

Delightful Hidden Gem Playground



SWALLOW CLOSE PLAY AREA

Client: Dartford Borough Council

Address: Swallow Close, Stone, Greenhithe, DA9 9PT

Budget: £36,000

Age Range: Toddlers, Juniors

Ranges: Kanopé, Baby Diabolo

Surfacing: Nike Grind

In 2025, Proludic were awarded a £500,000 contract to refurbish some of Dartford's most neglected play spaces. Over the following year, the programme brought new life to eight play areas across the borough, including Swallow Close in Stone.

Tucked away in a secluded and shaded setting, Swallow Close was a small play area with a limited footprint. The challenge was to transform this hidden space into a welcoming, attractive and high-value play environment, while ensuring the design remained sensitive to its leafy surroundings. All existing play equipment was removed, allowing Proludic to make full use of the available space and create a recreational area that catered for both children and accompanying adults.

“ I'm so proud of how much play value we squeezed into such a small space. It's a lovely spot for locals to enjoy. ”

Tim Bird -
Proludic Senior
Area Manager





To complement the natural setting, Proludic selected a swing frame from the naturalistic Kanopé range. This elegant unit included both a cradle seat and a flat seat, enabling children of different ages to swing alongside one another. The centrepiece of the scheme was the (J38703) Baby Diabolo play unit, which offers 13 play functions and can accommodate up to 13 users at a time. Its compact design made it ideal for the site, delivering strong toddler play value while supporting key developmental skills such as climbing, balancing, sliding, role play and social interaction.



Two additional play panels were included to stimulate young users' senses and encourage imaginative engagement. Alongside a standard bench, Proludic also installed a chess table and stools, providing an alternative seating option while adding a further element of play value for older children, parents and carers.

The area was completed with corner-to-corner Nike Grind wetpour surfacing. This environmentally friendly solution enhanced safety, improved accessibility and created a bright, attractive finish, helping to turn Swallow Close into a delightful hidden gem for the local community.

