

Routine Visual Inspection / Risk Assessment

Routine Inspection

A routine inspection is intended to identify obvious hazards that can result from vandalism or weather conditions. Typical hazards can take the form of broken parts or broken bottles.

To keep in line with the current public liability insurance company (BHIB, Clear Council) Corfe Castle Parish Council will undertake a routine inspection weekly.

Risk Assessment

This risk assessment is designed to help reduce the risk to an acceptable level, it is not about removing all risks as this is not achievable.

Play is about 'doing', mistakes will happen. By 'doing' and experimenting children improve their skills and confidence, therefore playparks should be challenging both physically and mentally. Play is about exploring these challenges and solving problems.

The Law – "Of course there is some risk of accidents arising out of the joie de vivre of the young... but that is no reason for imposing a grey and dull safety regime on everyone" Lord Scott in Tomlinson V Congleton Borough Council 2004.

Categories of Likelihood / Severity = Risk Factor.

Likelihood

Likelihood	Probability
1	No real probability of occurrence
2	Some probability of occurrence
3	Foreseeable probability of occurrence
4	Very likely to occur
5	Almost certain to happen

Severity

Risk Factor	Severity
1	No serious injury likely (Bump / Bruise)
2	Some minor injury may be sustained. (Small cut, minor sprain, requires ice pack or small plaster)
3	Moderate injury likely (Trip to minor injuries unit, broken finger)
4	Possibility of serious injury (Hospital visit broken arm, leg contusion)
5	Life changing injury possible fatality (Loss of limb, sight, serious head injury)

Risk Factor

Likelihood x Severity	Risk	Action
1 – 5	Very low risk no immediate action required	No Immediate action, low priority
6 – 10	Low risk, action in 3 months	Monitor and repair as required
11 – 15	Moderate risk, action in next 2 weeks	Action needed within 2 weeks
16 – 20	High risk, action immediately	Action needed immediately
21 – 25	Very high risk, DO IT NOW	Fail, no further usage - Decommission immediately

I.e. During an inspecting of the swing unit you notice the chain is becoming worn. A risk is the chain may fail.

Likelihood is between 1 and 5 depending on level of wear. If only just noticeable wear, then likelihood may be 1 (No real probability of occurrence).

Severity is between 1 – 5 depending on ground conditions, height of swing above ground, but also unknown factors like is the child standing on the swing unit or sitting. If the ground mats are in good condition, and the chain fails, and fall severity still could be between 1 -5 therefore you go with the worst-case scenario, 5 (Serious head injury)

The Risk Factor is then $1 \times 5 = 5$, (No immediate action, low priority.)

This inspection covers, the main Play Park area, Youth Shelter, Playing field and bordering fence.

Inspection Date

Inspectors Name

Item	Description of findings - Risk	Likelihood 1 - 5	Severity 1 - 5	Risk Factor	Action taken or assigned to.
Cleanliness					
General Planting					
Ground Condition					
Fencing					
Gates					
Benches					
Toddler Swing Unit 					
Castle Unit - Metal 					
Roundabout 					
Rocking Horse 					

Item	Description of findings - Risk	Likelihood 1 - 5	Severity 1 - 5	Risk Factor	Action taken or assigned to.
Spring Sheep 					
Swing Unit 					
See Saw 					
Castle Unit – Wooden 					
Football Goal 					
Basketball 					
Youth Shelter 					

Questions to ask yourself when inspecting.

Basketball Area

1. Is the hoop and net in good condition?
2. Is the ground level and in good condition?
3. Is the frame / structure in a good condition?
4. If metal, or wood follow specific guidance below.
5. Are all nut and bolts in situ and all bolts cut off level with the nut?
6. Are low level nuts capped?

Chains / Shackles

The chain links rub together, and therefore makes this area prone to wear. All chains should be replaced when 40% wear reached.

1. Are the links complete?
2. Is there any sign of wear between the links or the shackle?
3. Metal Structure / Welds are they complete / intact?



Cleanliness

1. Is the area free from general litter?
2. Is the grass cut and cuttings removed?
3. Is there any sign of animal fouling?
4. Is there any offensive graffiti?
5. Are there any other hazardous items (**remove immediately**)?
6. Are the bins empty?

Fencing / Gates

1. Are there any posts or rails loose?
2. Is there any sign of rot? (wooden items)
3. Is there any sign of corrosion? (metal items)
4. Is there any section of fence which has come away from the post / rails?
5. Does the gate close within 4 – 8 seconds with a self-closing gate?
6. Is the closing action smooth, and easy to use?
7. Is the gate able to be securely closed.
8. Is the gate accessible by all (Wheelchair users)
9. Are there any finger entrapments?
10. Is the vehicular access gate locked?

General Planting (Trees / Hedge / Shrubs)

1. Are all trees / hedges / shrubs cut back from pathways and equipment?
2. Are there any hostile plants? (Dangerous for humans to touch / consumption, from poisonous berries to brambles)

Grass Area / Paths

1. Is the ground mainly level?
2. Are there any trip hazards, (items sticking out of ground, badge sets, potholes)?
3. Is there an excess of moss / weeds making any path slippery to walk on?

Metal Structure / Welds / Metal Items (Not including chain or shackles)

1. Is the metal corroding?
2. Are there any cracks in the welding?
3. Are all nut and bolts in situ and all bolts cut off level with the nut?
4. Are low level nuts capped? (Excluding gates)



Platforms

1. Is the platform complete?
2. Is there anything sticking through the floor (screw tip)?
3. Can you see underneath? If so look under to ensure all fixings complete,
4. Are all nut and bolts in situ and all bolts cut off level with the nut?
5. Are low level nuts & bolts capped?
6. If access is restricted to the underneath of the platform, is the panel secure?
7. If you are unable to see underneath as item is low to the ground, is the gap between the ground and item a safe gap (i.e. not an entrapment point)?
8. Are there metal handrails? If so, follow guidance above.
9. Are there wood or rope hand rails? If so, follow specific guidance below.

Rocking Items

1. Are the handles and footrests present and securely fitted?
2. Are all fixings present and capped?
3. Does the item move easily?
4. If metal, or wood follow specific guidance below.

Roof / Walls / Internal Seat

1. Is the structure intact? (Missing roof tiles, sections of brick or concrete seat missing)
2. Is the area clear of items left inside the shelter?
3. Is there any graffiti?
4. Are the trees / shrubs / hedges near the shelter cut back to enable a clear walk around the shelter plus not touching the roof?

Rope Items:

Play Park rope is made up with a metal core. The rope can if moved in a similar direction constantly, wear and fray.

1. Is outer rope covering the metal inner core?
2. Are there any cross over points and if so are they rubbing causing fraying?



Rotating Items

1. Is the rotating movement smooth?
2. Is the item easy to rotate?
3. Is there any vertical movement? (possible indication that bearings are becoming worn)
4. If metal follow specific guidance above.
5. If wood follow specific guidance below.

Safety Surface

There are many different types of safety surface, wet pour, mulch, rubber tiles, grass mats and the ground itself.

Wet pour

1. Are there any cracks or holes?
2. Is the edging in a stable condition?
3. Is there any moss / algae growing?

Mulch

1. Are there any cracks or holes?
2. Is the edging in a stable condition?
3. Is there any moss / algae growing?

Rubber Tiles

1. Are there any cracks or holes?
2. Is the edging in a stable condition?
3. Are all the tiles secure to the ground?
4. Are all the tiles level? (trip hazards)
5. Is there any moss / algae growing?

Grass Mats

1. Is there grass growing through the mats? If not, the ground underneath is too compacted and if a child falls on to this surface it is like landing on concrete.
2. Is the rubber intact?
3. Is any part of the matting protruding from the ground causing a trip hazard?

Grass / Mud

A bit like the grass mats the ground, especially in warmer months, can become very dry and compacted. Areas where the grass has been worn away tend to become more compacted than grass areas.

1. Is there any area where the grass has been worn away?

Seats

1. Is the seat complete?
2. Are the fixings underneath in good condition?
3. Has the moulding blown in any area allowing water ingress.
4. Are all nut and bolts in situ and all bolts cut off level with the nut?



Spring Items

1. Is the base plate secure?
2. Does the item move easily?
3. If metal follow specific guidance above.
4. If wood follow specific guidance below.

Wooden items:

1. Are there any signs of rot?
2. Are there any pieces missing which may then cause splinters?
3. Are all nut and bolts in situ and all bolts cut off level with the nut?
4. Are low level nuts capped?

Signs of rot, the biggest clue of rot is pieces of wood missing, blackening or mould spots. Tap on the wood, does it sound hollow?



Map



Guide

- Wooden Panel Fence
- Chain Link Fence with wooden post and rails.
- Pedestrian Gate
- Vehicular Gate
- Bench
- Basketball Area
- Football Goal
- Youth Shelter