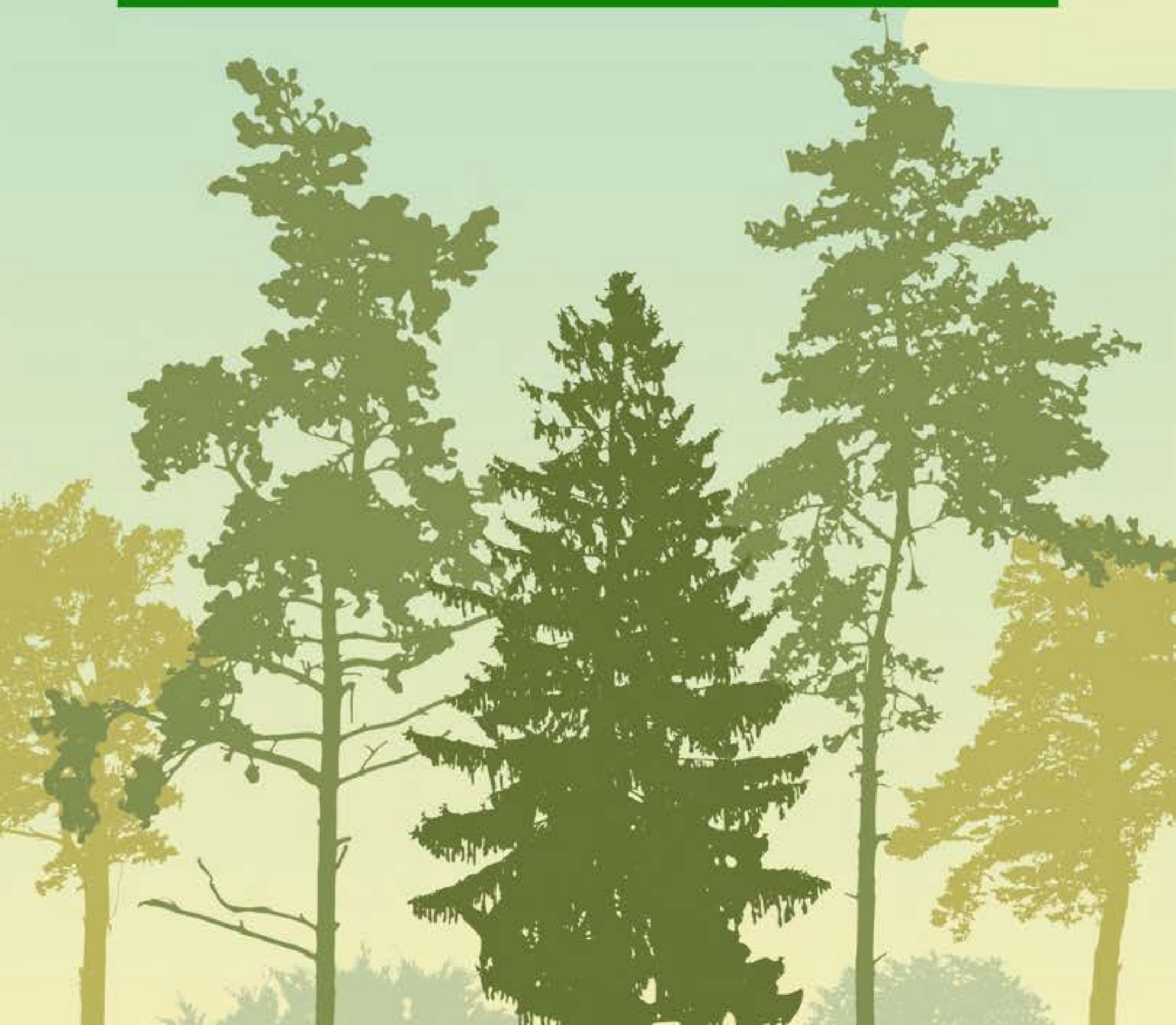




GREEN
TOUCH
LANDSCAPES
LTD

We don't cost the earth



FOREST SCHOOL SPECIALISTS

Forest School is a child-centred educational approach that is increasingly being recognised as an innovative way to get children active and learning. It allows them to learn, explore and play in a safe and natural setting, and offers opportunities for holistic growth through play exploration and supportive risk taking.



This hands-on experience helps to develop team working skills, improve confidence and enable self-led learning for some of the important life lessons that cannot be taught within the classroom.

Our founder Matthew Whittaker began his early years in industrial Blackburn, before relocating to the rural village of Warton. Finding the contrast truly striking, Matthew finally was able to engage with nature in a way that he had never been able to in his previous urban setting. He found the move to be truly transformative and enjoys being able to provide children with a little slice of that experience through Green Touch Landscapes. As our green spaces are continually diminishing it is our intention to enhance whatever space you have, in order to maximize its potential for outdoor education.



SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is important in the UK and at Green Touch Landscapes we are passionate about using sustainable materials to help preserve and enhance our areas of natural beauty.

Environmental Conservation: The UK, like many other countries, faces environmental challenges such as climate change, air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity, and deforestation. We at Green Touch Landscapes recognise this and so source all our materials as sustainably as possible.

Climate Change Mitigation: The UK is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change. With these issues in mind, we have fitted a solar panel to the work van. This means we are able to use this solar energy to power batteries to in-turn power and charge a variety of tools we use on projects. We also were possible try to stay close to site when working away to help reduce travel emissions

Sustainable development: aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Matthew recognized when studying Environmental sciences and Politics that it is essential we educate the next generation on the importance of nature if we are to encourage them to use sustainable materials in the future.

Legal and Regulatory Framework: At Green Touch Landscapes we work to the highest standard of Health & safety and sustainability requirements. All of our timber is sustainable sourced and our staff are fully training in how to use the equipment that we use. We would prefer to use all native hardwoods in all of our products, but unfortunately as everything is required to be certified, we can not do this.

Public Awareness and Education: Our business is built around increasing public awareness and education of our shared natural heritage. We believe if that we all understand the natural world we can value it more and therefore pass it down to the next generation either as it is or enhanced for the better.

Equality: Nature does not care what skin colour/gender or sexual preference we have and neither do we. Society is made up on a spectrum of people and if we want a sustainable future then every member of our society needs to value the natural world and thus excluding anyone would effectively make us all poorer.

In summary, sustainability is important in the UK to address environmental challenges, mitigate climate change, promote social equity, ensure economic stability, comply with regulations, and raise public awareness. Embracing sustainable practices is essential for the well-being of current and future generations in the UK and worldwide.

OUR VISION

For the last few years we have focused on bringing outdoor education products to schools. We are now expanding nationwide to ensure children across the county can benefit from our products. This will mean products such as our Outdoor Classroom and Mud Kitchen will be available as a 'flatpack'. We will be able to provide instruction videos or 1-1 training to local councils for them to arrange the installation of the products themselves. This is something which we are very excited about launching and will be trialing this throughout schools in England throughout 2024.

By taking Green Touch Nationwide, our goal is to not only build a successful business for ourselves, but to support local businesses and bring employment opportunities to the community, all whilst knowing the products we are creating are to help bring beauty back to our public spaces and engage us all with nature.

Within our team we have an excellent machinist we use to make the canopies for our outdoor classrooms. She lives on a farm in Cumbria and has her own little studio. She has recently become a new mum and we would be thrilled if we could help her grow her business further.

Rachael, Matthews partner deals with Administration side of the business and has been instrumental in developing Green Touch - as the saying goes behind every good man is a great woman.

In our workshop we also have one of our good friends Dave. He was formally a painter and decorator, but due to a condition that effects his knee, he is unable to undertake this work anymore and had to give up his businesses. With us, he assists in helping to build the products and he also undertakes the laser etching work.

It has been really special for us to be able to provide him a new path and as we continue to expand, our plans are for him to run and manage the workshop.

We will continue to support local businesses as it is something we are passionate about. We understand how hard it can be to run a small business and compete with large corporations.



If a child's Grandparents move to a care home, the memories that can be created between them can become limited. Children are not a fan of sitting still and as we see more often than not these days, they reach straight for an IPAD or phone which completely silences them and removes them socially from a situation. I think we can all agree that whilst it can be 'easier' to hand a child a piece of tech to keep them happy, it is not actually beneficial for anyone.

If a child is sat on a phone when visiting a loved one, when they look back on memories as they get older, are they going to have any?



We have created a range of products and can alter/develop them to suit different spaces. We would love to have forest school areas in care homes. To enable families to be together, play together, learn together but more importantly make memories together.

We truly believe this can help improve the quality of life for the elderly in the care home and the loved ones visiting

We want to bring beauty back for our eyes with beautiful products but also beauty to our souls



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Our outdoor classrooms are great for both the summer and winter, as here in the North of England it would be virtually impossible to schedule lessons around our ever changing weather. The removable roof (as pictured here) is designed and made in house, and can be tailored to any size, shape or specification.



Our innovative design also incorporates a number of educational features; the transparent sections of the roof are aligned to the points of the compass to teach navigation techniques, and we use a variety of tree species in its construction to help children develop their skills in tree identification. Where possible we support local businesses, regenerative woodland management practices and are always conscious of our environmental footprint. All of our wood products are sustainably harvested and the hardwoods are coppiced within the Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

PHONICS & MATHS BOARD



We know that reading helps to develop emotionally, culturally, intellectually and socially. Phonics is a key element in helping children become successful readers but it certainly does not just have to be taught in the classroom. By taking this essential form of learning outdoors it can really help bring the learning to life. The outdoors as we know offers an exciting, engaging and stimulating environment. We believe this is an a fantastic learning product for any forest school and can be attached alongside the outdoor classroom with orienteering options available to make the phonics board more active.

These boards do not just have to be about educating children phonics. The cookies could be used to help teach maths, shapes, animals etc. The cookies can be made completely bespoke to suit your requirements

We developed this product because we found that teachers were resistant to going outdoors as many have had little engagement with nature which in turn can mean that managing a class of children outside can be daunting. By taking a lesson the teacher is familiar with outdoors, it can help build the teachers confidence further

DEN BUILDING AREA

Although den building areas are not a new concept, our design tries to emulate nature as much as possible, using sustainably harvested wood products throughout.

Building dens requires children to assess and select the materials that are most appropriate for each job. By moving and manipulating them to make them fit for purpose children are able to improve on team work and fine motor control skills. The den building area also teaches children responsibility and the finite reality of things, as at the end of the session they will need deconstructing for the next group.



SENSORY GARDEN



A sensory garden can increase the level of interaction that children with sensory and behavioural issues have with the outdoor environment. The sensory garden is designed to while provide benefits, such as, increased educational development, concentration, skill, development, ecological awareness, and academic learning.

Each sensory garden contains

1 bed covered with fruit and heather

1 herb bed

Floor – various types of stones for different colour and texture. We have found autistic children enjoy ensuring the stone types stay in their place. it can help give them a sensor of control that they may lack in other areas.

Swing chair for tactile soothing

Windchimes

Percussion sound wall

Bench for seating

Size – 4.8m x 4.8m



MUD KITCHEN



We all remember making mud pies when we were children, but at Green Touch Landscapes we take it to the next level! Mud kitchens are fun, messy and a great way for kids to safely build up their immune systems.



We design and build each kitchen to order and preferably leave them outdoors to allow Mother Nature to do the dishes and wash the mud away. As pictured, the kitchen comes with all you need to make a great mud pie; a mixing bowl, a hob, an oven and a sink to 'wash up' in





We can repurpose and provide all of the utensils needed for the kitchen, but asking the children to stock the kitchen themselves can be a great idea too. It allows them to develop a sense of ownership whilst promoting the idea of sharing, as no one child will have everything they need to make a successful mud pie. The mud kitchen will also include a chalk board - the perfect place to write a recipe! I bet Jamie Oliver's first dish was a mud pie!



WATER WALL



We all know there is nothing better than playing with water on a hot summers day. Here at Green Touch Landscapes we are firm believers in active learning and have developed the Water wall. The mural teaches the children the water cycle. Other benefits of the water wall include the children being able to move the guttering supports to make the 'river' as long or as short as they like at a variety of gradients.

Due to this they can also learn about erosion, sedimentation and how mother nature sorts our sands and gravels. We are also able to do similar murals with other educational cycles, i.e the rock cycle



RUBBERISED FLOORING



Rubberised flooring is a great asset for any school as it is a recycled product that creates a hard wearing, soft and durable surface for children to play on. It comes in a variety of colours to brighten up any play area. Depending on the 'purpose' of the flooring, we have a range of suitable products to match



WILLOW WEAVING



Willow weaving is a heritage skill that is rarely seen but universally admired. Each branch is woven into a structure during the winter months, before bursting into life in the spring.

We can create a wide range of structures including willow tunnels, arbours and domes which function as great places to play and explore. We can also add willow to any pre-existing structures –perhaps creating an arbour to shade a friendship bench, or weaving a fedge (fence/hedge) to create a natural barrier. The tunnels make a useful shade over a running track or creative entrance into an area.

WILLOW DOMES



Though largely aesthetic, willow is a great introduction to the concept of plants as medicine. A little known fact is that willow bark is a natural pain reliever, and is the source of the primary component of aspirin. It and was used in beaver oil, as a headache remedy by the Victorians. Who would have thought that something so pretty could be used to teach about history, pharmacology and ecology.

Willow Domes are definitely the perfect spot for a little log seating area to be enjoyed by all



TREE COOKIES & SIGNS



These Tree cookies are compatible with our Phonics & Maths Board but can be made for any purpose. We can create these in a way that completely suits your requirements - Letters, numbers, shapes, animals etc..

We are also able to create a range of different signs - again the design is completely up to you!



NATURE IDENTIFICATION SIGNS



These beautiful nature signs not only bring some beauty back to our public spaces but they help us to engage back with nature. Identifying and learning about various local species allows us to learn and appreciate the beauty and diversity of the UK. These signs can also be painted to encapsulate the colours of the birds to assist with bird watching activities



RUBBING BOARDS



These rubbing boards are brilliant for kids, they can be made to help children and families engage with nature in our public spaces and along with our nature signs, help them to learn about different tree species plants, birds, insects etc.



OUTDOOR CHALK DESIGN BOARDS

Our chalkboards allow the children to really get their creative juices flowing. We provide chalk boards with an all-natural wood surrounding, which can be the perfect accompaniment to any mud kitchen, den building area or public space



Children can use natural chalk to draw and write while they play, before their art is washed away by the rainwater, ready for the next time.

These rustic chalkboards can be made to be free standing or fixed. Our Freestanding chalkboards are made double sided to ensure as many people as possible can enjoy them



FRIENDSHIP BENCH



Our friendship benches provide an opportunity to connect with people and start a conversation about how they are feeling. The benches can be adapted to suit different audiences.

We feel these benches not only can help with encouraging people to connect, but also by providing and enhancing the beauty of public spaces also.



TREETRUNK TABLE



These beautiful tree trunk tables bring beauty and fun to any space. Perhaps you would like to play a game on the tables, sit and have a chat, or just sit and enjoy being in nature. These can be made completely bespoke to seat as many people as required.



ACTIVITY TABLE

We hate to see children (and adults) sitting in any space with friends and family but having their faces glued to tech! The benches ensure everyone can have fun together!

From playing on the engraved wooden games, or drawing on the chalkboard table or even just having a chat across the table.

The table top can be removed to store games and chalk or arts and crafts materials





The best memories we will ever have will be ones where we interact together and not through a piece of electronic equipment. These tables are simple but effective ways to connect with those around you



PICNIC BENCHES



Picnic Benches are great products that enable us to enjoy beautiful spaces. Our goal is always to build products to help us enjoy public spaces but also pieces that look beautiful within these spaces. Our stunning rustic picnic benches can be made in adult sizes or smaller to suit younger children





LOCH NESS TYRE MONSTER



Balance allows children to control and manage their bodies. Children are often seen to be running, making fast movements and having stumbles and falls. When children are encouraged to slow down they begin focusing on controlled movements and this also helps with risk management skills.

These controlled movements require concentration and critical thinking. Our Loch Ness Tyre monster helps to promote this.



CLIMBING WALLS



Climbing walls help improve gross motor movements as kids scale climbing structures and engage their entire body.

Sharpened visual perception as kids scout areas to place their hands and feet while climbing. Refined speed, coordination, agility, and balance as children climb and continually improve.



WATTLE AND DAUB

Our Celtic ancestors living in the Iron Age used the wattle and daub technique to construct weatherproof walls and structures.

Wattle and daub houses are created using a woven lattice of wooden strips called wattle, and daubed using a mixture of clay, horse manure and straw to create the walls, and traditional Celtic thatching techniques to create the roof. This technique has been used for over 6000 years, and is still an important construction material in many parts of the world.



Bringing this old heritage craft to the playground is the perfect way to get creative like our ancestors, as the non-toxic materials are perfect for mud arts and crafts. Children are able to decorate the house inside and out with cave paintings and Celtic runes, or just have fun expressing their creativity!

BUG HOTEL



Bug hotels are a great way for the school and the pupils to give back to nature. Through consciously stacking pallets and using a wide variety of materials to fill it, we can generate micro environments for all those little beasties who spend their days pollinating our food and cleaning up our waste.

We can also design the lower section of our bug hotels to function as a home for hedgehogs, which in turn helps us to protect this rapidly declining species. With an increasing number of people incorporating patio and AstroTurf into their gardens, you can help to provide these species with new habitats and turn your school grounds into a veritable biodiversity hotspot.



SPECIES ENRICHMENT

However she can, Mother Nature will find a way to survive, but with the right help she will thrive. Most school sites have at least some areas that are not reaching their full potential; whether that be a grassy corner that is barely used, or a tree line that lacks diversity.

Green Touch Landscapes aims to use every bit of space to maximise the ecological value at each site. Not all species can be planted anywhere and within our team we have the knowledge and experience to make any space a little haven for wildlife.

The children can watch and measure how the site develops; noticing the species that do well and those that struggle – a great exercise in mapping ecological changes. We also hope to involve and work with the children in creating these spaces, and try to give them as much understanding as possible about the benefits of what we are doing, and how the area will grow over time. There is something very inspiring about helping a child to plant an oak tree, and enlightening them to the fact that their great great great great great great grandchild could one day play under it in 500 years.



OUTDOOR BUILDINGS



Our outdoor buildings can be used for many different purposes such as storage or a sheltered seating area. These can be a great way to keep all your items safe whilst providing easy access at the right time.

All of our storage sheds are designed to suit your requirements, as you can see from the images, we have created many different spaces to suit different requirements



OUTDOOR LIBRARY



As you have seen we have been able to construct a variety of different outdoor buildings, which can be suitable for all of your different requirements. We loved undertaking this project to build an outdoor library which provides a cozy snug environment to enjoy a good book. With our range of seating areas, on a nice day those who use it could sit outdoor and enjoy a good book



STORY TELLING AREA



We just love the outdoor story telling areas. How perfect for children to be listening to a story while outdoors in nature. We truly believe it helps to ignite their imaginations.

Story telling areas can be made as simple or as fancy as you like. From interesting wood seat carvings, to simple log benches, whatever you need we can do it!



WELLY WALL



Welly walls are a perfect area to store all the children wellys. This helps to prevent mud from being trailed in to the school which from talking to different schools was becoming a problem. You could have a welly wall in this style outdoors, or have an outdoor building with a welly attached inside.



VEGETABLE BEDS



Growing food can be one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences, for both children and adults alike. Planting, growing and harvesting fruit and vegetables teaches patience and responsibility, as well as being a great introduction to a variety of natural concepts including basic ecology, nutrition and global warming. This also creates a potential to take things further by teaching the children how they can cook the food that they have grown, demonstrating the whole process from earth to plate. Though we can now rely on supermarkets to produce our food, it is certainly still important that we all know and appreciate where it comes from.

Fruit and vegetable growing areas can range from a small area with just one or two beds, to a much larger area where each class has an entire bed and/or section of a poly tunnel. This is entirely determined by the preferences and requirements of your school, and can be tailored specifically to your space.



WOODLAND CREATION

Extensive research around the world has shown that trees have a special impact on our mental health. Having access to woodlands and nature has been shown to decrease anxiety and depression, and improve our mental, social and physical health.



To enable our children to reap the benefits of the natural world, we aim to maximise biodiversity wherever possible in the school environment. We can make full use of unoccupied spaces by planting varieties of standard tree, and potentially allowing the rewilding of the space around them. We hope that this will get children and teachers talking about how this might benefit the environment, whilst also helping to reduce the maintenance cost required in the outdoor space.

We aim to create a diverse mosaic of trees that range in size and maturity, giving vibrant woodland with a truly natural feel to it. The woodland creation projects can also work alongside that of the Woodland Trust, who make woodland tree packs available to schools.



PATHS

The run a mile initiative was actually launched in Green Touch Landscapes home village of Warton. It is self-evident that running and exercise are beneficial for mind, body and soul. We can construct any length of path from almost any material, though we prefer to use local compressed natural stone for hard wearing paths.



When it comes to paths in play areas we would always suggest a soft edged wood chip, as it stops well-trodden paths from becoming muddy and avoids installing potential trip hazards.

A nice added benefit of wood chip is that as it decomposes it becomes food for all sorts of little beasties. It is a little known fact that the dead wood in a woodland is the most valuable as it is food for the rest of the ecosystem. It is also handy that wood chip is relatively inexpensive or sometimes free for some schools/teachers.



DIPPING PONDS & MAINTENANCE



Ponds are great for wildlife and are home to a myriad of species. At some point most of us have dipped our nets into a river or the sea to see what we can find and remember the excitement of catching a little water boatman or larvae of some description. Much like a meadow or woodland, the ecology of a pond changes and develops over time, and provides a great visual resource to teach children about the natural world.

The dipping ponds pictured here can be made in a variety of depths and sizes, to accommodate for children of different ages, and to show how environmental factors can affect ecological development. The ponds can also be used to discuss water safety and come with removable wire mesh lids in order to make sure they are only accessible in the presence of a responsible adult.

We are also able to undertake any pond maintenance/clearence as Matthew is a certified dry suit scuba diver

TREE MAINTENANCE



Working with one of the best Tree Surgeons in the North West - Reace Taylor, we are able to undertake tree maintenance but also any Garden/Public space maintenance.

We do not encourage completely chopping down trees when we do not feel it is necessary and will always look to save trees, but recognise that the area must be safe for the people who use it.



COPPICE CO-OP



The Coppice co-op have been one of our preferred local suppliers since we were established. We love the sustainability of the firm and also the goal and achievements of the business.

The Coppice Co-op exists to provide employment for its members and other heritage craft workers within the field of traditional coppicing; woodland restoration; habitat management; and the conservation of the rural landscape and its heritage. We aim to make a long term positive contribution by combining economic viability as a business with the promotion of heritage skills to deliver sustainable woodland and habitat management work that landowners otherwise find difficult to fund consistently. The Coppice Co-op also works with a range of partner organisations to support access to woodlands, crafts and nature connection for a broad range of participants.



For more information please visit
<https://www.coppicecoop.co.uk/>
@coppicecoop

TESTIMONIALS

I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Green Touch Landscapes through a relationship I had established with the Yorkshire wildlife Trust and the Nature Friendly Schools programme. As part of this programme the YWT paid for us to have an outdoor classroom installed on our site.

Though at the time I was not sure what the classroom was Alex (my contact at the YWT), assured me that it would be the best way to spend the money that had been allocated to our school. I put my trust in her and it was well placed to say the least. Matthew and his team came and installed it during the holidays to ensure that there was no risk to the children and when I saw it I completely understood Alex's perspective. The classroom enabled us to take learning outdoors in virtually any weather and made brilliant use of what was a piece of waste ground. After seeing what Green Touch Landscapes could do, we (myself and the senior management team), decided to ask Matthew if he could install some woodchip and stone paths, a den building area, convert a disused planter bed into a dipping pond and install some stairs to the area to make access to the area safer. Not only did he do that but he also tamed some of the over grown area and reweaved our small willow arch for no added charge.

On the back of the developments we made we have won the West Yorkshire Sports Premium Most Active schools Award which would have been impossible without Green Touch Landscapes hard work.

I truly cannot recommend Green Touch Landscapes highly enough and as such have been passing their contact details on to every school that I am in contact with.

kindest Regards

Niall O'Brien

Physical Education and Outdoor Learning lead

Green Touch Landscapes worked for me approximately 2 years ago installing a forest school shelter, den building area and some planters. The work was innovative, sustainable and completed on time at a reasonable price. As a result of this work I used them again in my new role to install a large extension to a patio area. Again, the work was completed in a timely and professional manner to the highest standard. This was done despite the very difficult weather conditions and difficulties with supplies due to the isolated nature of my workplace.

Matt communicates well throughout the process and is fastidious in ensuring that work is carried out correctly.

I look forward to working with Green Touch on future projects and they will always be my first port of call whenever I need any landscaping work doing.

I would be happy to discuss this reference with anyone and I am happy for my contact details to be shared.

Kind Regards

Trevor Holmes

Centre Manager – Dallowgill

We were introduced to Matthew whilst working with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. The Trust recommended Matthew to us for designing and constructing our outdoor classroom. From the beginning Matthew planned, designed and built our outdoor classroom alongside the school, offering ideas and implementing anything that we requested. He communicated clearly throughout the whole process so that we knew exactly what our outdoor classroom was going to look like. Matthew also installed a mud kitchen, den building area and a pond with a fence around. They are all bespoke units that are sturdy and long-lasting. We were really pleased with the end result - the outdoor space looks fantastic and is loved by our pupils.

Harry Mclean.

St. Clare's Catholic Primary School, Bradford

We'd just like to say a huge thank you to Matthew and the team for providing us with a bespoke outdoor classroom, den building area, workshop, dipping pond and luxury bug hotel. From start to finish they worked to a clear plan of what they were going to deliver. The lads were fantastic with our children, who came on site to help with the build.

Throughout the project they made sure that the work area was kept tidy and access was clear. Our outdoor education area is now a space our children access every day and develop their fundamental skills. This would not have been possible without Matthew and his team.

Matthew Jackson,

Acklam Whinn Primary, Middlesborough



To discuss any of our products in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact us

We are not limited to the products within this brochure and would love to hear your ideas!

Email: info@greentouchlandscapes.co.uk

Website: www.greentouchlandscapes.co.uk

Instagram: [green_touch_landscapes](https://www.instagram.com/green_touch_landscapes)

Facebook: [Green Touch Landscapes](https://www.facebook.com/GreenTouchLandscapes)

Linkedin: [Green Touch Landscapes Ltd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/greentouchlandscapes)

Along with products, Matthew is able to provide consultancy services to help with development of public spaces. Matthew has a degree in Environmental Sciences and Politics.
(professional hippie)

Developing Green Touch
Landscapes Ltd could not be
possible without our wonderful
team, our suppliers, our customers
and our friends. We would like to
ensure everyone knows how
thankful we are to you all
We will continue to develop our
vision further to create and
develop sustainable beautiful
products to give us beautiful
lifelong memories





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