

PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

Chideock Parish Council

Inspection undertaken June 2023
This report issued July 5th 2023

Park Name: Mill Lane
Location: Mill Lane, Chideock. DT6 6JS

This report is an independent safety assessment of the playground and its equipment produced by;

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REPORT NOTES

The British Standard for Play Equipment Manufacture, Installation & Maintenance is UKEN 1176:2008/2017 in parts. It supersedes 1176:1998 which was withdrawn on 31 May 2009. The standard for Safety Surfacing is BSEN 1177.

Operators and providers are advised that equipment conforming to EN 1176 requires regular maintenance. Guidance on this and appropriate inspection, maintenance and operation schedules are contained within BS EN 1176-7:2008.

National standards have been published by BSI on children's playground equipment since BS 3178 was first issued in 1959, this standard concentrated on specifications for specific types of equipment. It was replaced in 1979 by BS 5696 which switched focus to a design and safety approach. Playground equipment not complying with the various standards and revisions should not automatically be considered as being unsafe or to require replacement.

Goalposts are examined in this report in accordance with the revised guidelines published in BSEN16579:2018 or BS EN 748.

Goalposts not complying with this revision should not automatically be considered as being unsafe or to require replacement

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations and operators of play areas are required to ensure that their provision meets the statutory legal requirements of The Health & Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974.2. (HSWA), The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSW) and The Occupiers Liability Act 1957.

In accordance with the above regulations a risk assessment is used to determine what controls may be necessary or identify those that are in place. This report will recommend actions where appropriate and includes a record of the risk assessments (See 2). Any actions identified will be assumed to be the responsibility of the site operator unless otherwise identified.

This report will examine, but is not limited to;

- The general environment surrounding the play area/equipment and the approach(es) to the equipment, detailing any issues that may affect the operators' duty of care under HSWA/MHSW/OLA.
- The condition and nature of the safety surfacing (if any) and its compliance with BSEN 1177 detailing any issues that require the operators' attention also detailing any issues that may affect the operators' duty of care under HSWA/MHSW/OLA.
- The condition of the equipment and its compliance with the standards and guidelines shown above detailing any issues that require the operators' attention also detailing any issues that may affect the operators' duty of care under HSWA/MHSW/OLA.
- The installation of the play equipment and its compliance with the standards and guidelines above also detailing any issues that may affect the operators' duty of care under HSWA/MHSW/OLA
- An inspection of previous reports (where available) and any actions taken as a result of those reports or that remain outstanding at the date of this inspection.
- The general compliance of the equipment with the standards and guidelines above including verification of manufacturers certification where provided.
- If required, and where possible, it may be necessary to dismantle elements. Sealed units will not be opened but will be subjected to detailed scrutiny.

Time constraints indicated on this report are from the date of issue of the report. Any items considered to be of immediate need of rectification will have been notified in advance of publication.

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1.OVERVIEW

The Play Area is located off Mill Lane and is shown outlined on the location shot below.

The site is partially overlooked from nearby housing and a footpath passes next to the play area.

There is a small football pitch with the play equipment situated at one end. Access is good and is reasonable for those with limited mobility. In summer months the play area is used by visitors to the nearby campsite.

The site is off a no through road and traffic movements are light and limited.

The Play Area occupies an area of approximately 500m² (32m x 16m)

The overall site including the football pitch occupies an area of approximately 3,300m² (83m x 40m)

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

1.1. Location picture



2. ANCILLARIES & EQUIPMENT RISK FINDINGS

Ancillaries					
No.	Item	Condition	Risk/Risk Level	Control Required / Control Present	By When
1	Gates (Pedestrian)	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
2	Gate (Vehicle)	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
3	Fencing	Satisfactory	3 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
4	Bins	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
5	Benches / seats	Requires attention	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained /Remove bench	Ongoing / Within 1 month
6	Rubber Grass Mats	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
7	Planting	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
8	Signage	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
Overall Risk for Ancillary Items at time of inspection				Low	3

Equipment					
No.	Item	Condition	Risk/Risk Level	Control Required / Control Present	By When
9	Basket Swing	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
10	Junior Swing Set	Satisfactory	3 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
11	Multi Play Unit	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
12	Toddler Swing	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
13	Burma bridge	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
14	4-way climber	Satisfactory	3 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
15	Springer	Satisfactory	6 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
16	See Saw	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
17	Goal Posts	Satisfactory	6 /Low	Secure nets / Change goal type	Ongoing
Overall Risk for Equipment at time of inspection				Low	3

Environment					
No.	Item	Status	Risk/Risk Level	Control Required / Control Present	By When
18	Access to traffic	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep gates & fencing suitably maintained	Ongoing
19	Layout	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
20	Overlooked	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep sightlines suitably maintained	Ongoing
21	Proximity to Power	Satisfactory	6 /Low	Restrict access / Maintain Signage	Ongoing
22	Proximity to water	Satisfactory	6 /Low	Restrict access / Maintain Signage	Ongoing
Overall Risk for Environmental factors at time of inspection				Low	4

3.ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Item	Issues	Recommendation (s)
4.5	The decay in the springer base plate will lead to product failure	Plan for removal and replacement within 2.5 years / possibility of replacement of parts only.
4.8	Timbers are decaying	Replace older timber elements within 2 years. Treat all existing timbers
4.11	Blue bench has market decay	Remove/ replace / repair

4. SPECIFIC FINDINGS

The goal posts are due to be replaced.

There is satisfactory space for a Trampoline to be included and funds are currently being sought.

One bench requires attention and if replaced the new bench should be bought further forward away from the fence line.

4.1 *Twin Junior Swing Set*

Item No. K13-D

Manufactured: 18/01/2016

CFH: 1.25

Safety Surface: Grass / Grass Mat

This item is in reasonable condition.



4.2 Toddler Swing

Item No: N/K

Manufactured: Wicksteed

CFH:0.8m

Safety Surface: Grass / Grass Mat

This item is in reasonable condition but plans should be made to replace the seat in the next 12 – 18 months.

The toddler seat is showing signs of corrosion beneath the surface and will be monitored. The swelling and cracking in the rubber is typical of the deformation caused by the expansion in the surface below as rust develops.



4.3 *Playhouse with bridge & Slide*

Manufacturer – Playquest

CFH 06m

Safety Surface: Grass / Grass mats

This item is in reasonable condition for its age.



4.4 Sovereign Agility Cube

Item No. CP-Box (C
Manufactured:N/K (probably circa 2016)
CFH:0.75
Safety Surface: Grass / Grass Mat

The trim trail has been constructed with a series of elements to form a cube shape.

There are no issues with this unit but timber elements should be regularly treated against decay.



4.5 *Sit in Car Springer*

Item No:4410

Manufacturer / Supplier: Playquest

CFH 0.6m

Safety Surface: Grass

There is a great of corrosion on the base plates for this unit. Replacement of these components is possible and costs are shown at 5.



4.6 **Wicksteed See saw**

Item No: 6060-999

Manufactured:29/11/1996

CFH 1.35m

Safety Surface: Grass

This Wicksteed see-saw is still in good working order.



4.7 *Caledonian Play Basket Swing*

Item No: CO-BS

Manufactured: 18/01/2016

CFH 1.65m

Safety Surface: Grass / Grassmats

This item is in good condition.



4.8 ***Playquest Burmese Bridge***

Item No: 0490

Manufactured:n/k

CFH 0.6m

Safety Surface: Grass

This item is in reasonable condition for its age, but the remaining timbers will need replacing soon.



4.9 Goalposts

Manufacturer: Edwards Sport

The goals are due to be replaced with a fixed net style set.

This will resolve the frequent issues with unpegged nets.



4.10 Signs

Suitable signage is in place.

Warnings against deep water and overhead power cables are also present.



4.11 Barriers, Boundaries, Benches & Bins

The gates are self-closing, and the mechanism is working effectively.

Fencing and gates are in reasonable condition and are being well maintained.

There are several nearby bins and a variety of benches. The blue bench below is showing signs of decay and should be removed / replaced / repaired. Others around the site are in reasonable condition.





5. COSTS

Item	Issues	Recommendation (s)	Supply Only	Supply & fit
4.5	Springer corroding	Replace parts		£450.00
4.8	Original timbers decaying	Supply and fit new timbers to Burmese bridge		POA

APPENDIX 1. RISK TABLE

Severity		Probability	
1	Minor	1	Highly Unlikely
2	Moderate	2	Low Likelihood
3	Serious	3	Possible
4	Major	4	Likely
5	Life Changing	5	Highly Likely

		Probability				
		1	2	3	4	5
Severity	1	1	2	3	4	5
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	5	5	10	15	20	25

RISK SCORING		
1-6	Low Risk	There is a very low likelihood of any injury. At the upper end of the scale there may be more risk to very young or vulnerable users
8-16	Medium Risk	There is an increased possibility of injury and control measures may be required to reduce the likelihood or severity of injury. At the upper end of the scale there may be a need for increased control measures or access restrictions and monitoring and maintenance requirements may be more frequent
20-25	High Risk	The likelihood of significant injury is close to certain and use of the equipment or play area should be curtailed immediately. Measures must be in place to prevent further use until corrective action has been completed