia timber legs with machine rounded timbers to support the deck platform timbers. Each of the tower will have balustrades which are constructed of wavy edged Robinia boards, (not straight edged), timbers balustrades supported by half round timber railings.

### **Special Consideration**

One of the towers was constructed around a large tree and special consideration was given to this in particular:

To accommodate the different weathering effects on the tree and the platform structure and any major branches.

To minimise the removal of bark at points of contact with the structure and use as few fixing bolts as possible.

To make every effort to ensure there is no damage to the tree that may affect the strength or health of the tree.

All holes were hand-dug to minimise any damage to the roots.

Any old, broken or deceased branches removed to ensure the platform is safe to use

### **The result**

The play equipment has proved to be a popular further attraction to the Park and is an asset to the area making it an even more attractive destination for families for a day out.

All equipment conforms to European Safety Standards EN-1176 & EN-1177, but being as natural and in keeping with the rural setting while being robust and durable with minimal future management and maintenance – limiting future on-going costs.

Caledonia Play were happy to advise on safety surfacing issues and ongoing after care and maintenance.

