

**MAKE IT**

**THE  
GROWING  
SCHOOLS GARDEN**

**LEARNING OUTSIDE  
THE CLASSROOM**

Stumpery and Evolutionary Path

# Evolutionary Path

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## Evolutionary path



## Description

Imagine wandering through a primeval swamp; damp and humid with foliage overhead dripping with moisture, surrounded by some of the most primitive and basic plants on earth.

Mosses, lichens and horsetails carpet the ground with intricately textured foliage. Overhead the gnarled boughs of the conifers cast dense shade. The

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atmosphere of forest is accentuated by the use of stumps, inverted conifers where the roots create a complex umbrella that tickles those exploring the garden.

Carnivorous plants abound in the sunlit clearings and the sound of dinosaurs can be heard in the distance. Frogs, newts, toads and numerous swamp-dwelling creatures are frequent visitors here.

Pedestrians walk along a boardwalk path of rough-sawn timber running through the vegetation. This is to be used as a timeline, each board documenting geological history, the creation of the planet as we know it and the significant rise and fall of creatures.

In addition to timelines, this area offers opportunities for exploration of the evolution of plants, from single-celled algae to towering, non-flowering and wind-pollinated trees.

## Function

Branding or carving images, dates, words etc. on the timber boardwalk will interpret the geological and evolutionary history of our planet; commencing furthest back in time at the start of the pathway near the arid prairie area and ending in the present day at the pond.

## Construction

### Sizes

The pathway is 9.75m long, with a 15mm gap between each board. Various lengths of timber can be used (minimum 1000mm) to give a random effect. Timbers are from trunks sliced in long section.

### Special Details

Not every timber needs to be branded or marked.

### Construction Materials

Hardwood (e.g. oak or beech) from recycled or sustainable sources.

## Contributing school

### Fair Oak Infant School, Hampshire

For the path, children drew people, animals and plants from various stages in the evolutionary process so that these could be engraved onto the planks for the path. This was the same technique as we had used for our twelve class totem-poles in our playground.

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*'I enjoyed designing a person to put on the path. I was excited to be allowed to do the designing' Morgan*

## In the Growing Schools Garden

