



**TYNE & WEAR PLAY LTD
ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT**

Carried out for BERWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Date of Inspection	19/10/2021	Time	11:45	Date of Report	21/10/2021
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**SITE: SPITTAL PAVILION PLAY AREA, SOUTH GREENWICH ROAD,
SPITTAL, BERWICK UPON TWEED. TD15 1RW.**

Inspected by	Eric Andersen (RPII Registered Inspector. No:1024A)	
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COVID-19: GUIDANCE FOR MANAGING PLAYGROUNDS & OUTDOOR GYMS


On 26th June 2020, the Government published guidelines for owner / operators on managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document can be found on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

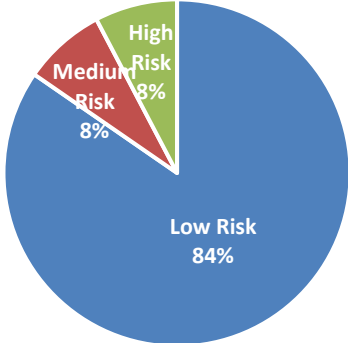
The guidelines include the need for owner / operators to carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment before re-opening their playgrounds and outdoor gyms.

The RPII has also published some advice and guidance on the re-opening and operation of playgrounds during COVID-19 which operators may find helpful. A copy of this document has been included along with the report(s)

Name of site	Spittal Pavilion Play Area		
Date & Time of Inspection	19/10/2021	Departed Site	11:45

<p>INSPECTION CARRIED OUT BY ERIC ANDERSEN RPII ANNUAL INSPECTOR 1024A</p>	
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Inspection Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play equipment described in this report has been inspected for safe operation, stability, wear & tear, damage and compliance to European Standard BS-EN1176, (and other standards BS-EN15312, BS-EN16630 & BS-EN14974 where relevant.) Some of the equipment has exceeded its operating life should be substantially refurbished or replaced / removed. The risks identified in the summary table below can be reduced or controlled by carrying out remedial work as advised in the report. (A full explanation of the risk assessment methodology used in the inspection is given at the back of the report.) Remedial work and advised actions should be implemented in a timely fashion – as advised in this report. The play equipment, facilities and site as described in the report should be regularly checked and maintained to ensure that sufficient and satisfactory levels of safety are being continually provided.

Risk Distribution (of faults found) at	Spittal Pavilion Play Area on 19/10/2021 at 11:45										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">No of findings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Low Risk</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medium Risk</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High Risk</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Critical Risk</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		No of findings	Low Risk	11	Medium Risk	1	High Risk	1	Critical Risk	0	
	No of findings										
Low Risk	11										
Medium Risk	1										
High Risk	1										
Critical Risk	0										

This inspection has been carried out by an annual inspector registered with the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII). www.playinspectors.com

The Inspection has been carried out in accordance with RPII Inspection Methodology which is shown in full at the end of this document.

The findings, comments and observations made in this report are based on what was seen and found in the play area by the inspector at the time of the inspection.

Play equipment items are assessed for compliance with current European safety standards for playgrounds and other relevant recreational facilities: BS-EN1176, [Playgrounds], BS-EN 14974 [Roller Sports], BS-EN 15312 [Multi Sports] and BS-EN 16630 [Outdoor Fitness Equipment.]

What is included in the inspection:

Play equipment and related ancillary items such as signage, fencing, gates, seating and bins which are clearly part of the play area.

Each item of play equipment is checked for safe operation, that all parts are present, securely fixed and in satisfactory working order including:

- Rigid supports (legs, posts, framework)
- Individual elements
- Moving parts
- Consumable parts (chains, ropes)
- Equipment finish (external condition of timber, plastic and metal materials, paintwork or sealant.)
- Surfacing

What is not included in the inspection:

- Elements below the ground including foundations
- Dismantling checks of bearings, fixings, sealed for life components
- Upper parts of the structure above a height of 2.5 m from the standing surface (for example bearings, fixings.)
- Critical fall height testing of surfacing
- Internal investigation of timber parts for rot or metal parts for corrosion.
- Fencing and gates other than those enclosing the play area. e.g. fences at property boundaries or location perimeter fencing / gates.
- Trees & planting. (Where planting or trees are mentioned in the report no arboricultural or horticultural assessments of toxicity, suitability or condition are undertaken; the owner/operator should have suitable inspections provided by a competent person.

Please refer to Table 1 in the RPII Inspection Methodology statement at the back of this report for further details

(Dismantling checks and foundation checks should be carried out by competent persons as part of a regular maintenance regime and in strict accordance with the manufacturer's maintenance instructions which may form part of the main annual inspection.)

The inspector uses visual and manual inspection and manipulation of equipment and components in order to assess standards compliance and levels of safety. These inspection practices are capable of identifying most defects or circumstances which could result in an injury.

However, some elements of play equipment cannot be sufficiently checked using these procedures, for example because they are concealed from view and/or are not responsive to manual inspection or manipulation or are sealed-for-life. In the event of this occurrence an interim risk assessment will be given in this report with advice on what further actions should be undertaken by the operator in order to complete the risk assessment.

Inspection of Timbers

There is no complete method of inspecting timbers, especially below ground, without the use of specialist tools. As this inspection is restricted to manual testing only, (side- loading, sound- testing and spot- probing) and is carried out above ground level, any findings in the report relating to timber equipment must be considered as indicative only and further actions may be required by the operator, as stated in the report, in order to complete the risk assessment given in this report.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments of any findings of compliance failures, faults and defects have been given in this report to aid the playground operator who has overall responsibility for managing risks on their play areas. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 impose a legal duty on providers to carry out a '*suitable and sufficient assessment*' of the risks associated with a site or activity. The risk assessments provided in this report should therefore be considered as guidance only to assist the operator in the undertaking of their risk assessments. A full explanation of the risk assessment methodology used is given at the back of the report.






Please note an intrinsic risk assessment of the play equipment is not given. The suitability of the play equipment for users should be carried out by the operator via a design risk assessment or similar and by using local knowledge.

Reporting of Additional Risks

The operator should have advised the inspector beforehand of any circumstances, accidents, incidents, maintenance issues or local issues including any dog-related, which the inspector should additionally consider in order to supplement the risk assessments given in the report, if necessary.

Colour Coded Action Ratings

As well as risk assessments, each finding is given a colour code with an action rating which prioritises remedial work or action required and indicates timescale for work or action to be carried out

Code	Action Rating	Timescale
	Immediate Action required. Defects found are critical and need to be rectified. repaired or investigated immediately	Immediate
	Action as soon as possible. Defects found are serious and need to be rectified. repaired or investigated urgently.	Within hours / days
	Programme action / repairs within a reasonable amount of time. Monitor condition and take action sooner if required	Next operational / maintenance Inspection or sooner
	Monitor and continue regular maintenance. Defects noted are currently minor and should be monitored for further deterioration and repaired as required.	As required
	Options given for operator to consider as detailed in report and actions taken based on local risk assessment and local knowledge specific to this site.	As required

Maintenance of Play Area

It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that an adequate and continuing level of safety is established in the play area through regular checks, maintenance and repairs to the equipment, surfacing and site features and by following equipment manufacturers' guidelines on maintenance of equipment.

It is strongly advised that the playground owner / operator obtains all possible documentation concerning the play equipment and surfacing including:

- Test certificates of equipment and surfacing
- Certificates of compliance to appropriate European standards,
- Installation and maintenance instructions

These should be readily available from the manufacturer / supplier. These documents should be kept in a safe place for reference when required.

Please read further notes on Risk, Risk Assessment and Scope of the Inspection at the end of this report.

ASSESSMENT OF GENERAL SITE & ANCILLARY ITEMS.

SPITTAL PAVILION PLAY AREA



Brief Description of Site and Location Context: Medium sized fenced play area located on field next to sea front promenade at Spittal. Overlooked by houses on one side

General Site Checklist	Comment	
Traffic & Noise pollution	Low	
External Paths	Present – paths / promenade	
Internal Paths / Stable Access	Present – hoggin paths	
Fencing	85 cm bowtop	
Lighting	None	
Pedestrian Gates	3	
Maintenance Gates	1	
Operator Signs	3	
Seating	6	
Litter Bins	3	
General Surface	Grass	
Condition of Site	Fair	
Informal Surveillance	Overlooked from promenade and backs of houses	
House Proximity	15 m	
Vandalism	Low	
Accessibility - Into Site	Good	
Accessibility - To & between Equipment	Partial	

Note DDA1	Type	General site (DDA)
Fault / Comment	Partial accessibility to and between play equipment	

Advised Remedial Action	Provision of hard stable access to and between equipment is needed to meet DDA requirements
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A1	Gates
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(Splash Park entrance.)

Maintenance Issues	See below
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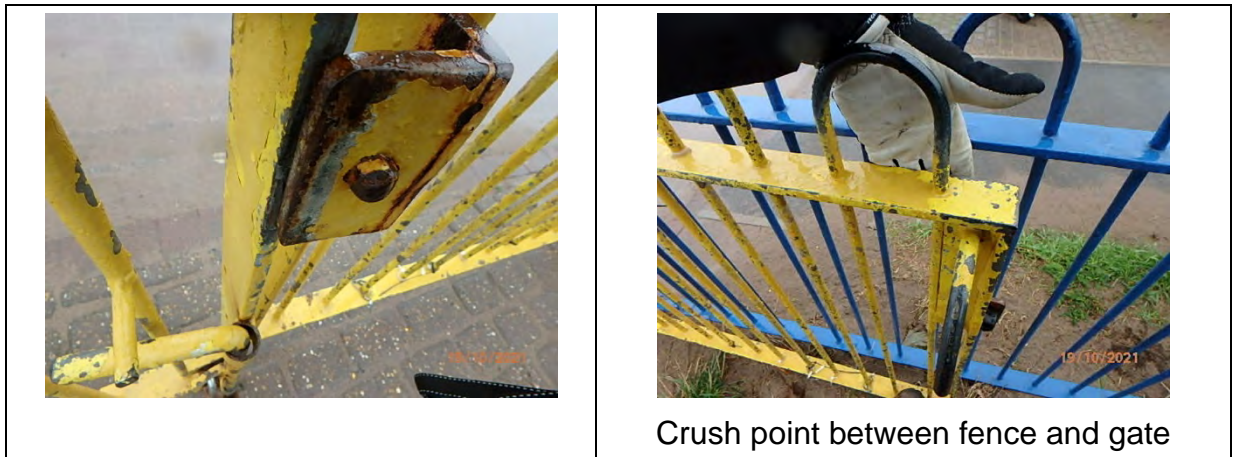
Finding A1/1	Type	Maintenance
Fault / Comment	Crush / slam hazards present on gates due to missing stoppers.	



Missing stoppers on gate slam plates



Crush / slam hazards



Crush point between fence and gate




Missing keep plate on gate




Risk Assessment	Low	P	2	X	S	2	=	4
Advised Remedial Action	Replace missing or damaged rubber stops.							
	●							

Finding A1/2	Type	Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	The item, component or parts described are not securely fixed, maintained or correctly installed and are loose or unstable -	

	
<p>Gate post loose in ground</p>	
Risk Assessment	Low P 2 X S 2 = 4
Advised Remedial Action	Re-fix loose post securely into ground. <div style="text-align: center; color: orange; font-size: 2em;">●</div>

A2	Fencing
	
Maintenance / Safety Issues	See below

Finding A2/1	Type	Standard Compliance: BS EN1176
Fault / Comment	Head and Neck traps present above a height of 600 mm (Ref BS-EN1176 -1 / 4.2.7.2)	
		
<p>Gaps between bow top bars fails the head and neck probe test</p>		
Hazard	Head and neck entrapment	

Risk Assessment	Low P 1 X S 5 = 5
Advice	A serious entrapment injury resulting from this fault is considered to be extremely unlikely.

A3	Signs
Maintenance Issues	Continue to maintain as normal and according to manufacturer's instructions where provided.

A4	Seating



Maintenance Issues	See below
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Finding A4/1	Type	Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	Weeds, moss, algae, tree sap, leaves etc. present on surface / equipment	



Hazard	Slips
Risk Assessment	Low P 2 X S 2 = 4
Advised Remedial Action	De-weed and thoroughly clean the surfaces. Power-wash to remove algae, moss, tree sap etc. ●

A5	Bins
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Maintenance Issues

INSPECTION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT

Equipment 01

Agility / Adventure Trail – Various Elements



Balance Beam



Chain Walk Traverse



Balance Beams



Short Post Steppers



Wobble Board



Short Post Steppers



Balance Beam



Short Post Steppers



Suspended Bridge



Short Post Steppers



Burma Bridge



Short Post Steppers

Tram Trax Traverse



“Swinging Steps Traverse.”



Clatter Bridge

Manufacturer	Playdale
Manufacturer’s Label Present?	Yes
Year of Supply	2004 – indicative end of operating life 2019*
Accessibility (DDA)	Limited
Surface	Grass and sand
Standard Compliance (EN 1176)	See below
Maintenance Issues / faults	See below

Note 01/1	Single Post Items
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All these single posts should be replaced

There are elements in the trail which are “one or single post items” i.e. where the stability and anchorage of the units depends on a single post or on two-legged posts or rows of posts.

There exists a continual risk of rotting or corrosion of the posts below the playing surface and also possibly in the foundations where the posts are embedded.



These posts are subject to dynamic loading, (loading stress caused by movement,) and their structural strength will be significantly impaired by rotting or corrosion which, in the worst case, can lead to a catastrophic cross- section failure of the timber.


Various manual checks carried out in this inspection of the posts above the ground (side-loading, percussion- testing and spot- probing) **have indicated some issues of instability, loosening** and/or degradation of the posts (rotting or corrosion.)

However, testing for rot or corrosion below the surface requires exposure of the posts down to their concrete foundations or by use of test equipment such as a resistograph. **Such an examination has not been carried out in this inspection.**

The operator should follow the manufacturer’s maintenance instructions for maintaining safe levels of stability and structural integrity of single post items. If such guidance is not available, the operator should carry out investigative checks periodically of the timber below ground using a trained specialist (who can advise on the frequency of these checks.)

It may be necessary to decommission these items before the end of their operating life especially if posts become unstable and/ or when it has not been practicable to carry out investigative checks of the condition of the timber below ground level.

Finding 01/2	Type	Maintenance
Fault / Comment	Post loose in ground when side loading applied. This may indicate rotting of posts below ground level. <u>Note: condition of the timber was not checked below the surface level. Further checks required of posts under the surface and at foundation level.</u>	
 <p data-bbox="276 1597 791 1704">Single post on Swinging Steps item moves in ground when side loading applied</p>	 <p data-bbox="890 1597 1406 1704">Condition of timber below ground is unknown. Possible rot and/or loose foundations</p>	
Hazard	These single post items are subject to dynamic loading (loading stress caused by movement,) and their strength and stability will be significantly impaired by rotting / corrosion. There is a particular risk of rotting or corrosion of posts below the playing surface and in the foundations where the posts are embedded in concrete.	
Advised Remedial Action	In view of the age of this adventure trail, <u>all single posts in the trail should be replaced</u>	

Risk Assessment	High P 3 X S 4 = 12
Note	This risk assessment is provisional as it is based on the external, manual checks carried out above ground level Full foundation check as per manufacturer's instructions and/or resistograph test / load test required to complete the risk assessment. 

Finding 01/3	Type	Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	Cracks, splits or 'shakes' in timber noted. (Timber is affected by changes in temperature and moisture content. Cracks may expand or contract depending on climatic conditions)	



Hazard	<p>Potential hazards arise if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cracks open up greater than 8 mm and become finger traps or pinch points • Splits appear along the whole length of the timber piece – especially if the split goes through any fixings as this could compromise the structural integrity of the affected timber and of the fixing. • Split is deeper than the preservative envelope and enables water ingress which may lead to onset of rot inside the timber
Advised Remedial Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor size of cracks and condition of timber. • Check for softening of wood inside cracks as this may indicate onset of rot.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth off any sharp or splintered edges. • Remove or replace rotten timber
Risk Assessment	Low P 2 X S 3 = 6

Finding 01/4	Type Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	Damage, missing parts or deterioration noted - timber parts are rotting



Short Post Steppers are rotting






Risk Assessment	Low P 2 X S 2 = 4
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Advised Remedial Action	<p>Replace damaged posts. (Use manufacturer's recommended parts or equivalent.)</p> <p>Continue to monitor for further damage or deterioration and carry out further remedial work as required</p> <p style="text-align: center;">●</p>
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Finding 01/5	Type Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	Suspension elements touch ground when loaded –Chain Traverse and Burma Bridge.


	
	
Hazard	Entrapment / crush points
Risk Assessment	Low P 2 X S 2 = 4
Advised Remedial Action	Refit chains so that they are suspended – refer to manufacturer's guidelines. ●


Finding 01/6	Type Maintenance
Fault / Comment	Parts are rusting
	
	Spring on Wobble Board
Risk Assessment	Low P 2 X S 2 = 4
Advised Remedial Action	Programme work to clean off rust / apply anti-rust agent / repaint. ●

Finding 01/7	Operating Life
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturer's Label on the play equipment shows that the equipment was installed in 2004. The equipment is therefore 17 years old and planning should begin for its decommissioning / replacement.. • <u>All single posts in the trail should be replaced.</u> (see 01/1 and 01/2 above.) • Going forward, the equipment should be regularly checked and repairs carried out as required to ensure condition of equipment does not deteriorate until such time as the equipment can be replaced / removed. 	

Equipment 02	Swing – 1 bay 2 flat seats
	
Manufacturer	Playdale
Manufacturer's Label Present?	Yes
Year of Supply	2014 – indicative end of operating life 2029*
Accessibility (DDA)	Fair
Surface	Carpet System
Standard Compliance (EN 1176)	See below
Maintenance Issues / faults	See below

Finding 02/1	Type	Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	Surface damage / defects	

	
Carpet surface is torn under the seats	
Hazard	Impact attenuation impaired. Trip hazard. Water ingress may precipitate further damage to surface
Risk Assessment	Medium P 3 X S 3 = 9
Advised Remedial Action	Repair the Surface. ●

Finding 02/1	Type	Standard Compliance: EN 1176
Fault / Comment	The swing seats are hung too low – there is not enough ground clearance under the seats [EN1176-2:2017 ~ 4.2]	
		
Hazard	Users being hit by swing seat, leg, ankle and feet injuries	
Risk Assessment	Low P 2 X S 3 = 9	
Advised Remedial Action	Adjust height of swing seats to achieve a minimum clearance of 350 mm (Recommended maximum clearance is 635 mm) ●	

Note 02/2	Type	Maintenance – bearings
Comment	It is advised that swing bearings (shackles, pins, bushes etc.) are checked on a regular basis for wear and tear and damage. This requires a dismantling inspection	



Note: An internal inspection of these bearings and component parts was not carried out in this inspection.

Refer to manufacturer's instructions for maintenance of sealed and sealed for life components

Advice




- Check swing bearings at next maintenance inspection and replace worn or damaged parts if required.
- Refer to/obtain and implement manufacturer's guidance for inspection timescales and for maintenance requirements, including the replacing of any worn or damaged elements
- Use also local knowledge of site concerning usage levels, incidence of vandalism, wear & tear etc. as an additional guide to determine frequency of dismantling checks.



Equipment 03 **Climbing Frame**



Manufacturer	Hags
Manufacturer's Label Present?	None – see E02 below
Year of Supply	Unknown – see E01 below
Accessibility (DDA)	Limited
Surface	Sand
Standard Compliance (EN 1176)	See below
Maintenance Issues / faults	See below

Finding 03/1	Type Standard Compliance (EN 1176)
Fault / Comment	<p>What appears to be beach sand has been used throughout the site both as a general and safety (impact attenuating) surface.</p> <p>The sand i contains particles and small stones which fall outside the permitted range of particle sizes for LIAS surfaces given in standard. [BS EN 1176-1:2017 4.2.8.5.2 Table 4.]</p> <p>The inspector is unable to verify the efficacy of this sand as a safety surface.</p>
	
	
Hazard	Impact attenuation is untested and unverified
Risk Assessment	Low* P 3 X S 2 = 6
Advised Remedial Action	<p>Regular raking and turning over of the sand particles in the impact areas around equipment will aerate the surface and prevent compaction. This will ameliorate the risk of impaired performance.</p> <p>However, the definitive efficacy of the surface cannot be verified without further testing of the particle size of the sand.</p> <p>An on-site impact test could also be carried out on the surface, but this would provide only an indicative result of the impact attenuating qualities of the sand <u>at the time of the test</u> – as the condition of the sand would be subject to change over time due to variations in climatic conditions, moisture content etc.</p> <p>*A provisional risk assessment has been made because further testing as described above was not carried out in this inspection.</p>

Finding 03/2	Type	Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	Damage, missing parts or deterioration noted.	
		
Chains have been removed. Hanger points still in place	Eyelets are potential finger traps or snagging points	
Risk Assessment	Low	P 2 X S 3 = 6
Advised Remedial Action	Remove eyelets / hanger points ●	
Equipment 04	Swing – 1 bay 2 cradle seats	
		
Manufacturer	Playdale	
Manufacturer's Label Present?	Yes	
Year of Supply	2014 – indicative end of operating life 2029*	
Accessibility (DDA)	Partial	
Surface	Carpet System	
Standard Compliance (EN 1176)	No non-compliance issues found	
Maintenance Issues / faults	Continue to maintain as normal and according to manufacturer's instructions where provided.	

Note 04/1	Type	Maintenance – bearings
Comment	It is advised that swing bearings (shackles, pins, bushes etc.) are checked on a regular basis for wear and tear and damage. This requires a dismantling inspection	



Note: An internal inspection of these bearings and component parts was not carried out in this inspection.

Refer to manufacturer's instructions for maintenance of sealed and sealed for life components

Advised Remedial Action

- Check swing bearings at next maintenance inspection and replace worn or damaged parts if required.
- Refer to/obtain and implement manufacturer's guidance for inspection timescales and for maintenance requirements, including the replacing of any worn or damaged elements
- Use also local knowledge of site concerning usage levels, incidence of vandalism, wear & tear etc. as an additional guide to determine frequency of dismantling checks.

Equipment 05	Multi Unit
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Manufacturer	Kaise Kühne
Manufacturer's Label Present?	Yes
Year of Supply	2004 – indicative end of operating life 2019*
Accessibility (DDA)	Fair
Surface	Carpet System
Standard Compliance (EN 1176)	See below
Maintenance Issues / faults	See below

Finding 05/1	Type	Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	Damage, missing parts or deterioration noted – Timber parts are rotting.	



Timber posts are rotting in the ground



All posts under platforms








Post at bottom of steps

<p>Bottom of ladder pole is rotting</p>	
Risk Assessment	<p>Medium P 3 X S 3 = 9</p>
Advised Remedial Action	<p>Replace rotting posts. (Use manufacturer's recommended parts or equivalent.)</p>

Finding 06/2	Type Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	<p>Cracks, splits or 'shakes' in timber noted. (Timber is affected by changes in temperature and moisture content. Cracks may expand or contract depending on climatic conditions)</p>
Hazard	<p>Potential hazards arise if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cracks open up greater than 8 mm and become finger traps or pinch points • Splits appear along the whole length of the timber piece – especially if the split goes through any fixings as this could compromise the structural integrity of the affected timber and of the fixing. • Split is deeper than the preservative envelope and enables water ingress which may lead to onset of rot inside the timber
Risk Assessment	<p>Low P 2 X S 3 = 6</p>
Advised Remedial Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor size of cracks and condition of timber. • Check for softening of wood inside cracks as this may indicate onset of rot. • Smooth off any sharp or splintered edges.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove or replace rotten timber
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Finding 06/3	Type	Maintenance Issue
Fault / Comment	The carpet surface is covered over with a layer of sand	
		
		
Small triangular area at one corner which should be removed / reinstated		
Risk Assessment	Low	P 2 X S 3 = 6
Advised Remedial Action	Surface should be re-instated and triangular area removed	

Finding 06/4	Operating Life
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturer's Label on the play equipment shows that the equipment was installed in 2004 The equipment is therefore 15 years old and planning should begin for its decommissioning / replacement. 	

- Going forward, the equipment should be regularly checked and repairs carried out as required to ensure condition of equipment does not deteriorate until such time as the equipment can be replaced / removed.
- See E01 below

END NOTES

*Note E01	Life Span of Equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operating life of an item of equipment will largely depend on such factors as frequency and volume of usage, how well it has been maintained, levels of wear and tear and whether it has been damaged by vandalism or misuse. • Some manufacturers provide guarantees of between 10 – 25 years for materials used and component parts. These may help provide some indication of life expectancy. Manufacturer's maintenance guidance may also provide helpful information on operating life. • As a general rule, once play equipment has been in the ground for 15 years, planning should begin for its decommissioning / replacement - although the life span of some types of equipment in good condition can be extended through regular and attentive maintenance. • However equipment which is subject to dynamic loading (stress under movement) and / or where the stability and anchorage of the units depends on a single post or on two-legged posts or rows of posts should definitely be decommissioned after 15 years in the ground regardless of its condition 	

Finding E02	Type	BS EN 1176 Compliance
Fault / Comment	No manufacturer's label present on some items.	
Hazard	A missing label can result in identification problems, wrongly ordered parts etc.	
Advised Remedial Action	<p>Obtain and fix label onto the equipment containing name, address of manufacturer or authorised representative, equipment reference, year of manufacture and reference to EN1176 1998 / 2008 / 2017</p> <p>Otherwise ensure full documentation is kept on all the equipment including product details, date of installation, maintenance instructions etc.</p>	

IMPORTANT NOTES.

Please read in conjunction with the above report

Scope of the Inspection

- The inspection has been carried out by an annual inspector registered with the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII)

- The inspection has been carried out in accordance with RPII Inspection Methodology which is reproduced below.
- Please refer to Table 1 in the document below which clearly indicates the scope of the RPII annual or post installation inspection which has been carried out and how it contributes to the Annual Main Inspection

RPII Inspection Methodology



This document outlines the RPII position on inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed on the RPII Register of Inspectors for Indoor Annual, Outdoor Annual, Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine.

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only; where no date for the standard is given the date of the standard will be that current at the time of inspection with the exception of where overlap periods are granted by the standards committee when standards are updated. The information contained in reports is provided to assist the owner/operator in fulfilling their responsibilities as detailed in the relevant standard. Other standards referenced within the listed standards do not form part of the inspection.

The following standards are relevant to all installations of equipment that are publicly accessible to users; this would include public parks, pay and play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, indoor play centres, farm parks etc. All equipment used or employed in publicly accessible areas should meet with the requirements of the relevant standards (listed below);

BS EN 1176 Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11 Playground equipment intended for permanent installation outdoors & indoors.

BS EN 1176 Part 7 - 'Guidance on Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation' (this document gives guidance to the owners/operators of the facility on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playground equipment, including ancillary items).

Domestic play equipment falls outside of the scope of BS EN 1176 and has its own standard (BS EN 71 – Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report but any comments concerning compliance within the inspection will still refer to BS EN 1176.

Other equipment that is not clearly identified as unsupervised or domestic (natural play, self-build equipment etc.) will be assessed for compliance with the relevant standard listed below

BS EN 15312 Free access multi-sports equipment

BS EN 14974 Skateparks

BS EN 16630 Permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment

BS EN 16899 Parkour equipment (plus RPII / API guidance notes.)

Annual and Post Installation inspections will take into consideration compliance with current standards and defects related to wear and vandalism. Items not listed in the report have not been included in the inspection. The inspection will

cover the playground equipment and the active area up to 3.0 metres around, or the fence line if closer.

Operational inspections only take into consideration defects related to wear and vandalism. Routine visual inspections (if undertaken) relate only to the most obvious defects such as broken or missing parts, vandalism and issues created by severe weather conditions (the intention is to identify hazards created by storm damage).

The inspection is non-dismantling, non-destructive and does not include for any structural, toxicology or impact assessments defined in the standard; however, the inspector will undertake a manual test for stability and if equipment fails under manual load, or any other hazard is identified as an unacceptable risk, the owner/operator will be notified as soon as practicably possible.

The inspector will access all standing surfaces as necessary on the equipment and assess all parts up to 2.5m above the standing surface. Where it is not possible to access parts of the equipment without employing an alternative means of access the report will record the action required by the owner/operator to ensure the continued safe use of the equipment. Ancillary equipment will be assessed using the inspector's knowledge and experience of the standards named in this document to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable the continued safe use of the items concerned. The owner/operator is responsible for the overall safety of the equipment and area. Inspectors who are trained to use ladders may use them where it is safe to do so, but if members of the public are present on-site ladders may not be used to access the equipment.

The inspector will not undertake any of the following works unless specifically agreed in writing at the time of order:

Checking the depth and underlying structural integrity of any surface areas and/or carrying out any testing of impact absorbing properties of any surfaces. The identification of any corrosion, rot or other deterioration in any apparatus or equipment other than by an external inspection or the inspection of any equipment (or part thereof) that is underground. Tightening any bolts, hinges or other fixing devices on any apparatus or equipment. Assessing or inspecting any electrical installations contained on any site and/or apparatus and/or equipment. Assessing or inspecting any water supplies and/or water features and/or any associated computerised systems (including carrying out any programming).

Where planting or trees is mentioned in the report no arboricultural or horticultural assessments of toxicity, suitability or condition are undertaken; the owner/operator should have suitable inspections provided by a competent person.

The owner/operator should have a 'design risk assessment' provided by the manufacturer/designer of the area for the equipment and location in which the facility is installed.

The operator is responsible for managing risks of their provision and is required by law to carry out a 'suitable and sufficient assessment' of the risks associated with a site or activity and this inspection shall be considered as contributing to the operator's discharge of this responsibility.

The details contained within the report are a snapshot of the condition at the time of inspection only and subsequent events may affect the condition of the facility. Suggested remedial actions are based on the knowledge and experience of the inspector and/ or that of the inspection company. The owner/operator should seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person at all times when undertaking repairs and/or modifications to equipment.

Table 1

The operator is responsible for following the guidance of the relevant standards. The standards give guidance on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of the various types of facilities. The inspection guidance is listed in Table 1, with an indication of which parts will be included in an RPII Annual or Post-Installation Inspection. The relevant standards also contain additional parts which the operator should follow.

Inspection Recommendations of relevant standards Refer to relevant standards for full text	Annual Main	RPII Annual/ Post Installation Inspection
6.1 and 6.2 c) Inspect and maintain in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (see note 1)	✓	✗ [1]
6.2 a) Identify obvious hazards	✓	✓
6.2 b) Check for operation, stability and wear (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.2 b) Check sealed for life parts	✓	✗
6.2 b) Check for cleanliness, equipment ground clearances, ground surface finishes, exposed foundations, sharp edges, missing parts, excessive wear (of moving parts) and structural integrity (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.2 c) Overall levels of safety of equipment	✓	✓
6.2 c) Overall levels of safety of foundations (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.2 c) Overall levels of safety of surfaces (see note 3)	✓	✓ [3]
6.2 c) Compliance with the relevant parts of the standard (see note 4)	✓	✓ [4]
6.2 c) Undertaking the responsibility of the operator's periodic, systematic assessment of the effectiveness of all their safety measures (BS EN 1176-7, 8.2.1)	✓	✗
6.2 c) Effects of weather	✓	✓
6.2 c) Presence of rot or corrosion (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]
6.2 c) Assessment of repairs made / added or replaced components (see note 5)	✓	✓ [5]
6.2 c) Excavation / dismantling / additional measures	✓	✗
6.3.1 Assessment of glass reinforced plastics (see note 6)	✓	✓ [6]
6.3.2 Maintenance of one post equipment (see note 2)	✓	✓ [2]

NB The clause numbers in table 1 are taken from BS EN 1176-7. The content is equally applicable to all other relevant standards listed herein.

- [1] Playgrounds contain a range of equipment from different manufacturers and installed over a number of years; operators should implement any guidance provided by the manufacturer. Item specific detail is not readily available to RPII Playground Inspectors, whose report contributes to the operator's overall Annual Main Inspection as detailed in the relevant standards.
- [2] A manual test only is undertaken for stability. Wear and instability are only detectable where readily apparent without dismantling or destruction and without the use of tools, excavation or specialist equipment. Rot and corrosion are tested for with a hammer and/or steel rod. Decay in timber may exist which can only be found with specialist equipment.
- [3] Only the visible condition and dimensional compliance of surface extent is considered. Neither testing of impact attenuating properties nor measurement of the thickness of bound surfaces are undertaken on RPII annual inspections.
- [4] The inspection assesses compliance where this can be tested on site using manual methods without dismantling, destruction and without the use of tools or specialist

equipment.

- [5] The operator should use manufacturer's recommended parts, or equivalent. We are unable to verify if such parts have been used, and any subsequent change in quality or performance.
- [6] Visible glass fibres will be noted in reports. The operator is responsible for repairs or replacement.

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Maintenance Regime

- An effective and regular maintenance regime is crucial for ensuring that playgrounds remain fit for use and that the equipment is kept in good, usable condition.
- Maintenance should not just include the equipment but also other elements of the site including natural play features (such as logs and boulders) and ancillary items (gates, fencing, paths, seating and bins.)
- Guidance to playground operators given in BS EN 1176 states that equipment and component parts should be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and inspections are carried out on the assumption that this guidance has been followed by playground operators for all equipment presented for inspection.

Natural Play Elements

- Natural play features and areas are often characterised by ground modelling, planting and use of elements such as boulders, trees, logs, sand and water. These features are by nature bespoke and sometimes do not easily fit with the specifications and detailed clauses in the EN1176 standard
- Where such elements are encountered during the inspection, an approach of risk assessment as well as standard compliance will be used and a focus on the quality and finish of materials, the standard of workmanship, stability, structural integrity and installation of the elements.
- It is very important that areas containing natural elements are regularly checked, properly maintained and kept free of obvious hazards.

Explanation of Risk Assessment Scores.

- The risk assessment scores given in this report apply to hazards and faults which have been found during the inspection – either on specific items of equipment or within the play site generally.
- The purpose of the risk assessment is to put the hazards which have been identified in the inspection into context by allocating degrees of risk to each example. These range from **Low – Medium – High**.
- The risk scores are provided to give the site operator a basis upon which to make a risk- benefit assessment and to help prioritise remedial action.
- The risk assessment has been calculated by examining two factors relating to the hazard –

1. The likelihood or **probability** of the injury occurring as a result of an accident caused by the hazard identified
2. The **severity** of injury likely to be sustained as a result of the hazard

The tables below show the range of probability and severity values which are considered during the risk assessment. A numeric value is assigned to each category and is shown immediately in the left hand column.

PROBABILITY		
Probability Score	Probability Level	Probability of Occurrence of an accident
1	Very low	An accident or injury arising from the hazard identified is extremely unlikely.
2	Low	An accident or injury arising from the hazard identified is unlikely - some significant added factor is required.
3	Medium	An accident or injury arising from the hazard identified is foreseeable but unlikely to occur through the designed use of the item –Some added factor would usually be required.
4	High	An accident or injury arising from the hazard identified is probable and definitely foreseeable - without any added factor.
5	Very high	An accident or injury arising from the hazard identified is almost certain to occur if the current situation continues.

SEVERITY		
Severity Score	Severity Level	Severity of Injury
1	Very low	No injury likely.
2	Low	Minor injury requiring minor first aid e.g. cuts or bruising
3	Medium	Injury requiring hospital or GP visit e.g. green-stick fracture, lacerations, sprains.
4	High	Serious injury requiring hospital admission e.g. concussion, long bone breaks, skull fracture.
5	Very high	Very severe injury e.g. amputation, loss of sight, death.

The risk is calculated by multiplying the probability x the severity to provide a risk score as shown in the example below:

Probability score of **3** x severity score of **3** = risk score of **9** (Medium Risk).

Each finding in the report has a risk assessment attached and is shown like this:

Risk Assessment	Medium	P 3 X S 3 = 9
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This is followed by a recommended action to address the problem identified. The consequent risk score defines the seriousness of the hazard and therefore helps to identify the priority which should be given to rectifying the problem.

The priority and timescale for recommended action is given in the right hand column in the table below.

Risk Score	Risk Rating	Description	Priority / Action for Faults and Defects
25, 20	Critical	The risk is so severe that action needs to be taken straight away Do not allow the equipment to be used until the situation is rectified	Take immediate action as specified in the finding to rectify the problem.
16, 15	High	The risk is serious and the fault needs to be rectified as soon as possible. The fault must not be allowed to get worse and needs to be regularly checked until the problem is rectified.	Take action as specified in the finding as soon as possible to rectify problem.
12 10, 9	Medium + Medium	Remedial action needs to be taken as soon as is reasonably practicable. Defective item/part should be programmed for replacement or repair.	Take action as specified in the finding as soon as reasonably practicable.
8 6, 5	Low + Low	The condition of the item should be monitored for further damage or deterioration and repairs carried out as required	Monitor condition / or repair.
4,3,2,1	Very Low	Usually no remedial action needed but continue to monitor and carry out repairs when necessary.	Monitor condition / or repair

- **Critical** risk scores (20, 25) are the most dangerous and require immediate action - the equipment should be taken out of use immediately until the problem is rectified.
- **High** risk scores (15, 16) mean that the equipment should be taken out of use and remedial work should be carried out as soon as possible.
- **Medium** risk scores (9, 10, 12) indicate that the faults need to be rectified as soon as is reasonably practicable. The equipment should be programmed for replacement or repair if appropriate. Medium risk

scores of 12 should be given higher priority and rectified as soon as reasonably practicable

- **Low** (5,6,8) and **Very Low** (1, 2, 3, 4) risk scores indicate that the problem is not serious and action need not necessarily be taken unless the problem gets worse. However some low risk scores are easy and inexpensive to rectify (e.g. weeding a surface or replacing a missing plastic cap) and this work should be carried out. Low+ risk scores of 8 should have Advised Remedial Actions implemented as soon as practicably possible

Recognising the Benefits of Providing Risk & Challenge in Playgrounds.

- Identifying risk is a vital tool in helping to make playgrounds safer. Risk assessment can identify “bad” risks – i.e. avoidable faults and hazards
- But it should be noted that risk assessment cannot cover or predict every eventuality. It is important to acknowledge that **there is no such thing as zero risk** and in fact in the context of play it is now widely recognised that some degree of risk on a playground is a good and healthy thing because of the benefits it brings to children in terms of their learning and development – i.e. “good” risk.
- In 2008, 3 government documents were published which provided a national framework for good practice in play provision:
 - ‘Fair Play – A National Play Strategy’
 - *Design for Play – A Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces.*’
 - *Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide.*’

(All published by DCSF, 2008)

- All 3 documents emphasised the need to provide children with opportunities for challenging and adventurous play and the importance of balancing risk and safety on playgrounds so that children reap the benefits of testing and challenging themselves but in a relatively controlled environment.

‘Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury.’

Managing Risk in Play Provision Summary Statement. (DCSF 2008)

- It should be recognised that children will inevitably have accidents as a natural part of playing, and injuries will be sustained on even the best designed and well- maintained playgrounds.
- Children will also take risks while playing –this is an inherent part of play and is important for development and learning.
- Some play equipment is more challenging and will carry higher levels of risk even when no design or maintenance faults have been found. *This does not necessarily mean that the equipment is unsafe and not fit for use.*

Recognition of Importance of Risk Taking in BS EN1176 Standard

- Importantly, the BS EN 1176 standard on playgrounds recognises that, in a play context, risk taking is an integral part of playing and that opportunities to take risks in a controlled environment can be positive and beneficial to children's learning and development.
- The standard also states the need to balance allowing children to challenge themselves and take risks in play environments with minimising and controlling foreseeable hazards which could cause them harm.

'Risk-taking is an essential feature of play provision and of all environments in which children legitimately spend time playing. Play provision aims to offer children the chance to encounter acceptable risks as part of a stimulating, challenging and controlled learning environment. Play provision should aim at managing the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from serious harm.'

The principles of safety management are applicable both to workplaces in general as well as to play provision. However, the balance between safety and benefits is likely to be different in the two environments. In play provision, exposure to some degree of risk might be of benefit because it satisfies a basic human need and gives children the chance to learn about risk and consequences in a controlled environment.'

BS EN 1176– 1: 2017

- The important thing is to try to control and minimise **preventable** hazards outside of the children's control while aiming for the highest possible play value in the playground.

Risk / Benefit Assessment

A Risk / Benefit Audit of the site is available as an extra service. Contact TWP office for more information

Assessment of Accessibility (DDA)

- A basic, general assessment of the extent to which the playground meets the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 has been included in this report.
- Three areas have been looked at:
 - Access into the site
 - Access to and between different items of equipment
 - Accessibility of individual items of equipment (i.e. the extent to which the child is able to use the item).
- Each of these areas has been assessed and given a score of Good / Partial / Limited. A more detailed assessment of accessibility is available as an extra service.