



# Playing in the Gardens

The Gardens will feature a children's area with **safe, certified play equipment**, and demarcated by play surface and fencing. Play equipment will be provided for a range of age groups. Although the rest of the park is viewed as flexible space that can be a setting for a **multitude of play activities** on any given day, it is appropriate that the playground is clearly delineated due to its distinct requirements. It should also be considered that the whole park is a **playful space** in its own right.

The children's play area draws analogies from **Shakespearean stage sets** in its use of 'props' as a background for activity. These 'props' take the form of **old oak tree trunks**, in particular the last tree of **Birnam Wood**, from the play **Macbeth**. Artificial tree structures form a base on which a series of **challenging** play activities can take place. Both **imaginative** and activity-based play are projected. Programmed play equipment such as slides and climbing ropes can be attached to the tree structures, which also through their gnarled form, create more diverse opportunities for **climbing and balancing**. Younger children inhabit a more tranquil area with tree stumps used as a base for activities.

A series of trees and associated features create a 'play trail' spanning the area beneath the elevated path. Safety is ensured with a rubberised play surface and equipment conforming to relevant BS safety standards. A flat surface is provided, with a range of play elements, including those suitable for differently abled children.

A **long bench**, wrapping around the play area, marks a perimeter zone for parents and supervisors.



Play trail

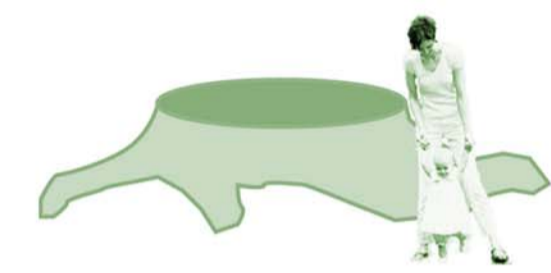
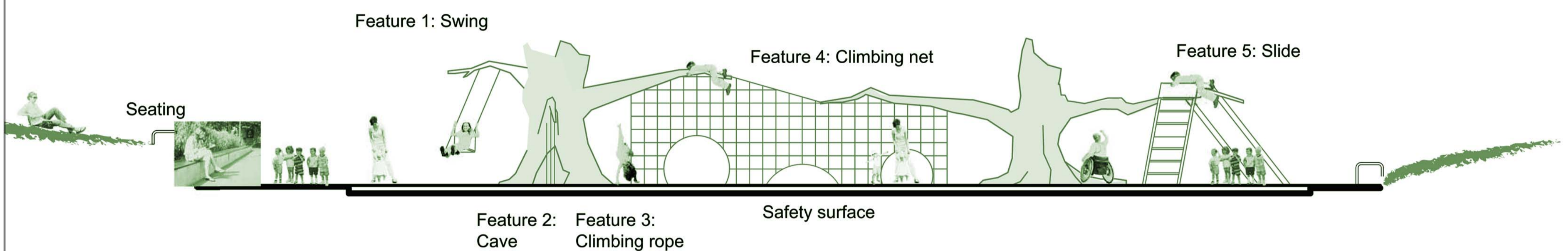


Table / Plateau

## Theme of Birnam Oak



**A range of challenging and safe play equipment for a wide range of age groups will be provided for.**



Balancing Trail



Acoustics



Climbing



*MACBETH*

*Well, say, sir.*

*MESSINGER*

*As I did stand my watch upon the hill,  
I look'd toward Birnam, and anon, methought,*

*The wood began to move.*



*This ancient tree is believed to be the last surviving remnant of Birnam Wood, the great oak forest...*

Birnam Oak