



GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Invitation to Tender

Abbey Park Play Area Redevelopment

**Design, supply and installation of playground equipment and
associated works**

Client: Glastonbury Town Council

Site: Abbey Park, Glastonbury, Somerset

Issue Date: 27 July 2026

Tender Return Date: Midday on Wednesday 2 September 2026

Maximum Project Budget: £200,000 excluding VAT

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1. Introduction

Glastonbury Town Council invites suitably qualified and experienced playground designers, manufacturers and contractors to submit proposals for the design, supply and installation of a new destination play area at Abbey Park, Glastonbury.

This redevelopment is part of a wider long-term project to improve play provision across the entire town in the 10 play parks that Glastonbury Town Council operate.

The Council wishes to replace and enhance the existing play provision with a high-quality play environment that reflects the unique heritage, mythology and landscape of Glastonbury while offering exceptional opportunities for inclusive play.

The successful contractor shall provide a complete turnkey solution from design development through to final handover and certification.

2. Project information

Project Name: Abbey Park Play Area Redevelopment

Client: Glastonbury Town Council

Site Location: Abbey Park, Glastonbury

Budget: £200,000 Excluding VAT

Tender Type: Open Competitive Tender

Completion Target: April 2027

Responsible Officers:

Assistant Town Clerk - assistantclerk@glastonbury.gov.uk

Projects Officer – projects@glastonbury.gov.uk

3. Project vision and outcomes

Project Vision

The Council seeks to create an inclusive, nature-inspired destination play area that celebrates Glastonbury's myths, legends and landscape, encourages imaginative play, supports child development, and provides accessible opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.

The project should create a landmark play destination that attracts both local residents and visitors and becomes a significant recreational asset for the town.

Desired Outcomes

The completed project should deliver:

- A destination play area reflecting the unique identity of Glastonbury.
- Play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.
- Nature-inspired play experiences.
- Features inspired by local myths and legends.
- Increased play value and play opportunities.
- Robust and vandal-resistant equipment.
- Improved accessibility.
- Enhanced seating and facilities.
- Biodiversity improvements.
- Increased visitor numbers.
- Longer dwell times.
- Reduced maintenance liabilities.

4. General requirements

Tenderers must:

- Be current members of the Association of Play Industries (API).
- Hold Public Liability Insurance of at least £10 million.
- Hold appropriate Employers Liability Insurance.
- Demonstrate experience delivering comparable schemes.
- Provide references from a minimum of three comparable projects completed within the last five years.
- Provide a dedicated project manager.

The Council reserves the right to seek clarification of any submission.

Site visits are strongly recommended.

5. Tender process

The Council reserves the right to:

- Accept any tender.
- Reject any tender.
- Reject all tenders.
- Not award a contract.
- Accept part of a submission.

- Negotiate and or refine any aspects of a proposal.
- Remove elements of the scheme if costs exceed available funding.

The Council is not obliged to accept the lowest-priced submission.

The successful tender will be determined through a weighted evaluation process described within this document.

The Council shall reserve the right to refine the chosen scheme without penalty.

Site visits are encouraged and to be arranged through the Responsible Officers.

The project timeline is detailed in section 20.

Completed tenders shall be returned in line with the requirements of section 23.

6. Description of the works

The works shall include:

Design

- Concept development.
- Detailed design.
- Equipment selection.
- Layout design.

Site Preparation

- Survey work, including for any utilities etc.
- Setting out.
- Temporary works.
- Ground preparation.

Construction

- Removal of identified equipment.
- Installation of new equipment.
- Installation of surfacing.
- Landscaping works.
- Installation of seating and site furniture.
- Completion.
- Testing.
- Certification.
- Independent inspection.
- Handover documentation.

Handover to the Town Council will follow an independent inspection undertaken of the works to ensure satisfactory installation.

7. Site information and constraints

Site Context

Abbey Park is a well-used public park situated within Glastonbury.

Designers shall consider:

- Existing mature trees.
- Existing footpaths and surfaces.
- Visibility across the site.
- Existing drainage.
- Existing utilities.
- Adjacent residential properties.
- Natural surveillance opportunities.

Existing Facilities

The existing football and basketball facilities are to remain in their current locations and shall remain operational.

Existing surfacing should be retained where practicable.

The redesigned play area should complement these factors and create a cohesive recreational environment.

Existing Equipment

The existing large green swing set and see-saw are to be retained and re-sited. All other equipment is to be removed and disposed of.

In respect of the swing set and see-saw, tenderers shall provide a separate cost from the project budget for:

- Removal.
- Transportation.
- Reinstallation at another site within Glastonbury.

Heritage Constraints

Abbey Park lies within the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Tenderers shall design with regard to:

- Archaeological sensitivity.
- Historic setting.
- Minimising excavations.
- Minimising ground disturbance.

Glastonbury Town Council will secure Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent and will appoint an archaeologist to monitor excavation works. Therefore both the duration and extent of excavations should be minimised.

Planning Considerations

The Council wishes to avoid planning permission. Designers should therefore seek to develop proposals that do not trigger planning requirements.

If permission is required for a selected scheme, the successful contractor shall provide all necessary drawings and information.

Neighbouring Properties

Residential properties are located adjacent to the southern boundary of the play area.

Design proposals should demonstrate consideration of:

- Noise.
- Privacy.
- Natural surveillance.
- Anti-social behaviour mitigation.
- Ongoing management requirements.

The layout should ensure that the play area remains a positive community asset for both local residents and park users.

8. Design brief

Overall Theme

The design shall take inspiration from the myths, legends and landscape of Glastonbury.

The Council is especially keen to see the integration of Arthurian legend with a Sword in the Stone, such as the example at the Museum of Somerset in Taunton (below).



Other themes for consideration within the design include:

- Dragons.
- Castles.
- Other mythical creatures.
- Stone circles.
- Ancient landscapes.
- Legends associated with Glastonbury.

The Council welcomes imaginative interpretation of these themes and encourages designers to create a unique destination play experience that could not easily be replicated elsewhere.

The design should create a timeless play environment rooted in local identity and heritage.

Age Groups

The play area should provide opportunities for children up to 12 years of age.

Tenderers should demonstrate how opportunities and levels of challenge are provided for each age group while maintaining opportunities for social and family play.

Design Principles

The design should:

- Create a destination play experience.

- Encourage repeat visits.
- Promote imaginative play.
- Support physical development.
- Promote social interaction.
- Provide opportunities for inclusive play.
- Complement the existing parkland setting.
- Use a natural colour palette of earthy and autumnal tones for surfacing and other coloured features.
- Maximise the use of the available space.
- Maintain openness and visibility.
- Encourage natural surveillance.

The Council is keen to maximise the potential of the existing fenced footprint but does not necessarily wish to fill the entire site with formal equipment.

Designers are encouraged to balance:

- Equipped play.
- Natural play.
- Informal recreation.
- Social spaces.
- Landscape features.

9. Play value requirements

Tenderers shall submit a Play Value Statement demonstrating how their design delivers a wide range of play opportunities.

Physical Play

The design should include opportunities for:

- Climbing.
- Swinging.
- Sliding.
- Balancing.

Imaginative Play

The design should include:

- Role play opportunities.
- Myth-inspired play experiences.
- Storytelling opportunities.
- Areas that support open-ended imaginative play without reliance on formal equipment.

Social Play

The design should incorporate:

- Group activities.
- Shared experiences.
- Informal gathering spaces.
- Open areas suitable for activities such as hopscotch, trail games, and informal recreation.

Sensory Play

The design should provide opportunities involving:

- Touch.
- Sound.
- Movement.
- Natural materials.
- Visual interest.

Challenge

Equipment should provide varying levels of challenge suitable for different ages, skills and abilities.

Tenderers should demonstrate progression opportunities that allow children to continue to be challenged as they develop.

10. Accessibility and inclusion

Inclusivity is one of the Council's highest priorities.

Designers must clearly demonstrate how their proposals respond to the needs of children with a broad range of abilities.

Accessible Equipment

The design should incorporate accessible equipment that allows participation by children with different physical capabilities.

Sensory Play

The design should include meaningful sensory experiences and opportunities for engagement through touch, sound, movement and visual stimulation.

Neurodiversity

The Council wishes to see consideration given to:

- Autism.
- ADHD.
- Sensory sensitivities.
- Different play behaviours and preferences.

Physical Accessibility

Designers should demonstrate:

- Accessible routes throughout the play area.
- Wheelchair-accessible opportunities.
- Ground-level experiences.
- Transfer opportunities.
- Integrated inclusive play rather than segregated provision.

Tenderers shall provide a dedicated Inclusivity Statement describing how the design responds to these requirements.

11. Equipment requirements

The Council does not wish to prescribe specific equipment combinations.

Instead, designers are encouraged to propose equipment that best fulfils the overall vision and objectives of the project.

The Council welcomes proposals incorporating:

- Large destination structures.
- Landmark equipment.
- Themed features.
- Climbing experiences.
- Inclusive equipment.
- Sensory equipment.
- Interactive play opportunities.
- Nature-inspired play.
- Use of natural materials such as stone and logs etc., to compliment formal equipment.
- Use of natural earthy and autumnal colours.

Equipment should be:

- Robust.

- Durable.
- Vandal resistant.
- Easy to maintain.
- Suitable for intensive public use.

The Council welcomes innovation and originality.

12. Surfacing requirements

All surfacing shall comply with the latest editions of BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177.

Tenderers shall provide:

- Surfacing specifications.
- Critical fall height information.
- Installation methodology.
- Drainage proposals.
- Warranty information.

Surfacing should:

- Support accessibility.
- Utilise natural materials where possible.
- Complement the setting of Abbey Park.
- Be of natural earthy and autumnal colours.
- Reflect the project themes where appropriate.
- Be durable.
- Be easy to maintain.

The Council welcomes creative use of colour and pattern where it enhances play value and the overall aesthetic of the site.

13. Landscaping and natural play

The Council wishes landscaping to form an integral part of the overall play experience.

The landscape should not simply surround the play area but should actively contribute to play opportunities.

Natural Play

The design should incorporate opportunities such as:

- Timber balance features.
- Logs.

- Boulders.
- Stepping trails.
- Informal nature play.
- Landform changes.
- Use of any and all excavated materials on site as part of the scheme.

Biodiversity

Designers should identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity through:

- Native planting.
- Pollinator-friendly planting.
- Habitat creation.
- Sustainable landscape design.

Herb Garden

Designers are encouraged to consider inclusion of a small herb garden or sensory planting area where appropriate.

Existing Trees

The mature trees surrounding the site contribute significantly to the character of Abbey Park.

Designs shall:

- Retain existing trees.
- Protect trees during construction.
- Integrate the surrounding landscape.
- Enhance the parkland setting.

Seating and Supporting Facilities

Designs shall include:

- Additional benches.
- Inclusive picnic tables.
- Informal seating opportunities.

Facilities should support parents, carers and families using the play space.

Lighting

No lighting is required as part of this project.

14. Site management during construction

Tenderers shall submit a Method Statement describing how the works will be managed.

Access for deliveries and machinery shall be from Abbey Park Walk.

The submission shall include:

- Proposed site compound location.
- Deliveries management.
- Public safety measures.
- Security arrangements.
- Waste management procedures (noting that excavated material is to be retained on site as part of the scheme).

The contractor shall provide:

- Temporary security fencing.
- Public warning signage.
- Welfare facilities where appropriate.
- Suitable supervision.

The site shall be maintained in a safe and secure condition throughout the works. The Council will monitor and regularly inspect the works; this is to be facilitated by the contractors.

15. Health and safety

Prior to commencement the successful contractor shall provide:

- Construction Phase Plan.
- Risk Assessments.
- Method Statements.
- Emergency procedures.
- Insurance documentation.

The contractor shall comply with all current health and safety legislation and best practice guidance.

The contractor shall ensure that:

- The public is protected and not excessively impacted during the works.
- Adjacent facilities remain safe.
- Staff are appropriately trained.
- Activities are properly supervised.

16. Sustainability and materials

Play equipment should:

- Utilise powder coated metal in earthy and autumnal colours as the primary material.
- Use durable wood components where appropriate.
- Be sustainably sourced.
- Demonstrate long-term durability.

Any timber uprights should use:

- Metal feet.
- Engineered support systems.
- Alternative systems preventing direct ground contact.

Tenderers should provide details regarding:

- Sustainability credentials.
- Material sourcing.
- Recycled content.
- Expected lifespan.
- Environmental benefits.

Excavated material should be re-used on site as part of the overall works by providing mounds etc. as part of the play scheme.

17. Standards and compliance

All equipment, surfacing and associated works shall comply with:

- BS EN 1176.
- BS EN 1177.
- Equality Act 2010 requirements.
- Relevant API guidance.
- Applicable health and safety legislation.

Certification shall be provided upon completion.

The contractor shall provide evidence that all equipment has been tested and installed in accordance with relevant standards.

18. Maintenance, guarantees and warranties

The Council places significant emphasis on reducing whole-life maintenance costs.

Equipment should provide:

- Long service life.
- Easy replacement parts.
- Low maintenance finishes.
- Graffiti-resistant finishes.
- Vandal resistance.

Tenderers shall provide details of warranties and cover provided for:

- Equipment and components.
- Installation.
- Snagging works post-installation.

Tenderers shall also provide:

- Maintenance schedules.
- Inspection schedules.
- Spare parts availability information.
- Lifecycle expectations.

19. Success measures

The project will be considered successful where it delivers:

- A destination play area that reflects the unique identity of Glastonbury.
- Inclusive opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.
- Increased visitor numbers and repeat visits.
- Positive community feedback.
- Enhanced biodiversity and landscape quality.
- Reduced maintenance liabilities.
- A durable, attractive, and sustainable play environment.
- Increased opportunities for physical activity.
- Increased opportunities for social interaction.
- Increased opportunities for imaginative play.

20. Programme and key dates

The intended project timeline is as below:

Milestone	Date
Digital Tender Released	27 July 2026
Receipt of Tenders	By noon on 1 September 2026
Initial Design Refinements	By noon on 9 September 2026
Printed Visualisations and Plans Received	By noon on 15 September 2026
Community Consultation	Starting 16 September 2026
Evaluation Scoring	By noon on 8 October 2026
Supplier Selection	13 October 2026 at Full Council
Final Design Refinement	By 30 October 2026
Contract Award	By noon on 2 November 2026
Terms Agreed	By noon on 9 November 2026
Installation Period	March – April 2027
Completion, Certification and Opening	April 2027

21. Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Weighting
Community Consultation Results	30%
Design Quality and Understanding of Brief	30%
Inclusion and Accessibility	15%
Play Value	15%
Value for Money	10%
Total	100%

Scoring Methodology

Score	Description
0	Unacceptable
1	Poor
2	Below Expectations
3	Acceptable
4	Good
5	Excellent

22. Pricing schedule

Tenderers shall provide a cost breakdown including:

- Equipment supply.
- Site preparation.
- Groundworks.
- Surfacing.
- Landscaping.
- Seating.
- Signage.
- Waste removal.
- Certification.
- Temporary works.

A separate cost shall be provided for:

- Removal of the existing green swing set.
- Removal of the existing see-saw.
- Transportation to and reinstallation at a new location (to be agreed).

Any optional phased elements should be clearly identified.

Tendered prices are to be held for no less than 90 days from 1 September 2026.

23. Tender submission details

Design

Tenderers shall provide:

- Digital 3D visualisations.
- Digital Scaled coloured layout plans.
- Equipment specification sheets.
- Play Value Statement.
- Inclusivity Statement.
- Any other relevant information that is helpful to the submission.

Technical

Tenderers shall provide:

- Construction Method Statement to include details of excavations.
- Programme of Works to include details of excavations.
- Sustainability Statement.

- Warranty Schedule.
- Maintenance Information.
- Lifecycle expectations.
- Pricing schedule as per section 22.
- Any other relevant information that is helpful to the submission.

Company Information

Tenderers shall provide:

- Company profile to include financial information.
- API membership certificate.
- Public liability insurance certificate.
- Employer's liability insurance certificate.
- Standard payment terms.
- Relevant references.
- Any other relevant information that is helpful to the submission.

All of the above information is to initially be provided digitally. Once the Council has gone through its initial design refinements as per the programme timeline, then it will require printed visualisations and plans in A1 format to be provided.

Presentations

The Council reserves the right to invite shortlisted suppliers to present their proposals to Members and the Play Area Working Group.

The Council additionally reserves the right to refine the preferred design following appointment without financial penalty.

Questions and Clarifications

Should be addressed to: assistantclerk@glastonbury.gov.uk and projects@glastonbury.gov.uk

Submission

Completed tenders should be sent by the deadline in digital format to: contractsandtenders@glastonbury.gov.uk

NOTE: This email address is not necessarily monitored every day, any expiring links (such as WeTransfer or similar) for your submission should include projects@glastonbury.gov.uk to the email so that this data can be downloaded in time.