

Children's Play Area Annual Inspection Reports

For

**GRAVESHAM BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

Inspected By

MARIA COOK RPii

In

November 2016



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9.

The following forms an integral part of this inspection report:

The equipment has been assessed as relevant, in accordance with BS EN 1176, 2008. BS EN 1176 was published on 1st January 1999, when existing standards were withdrawn. There are a number of areas where existing equipment may fail the standard. This does not mean that equipment has suddenly become dangerous or that remedial action is required.

It should be noted that this is a safety report, NOT a standard compliance report and compliance/non compliance with BS EN 1176 is normally indicated. However, failures may not be mentioned, where they are very minor or of a mechanical nature and have no noticeable effect on safety.

Where there is a compliance failure, this is briefly noted and a risk assessment made of the failure. Where we believe action is required this is indicated in more detail and identified as a **moderate** or **high**, or **unacceptable risk**. Where no action is indicated, in our opinion there is no practical economic action that can be taken, and 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.**

The Standard is not mandatory or retrospective.

The inspection covers:

- Standard compliance, suitability and condition of equipment
- Dimensional compliance, suitability and condition of safer surfacing

The 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. Regular inspections should be undertaken by the operator to monitor the effects of these.

You may note that photographs may have been used from previous reports if there has been no change to the comments.

Standard assessment is undertaken where appraisal may be made without dismantling or destruction.

Inspections are non-dismantling. Where it is felt that removal of parts for assessment is required, this will be indicated. It is not possible to check for internal corrosion/rot without dismantling the equipment.

Sealed for life bearings should be checked replaced accordingly to the manufacturer's instructions. This is usually three or five years.

Safer surfacing has been assessed solely in terms of the area covered, and its condition.

Where a grass matrix tile surface has been used it may be noted that erosion to the grass has occurred in high use areas under the mats. Good grass growth is required as the impact absorbency of the mat relies upon the mat and the non-compacted soil on which it is laid. The roots of the growing grass hold the underlying soil in an open, non-compacted impact absorbing state. Once the grass stops growing, or is worn away, the roots die and the soil compacts. Where it is noted that grass is not present there is likely to be insufficient impact absorbency, unless this has been confirmed in certification to BS EN 1177. It is advised that where this has been noted an alternative safer surface is provided.

Where a continuous grass sward is not present and the holes within the tiles are accessible these holes can trap litter and debris, such as broken glass and stones, which should be removed as part of the normal litter picking.

Where there are trees within falling distance of the play area, it is recommended that a report on the integrity of the tree is obtained from a competent arboricultural expert.

Where no protective surface is provided to items with a fall height in excess of 600mm, the installation of a protective surface should be considered.

Grass may be used up to 1.5 metres providing that the risk assessment includes the following criteria:

1. A depth test of 150mm indicates few stones and hard objects.
2. Areas of wear are strengthened.
3. The use of the grass surfacing is monitored.
4. A good sward is maintained.

Tarmac and concrete are not recommended for use under any playground equipment from which falls are possible, irrespective of the fall height. A risk assessment will be given within the report where necessary.

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 inspections are carried out, including the removal and inspection of the 'D' shackle and pin and that this is carried out as a regular maintenance feature in the site owners own work programme.

A risk assessment of faults and standard failures are given in terms of **low**, **moderate** and **high**. As a general principle, items marked '**low**' only require monitoring or minor maintenance as noted in the report. Items marked '**moderate**' require appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment. Items marked '**high**' require urgent action. In rare cases where an item is likely to result in major injury or death, this will be noted as '**unacceptable**' and the operator or representative will be notified from the site by telephone. This will be indicated in the report.

The highest risk noted determines the overall risk of the site and will alter when remedial work is carried out.

There may be problems in assessing ground decay, where synthetic surface has been installed. Similar problems may occur with sub surface degradation. While we take every care to check ground decay and corrosion in supports, this cannot be done fully without removal and destruction of the surface.

RECOMMENDED INSPECTIONS

The Routine visual/tactile inspection enables the identification of obvious hazards that can result from vandalism; use or weather conditions i.e broken parts, broken bottles, graffiti. This should be carried out daily or weekly.

The Operational Inspection is a more detailed inspection to check the operation and stability of the equipment, especially for any wear. This should be carried out monthly or quarterly.

The Annual Inspection should be carried out by an independent RPII inspector to establish the overall safety of equipment, foundations and surfaces e.g. compliance with the relevant parts(s) of EN 1176, including any changes made as a result of the assessment of safety measures, effects of weather, presence of rotting or corrosion, and any change in the level of safety of the equipment as a result of repairs made, or of added or replaced components.

Site: **Judson's Recreation Ground**

Date: **28.11.16**

Inspection Completed At: **2.20 pm**



SITE COMMENTS

The play area is in good condition. The safer surfacing areas require cleaning to remove algae and to reduce the risk of slipping.

MODERATE RISK SITE

ANCILLARY ITEMS

Location: Within Playing field

The following were inspected and found to be in good order:

Fencing	Steel Flat Top
Gates x 2	
Service Gate	Padlocked



Picnic Table x 1



Signs

No Dog/No Ball Games/No Bikes/Age



Seat x 1



Litter Bins x 2

Outside of fence



Shelter



The following work is recommended:

Planting

The bushes around the gate require cutting back. *Low Risk*



Movement Clash

The roundabout and overhead rotator have been installed in front of both gates. This may create a movement clash.

Low Risk

PLAY AREA



Roundabout

Manufacturer – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. The surfacing is lifting at the edge of the roundabout. **Monitor**



2. The timber edging is shrinking from the concrete path edge.
Monitor



1 Bay, 2 Cradle seats with antiwraps

Manufacturer – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

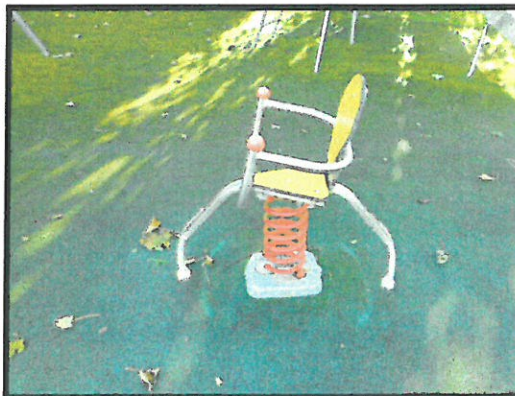
Maintenance Required:

1. There is algae growth on the surface giving slippery conditions.
It is recommended that the surface is cleaned and treated with an appropriate non-toxic weed killer. Moderate Risk



Spring Seat

Manufacturer – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There is movement to the base fixing of the spring. **Refix to secure. Low Risk**

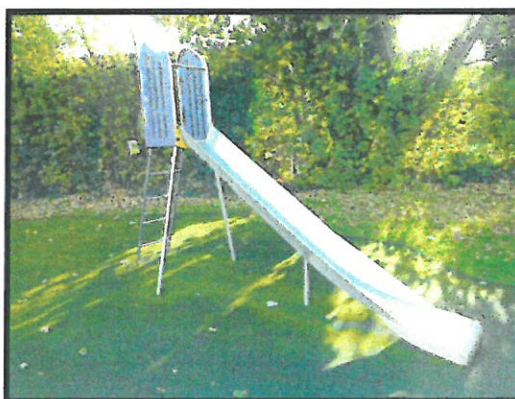
Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: The surfacing is in good condition and no remedial work is required.

Slide & Steps

Manufacturer – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There is algae growth on the surface giving slippery conditions. *It is recommended that the surface is cleaned and treated with an appropriate non-toxic weed killer.* **Moderate Risk**



Spring Seesaw

Manufacturer – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There is algae growth on the surface giving slippery conditions. *It is recommended that the surface is cleaned and treated with an appropriate non-toxic weed killer. Moderate Risk*



2. There is shrinkage around the centre repair. *Monitor*

**Multi Unit**

Manufacturer – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There are some missing donut covers. *Replacement is recommended. Low Risk*

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: No

1. The surfacing area is marginally insufficient at the climbing wall. This is considered to be **low risk**.

Maintenance Required:

1. There is algae growth on the surface giving slippery conditions. ***It is recommended that the surface is cleaned and treated with an appropriate non-toxic weed killer.*** **Moderate Risk**



Rotator

Manufacturer – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: The surfacing is in good condition and no remedial work is required.

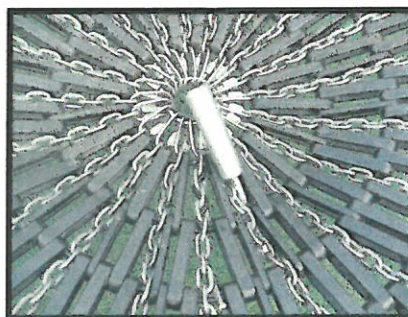
2 Bays, 2 Flat seats with antiwraps & 1 Basket seat

Manufacturer – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd



BS EN 1176 Compliance: No

1. Technically, there is a finger entrapment to the plastic fixings to the basket seat. This is however, considered to be **low risk**.

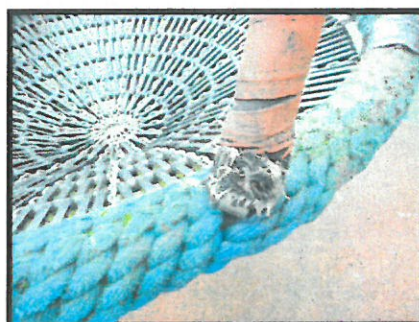


Note: A risk assessment based on previous accidents indicates a safety chain is required to each chain set to the basket seat.

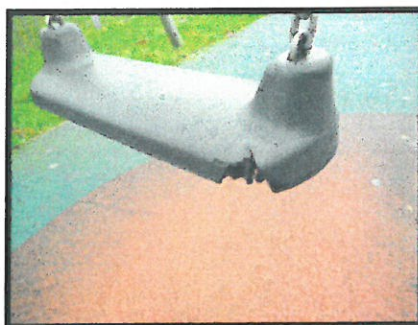
The need for regular checking for pivot and bush wear is recommended.

Maintenance Required:

Note: It was not possible to check all the lower chains for wear, as only one cover pulls back.



1. There is minor damage and splitting to one flat seat. **Monitor**



2. There is fraying to the chain covers to the basket. **It is recommended that the plastic cover is cut back and fraying removed.**
3. There is some chain wear. **Monitor and replace at 40% wear.**
4. There is wear to the plastic washer to the basket fixings. **Replacement is recommended.**



Safer Surface: Wet Pour

BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required:

1. There is separation and some cracking to the coloured areas. **Monitor** **Low Risk**



Adventure Trail

Manufacturer – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd



BS EN 1176 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Surface: Grass

Maintenance Required:

1. There is erosion to the sides of the wobble log. **Reinstatement is recommended.** **Low Risk**



Multi Use Games Area

Manufacturer – Park Leisure



The following was inspected and found to be in good order:

Litter Bin x 1



LOW RISK SITE

BS EN 15312 Compliance: Yes

Maintenance Required: There is no remedial work to be carried out at this time.

Surface: Tarmac with line markings

Maintenance Required: The surfacing is in good condition and no remedial work is required.

2016/2017

30

2. Environment & Amenities Committee

	O/Budget (£)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Totals	Balance (£)	Virement	Earmarked	Balance (£)
5203 Cleansing & Litter Contract	6,000.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00				4,050.00	1,950.00			1,950.00
5204 Southdown Shaw Maint	200.00			90.00				475.00						565.00	(365.00)			(365.00)
5205 Notice Boards	800.00	300.00												300.00	500.00		300.00	800.00
5206 Village Greens & Harvel	3,000.00													1,174.85	1,825.15		983.00	2,808.15
5207 Memorial Benches - maint	500.00													-	500.00		2,500.00	3,000.00
5208 Trees, Inc Comm Woodland	4,500.00													2,135.00	2,365.00		995.00	3,360.00
5209 Environmental Imp Scheme	500.00													92.35	407.65			407.65
5210 Judson's Play Area - maint	2,500.00	20.00						1,207.70	1,100.00		92.35			2,791.70	(291.70)		2,520.00	2,228.30
5211 Judson's Play Area - sinking	2,000.00										464.00			-	2,000.00		12,000.00	14,000.00
5214 Grants	2,300.00									2,688.33				2,688.33	(388.33)			(388.33)
5215 Youth Provision	3,000.00														3,000.00			3,000.00
Totals	25,300.00	485.06	1,050.00	1,535.00	610.00	450.00	1,130.00	2,132.70	1,845.41	4,002.71	556.35	0.00	0.00	13,797.23	11,502.77	-	19,298.00	30,800.77

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE - EXPENDITURE TO BE APPROVED 17.01.17

CHK	DATE	PAYEE	DETAILS	GROSS	CTTEE	BUDGET	CTTEE PAYMENT APPROVAL	PRIOR APPROVAL L/CONTRACT IN PLACE
1733	26/10/2016	Highview Tree Services	Maintenance Judsons	£1,200.00	E&A	Judsons maintenance	Approved	E&A - 1.9.16
1738	07/11/2016	JC Brooker	Southdown Shaw Grass cutting	£108.00	E&A	Allotments	TBA	delegated authority - clerk
1753	21/11/2016	Abacus Playgrounds	Supply & install surfacing Judsons	£1,320.00	E&A	Judsons - Play area maint.	approved	FC 18.10.16
1757	22/11/2016	Highview Tree Services	Service contract Nov 2016	£450.00	E&A	Service contract	approved	contractual
1760	01/12/2016	Southern Water	Drinking Fountain - Meopham Green	£15.51	E&A	Village Greens	approved	E&A - 06.09.16
1761	01/12/2016	Kent Wildlife Trust	Harvel Green Report	£300.00	E&A	Village Greens	approved	E&A - 1.11.16
1764	07/12/2016	Meopham & district footpaths	Grant	£340.00	E&A	Grants	approved	E&A - 1.11.16
1765	07/12/2016	Harvel Village Hall Management	Grant	£500.00	E&A	Grants	approved	E&A - 1.11.16
1766	07/12/2016	Meopham Parochial Church Council	Grant	£500.00	E&A	Grants	approved	E&A - 1.11.16
1767	16/12/2016	Over 60's	Grant	£150.00	E&A	Grants	Approved	FC - 13.12.16
1768	14/12/2016	Highview Tree Services	Replace & reset posts	£864.38	E&A	Village Greens	Approved	E&A - 22.9.15
1769	15/12/2016	Highview Tree Services	Service contract up to 14/12/2016	£450.00	E&A	Service contract	Approved	contract
1774	16/12/2016	Meopham Windmill Trust	Grant	£1,198.33	E&A	Grants	Approved	E&A - 1.11.16
1779	03/01/2017	Streetmaster Ltd	Bin - Judsons Play Area	£556.80	E&A	Judson's play area maintenance	Approved	E&A - 1.11.16
1783	03/01/2017	Bell Bush	Litter picking hoops	£110.82	E&A	Environmental scheme	TBA	delegated authority - clerk
				£92.80				
				£18.47				