

**N. W. Adams**  
Engineering Design Services

Annual Inspection (with maintenance) Report of Play areas at  
Easton, Couch Green, Martyr Worthy and Itchen Abbas Village Hall,  
for  
Itchen Valley Parish Council



Register of Play Inspectors  
International Certificate No.1023A

*N. W. Adams*

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*The following forms an integral part of the inspection report*

1. *The equipment has been assessed, as relevant, in accordance with EN 1176: 2017 "Playground Equipment and Surfacing". The basketball area has been assessed, as relevant, in accordance with BSEN15312:2007 "Free access multi-sports equipment – Requirements, including safety and test methods".*

*Where there is a compliance failure, this is briefly noted and a risk assessment made of the failure. **Where it is believed action is required this is indicated in more detail (in italics) and identified as a medium or high risk** (see paragraph 13). Where no action is indicated, in my opinion there is no practical economic action that can be taken and the 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). These failures to comply will continue to be monitored and, if necessary, will indicate action on future annual reports.*

2. *The inspections cover:*

*Site safety*

*Suitability and conditions of ancillary items*

*Standard compliance, suitability and condition of equipment*

*Dimensional compliance, suitability and condition of surfacing*

*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. (e.g. some surfaces may become slippery when damp). Regular inspections should be undertaken by the operator to monitor the effects of these.*

3. *Standard assessment is undertaken where appraisal may be made without dismantling or destruction.*
4. *Inspections are non-dismantling inspections. Where it is felt that removal of parts for assessment is required, this will be indicated. (See paragraph 14). It is not possible to check for internal corrosion/rot without dismantling the equipment.*
5. *Surfacing has been assessed solely in terms of the area covered and its condition or security. Tests for impact absorbency are available at an economic rate if required.*
6. *Where there is open water within easy walking distance of the play area it is recommended that a water safety report be commissioned.*
7. *Where there are trees within falling distance of the play area it is recommended that a report on the integrity of the trees are obtained from a competent arboricultural expert (see [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk) for list of qualified consultants)*
8. *Where no protective surface is provided with items which have a fall height in excess of 600mm, the installation of a protective surface should be considered. Such surfacing is not mandatory but does represent good practice. It should be noted that EN1176 & EN1177 allows well maintained grassed topsoil (not impeded by a high proportion of roots/solids/stones/bricks) depending on conducive climatic conditions for fall heights up to 1.0m.*
9. *There should be an impact attenuating surface over the entire impact area for all equipment with a free fall height of more than 600mm & less than 600mm where items induce a forced movement on the body of the user (i.e. swings, slides, rocking, cableways, carousels etc.).*
10. *In addition to inspecting the equipment and surfacing, the inspection also looked at ancillary items and general design features where relevant to safety.*

11. *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 inspection by removal of the 'D' shackle and pin is carried out as a regular maintenance feature in the site owner's work programme.*
12. *It should be noted that this is a safety report, not a Standard compliance report, and compliance/non compliance with EN1176 is normally indicated. However where failures may not be mentioned where they are very minor, or of a technical nature, and have no noticeable effect on safety.*
13. *A risk assessment of faults and Standard failures is given in terms of low, medium and high. As a general principle items marked as "low" only require monitoring. Items marked as "medium" require appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment. Items marked as "high" require urgent action. In rare cases where an item is likely to result in major injury or death, the operator or appropriate representative will be notified from the site by telephone. This will be indicated on the report.*
14. *There can be problems with assessing ground decay where synthetic surface has been installed. Similar problems may occur with sub surface degradation. While every care is taken to check ground decay and corrosion in supports, this cannot be done fully without removal and destruction of the surface.*
15. *Many items of play equipment are manufactured using timber. Small splinters are known in rare cases to develop to a projection upon contact and cause injury. Such splinters are very difficult to detect. Checks are made to identify obvious splinters but does not preclude the possibility of these circumstances occurring.*
16. *In order to provide economic reports, standard wording is used for most common standard/maintenance failures. The inspector also works using previous year's reports (where available). This may mean that where there have been few changes to the site, the current report may be similar to the previous year's report.*
17. *The Equality Act applies to play areas. There is a duty to, where practical, make reasonable provision for disabled people. EDS can advise.*
18. *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations require a risk assessment of the play area for risks to users. This is a highly specialised subject. Engineering Design Services can undertake such an assessment with the next annual inspection & recommend that such formal risk assessments be undertaken every 4-5 years unless the play area is modified whichever is the sooner.*
19. *Items shown in Italics are recommended for action.*
20. *Items marked "monitor" should be included for the following inspections as defined in EN1176-1 and appropriate action should be taken when required;*
  - (a) *routine visual inspections*
  - (b) *operational inspections*
21. *Swing surfacing areas are calculated with the seat(s) set at the lowest height recommended by EN1176-2 (i.e. the maximum surfacing requirement).*
22. *Should you have any queries either telephone the number on the front cover, alternatively email EDS on [info@engineering-design-services.co.uk](mailto:info@engineering-design-services.co.uk).*

# 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, play and play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, indoor play centers, 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** Multi use sports equipment

**BS EN 14974** Wheeled sports equipment

**BS EN 16630** Outdoor fitness equipment

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 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.

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.

The operator is responsible for following the guidance of the relevant standards. The standards give guidance on the installation, inspection, maintenance & 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.

Table 1

<b>Inspection Recommendations of relevant standards</b> Refer to relevant standards for full text	Annual Main	RPII Annual Outdoor/ Fully enclosed Inspection
6.1 and 6.2 c) Inspect & maintain in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (see note 1)	✓	X [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	✓	X
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)	✓	X
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	✓	X
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.

## **Playing field off Church Lane, Easton**

Date of inspection  
21.5.2019.

### **General Comments**

The Parish Council is complimented on the improvement works carried out.

Limited potential casual supervision available.

The decay to the Challenge trail is highlighted.

### **Ancillary Items**

#### **Road signs**

*Consider road warning signage at both approaches to the playing field due to lack of footways (Highway Authority).*

#### **Fencing**

To the outer perimeter (there are gaps allowing uncontrolled access by dogs etc. & an escape for younger children also see 'Environmental hazards').

Low ( $\leq 2.0\text{m}$ ) barbed wire surrounding the playing field. Low risk

#### **Gates (1)**

Open maintenance gate to Church Lane. *Close when not in use recommended (see 'Fencing' above) providing an alternative pedestrian gate.*

#### **Signs (1)**

'Polite notice Children play here please clean up after your pet' attached to tree.

*Ownership, contact details and additional dog ban/control signage recommended at entrance/gate & near play equipment.*

#### **Seats**

*Recommended.*

#### **Bench (1)**

Satisfactory.

#### **Minimum Space**

Satisfactory.

## **Movement Clash**

'Desire line' through swings. *Barriers recommended outside & between each swing frame to avoid collisions.* Low/medium risk

## **Goals (2)**

*Tighten loose rear net stay fixings to both goals.*

*Trim & maintain foliage 2.5m minimum from the ground to avoid facial & eye injuries.*

## **Planting**

*See Introductory note 7 above referring to overhead trees.*

There are fungii aside the cradle seat swing. *Unknown if poisonous or edible (this is beyond the scope of the play facility inspection, other experts may help to identify).*

## **Cleanliness and tidiness**

Satisfactory.

## **General surface**

Grass. *Infill uneven hollows/reinstate bare soil where the original climbing frame loose fill safer surfacing footprint stood (photo 1).*



photo 1

*Remove exposed concrete adjacent to the above bare soil area.*

## **Other Environmental hazards**

*Monitor for stray sports ball from adjacent football pitch/play area conflict, consider relocating nearest goal/providing fence/high hedge etc. between if a problem.*

*Trim tree/hedge foliage to improve casual supervision opportunities from Church Lane.*

Nearby accessible river Itchen. *See Introductory note 6.*

## **Equipment and Surfacing**

### **1. 1.85m maximum, 1 bay, 2 cradle seat swing (Roundaplay - 2004)**

#### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

#### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

Dry bearings. *Treat with oil, grease or silicon spray according to supplier's instructions.*

Although not a definitive test, in view of the apparent age of the timber play equipment, the posts were probed just below ground level and tested for stability. Posts often decay internally but excessive penetration was not detected suggesting no significant external decay exists (special attention is necessary to single structural post frames for decay).

#### **Surfacing**

Resin bound porous rubber mulch with EPDM insert.

#### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

#### **General Maintenance**

There is concern about the steep slope at the edge of the protective surface that also fails the requirements of the Equality Act and would suggest it is accentuated with a brightly coloured contrasting paint to draw attention to a hazard. *Consult original supplier for compatible paint.* Medium risk

### **2. 2.33m maximum, 1 bay, 2 flat seat swing (Roundaplay - 2004)**

#### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

#### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

Dry bearings. *Treat with oil, grease or silicon spray according to supplier's instructions.*

Although not a definitive test, in view of the apparent age of the timber play equipment, the posts were probed just below ground level and tested for stability. Posts often decay internally but excessive penetration was not detected suggesting no significant external decay exists (special attention is necessary to single structural post frames for decay).

## **Surfacing**

Porous resin bound rubber mulch with EPDM inserts.

## **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

## **General Maintenance**

There is concern about the steep slope at the edge of the protective surface that also fails the requirements of the Equality Act and would suggest it is accentuated with a brightly coloured contrasting paint to draw attention to a hazard. *Consult original supplier for compatible paint.* Medium risk

### **3. 1.6m maximum Multi-unit (Lappset)**

## **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

## **General Maintenance/safety comments**

No remedial maintenance work is required at this time.

## **Surfacing**

Porous resin bound rubber mulch.

## **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

## **General Maintenance**

Some weed growth emerging (this may be due to growth from beneath or seeds germinating from within the new surface material) that may also damage rubber type surfaces. *Remove by hand/treating with appropriate non-toxic, non-residual sprays carefully adhering to the application instructions.*

There is concern about the steep slope at the edge of the protective surface that also fails the requirements of the Equality Act and would suggest it is accentuated with a brightly coloured contrasting paint to draw attention to a hazard. *Consult original supplier for compatible paint.* Medium risk

#### 4. Balance log link/spring beam/flexi-bridge cluster (Playdale)

##### EN 1176 Compliance

The item fails to meet the requirements of EN1176 in the following respect(s):

The flexi-bridge hand rails fail the grip/grasp requirements (EN1176). Low risk

##### General Maintenance/safety comments

*An extended mirror was used to check for the presence of any broken/missing upper cross bar bolt caps resisting water penetration & subsequent hidden decay/potential collapse and all caps were visible.*

Flexi-bridge board gaps between 30mm and 60mm are known to cause limb entrapments for younger children. Low risk.

Note timber posts last probed & tested in May 2017.

Although not a definitive test, the posts were again probed just below ground level. Posts often decay internally & penetration (70mm maximum) was detected indicating that significant decay exists to the twin flexi-bridge post. *Programme to replace within 1 year to avoid collapse (photo 2).*



photo 2

Similarly (100mm maximum) for the flexi-block link.

*Programme to replace within 6 months to avoid collapse.*

Similarly for the stepping-block link nearest to the flexi-block link between the flexi-bridge.

*Programme to replace to avoid collapse.*

Note special attention is necessary to single structural post frames for decay.

Corroded flexi-bridge support cable ends. *Remove to check for security/clean up & treat within 1 year.*

*Programme sound timber for cyclic preservative treatment recommended (most child and pet friendly products sold by major DIY stores are suitable).*

## **Surfacing**

Grass

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

### **General Maintenance**

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

## **5. Sheep Springy (Fahr)**

### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

### **General Maintenance/comments**

No remedial maintenance work is required at this time.

## **Surfacing**

Grass mats on a mesh underlay

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

### **General Maintenance**

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

## RISK ASSESSMENT EVALUATION

**Client: Itchen Valley P.C.      Site: Church Lane, Easton Play area      Date: 21.5.19**

### Type: Juniors, Toddlers & Sports

This calculation is based on the available data in relation to the numeric number of accidents for item types, safer surfacing, ancillary equipment, environmental hazards, design, Free and Fall space, traffic clashes etc, combined with severity of injury and is designed to provide indicative problem areas. The risk assessment should be read in conjunction with annual, post installation or audit reports. A risk assessment cannot cover every possible combination of problems but is designed to heighten awareness of potential playground hazards.

Action should be taken to achieve risk levels of low or low/medium.

<i>Risk Score</i>	<u>Risk Categories</u>
1-3	Very low risk - (Monitor)
4-7	Low risk - (Monitor and take reasonable action if required)
8-12	Medium risk - Take action to reduce if possible, or available
13-20	High risk - Take action immediately and access control measures
21+	Unacceptable risk - Remove or immobilise before taking immediate action and assessment of control measures

### Ancillary Items and Environmental or Other Hazards

<b>Ancillary Items</b>	<b>Risk Score</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Action or Control</b>
Bench (1)	2		maintain at very low risk
Litter bins			
Fencing	5	barbed wire	CAI
Gates (1)	4	close when not in use	CAI
Signs (1)	2	additional signage	CAI
Planting			
General surface	4	uneven soil reinstatement	CAI
Pathways			
Goals (2)	3	tighten rear stay bolts	CAI

<b>Environmental or Other Hazards</b>	<b>Risk Score</b>	<b>Action, Comment, or Control Recommended</b>
Minimum space		
Traffic clashes	8	through swings - CAI
Design defects		
Adjacent roads	8	see 'Fencing' & 'Road signs' - CAI
Adjacent water hazard	9	see 'Other Environmental hazards' - CAI
Site not directly overlooked	7	see 'Other Environmental hazards' - CAI
Adjacent sports	7	stray sports ball/play area conflict – CAI
Cleanliness		

## RISK ASSESSMENT EVALUATION

### Equipment & Surfacing

No	Equipment Items	Surface	Risk Score	Action, Control or Comments
1	Cradle seat swing	mulch	8	excessive edge gradient - CAI
2	Flat seat swing	mulch	8	excessive edge gradient - CAI
3	Multi-play unit	mulch	7	excessive edge gradient - CAI
4	Adventure Trail	grass	3	decay to single posts - CAI
5	Sheep Springy	grass mats	2	maintain at very low risk - CAI
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

Risk assessment evaluation should be read in conjunction with Annual or Post Installation Inspection. Where action or control relates to maintenance, non-compliance or minor defects CAI or CPI will be used. This means read Annual Inspection report or Post Installation report for detailed comments. Serious or high risk failures should, however, be noted. Failure to comply to the standards will be identified in the AI or PI reports.

Design, location and physical site factors may determine the overall risk of the site. These may be difficult to economically change. However, where maintenance or control methods are undertaken the site could only be maintained at MEDIUM RISK subject to a future inspection and reassessment.

**ASSESSED LEVEL OF RISK FOR THE PLAYGROUND AT TIME OF INSPECTION**

**MEDIUM RISK**

## Couch Green play area, Martyr Worthy

Date of inspection

21.5.2019.

### General Comments

Limited casual supervision potential from surrounding properties.

Urgent attention to the external picnic table & gates is highlighted.

### Ancillary Items

#### Road signs (2)

Warning signs for both approaches. Satisfactory.

#### Fencing

Timber post & rail fencing with sheep/chicken mesh infilling to the lower section surrounding the play equipment.

*Trim/mask projecting chicken mesh wires at sides of both gates (photos 3 & 4).*



photo 3



photo 4

#### Goals (2)

Possible excessive post movement in sockets. *Refer to Supplier ([www.harrod.uk.com](http://www.harrod.uk.com)) for acceptable movement.*

*Wash off algae accumulation.*

*Reinstate minor eroded soil/grass flush in goal mouth nearest to the play area in appropriate season.*

#### Swing barriers (3)

*Chamfer exposed ends of each barrier end to 20mm minimum radius recommended.*

*See 'Movement Clash'*

## **Basketball net with wet pour playing surface apron**

*Replace missing cord net.*

*Programme metal post & frame for cyclic painting recommended with lead free paint using appropriate precautions.*

Warning notices are displayed to the rear of the backboard “Do not hang from the ring” should be visible from the front as required by BSEN15312.

*“Remove jewellery to avoid catching” sign recommended.*

## **Gates (3)**

Note raised resin bound porous rubber mulch wear pads in both pedestrian gates.

Entrapment at hinge edges of both pedestrian gates.

*Trim down/adjust gates on hinges to ensure gaps of at least 12mm to both edges throughout the range of the gate movement to eliminate the finger entrapment, the recommended ground clearance should also be 60 to 110mm. Medium risk*

Pedestrian gate (nearest the houses) closure rate is too fast (3 seconds). *Adjust spring tension down to a target rate of 5 to 8 seconds prior to the school summer holiday (spring is the adjustable capstan type). Low/medium risk*

Pedestrian gate (furthest from the houses) closure rate is too fast (2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> seconds). *Adjust spring tension up to a target rate of 5 to 8 seconds (spring is the adjustable capstan type) to resist access by dogs. Low/medium risk*

*Recommend removing the timber jambs from pedestrian gate hinge posts to partially avoid the crush/entrapment between the gate & jambs only. Medium risk*

*Wider timber jambs recommended for both pedestrian gate closing edge posts to avoid the shear/crashes. Medium risk*

*Tighten loosened catch bar screws (2) to pedestrian gate furthest from the houses/replace with a nut & bolts for durability.*

Wide maintenance gate with sharp mesh infill panel to the lower section. *Mask/trim wires.*

*Wide maintenance gate padlocked closed.*

## **Signs (3)**

*Replace ‘No dogs in the playground area’ missing from gate furthest from the houses (1).*

*‘No bicycles’, ‘No smoking’, ‘No glass or alcohol’, ‘No dogs’, ‘Age group (<13 years)’, ‘Please use rubbish bin’, ‘Ownership/contact’ & ‘Opening hours’ signage adjacent to both play area pedestrian gates (2).*

*“Overhead electricity cables” signs at the car park entrance & distribution pole only. Provision of ‘No kite flying’ repeater signage at all access points to the playing field recommended.*

### **Seats (1)**

Seat with a porous resin bound rubber mulch wear pad in the foot fall area. Satisfactory.

### **Litter bin**

*Consider provision within the play area (see 'Signs' above).*

### **Picnic table (1)**

Decayed/damaged board. *Smooth down seat board corner splinters/reverse board.*

Loose/decayed seat board supports. *Replace/tighten both loose seat supports (8) to concrete frame bolts within 1 month to prevent tipping/collapse.*

*Programme sound timber for cyclic preservative treatment recommended (most child and pet friendly products sold by major DIY stores are suitable).*

### **Minimum Space**

Satisfactory.

### **Movement Clash**

Through swings. *Barriers recommended to the remaining open side of the flat seat swing frame to avoid collisions with seats when in use. Medium risk*

### **Planting**

*See Introductory note 7 above referring to trees.*

*Trim boundary hedges as low as possible to improve casual supervision.*

### **Cleanliness and tidiness**

*Clean out sump beneath the trampoline/refer to Supplier on how this is achieved.*

*Sweep grass cuttings from the safer surfacing to avoid promoting weeds, algae & moss.*

### **General surface**

Grass.

### **Other Environmental hazards**

*Monitor for stray sports ball from adjacent football pitch/play area conflict, consider relocating nearest goal etc. if a problem.*

Limited casual supervision potential. *Monitor for problems.*

Overhead electricity cables. *See 'Signs' above.*

## **Equipment and Surfacing**

### **1. 2.01m maximum, 1 bay, 2 cradle seat swing (Roundaplay)**

#### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

#### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

Although not a definitive test, in view of the apparent age of the timber play equipment, the posts were probed just below ground level and tested for stability. Posts often decay internally but excessive penetration was not detected suggesting no significant external decay exists (special attention is necessary to single structural post frames for decay).

*Check condition of the timber cross bar, supports & fixings for decay/corrosion/loosening & defects within 1 year recommended (the higher fittings/frame cannot be assessed safely & are excluded from this inspection; steps will be required used with appropriate precautions).*

#### **Surfacing**

Porous resin bound rubber mulch with an EPDM insert.

#### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

#### **General Maintenance**

There is concern about the steep slope at the edge of the protective surface that also fails the requirements of the Equality Act and would suggest it is accentuated with a brightly coloured contrasting paint to draw attention to a hazard. *Consult original supplier for compatible paint.* Medium risk

*Replace the eroded soil/grass abutting the mulch flush.* Low/medium risk

### **2. Twin towers & slide multi-play unit (Roundaplay)**

#### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

#### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

*Programme sound timber for cyclic preservative treatment recommended (most child and pet friendly products sold by major DIY stores are suitable).*

Decay at the edges/corners of both platform boards. *Replace with 'Buffalo' board using the originals as a template within 6 months recommended (photo 5).*



photo 5

### **Surfacing**

Grass mats on a mesh underlay

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

### **General Maintenance**

Grass overgrowth and/or uneven grass mats particularly at the base of the steps indicating there is inadequate support (mesh/underlay) provided to resist settlement into soft soil while promoting grass growth. Low/medium risk

*Level up flush/gather in abutting grass mats & replace missing/secure with nylon ties at 150mm maximum centres, rotated to mask sharp tails/buckles particularly at the base of the sliding pole.* Low risk

Settled/clogged grass mats can impede the mat fall height protection. Low risk

### **3. 2.35m maximum, 1 bay, 2 flat seat swing (Roundaplay)**

#### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

#### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

Shackles & connectors should be secured mechanically so they cannot loosen of their own accord & safeguarded so that they cannot be undone without tools. *Check that the shackle safety lock pins are/correctly fitted to prevent loosening.*

Dry bearings. *Treat with oil, grease or silicon spray according to supplier's instructions.*

*Untwist chains to extend their life.*

Note timber posts last probed & tested in May 2014.

Although not a definitive test, the posts were again probed just below ground level. Posts often decay internally & excessive penetration (100mm maximum) was detected indicating that significant decay exists to the twin flexi-bridge post. *Programme to replace decayed posts within 3 months recommended (photo 6).*



photo 6

*Check condition of the timber cross bar, supports & fixings for decay/corrosion/loosening & defects within 1 year recommended.*

An extended mirror was used to check for the presence of any broken/missing upper cross bar bolt caps resisting water penetration & subsequent hidden decay/potential collapse and the cap (1) nearest to the cradle swing was missing (the higher fittings/frame cannot be assessed safely and are excluded from this inspection; steps will be required used with appropriate precautions). *Replace missing cap.*

*Programme sound timber for cyclic preservative treatment recommended (most child and pet friendly products sold by major DIY stores are suitable).*

### **Surfacing**

Porous resin bound rubber mulch with an EPDM insert.

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

### **General Maintenance**

There is concern about the steep slope at the edge of the protective surface that also fails the requirements of the Equality Act and would suggest it is accentuated with a brightly coloured contrasting paint to draw attention to a hazard. *Consult original supplier for compatible paint.* Medium risk

*Replace the eroded soil/grass abutting the mulch flush.* Low risk

#### 4. 1.74m Aero Whirl (Playdale - 2009)

##### EN 1176 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

##### General Maintenance/safety comments

Note the accessible edges of the top rotating plate should be a 3mm minimum radius.

##### Surfacing

Porous resin bound rubber mulch with an EPDM insert.

##### Surfacing area dimensions

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

##### General Maintenance

There is concern about the steep slope at the edge of the protective surface that also fails the requirements of the Equality Act and would suggest it is accentuated with a brightly coloured contrasting paint to draw attention to a hazard. *Consult original supplier for compatible paint.* Medium risk

#### 5. 2.31m maximum, 1 bay, 1 'nest' seat swing (Fawns)

##### EN 1176 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

##### General Maintenance/safety comments

There are entrapments in the chain webbing of the 'nest' seat. Low risk

There have been swivel bolt failures (which are not visible without dismantling). *Ensure retaining nut tightness & recommend opening annually to check for weld fractures.*



(example)

An extended mirror was used to check for broken or missing cross bar bolt recess caps. *Replace damaged 3rd cap from the end nearest the houses (1) prior to the winter recommended to resist water penetration & subsequent hidden decay/potential collapse (the higher fittings/frame cannot be accessed safely; steps will be required used with appropriate precautions).*

Seat protective rubber trim damaged (due to dog bites) but not requiring immediate replacement. *Monitor and replace when hard material is exposed (it may be possible to disconnect & rotate the seat 90° and reconnect to expose fresh rubber at the leading edges, refer to the Supplier regarding this possibility) (photo 7).*



photo 7

Although not a definitive test, in view of the apparent age of the timber play equipment, the posts were probed just below ground level and tested for stability. Posts often decay internally but excessive penetration was not detected suggesting no significant external decay exists (special attention is necessary to single structural post frames for decay).

### **Surfacing**

Porous resin bound rubber mulch with an EPDM insert.

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing fails to meet the requirements of EN1176 in the following respect(s).

Insufficient safer surfacing provided (should be 3.47m minimum either side of cross bar centre and normally 0.875m minimum either side of the seat travel centre line). Low risk

### **General Maintenance**

There is concern about the steep slope at the edge of the protective surface that also fails the requirements of the Equality Act and would suggest it is accentuated with a brightly coloured contrasting paint to draw attention to a hazard. *Consult original supplier for compatible paint.* Medium risk

Some weed growth that may also damage rubber type surfaces. *Remove by hand/treating with appropriate non-toxic, non-residual sprays carefully adhering to the application instructions.*

## 6. Trampoline (classified as 'large' >1.44m<sup>2</sup>)

### EN 1176 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

### General Maintenance/safety comments

Loose metal 'ring' support fixings when in use. *Check & tighten any hidden loose fixings/refer to Supplier/installation instructions for further advice.*

### Surfacing

Integral rubber tiles immediately around the trampoline with porous resin bound rubber mulch beyond.

### Surfacing area dimensions

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

### General Maintenance

There is concern about the steep slope at the edge of the protective surface that also fails the requirements of the Equality Act and would suggest it is accentuated with a brightly coloured contrasting paint to draw attention to a hazard. *Consult original supplier for compatible paint.* Low/medium risk

Some weed growth that may also damage rubber type surfaces. *Remove by hand/treating with appropriate non-toxic, non-residual sprays carefully adhering to the application instructions.*

## **Play area at the Village Hall, Itchen Abbas**

### Date of inspection

21.5.2019.

### **General Comments**

Limited casual supervision potential when the village hall is not in use.

Urgent attention to the edging boards recommended.

### **Ancillary Items**

#### **Road signs (2)**

'School' road warning signs at both approach directions.

#### **Fencing**

*Replace remaining loose/decayed fence & double gate posts at the 'Fire Assembly Point' sign & between the 'Fire Assembly Point' sign and the end of hedge to avoid collapse.*

#### **Gates (4)**

Double gates at the side of the Village Hall.

Entrapment at the hinge & closing edges of both gates.

*Trim/adjust gates/posts/provide a gate stop (at least 0.7m high and painted white for clarity) to ensure gaps of at least 12mm to both edges throughout the range of the gate movement to eliminate the entrapment. Medium risk*

*Tighten catch bar bolts (2) to double gates aside the Village Hall.*

*Tighten catch bar screws (2) to double gates near the aside the 'Fire Assembly Point'.*

Crush/pinch at the hinge edges to both double gates near the 'Fire Assembly Point'.

*Adjust gate/post(s) to ensure gaps of at least 13mm between both gates to eliminate the entrapment (the recommended ground clearance should also be 60 to 110mm).*

Low/medium risk

Loosened lowest step board across both double gates near the 'Fire Assembly Point'.

*Re-secure.*

#### **Planting**

Maintain the thorned shrubs within the timber edging at the rear of the play equipment.

*Recommend the trimming/thinning of hedge flanking the road as much as possible to improve casual supervision potential from the footway/road when the hall is closed.*

*Trim beech 2.5m minimum from ground to avoid facial/eye injuries & maintain as such.*

## **Signs (2)**

'Please shut the gate', 'No dogs', 'No phones' (1).

'Itchen Valley Montessori Pre-School entrance (1).

*Dog control & ownership contact recommended.*

## **Benches (3)**

Satisfactory.

## **Minimum Space**

Satisfactory.

## **Movement Clash**

Satisfactory.

## **Steps**

Trip zones surrounding & within each step frame. *Make up eroded soil/grass flush and provide a more durable surface flush within the step frames to eliminate trip hazards (photo 8).* Medium risk



photo 8

*Also see 'Gates' above.*

## **Cleanliness and tidiness**

Satisfactory.

## **General surface**

*Remove exposed stones from the grass embankment at the rear of the play equipment to facilitate grass maintenance & avoid grass cutting equipment damage.*

## **Timber edgings**

Exposed nail heads & points where the edging support stakes have decayed/other edging boards & posts insecure & weakened. *Remove nails & repair/replace stakes prior to the next School summer holiday (photos 9 & 10).*



photo 9



photo 10

Edgings at the top of the gradient behind the multi-unit also has loosened edging boards/exposed nails. *Remove nails/repair (photo 11).*



photo 11

## **Other Environmental hazards**

Limited casual supervision potential when hall is closed. *See recommendation under 'Planting' notes above.*

## Equipment and Surfacing

### 1. Play Tower and slide (Roundaplay)

#### EN 1176 Compliance

The item fails to meet the requirements of EN1176 in the following respects:

The ramp access handrail (48mm wide) fails the grip requirement (EN1176). Low risk

Horizontal climbable barrier components (EN1176). Low risk

Width of gap at the slide (630mm) exceeds the slide width (EN1176 requirement for easily accessible equipment). Low risk

Maximum width of gap at the sliding pole (840mm) exceeds 500mm (EN1176 requirement for easily accessible equipment). Low risk

#### General Maintenance/safety comments

Although not a definitive test, in view of the apparent age of the timber play equipment, the posts were probed just below ground level. Posts often decay internally and excessive penetration (100mm) was detected to the post at the ramp base & (150mm) to the corner post to the side of the sliding pole suggesting that decay exists. *Monitor & check at next Annual Inspection/programme/budget to replace (photo 12).*



photo 12

*The smooth/worn ramp & platform surfaces may become slippery particularly in damp conditions improve by applying a texture (e.g. Cuprinol anti-slip decking stain or slip resistant tape e.g. 3M Safety-Walk).*

*Tighten loose handrail fixings aside the ramp & upper platform during a prolonged dry spell recommended.*

*Decay to the handrail of the ramp & slide platforms & sliding pole edge trim/lowest platform ramp edge trim. Replace/smooth splinters/reverse (if the timber is sound) prior to the next School Summer holiday.*

*Note there are no central timber supports provided beneath the intermediate platform. Recommended for enhanced platform strength.*

## **Surfacing**

Woodchip/bark mix

## **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

## **General Maintenance**

*Remove pointed wood slivers greater than 30mm. Low risk*

Note bark degrading down to fine particles. *Programme/budget to replace.*

*See 'Timber edgings' above.*

*Rake and redistribute loose material and top up as required to maintain a minimum depth (usually 300mm), depth markings on each post base would help with maintenance.*

Low risk