

Children's Play Area Annual Inspection Report

For

Doddington Parish Council

At

The Playing Field

Inspected By

MARIA COOK RPII

ON

19th July, 2018



Craigdene Limited
99 Pilgrims Road, Halling, Rochester, Kent, ME2 1HW
01634 245131
E-Mail mariacook@craigdene.co.uk
www.craigdene.co.uk

The following forms an integral part of this inspection report:

The equipment has been assessed as relevant, in accordance with BS EN 1176, 2008. BS EN 1176 was published on 1st January 1999, when existing standards were withdrawn. There are a number of areas where existing equipment may fail the standard. This does not mean that equipment has suddenly become dangerous or that remedial action is required.

It should be noted that this is a safety report, NOT a standard compliance report and compliance/non compliance with BS EN 1176 is normally indicated. However, failures may not be mentioned, where they are very minor or of a mechanical nature and have no noticeable effect on safety.

Where there is a compliance failure, this is briefly noted and a risk assessment made of the failure. Where we believe action is required this is indicated in more detail and identified as a **moderate** or **high**, or **unacceptable risk**. Where no action is indicated, in our opinion there is no practical economic action that can be taken, and risks do not justify removal of the item. **Low risk** items should be monitored, and if accidents occur, remedial action will be required. **There is no such thing as No Risk.**

The Standard is not mandatory or retrospective.

The inspection covers:

Standard compliance, suitability and condition of equipment
Dimensional compliance, suitability and condition of safer surfacing

The reports indicate the condition of the play area at the time of inspection. Subsequent events such as weather conditions, usage or vandalism etc., may affect the condition of the play area. Regular inspections should be undertaken by the operator to monitor the effects of these.

You may note that photographs may have been used from previous reports if there has been no change to the comments.

Standard assessment is undertaken where appraisal may be made without dismantling or destruction.

Inspections are non-dismantling. Where it is felt that removal of parts for assessment is required, this will be indicated. It is not possible to check for internal corrosion/rot without dismantling the equipment.

Sealed for life bearings should be checked replaced accordingly to the manufacturer's instructions. This is usually three or five years.

Safer surfacing has been assessed solely in terms of the area covered, and its condition.

Where a grass matrix tile surface has been used it may be noted that erosion to the grass has occurred in high use areas under the mats. Good grass growth is required as the impact absorbency of the mat relies upon the mat and the non-compacted soil on which it is laid. The roots of the growing grass hold the underlying soil in an open, non-compacted impact absorbing state. Once the grass stops growing, or is worn away, the roots die and the soil compacts. Where it is noted that grass is not present there is likely to be

insufficient impact absorbency, unless this has been confirmed in certification to BS EN 1177. It is advised that where this has been noted an alternative safer surface is provided.

Where a continuous grass sward is not present and the holes within the tiles are accessible these holes can trap litter and debris, such as broken glass and stones, which should be removed as part of the normal litter picking.

Where there are trees within falling distance of the play area, it is recommended that a report on the integrity of the tree is obtained from a competent arboricultural expert.

Where no protective surface is provided to items with a fall height in excess of 600mm, the installation of a protective surface should be considered.

Grass may be used up to 1.5 metres providing that the risk assessment includes the following criteria:

1. A depth test of 150mm indicates few stones and hard objects.
2. Areas of wear are strengthened.
3. The use of the grass surfacing is monitored.
4. A good sward is maintained.

Tarmac and concrete are not recommended for use under any playground equipment from which falls are possible, irrespective of the fall height. A risk assessment will be given within the report where necessary.

Wear to shackle pins and bushes on swings is difficult to detect on non-dismantling inspections. Checks are made to identify excessive movement in the 'D' shackle and where dry bearings are obvious. Whilst this action can often identify serious defects it does not preclude the possibility of shackle pin failure in rare circumstances. It is recommended that random inspections are carried out, including the removal and inspection of the 'D' shackle and pin and that this is carried out as a regular maintenance feature in the site owners own work programme.

A risk assessment of faults and standard failures are given in terms of **low**, **moderate** and **high**. As a general principle, items marked '**low**' only require monitoring or minor maintenance as noted in the report. Items marked '**moderate**' require appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment. Items marked '**high**' require urgent action. In rare cases where an item is likely to result in major injury or death, this will be noted as '**unacceptable**' and the operator or representative will be notified from the site by telephone. This will be indicated in the report.

The highest risk noted determines the overall risk of the site and will alter when remedial work is carried out.

There may be problems in assessing ground decay, where synthetic surface has been installed. Similar problems may occur with sub surface degradation. While we take every care to check ground decay and corrosion in supports, this cannot be done fully without removal and destruction of the surface.

RECOMMENDED INSPECTIONS

The Routine visual/tactile inspection enables the identification of obvious hazards that can result from vandalism; use or weather conditions i.e broken parts, broken bottles, graffiti. This should be carried out daily or weekly.

The Operational Inspection is a more detailed inspection to check the operation and stability of the equipment, especially for any wear. This should be carried out monthly or quarterly.

The Annual Inspection should be carried out by an independent RPII inspector to establish the overall safety of equipment, foundations and surfaces e.g. compliance with the relevant parts(s) of EN 1176, including any changes made as a result of the assessment of safety measures, effects of weather, presence of rotting or corrosion, and any change in the level of safety of the equipment as a result of repairs made, or of added or replaced components.

Site: **The Playing Field**

Date: **19.7.18**

Inspection Completed At: **10.15 am**



SITE COMMENTS

The play area is in good conditions and has improved since last year's inspection.

LOW/MODERATE RISK SITE

Location: The site is located adjacent a 'B' road to the side of the playing field.

DDA: The site is accessible

ANCILLARY ITEMS

The following were inspected and found to be in good order:

Service Gate x 1

Padlocked



Gates x 2



Fencing



Signs

Owner/Dog/Supervision



Litter Bins x 2



Picnic Tables x 3



Seats x 3



Environmental Hazard

The site is adjacent a 'B' road. Road signs are in place and the play area is clearly visible from the road. However, parking may restrict visibility to the gates. ***Moderate Risk***

EQUIPMENT

Slide & Steps

Manufacturer - Wicksteed Playscapes



BS EN 1176 Compliance: No

1. The spacing to the barrier bars is in excess of 89mm. **Low Risk**
2. A slide barrier rail is not fitted across the access to the slide. **Low Risk**
3. There is a toggle entrapment at slide entry **Low Risk**

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There is shrinkage to the edges. **Monitor** **Low Risk**

Low Risk Item

A & B Climber

Manufacturer - Wicksteed Playscapes



BS EN 1176 Compliance: No

1. There is a head/torso entrapment between the overhead ladder rungs. **Low Risk**

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: The surfacing is in good condition and no remedial work is required.

Low Risk Item

Spring Horse

Manufacturer - Wicksteed Playscapes



BS EN 1176 Compliance: No

1. The peg-type hand/foot grips fail BS EN 1176. A ball or similar should have a diameter of 15cm area on the end. (If circular the diameter should be over 22mm minimum). **Low Risk**

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There is algae growth on the surface giving slippery conditions. ***It is recommended that the surface is cleaned and treated with an appropriate non-toxic weed killer.*** **Low Risk**

Low Risk Item

1 Bay, 2 Flat seats

Manufacturer - Wicksteed Playscapes



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There is some chain wear. **Monitor and replace at 40% wear.**
2. Remove the shackle bolt and check the bushes and shackle pins for wear. **Replace bushes/shackle pins if necessary.**
3. There are rusty areas to the frame and the paint is peeling and the frame is rusting **Repainting the swing frame with a lead free paint, or one that contains less than 0.25% in dry lead film, is recommended in the future.**



4. The label to the top bar is sharp and lifting and requires refixing/removal.

Low Risk



Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There is shrinkage to the edges at the side and under one seat.

Monitor

Low Risk



Low Risk Item

1 Bay 1 Cradle seat

Manufacturer - Wicksteed Playscapes



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There is some chain wear. **Monitor and replace at 40% wear.**

- 2 The seat frame is bent and corroding at the fixings. ***The seat should be replaced within 3 months.*** ***Low/Moderate Risk***



Note: The frame is planned for painting.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: The surfacing is in good condition and no remedial work is required.

Low/Moderate Risk Item

Roundabout

Manufacturer - Wicksteed Playscapes



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Note: The speed of the roundabout may fail BS EN 1176 when a test becomes available. ***Low/Moderate Risk***

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: The surfacing is in good condition and no remedial work is required.

Note:

The hedge to the side is encroaching the safer surface area and requires cutting back.



Low/Moderate Risk Item

Basketball Post



Maintenance Required:

Overgrowth to the side requires cutting back.



Low Risk Item