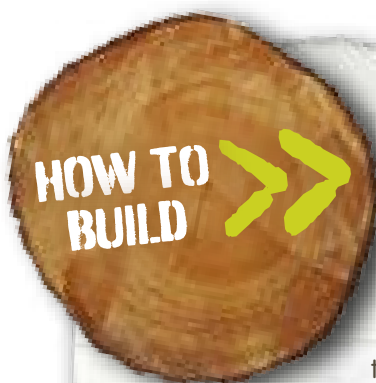


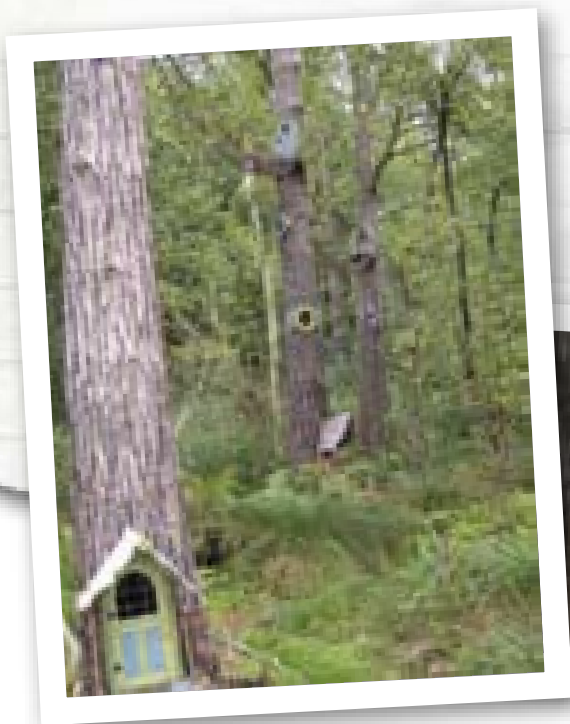
Folklore and themes

The two sites below have created real homes for imaginary forest people. The dwellings reflect a fairy-story quality and are linked to other structures and events for human visitors (such as signs, play areas and activities).



- Not all sites will be suitable for this type of development as they might attract vandalism. The concept could be trialled initially by inviting young children to create their own imaginary village out of materials they find in

the forest. If successful an artist, sculptor or craftsman might begin to gradually make more (semi) permanent structures. Locating fragile elements out of reach; high in trees, or on islands in wetland areas will reduce likelihood of damage. This type of play environment can be as much about imagination and fantasy as physical activity. ● Care needs to be taken about getting the aesthetic right so that it doesn't become a tacky theme park. Developing a strong theme for a site is always helpful to designers.



Bewilderwood (Wroxham, near Norwich). A visit to look at the design detailing is recommended for anyone considering this kind of children's play.
www.bewilderwood.co.uk



The Dwarves Forest (Tervete, Latvia). Adjoins the home of Anna Brigadere, a well-known children's author.