

A Unique Design for a Unique Location

LOWER LEAS COASTAL PARK

Client: Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Address: Lower Leas Coastal Park, Folkestone, CT20 2JP

Budget: £750,000

Age Range: Toddlers, Juniors, Teenagers

Ranges: Origin', Origin' Major project

Surfacing: Rubber mulch, sand, SUDS-bond and crushed stone pathing

In the winter of 2025, Folkestone & Hythe District Council released one of the largest and most ambitious design briefs ever issued by a Local Authority. The Council sought a partner to renovate a much-loved play area sitting beneath a coastal cliff face. The design solution not only needed to withstand high footfall and challenging climatic conditions, but it also had to work with the surrounding natural environment which boasts a unique and exotic micro-climate.

The Council sought to improve access throughout this destination site so users of all abilities could enjoy all 15 zones equally. Following this bold vision, few play companies felt capable of delivering. However, Proludic love a challenge and put together a winning design that matched the scale of the Council's ambition.

Over the course of 14 weeks, Proludic worked closely with the Council to integrate play features and improved pathways into the woodland setting, working around tree roots and challenging topography including bedrock.





As the self-proclaimed “largest free adventure playground in the South-East”, this destination site needs an epic focal point that provides wow factor, risk and challenge. This comes in the form of a gigantic 5-tower timber play featuring a hexagonal deck linked by a SUDS-bond path to ensure users of all abilities can play together and experience the joy of playing at height. The towers are connected by climbing elements and crawl tunnels, with a high degree of visibility throughout to ensure children can see their guardians and vice versa.

A unique Arborea unit wraps around a tree trunk and encourages children to get up close to nature. This unit also features multiple sensory play items that help children develop teamwork skills. A bespoke Robinia bee unit offers the youngest visitors their first experience of climbing and sliding within a fenced area, as well as providing little ones with much-needed shade during the hot summer months.

To achieve the client’s natural look and feel, Proludic used standard and bespoke designs from Proludic’s sustainable timber range, including Robinia posts and decks as well as Douglas fir panelling. The main tower required a steel chassis, with light brown powder-coated posts chosen to complement the setting. These are hot-zinc-dipped for maximum protection against saline corrosion and covered by lifetime warranties.

The Coastal Park’s biodiversity is reflected throughout the play space, with local animals, flora and birds incorporated into the design. Bespoke timber climbing structures, rubbing posts and colourful plaques celebrate the natural surroundings. Children can also enjoy a downloadable activity sheet that encourages them to go off the beaten track and discover the whole area.



Cllr Connor McConville of Folkestone & Hythe District Council said he hopes this site will become the district’s flagship play area and that their investment has really paid off and will delight the next generations.



Older users can test their limits on a 60-metre agility trail, featuring Monkey bars (J4909), Balance Beams (J4903), Japanese Steps (J4904) and a Vertical Net (J4913), the equipment is surfaced with a combination of sand in some areas and brown rubber mulch in others, and features pathing in crushed stone and SUDS-bond.

The installation was completed on budget, on time and to the highest of standards, despite weather extremes including torrential downpours and two record heatwaves.



As part of the engagement process, Proludic's Senior Area Manager, Tim Bird, gave local school children sneak previews of the designs with their main question excitedly being, "When will it be open?"

The playground was opened to great fanfare, with an opening event seeing over a thousand visitors walk through the bespoke "Welcome" sign. Guests enjoyed free ice creams courtesy of Proludic, while goodie bags were distributed to younger visitors.



See our full project
overview video below.

