
PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

Park Name: West St. Play Area.
Location: West St. Corfe Castle BH20 5HQ

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Inspection undertaken December 2023
This report issued 12th January 2024

This report is an independent safety assessment and condition report 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 1176:2008/2017/19 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 It supersedes 1176:1998 which was withdrawn on 31 May 2009.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.

MUGA's are examined in this report in accordance with guidelines published in BSEN15312:2007 + A1:2010 (Free access multi-sports equipment). Games areas not complying with this guidance 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 in that are in place. This report will recommend actions where appropriate and includes a record of the risk assessments. Any actions identified will be assumed to be the responsibility of the site operator unless otherwise identified. (See Appendix 1-Risk Table).

The inspection and the subsequent report will examine, but are 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.
- 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

This a small, but reasonably popular, playground next to a busy footpath on the route to school and so gets used in the mornings. The play site is overlooked by nearby housing and access is via a car park in a cul-de-sac and the adjacent field. The nearest roads are not adjacent to the play area. .

The surfacing is Bonded Rubber Mulch on the newer items and rubber tiles and grass mats on the older equipment and as such is suitable for the equipment installed and satisfies BSEN 1177 standard and requires no additional testing.

The Play Area occupies an area of approximately 750m² (50m x 15m)

The adjoining recreation area is approximately 4500m² (78m X 58m)

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

Location Picture



2 ANCILLARIES & EQUIPMENT RISK FINDINGS

Ancillaries					
No.	Item	Condition	Risk/Risk Level	Control / Control required	By When
1	Fencing	Requires attention	6 /Low	Keep suitably maintained / Repair damaged sections near car park	Ongoing / 6 months
2	Signage	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
3	Gates	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
4	Bin	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
5	Benches	Satisfactory	3 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
6	Picnic Table	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
7	Safety Surface	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
Overall Risk For Ancillary Items at time of inspection				Low	3

Play Equipment					
No.	Item	Condition	Risk/Risk Level	Control / Control required	By When
8	AF Play Tower	Satisfactory	6 /Low	Keep suitably maintained /Monitor	Ongoing
9	Rocking Horse	Satisfactory	3 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
10	Two bay Swing Set	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained / Remove gateway shackles	Ongoing
11	Non-Bump Seesaw	Satisfactory	3 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
12	Multi Play	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
13	Rotaplay	Satisfactory	3 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
14	Toddler Swing	Requires attention	6 /Low	Cannot be maintained – Remove unit	6 months
15	Springer	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
16	MUGA End	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
17	Goal	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
Overall Risk for Equipment at time of inspection				Low	4

Environment					
No.	Item	Status	Risk/Risk Level	Control / Control required	By When
18	Access to traffic	Exit to footpath are some distance to the nearest road.	4 /Low	Maintain gates	Ongoing
19	Layout	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
20	Overlooked	The site is overlooked	2 /Low	There is good visibility of the site	N/A
21	General Approach	Satisfactory	2 /Low	The approaches are clear and should be kept clear of obstructions.	Ongoing
Overall Risk for Environmental factors at time of inspection				Low	3

3 DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS

Item	Issue	Recommendation
4.1	Fall from height	Monitor use for any reported falls
4.3	Gateway shackles can fail	Remove them
4.7	Beyond maintenance	Remove
4.9	Powder coating failing	Re-powder coat panels
4.10	Damaged area by car park	Repair /Tidy up broken sections
4.13	Untreated timber	Treat timbers
4.13	Unsupported tables	Provide bases

4 SPECIFIC FINDINGS

There is an area of disrepair in the fencing near the small car park. It should be noted then when an area is in a state of disrepair it can encourage petty acts of vandalism and the limited investment required to make these small improvements can be worthwhile to prevent more troublesome problems occurring.

The timber toddler swing is at the point where it could fail and should be removed / replaced, and tenders are being sought for this work.

Powder coating on the MUGA end is failing.

The surfacing on the two-bay swing is in a poor state of repair.

The picnic tables are twisting and causing additional load on the fixings as well as deforming the plastic. The fixings on these benches will pull free of the plastic if the frame is placed under strain. Investing in more durable recycled plastic benches is a sensible use of Parishioners' funds but only if the units are properly installed and maintained.

Timbers should be regularly treated to prevent decay – the two benches are overdue for this.

4.1 Twin Tower with Slide

Item No. Bespoke Andy Frost Design

Manufactured: Sovereign Play 2015

CFH:1.7m

Safety Surface:

There are no significant issues with this unit.

The unit is designed to have challenging elements and as such the higher-level components are not easily accessible. As with any such unit there is a higher risk level associated with its use, but this is within acceptable limits and suitable controls are present.



4.2 Wicksteed Rocking Horse See-Saw

Item No. 6060-011

Manufactured: Wicksteed Leisure

CFH: 1.1m

Safety Surface: Grass / Grassmat

There is significant wear in the dampers and corrosion in the posts and so plans should be made to replace this unit over the next 2-3 years.

There are no other significant issues.



4.3 Wicksteed 2 Bay Swing Set

Item No. 6040-104

Manufactured: Wicksteed 2021/22

CFH: 1.45m

Safety Surface: EPDM Wetpour

There are no significant issues with this unit other than the surfacing (see Q2 report).



4.4 Wicksteed Non-Bump See-Saw

Item No. 6060-002

Manufactured: Wicksteed Leisure

CFH: 1.35m

Safety Surface: Grass / Grassmat

There are no significant issues with this item other than age and corrosion.



4.5 SMP Multi-play unit

Item No. N/K

Manufactured: SMP

CFH: 1.5m

Safety Surface: Grass / Grassmat

There are no significant issues with this unit.



4.6 Wicksteed Rotaplay

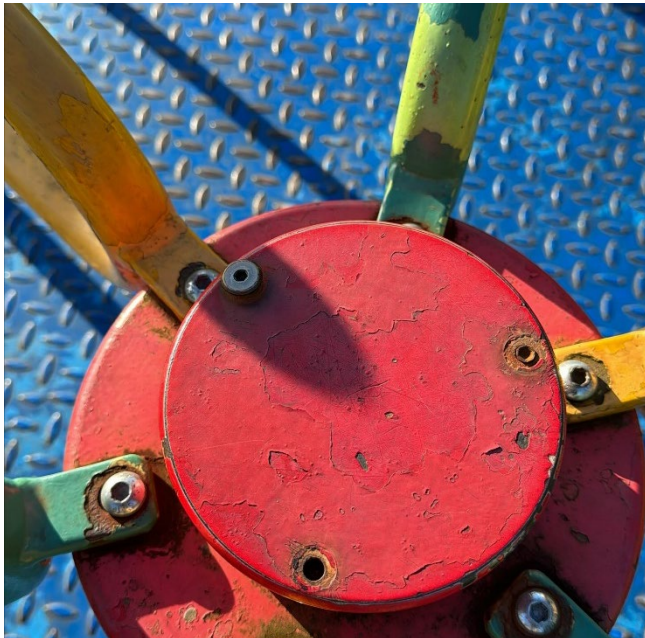
Item No. 6020-020

Manufactured: Wicksteed

CFH: 0.1m

Safety Surface: Rubber tile

There are several minor issues with this unit (see Q2 Report) which remain unchanged. There are missing/broken fittings on the cover plate. This is under review for replacement but if the unit is retained then repairs will be required in the next six months which could be problematic as other fittings are now very seized due to age and corrosion.



4.7 *Taylor Made Toddler Duo*

Item No. 0803

Manufactured: Taylor Made (David Taylor)

CFH: 0.6m

Safety Surface: Grass mats / grass

There are various issues with this unit (see Q2 report) and tenders are now being sought for a replacement unit.

There are no new issues.



4.8 *Fahr Baa (Sheep) Springer*

Item No. FS2007

Manufactured: Fahr Industries

CFH: 0.6m

Safety Surface: Grass mats / grass

There are no significant issues.

There is no notable change since Q3.



4.9 MUGA Goal End

Item No. n/k

Manufactured: n/k

CFH: n/a

Safety Surface: Grass mats / grass

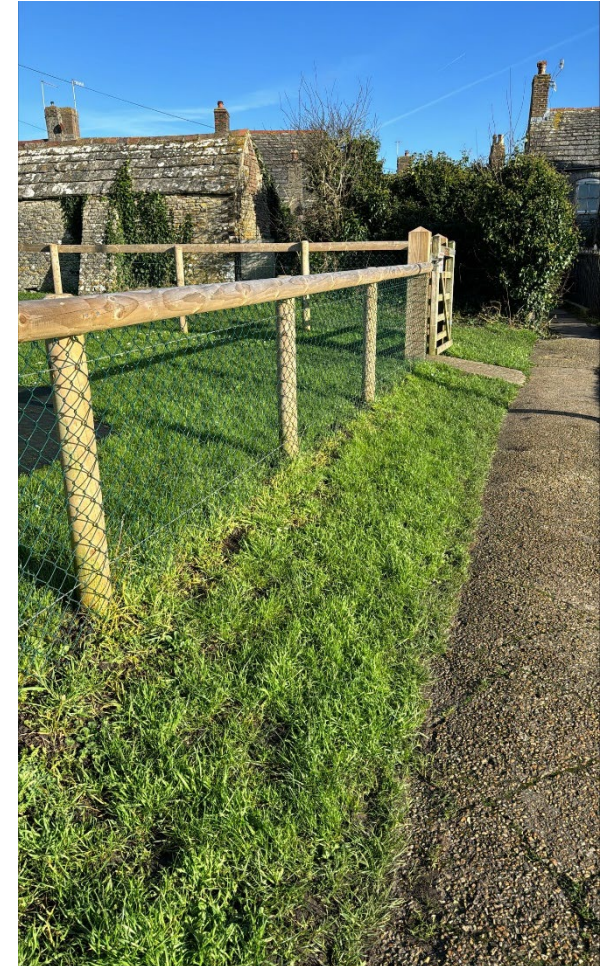
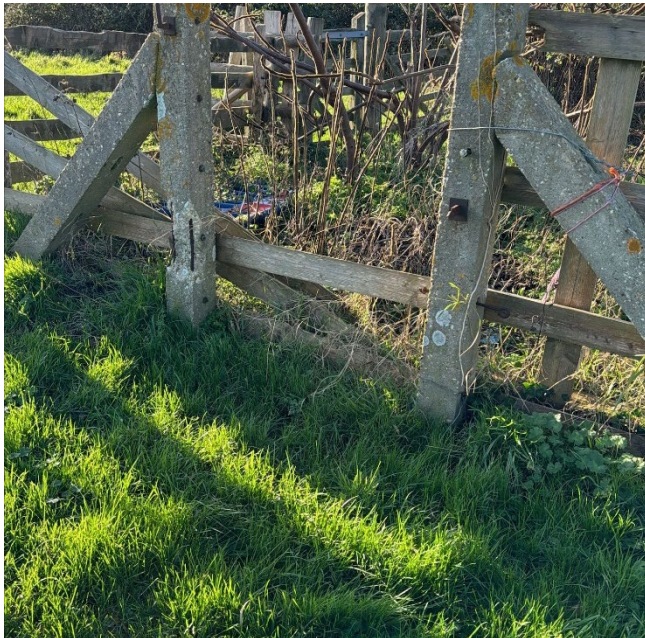
There are no issues with this unit other than the condition of the powder coating previously reported.



4.10 Fencing & Gates

There are no significant issues with the gates or most of the fencing.

There is a section of fencing in a state of disrepair next to the parking area which continues to pose a minor hazard.



4.11 Goal

The visual appearance and protection against corrosion on this unit have been greatly improved by painting.



4.12 Signage

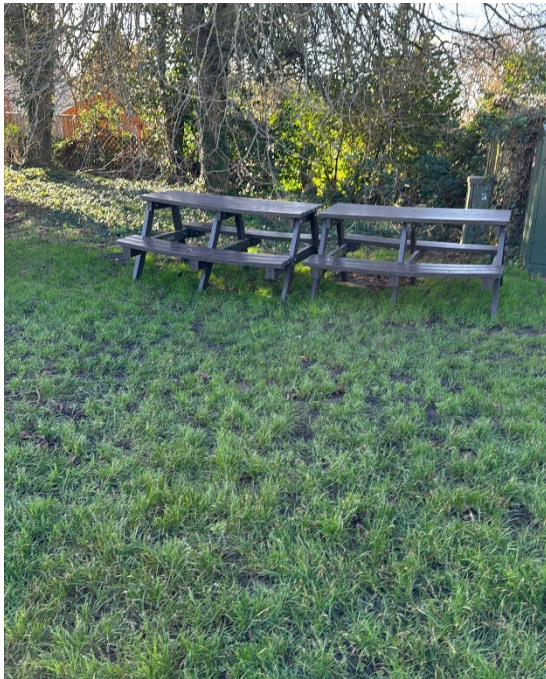
There is clear sign displaying operator & emergency contact details and location information and this is displayed in several locations.



4.13 Seating

The recycled benches should be reset on a base to prevent strain on the frame. The distortion can be clearly seen in the picture (right).

The wooden benches should be treated against decay.



4.14 Ancilliaries

There is stone built shelter with cast seating. There are no obvious issues with this structure.

There is a refuse bin adjacent to the shelter and there are no obvious issues with the bin.



5. COSTS

Item	Issues	Recommendation (s)	Supply Only	Supply & fit
4.3	Gateway shackles can fail	Remove, Fit standard shackles and adjust chains		£25

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				
		1	2	3	4	5
Severity	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