

SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

Site name: North Tawton Memorial Park

Site owner/operator: North Tawton Town Council

Installer: TK Play Ltd

Inspector: Didrik Wold

Date of inspection: 7 August 2026



General description/comments:

Post-installation inspection of new swings and associated works:

All work completed to a good standard with no remedial work required.

Annual level inspection of the the whole site:

This is a large and well-equipped play park which caters for all ages. Site is partially overlooked by residential properties, and partially enclosed. The condition of the equipment is generally good with no high risk or terribly urgent issues, although the older timber items have varying degrees of timber rot and should be checked regularly.

Note: please see the information provided at the end of this report for more details on the scope & methodology of inspection, etc.



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Ancillary items

Signage



Findings: none

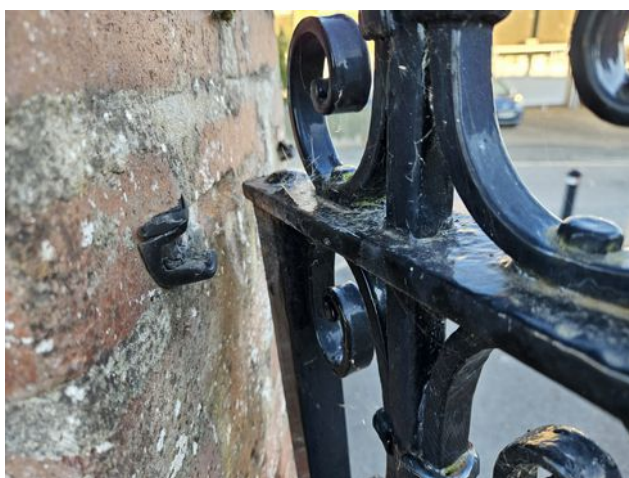
Gates (perimeter)



Base risk score: 4 (low)

Findings:

Perimeter gates are of varying designs, none of which are specifically intended for children's play areas. In particular the heavy iron gates have potential for misuse. Other gates have some wear in hinges, dragging on surface, etc.



Risk: 8 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: Keep the large maintenance/vehicle gate locked to prevent misuse. Replace worn/damaged rubber buffers on the pedestrian side. Monitor use and consider modifications if deemed necessary. If gates require replacement in future, consider providing safer gates that are designed for play spaces.

Gates (internal)



Base risk score: 4 (low)

Findings: none

Fencing (perimeter)

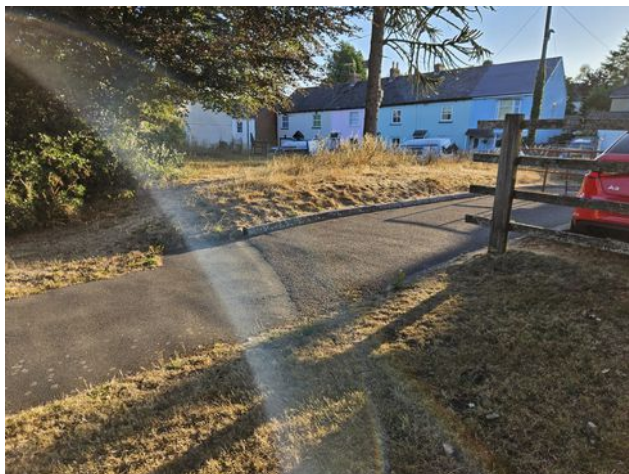


Base risk score: 4 (low)

Findings: 1. From certain angles it could appear as though the site is fully enclosed, and the various gates give that impression as well, however there are several ways children (and/or dogs, if off lead) could easily exit the site. This includes the exit to the car park (which does not have a gate), as well as the low level stone wall which, in places, leads to a considerable potential fall onto pavement below. There is also damage to residential fencing that borders the site.

Risk: 8 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: Ensure residential fencing is repaired and there are no gaps/holes which lead from play area in to private properties. Monitor use and consider further modifications if deemed necessary.



(fencing -perimeter continued)



2. Timber post & rail fencing near carpark is in poor condition, with severe rot in several of the posts (to the point where they've snapped off at the base).

Risk: 12 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: Repair or replace rotten/damaged fencing.

Fencing (internal)



Base risk score: 3 (low)

Findings:

1. This older style of bowtop fencing with the faller top hoops contains potential for head/neck entrapment. While fencing isn't playground equipment and isn't required to meet the same standards, it is still recommended.



Risk: 6 (low)

Suggested remedial action: Monitor use and consider modifications if deemed necessary. Ensure any new fencing provided in future meets with the requirements of the standards.

(fencing - internal - continued)



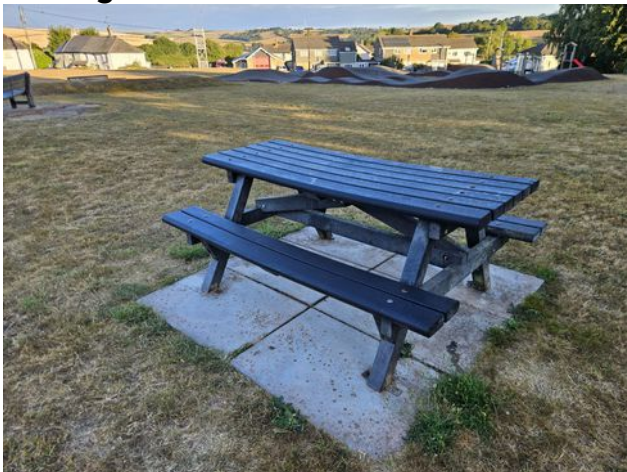
2. Missing caps/plugs expose sharp-edges holes which could trap fingers.

Risk: 6 (low)

Suggested remedial action: Replace missing caps/plugs.

Seating - Benches & Picnic Tables

Findings: none



Base risk score: 3 (low)

Litter Bins

Findings: none



Base risk score: 2 (low)

Site General



Findings:

There is an unused/redundant patch of old wetpour rubber surfacing, which has various trip hazards, etc. The surface is actually in reasonable condition and could be repaired/reused with new equipment in future.



Risk: 8 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: Monitor use



Play Items

Item type/name: Rocker - Cow



Manufacturer: Fahr

Free fall height: 0.45m

Surfacing type: Bonded rubber

Item complies with standards: Yes

Surface complies with standards: Yes

Base risk score: 3 (low)

Findings:

There is significant rust/corrosion around where the rocker body attaches to the spring.



Risk: 8 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: Monitor for further deterioration and repair or replace as needed.

Item type/name: Rocker - Spring Seesaw



Manufacturer: Fahr

Free fall height: 0.7m

Surfacing type: Bonded rubber

Item complies with standards: Yes

Surface complies with standards: Yes

Base risk score: 4 (low)

Findings:

There is significant rust/corrosion around where the rocker body attaches to the spring (less severe than the rocker cow).



Risk: 6 (low)

Suggested remedial action: Monitor for further deterioration and repair or replace as needed.

Item type/name: Multiplay - Junior



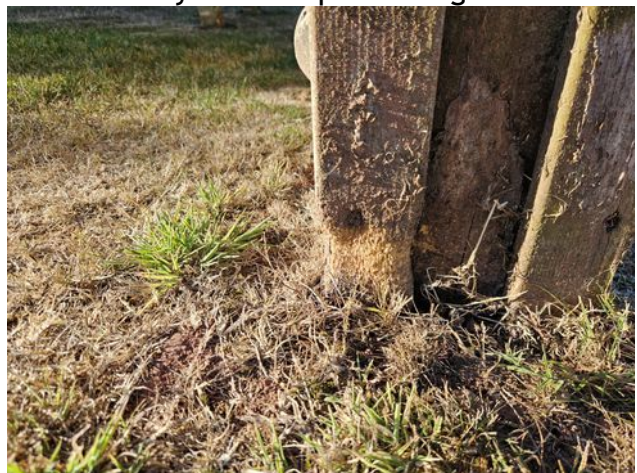
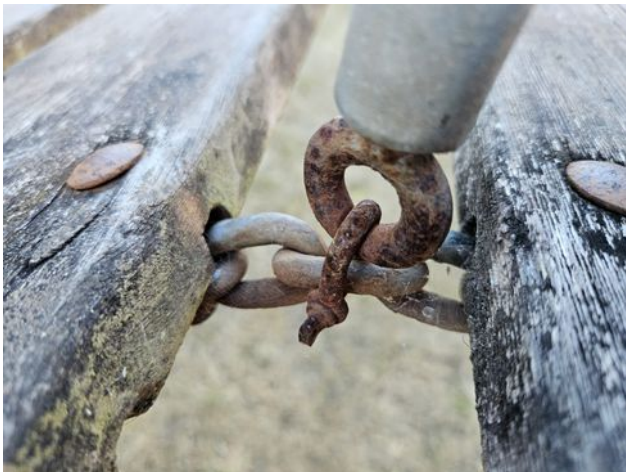
Manufacturer: Playline Design
Free fall height: 2.1m
Surfacing type: Grass Matrix Tiles
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 8 (medium)

Findings: The unit is showing its age, and there is evidence of timber rot, rusty /notched fixings throughout. That being said, none of this seems to be causing any urgent issues, and the unit feels generally pretty solid.



Risk: 12 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: No immediate action is required, but timber rot is unpredictable, and the unit should be checked for further deterioration and structural stability on a routine basis. Replacing all of the affected timbers would likely not be practicable, so the recommended course of action is to monitor and repair where possible/practicable, and plan for future replacement of the whole unit. Pay particular attention to the climbing net and climbing wall, as these sections rely on a single post for their stability, and could fail suddenly if outer post lets go.



Item type/name: Swing - 1 bay 3 seat



Manufacturer: Kompan
Free fall height: 1.6m
Surfacing type: Bonded rubber
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 8 (medium)

Findings:

The new frame, seats, and surfacing have all been installed correctly and to a good standard.

Item type/name: Swing - 1 bay 2 cradle



Manufacturer: Hags
Free fall height: 1.1m
Surfacing type: Bonded rubber
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 6 (low)

Findings:

Swing frame in generally poor condition and nearing end of useful service life (without considerable repairs).

Risk: 12 (medium)

1. There is considerable rot/corrosion in swing frame at/below ground level. It is not possible to assess the full extent without excavating around the base of the legs, but frame is currently stable. Treat and paint to prolong service life.



(swing - 1 bay 2 cradle - continued)



2. Swing hanger bushes long gone, and there is internal wear/damage to swing hangers, though, again, not causing any urgent or high risk issues.



3. Surfacing needs repair.



4. Some seat wear/damage. Monitor for further deterioration.



5. Tab-end shackles are not recommended as these can snag on clothing.



Item type/name: Bouncing Facility



Manufacturer: R&T
Free fall height: 0.9m
Surfacing type: Bonded rubber
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 6 (low)

Findings:

ID tag loose/damaged, exposing sharp edge



Risk: 5 (low)

Suggested remedial action: Remove damaged ID tag.

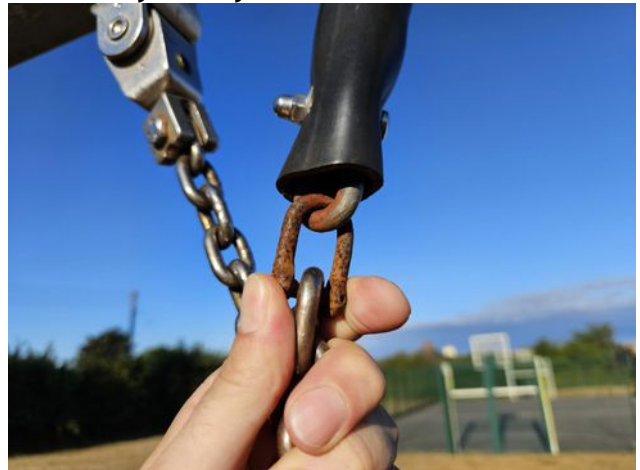
Item type/name: Swing - 1 bay 1 basket



Manufacturer: Unknown
Free fall height: 1.45m
Surfacing type: Bonded rubber
Item complies with standards: No
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 8 (medium)

Findings:

1. Some corrosion / chain wear in the secondary safety chains.



Risk: 6 (low)

Suggested remedial action: Replace rusty parts.

(swing - 1 bay 1 basket - continued)

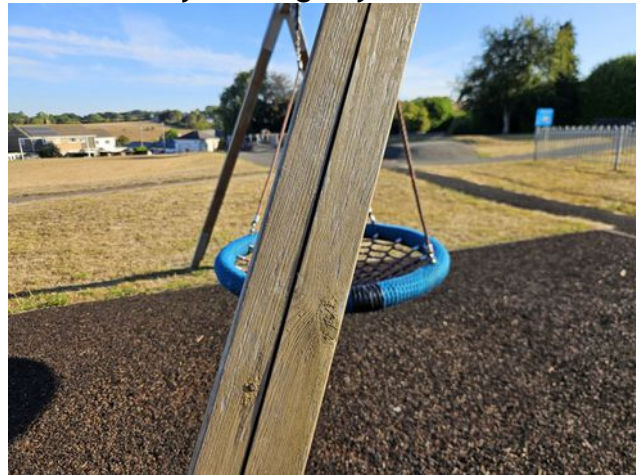


2. The opening created by the secondary safety chains fails the requirements for protection against entrapment.

Risk: 8 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: Eliminate entrapment potential by shortening secondary safety chains slightly. This can be done at the same time as replacing the rusty connecting links.

3. There is a split in the swing frame leg, not currently causing any issues.



Risk: 8 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: Monitor for further deterioration and/or any structural instability.

4. There is wear in the swing hanger bushes.



Risk: 6 (low)

Suggested remedial action: replace worn bushes.

Item type/name: Multiplay - Junior (large)



Manufacturer: Playline Design

Free fall height: 2.1m

Surfacing type: Grass Matrix Tiles

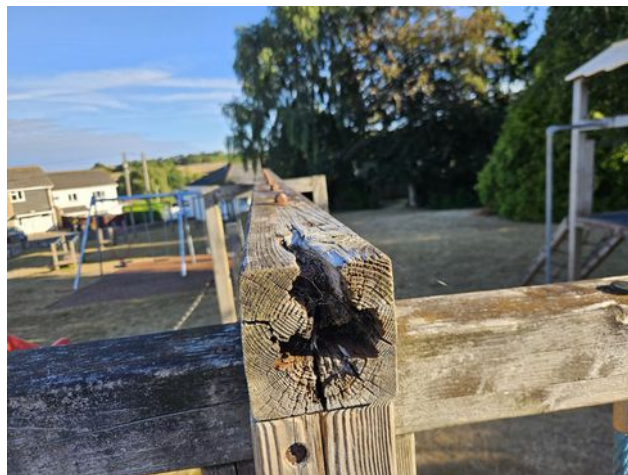
Item complies with standards: Yes

Surface complies with standards: Yes

Base risk score: 8 (medium)

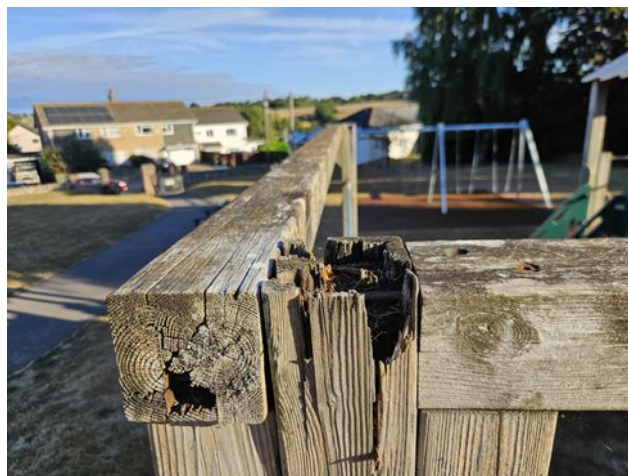
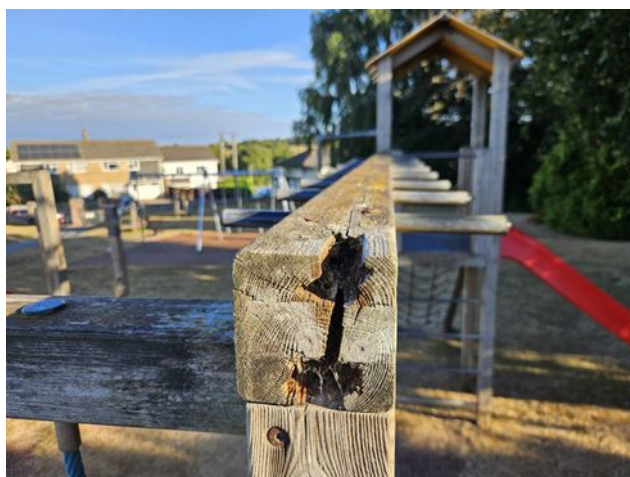
Findings:

The unit is showing its age, and there is evidence of timber rot, rusty /notched fixings throughout. That being said, none of this seems to be causing any urgent issues, and the unit feels generally pretty solid.



Risk: 12 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: No immediate action is required, but timber rot is unpredictable, and the unit should be checked for further deterioration and structural stability on a routine basis. Replacing all of the affected timbers would likely not be practicable, so the recommended course of action is to monitor and repair where possible/practicable, and plan for future replacement of the whole unit.



(multiplay - junior large - continued)



2. Surfacing needs repair.



Risk: 8 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: Repair or replace damaged sections.

Item type/name: Swing - 2 bay 4 seat



Findings:

The new frame, seats, and surfacing have all been installed correctly and to a good standard.

Manufacturer: Kompan

Free fall height: 1.5m

Surfacing type: Bonded rubber

Item complies with standards: Yes

Surface complies with standards: Yes

Base risk score: 6 (low)

Item type/name: Agility Trail



Manufacturer: Playline Design
Free fall height: 0.6m
Surfacing type: Grass Matrix Tiles
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 6 (low)



Findings:

The agility trail is showing its age, and there is evidence of timber rot throughout. That being said, none of this seems to be causing any urgent issues, and the various elements feel generally pretty solid.



Risk: 12 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: No immediate action is required, but timber rot is unpredictable, and the unit should be checked for further deterioration and structural stability on a routine basis, paying particular attention to the parts that rely on a single post for stability, with heavy overhead beams that could come down.

Monitor for further deterioration and repair or replace as needed.

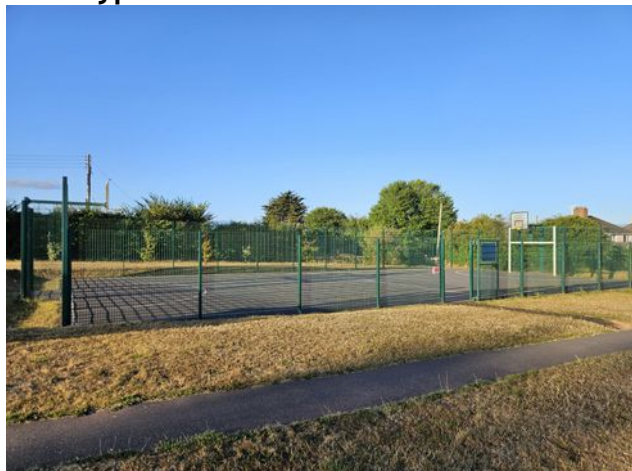


Item type/name: Football Goals (informal) **Findings:** none



Manufacturer: Harrod
Free fall height: N/A
Surfacing type: Grass
Item complies with standards: N/A
Surface complies with standards: N/A
Base risk score: 6 (low)

Item type/name: MUGA



Manufacturer: Unknown
Free fall height: N/A
Surfacing type: Tarmac
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 8 (medium)

Findings:

1. MUGA specific signage not provided.

Risk: 8 (medium)

Suggested remedial action: A clearly visible sign should be provided in a prominent position, including at least the following:

- This equipment is not intended for children less than 36 months of age
- "Do not climb on the framework or nets"
- "Do not hang on the ring" (if provided)
- "Do not wear rings or other jewellery as these can get caught and cause injury"
- Name and telephone number of the administrator/maintenance contact
- Number to call in case of accident

2. Numerous slightly loose fixings around fencing. Not currently causing any issues.

Risk: 6 (low)

Suggested remedial action: At next maintenance interval, check and tighten all the MUGA fixings.

Item type/name: Wheeled Sport - Start Ramp

Findings: none



Manufacturer: Forte Trailscapes

Free fall height: 0m

Surfacing type: Tarmac

Item complies with standards: Yes

Surface complies with standards: Yes

Base risk score: 12 (medium)

Item type/name: Wheeled Sport - Ledge

Findings: none



Manufacturer: Forte Trailscapes

Free fall height: 0.37m

Surfacing type: Tarmac

Item complies with standards: Yes

Surface complies with standards: Yes

Base risk score: 12 (medium)

Item type/name: Wheeled Sport - Grind Rail

Findings: none



Manufacturer: Forte Trailscapes
Free fall height: 0.35m
Surfacing type: Tarmac
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 12 (medium)

Item type/name: Wheeled Sport - Pump Track

Findings:
Minor separation between tarmac and bonded rubber mulch edging. Not currently causing any issues.



Manufacturer: Forte Trailscapes
Free fall height: 0m
Surfacing type: Tarmac
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 12 (medium)



Risk: 6 (low)
Suggested remedial action: Monitor for further deterioration and repair as needed.

Item type/name: Adult Fitness - Shoulder Press / Pull Down

Findings: none



Manufacturer: Unknown
Free fall height: 0.6m
Surfacing type: Grass Matrix Tiles
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 8 (medium)

Item type/name: Adult Fitness - Legs / Hips

Findings:
Hip twister bearing worn, and limiter function not working.



Manufacturer: Unknown
Free fall height: 0.6m
Surfacing type: Grass Matrix Tiles
Item complies with standards: Yes
Surface complies with standards: Yes
Base risk score: 8 (medium)



Risk: 8 (medium)
Suggested remedial action: Replace worn bearing.

General Notes

The risk scores are calculated by plotting the likelihood of harm against the severity of the injury sustained. The likelihood is given a score of 1 to 5, and the severity is given a score of 1 to 5. In doing this a matrix is produced which gives a numerical assessment of the risk on a score of 1 to 25, and a judgement is made as to which risks are low, which are medium and which are high. Risk scores may be adjusted in the light of experience and therefore may not be exactly as per the table. For example, a score of 7 may be noted.

Risks are calculated in this way:

1. An assessment of the likelihood of harm taking place is made using the numbers 1 to 5, by following these descriptions:

1 = Rare / 2 = Unlikely / 3 = Moderate / 4 = Likely / 5 = Certain

2. An assessment of the severity of the injury sustained is made using the numbers 1 to 5, by following these descriptions:

1 = Insignificant / 2 = Minor / 3 = Moderate / 4 = Major / 5 = Catastrophic

3. The two numbers are multiplied to give a risk score on a scale of 1 to 25.

4. Scores of 1 to 7 inclusive are considered to be low risk and are considered to be tolerable where this is the innate risk of the item, but where remedial works are identified these should be undertaken,

5. Scores of 8 to 12 are considered to be medium risk and some control measures may be identified to reduce the risks to low, tolerable levels,

6. Score of 13 and above are considered to be high risk and urgent action is considered to be necessary to reduce the risks to tolerable levels.

It is important to note that where an outcome is catastrophic, but for which the likelihood is rare this will present a score of $1 \times 5 = 5$ = low risk. Similarly, a certain event for which the consequence is insignificant will present a score of $5 \times 1 = 5$ = low risk. It is important to consider likelihood and consequence, and not just one of the factors in isolation.

The multiplication of the factors into a risk matrix is given here in Table 1, with a judgement made as to risk scoring indicated by colour.

Green = LOW risk, **Amber** = MEDIUM risk, **Red** = HIGH risk.

Table 1 – Risk Score Matrix

	Severity					
		1 Insignifi- cant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastro- phic
L i k e l i h o o d	1 = Rare	1 LOW	2 LOW	3 LOW	4 LOW	5 LOW
	2 = Unlikely	2 LOW	4 LOW	6 LOW	8 MEDIUM	10 MEDIUM
	3 = Moderate	3 LOW	6 LOW	9 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	15 HIGH
	4 = Likely	4 LOW	8 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	16 HIGH	20 HIGH
	5 = Certain	5 LOW	10 MEDIUM	15 HIGH	20 HIGH	25 HIGH

Inspection Scope

The inspections are undertaken using the RPII's inspection scope.

Compliance with Standards

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the appropriate standards for each item. Compliance with these standards is not mandatory in law, but it is useful to know whether items comply or not. If I think a change is needed, then this is noted in my report. Non-compliance does not necessarily mean that a change is needed. Where a standard is undated the current version is applied, unless overlap periods are allowed by the standards committee at the time of update.

The information provided herein is to assist the owner/operator to fulfil its responsibilities as detailed in the relevant standards. Other standards referenced within the listed standards do not form part of this inspection, unless they are also explicitly listed here.

The listed standards are relevant to all installations of equipment which are publicly accessible, including public parks, pay to play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, indoor play centres, farm parks and the like. All equipment used in publicly accessible areas should meet with the requirements of the relevant listed standard.

Additionally, EN 1176-7 provides guidance on installation, inspection, maintenance and operation to owners/operators of equipment and ancillary items. In the United Kingdom the National Foreword forms an important part to the understanding and implementation of the recommendations set out in EN 1176-7. It clarifies the application of the document within the UK as best practice guidance, as the document has been used since its initial publication. Therefore the EN 1176-7 contains no requirement in the UK and needs to be read and implemented as guidance, with the use of the terms 'shall' therefore becoming a recommendation, as in the term 'should'.

Domestic equipment falls outside the scope of standards for publicly accessible spaces. Domestic play equipment has its own standard (BS EN 71 - Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report, but compliance may be assessed to the applicable standard relating to publicly accessible equipment.

When water play items, including spray parks, are inspected any comments concerning compliance within the inspection will refer to EN 1176. I have not assessed these against the requirements of EN 17232 (Water play equipment and features).

Compliance with standards is not always a clear-cut thing. Some interpretation can be needed, and my interpretation may differ from the interpretation of others. In some cases, I may decide not to note non-compliance in cases where I think it may mislead or be unhelpful so to do.

What I Inspect

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 (that area which is obviously part of the playground), nominally up to 3.0 metres around, the fence line if closer, or other areas as agreed.

Operational inspections only take into consideration defects related to cleanliness, equipment ground clearances, ground surface finishes, exposed foundations, sharp edges, missing parts, excessive wear (of moving parts), structural integrity, 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 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 reasonably accessible equipment and will assess all reasonably accessible parts 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.

What I Don't Inspect

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 or beneath the playing surface.

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).

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.

I have inspected without dismantling or destruction and so some aspects of the relevant standards may not be testable on site.

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.

Exposure to Risk

Exposure to acceptable levels of risk and challenge is essential to children's development and allows them to exercise their right to play. Therefore, it can be judged that levels of risk above low risk can be acceptable. The risk scores shown allow the operator to make a judgement after first considering the benefit of the activity to which the risk score relates.

Ownership

There may be cases where I report issues that are not the site owner's responsibility. It is not necessarily possible for me to determine who owns what, and in any case I need to bring all risks to your attention if they can affect the safety of the site's users.

Contemporaneous Findings

My inspection report shows the findings at the time of inspection. Subsequent events may affect the condition of the site. Suggested remedial actions are based upon my knowledge and experience. The owner/operator should seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person when undertaking repairs and/or modifications to equipment.

Timber

Where timbers are set into the ground it is not always possible to determine levels of decay. The owner/operator should ensure it conducts appropriate inspections to identify decay before it becomes a problem. Timber is known to decay from the inside out. This makes it very important that you ensure proper testing and inspection is undertaken of your playground timbers, especially where defects may be hidden inside the structures. Testing using resistance penetration can help to identify defects before they become outwardly apparent, but can also confirm the condition of good timbers to prevent premature replacement with its associated costs. The testing is undertaken using a specialist machine, which uses electronically controlled drill resistance measurement. The drill is fine enough that it does not cause permanent damage to reduce the lifespan of the equipment.

Planting and Trees

Where planting or trees are mentioned in my report, please be advised that I do not undertake any arboricultural, horticultural or toxicological assessment of suitability or condition. You must ensure you undertake suitable inspections from an appropriate expert.

How This Inspection Contributes to Your Annual Main Inspection

The owner/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 facility.

The inspection guidance is listed in Table 1, with an indication of which parts will be included in your inspection (the items in the first column are the items which comprise an “Annual Main Inspection”, the second column shows which elements form part of my inspection, items with a cross are not included, some items may have limitations as shown in the notes to the Table 1). The standards also contain additional parts which the owner/operator should follow.

Table 1

Inspection Recommendations of relevant standards These form the Annual Main Inspection	Included in Our Inspection?
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of equipment (see note 1)	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Overall levels of safety of foundations (see note 1)	✓ [1]
6.2 d) Overall levels of safety of playing surfaces (see note 2)	✓ [2]
6.1 d) Compliance with the relevant parts of the standard and or risk assessment (see note 3)	✓ [3]
6.1 d) Effects of weather	✓
6.1 d) Presence of rot, decay or corrosion (see note 1)	✓ [1]
6.1 d) Assessment of repairs made or added or replaced components (see note 4)	✓ [4]
6.1 d) Excavation or dismantling/additional measures	✗
6.2.1 Assessment of glass reinforced plastics (see note 5)	✓ [5]
6.2.1 Inspection of one post equipment (see note 1)	✓ [1]
6.2.4 Undertaking the Operators inspection protocol	✓
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)	✗
N.B. The clause numbers above are taken from BS EN 1176-7:2020. The content is equally applicable to all other relevant standards. Playgrounds contains 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 details in the relevant standard. Notes [1] 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. We therefore cannot be held responsible for the presence of such decay. [2] 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 annual inspections. We can conduct impact testing for additional fees. [3] 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 [4] 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 [5] Visible glass fibres will be noted in reports. The operator is responsible for repairs or replacement.	