

# PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

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## Chideock Parish Council

Inspection undertaken September 2022  
This report issued October 16<sup>th</sup> 2022

Park Name: Mill Lane  
Location: Mill Lane, Chideock. DT6 6JS

This report is an independent safety assessment of the playground and its equipment produced by;

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## REPORT NOTES

The British Standard for Play Equipment Manufacture, Installation & Maintenance is UKEN 1176:2008/2017 in parts. It supersedes 1176:1998 which was withdrawn on 31 May 2009. The standard for Safety Surfacing is BSEN 1177.

Operators and providers are advised that equipment conforming to EN 1176 requires regular maintenance. Guidance on this and appropriate inspection, maintenance and operation schedules are contained within BS EN 1176-7:2008.

National standards have been published by BSI on children's playground equipment since BS 3178 was first issued in 1959, this standard concentrated on specifications for specific types of equipment. It was replaced in 1979 by BS 5696 which switched focus to a design and safety approach. Playground equipment not complying with the various standards and revisions should not automatically be considered as being unsafe or to require replacement.

Goalposts are examined in this report in accordance with the revised guidelines published in BSEN16579:2018 or BS EN 748.

Goalposts not complying with this revision should not automatically be considered as being unsafe or to require replacement

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations and operators of play areas are required to ensure that their provision meets the statutory legal requirements of The Health & Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974.2. (HSWA), The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSW) and The Occupiers Liability Act 1957.

In accordance with the above regulations a risk assessment is used to determine what controls may be necessary or identify those that are in place. This report will recommend actions where appropriate and includes a record of the risk assessments (See 2). Any actions identified will be assumed to be the responsibility of the site operator unless otherwise identified.

This report and the risk assessment carried out in September 2022 have been undertaken with reference to HMG & WHO guidance on the transmission of SARS COVID 19.

**This report will examine, but is not limited to;**

- The general environment surrounding the play area/equipment and the approach(es) to the equipment, detailing any issues that may affect the operators' duty of care under HSWA/MHSW/OLA.
- The condition and nature of the safety surfacing (if any) and its compliance with BSEN 1177 detailing any issues that require the operators' attention also detailing any issues that may affect the operators' duty of care under HSWA/MHSW/OLA.
- The condition of the equipment and its compliance with the standards and guidelines shown above detailing any issues that require the operators' attention also detailing any issues that may affect the operators' duty of care under HSWA/MHSW/OLA.
- The installation of the play equipment and its compliance with the standards and guidelines above also detailing any issues that may affect the operators' duty of care under HSWA/MHSW/OLA
- An inspection of previous reports (where available) and any actions taken as a result of those reports or that remain outstanding at the date of this inspection.
- The general compliance of the equipment with the standards and guidelines above including verification of manufacturers certification where provided.
- Environmental constraints and potential causality linked to the transmission and spread of C19
- If required, and where possible, it may be necessary to dismantle elements. Sealed units will not be opened but will be subjected to detailed scrutiny.

Time constraints indicated on this report are from the date of issue of the report. Any items considered to be of immediate need of rectification will have been notified in advance of publication.

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## 1.OVERVIEW

The Play Area is located off Mill Lane and is shown outlined on the location shot below.

The site is partially overlooked from nearby housing and a footpath passes next to the play area.

There is a small football pitch with the play equipment situated at one end. Access is good and is reasonable for those with limited mobility. In summer months the play area is used by visitors to the nearby campsite.

The site is off a no through road and traffic movements are light and limited.

The Play Area occupies an area of approximately 500m<sup>2</sup> (32m x 16m)

The overall site including the football pitch occupies an area of approximately 3,300m<sup>2</sup> (83m x 40m)

The overall risk for Mill Lane at the time of the inspection was Low.

**1.1. Location picture**



## 2. ANCILLARIES & EQUIPMENT RISK FINDINGS

| Ancillaries  |                    |                    |                 |                                    |                 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| No.  | Item               | Condition          | Risk/Risk Level | Control Required / Control Present | By When         |
| 1  | Gates (Pedestrian) | Satisfactory       | 4 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing         |
| 2  | Gate (Vehicle)     | Satisfactory       | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing         |
| 3  | Fencing            | Satisfactory       | 3 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing         |
| 4  | Bins               | Satisfactory       | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing         |
| 5  | Benches / seats    | Requires attention | 6 /Low          | Move table / fix table             | Within 3 months |
| 6  | Rubber Grass Mats  | Satisfactory       | 4 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing         |
| 7  | Planting           | Satisfactory       | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing         |
| 8  | Signage            | Satisfactory       | 4 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing         |
| Overall Risk for Ancillary Items at time of inspection |                    |                    |                 | Low                                | 3               |

| Equipment  |                  |              |                 |                                    |         |
|--|------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| No.  | Item             | Condition    | Risk/Risk Level | Control Required / Control Present | By When |
| 9  | Basket Swing     | Satisfactory | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing |
| 10   | Junior Swing Set | Satisfactory | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing |
| 11   | Multi Play Unit  | Satisfactory | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing |
| 12   | Toddler Swing    | Satisfactory | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing |
| 13   | Burma bridge     | Satisfactory | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing |
| 14   | 4-way climber    | Satisfactory | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing |
| 15   | Springer         | Satisfactory | 6 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing |
| 16   | See Saw          | Satisfactory | 4 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained           | Ongoing |
| 17   | Goal Posts       | Satisfactory | 6 /Low          | Secure nets / Change goal typr     | Ongoing |
| Overall Risk for Equipment at time of inspection |                  |              |                 | Low                                | 3       |

| Environment  |                    |              |                 |  |         |
|--|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|---------|
| No.  | Item               | Status       | Risk/Risk Level | Control Required / Control Present       | By When |
| 18   | Access to traffic  | Satisfactory | 2 /Low          | Keep gates & fencing suitably maintained | Ongoing |
| 19   | Layout             | Satisfactory | 2 /Low          | Keep suitably maintained                 | Ongoing |
| 20   | Overlooked         | Satisfactory | 2 /Low          | Keep sightlines suitably maintained      | Ongoing |
| 21   | Proximity to Power | Satisfactory | 6 /Low          | Restrict access / Maintain Signage       | Ongoing |
| 22   | Proximity to water | Satisfactory | 6 /Low          | Restrict access / Maintain Signage       | Ongoing |
| Overall Risk for Environmental factors at time of inspection |                    |              |                 | Low                                      | 4       |



### 3.ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

| Item | Issues  | Recommendation (s)  |
|------|---|---|
| 4.5  | The decay in the springer base plate will lead to product failure | Plan for removal and replacement within 2.5 years / possibility of replacement of parts only. |
| 4.8  | Timbers are decaying  | Replace older timber elements within 2 years. Treat all existing timbers                      |
| 4.11 | Picnic table inside play area                                     | Must be fixed or relocated outside of fenced area.  |

## 4. SPECIFIC FINDINGS

The close proximity of the river will always mean that the risk level is elevated but the existing control measures minimise this. Self-Closing hinges have been fitted and improve safety. Other controls regarding to the presence of water, such as warning signs, must be maintained.

New works are complete on the Playhouse Bridge.

Costs have been obtained for the springer and are shown at 5. This cost is contingent on re-installing the unit in a different location.

A picnic table has been placed inside the play area. This must be either fixed to prevent movement (screw in ground anchor and chain are sufficient – approx. £25) or moved outside the play area. Otherwise they can be placed in the fall area of climbing and swinging equipment and can then cause injury.

There is some decay in the seat of one picnic bench.

The advent of C19 has had an impact on the way play facilities need to be managed and maintained. There is no specific published guidance in force at this point in time and control measures are limited to UK Gov guidance. These consist of encouraging social distancing and maintaining good hand hygiene. The situation must be monitored for changes and appropriate action taken if new controls are required.

#### 4.1 *Twin Junior Swing Set*

Item No. K13-D

Manufactured: 18/01/2016

CFH: 1.25

Safety Surface: Grass / Grass Mat

New crossbar fitted and previous movement in the post shoes has reduced.

There are no additional hazards from C19 with this unit that cannot be dealt with under current guidance.



## 4.2 Toddler Swing

Item No: N/K

Manufactured: Wicksteed

CFH:0.8m

Safety Surface: Grass / Grass Mat

This traditional frame from Wicksteeds' heritage range is old but in good condition. The gate latch links are in reasonable condition with sufficient links on the outside.

There are no additional hazards from C19 with this unit that cannot be dealt with under current guidance.



### 4.3 *Playhouse with bridge & Slide*

Manufacturer – Playquest

CFH 06m

Safety Surface: Grass / Grass mats

This item is in reasonable condition for its age and the bridge end posts have now been replaced.

There are no additional hazards from C19 with this unit that cannot be dealt with under current guidance.





#### 4.4 Sovereign Agility Cube

Item No. CP-Box (C

Manufactured:N/K (probably circa 2016)

CFH:0.75

Safety Surface: Grass / Grass Mat

The trim trail has been constructed with a series of elements to form a cube shape.

There are no issues with this unit currently.

There are no additional hazards from C19 with this unit that cannot be dealt with under current guidance.



#### 4.5 *Sit in Car Springer*

Item No:4410

Manufacturer / Supplier: Playquest

CFH 0.6m

Safety Surface: Grass

There is a great of corrosion on the base plates for this unit. Replacement of these components is possible and costs are shown at 5.

There are no additional hazards from C19 with this unit that cannot be dealt with under current guidance.





#### 4.6 ***Wicksteed See saw***

Item No: 6060-999

Manufactured:29/11/1996

CFH 1.35m

Safety Surface: Grass

This Wicksteed see-saw is still in good working order.

There are no additional hazards from C19 with this unit that cannot be dealt with under current guidance.





#### 4.7 *Caledonian Play Basket Swing*

Item No: CO-BS

Manufactured: 18/01/2016

CFH 1.65m

Safety Surface: Grass / Grassmats

This item is in good condition

There are no additional hazards from C19 with this unit that cannot be dealt with under current guidance.



#### 4.8 *Playquest Burmese Bridge*

Item No: 0490

Manufactured:n/k

CFH 0.6m

Safety Surface: Grass

This item is in reasonable condition for its age, but the remaining timbers will need replacing soon.

There are no additional hazards from C19 with this unit that cannot be dealt with under current guidance.



## 4.9 Goalposts

Manufacturer: Edwards Sport

It should be noted that the nets were out of place and not securely pegged again. As previously indicated it is possible to get goal sets with fitted run backs or with run backs that can be raised for mowing.

These goal posts are ageing and thought should be given to their replacement over the next 15 months.

Depending on who uses them it may be worth considering goals with fully fitted nets that can be moved for mowing. Depending on size and strength these vary from £480 to around £1,200. It really depends if the goals are ever used for league fixtures of any kind. If not then it is worth considering smaller 5 or 7 a side style goals with fixed nets.





## 4.10 Signs

Effective location signs are now in place.

Warnings against deep water and overhead power cables are also present.



#### 4.11 Barriers, Boundaries, Benches & Bins

The site is bordered on several sides by water. In most cases these are shallow drains but just below the main play area is a deep gully with the River Winniford flowing through it. The gates are self-closing and the mechanism is working effectively.

Fencing and gates are in reasonable condition and are being well maintained.

There are several nearby bins and a variety of benches around the site in reasonable condition. There is some decay in the seat of one of the picnic tables. It should also be noted that if picnic tables are going to be positioned inside the play area they must be fixed to prevent them being placed in the fall area of swings or climbing equipment where they could cause injury.







## 5. COSTS

| Item | Issues                    | Recommendation (s)                           | Supply Only | Supply & fit |
|------|---------------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| 4.5  | Springer corroding        | Replace parts                                |             | £450.00      |
| 4.8  | Original timbers decaying | Supply and fit new timbers to Burmese bridge |             | POA          |

## APPENDIX 1. RISK TABLE

| Severity |               |
|----------|---------------|
| 1        | Minor         |
| 2        | Moderate      |
| 3        | Serious       |
| 4        | Major         |
| 5        | Life Changing |

| Probability |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1           | Highly Unlikely |
| 2           | Low Likelihood  |
| 3           | Possible        |
| 4           | Likely          |
| 5           | Highly Likely   |

| Probability |
|-------------|
|-------------|

| Severity |
|----------|
|----------|

|   | 1 | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 1 | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 2 | 2 | 4  | 6  | 8  | 10 |
| 3 | 3 | 6  | 9  | 12 | 15 |
| 4 | 4 | 8  | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| 5 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |

| RISK SCORING |             |   |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| 1-6          | Low Risk    | There is a very low likelihood of any injury. At the upper end of the scale there may be more risk to very young or vulnerable users  |
| 8-16         | Medium Risk | There is an increased possibility of injury and control measures may be required to reduce the likelihood or severity of injury. At the upper end of the scale there may be a need for increased control measures or access restrictions and monitoring and maintenance requirements may be more frequent |
| 20-25        | High Risk   | The likelihood of significant injury is close to certain and use of the equipment or play area should be curtailed immediately. Measures must be in place to prevent further use until corrective action has been completed   |