

PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

Puddletown Parish Council

Inspection undertaken June 2023

This report issued June 29th 2023

Park Name: Butt Close Play Area

Location: Butt Close, Puddletown DT2 8SU

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 It supersedes 1176:1998 which was withdrawn on 31 May 2009.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.

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 in that are in place. This report will recommend actions where appropriate and includes a record of the risk assessments. Any actions identified will be assumed to be the responsibility of the site operator unless otherwise identified (See Appendix 1-Risk Table).

The inspection and the subsequent report will examine, but are 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 on Butt Close and is shown outlined on the location shot below.

The site is overlooked from nearby housing.

The Play Area (outlined in the location picture)occupies an area of approximately 635m² (26m x 24m)

The overall risk for Butt Close at the time of the inspection was low.

Specific low Risk items need attention within three months.

1.1. Location picture



2. ANCILLARIES & EQUIPMENT RISK FINDINGS

Ancillaries					
No.	Item	Condition	Risk/Risk Level	Control Required / Control Present	By When
1	Fencing	Requires attention	8 /Medium	Replace/remove chain-link fencing	Within 3 months
2	Bench				
3	Artificial Grass	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Partially worn and requires patching	Within 12 months
4	Signage	Satisfactory	3 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
Overall Risk for Ancillary Items at time of inspection				Low	5

Equipment					
No.	Item	Condition	Risk/Risk Level	Control Required / Control Present	By When
5	Twin Toddler Swing	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
6	Small multi unit	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
Overall Risk for Equipment at time of inspection				Low	2

Environment					
No.	Item	Status	Risk/Risk Level	Control Required / Control Present	By When
7	Access to traffic	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Some distance to end of cul de sac	Control present
8	Layout	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Plenty of free space	Control present
9	Overlooked	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Housing on most sides	Control present

Overall Risk for Environmental factors at time of inspection	Low	2
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3. ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Item	Issues	Recommendation (s)
4.1	A patch to the grass matting has been removed.	Repair artificial grass.
4.3	The chain link fencing and posts are broken	Remove or replace the fencing
4.4	There is a No Ball games sign	Ask Magna to remove; there is no reason for it.

4. SPECIFIC FINDINGS

The chain link fencing is a hazard which requires attention. In terms of health and safety law this is a foreseeable hazard to which there is a practicable, reasonable and affordable solution. Failure to implement a solution means that the council face issues of liability in the event of an accident.

The bench has been broken and removed.

The artificial turf is worn and a hole is has formed. This is unchanged since the last report.

The swing frame predates the current standard and does not meet the requirements for clearance from the frame. This is an inconsequential finding, especially since the frame is fitted with Toddler Seats and will only be used under supervision.

There are no gates present but both exits are at the end of Cul -De -Sacs and traffic is a very minor issue.

4.1 *Twin Toddler Seat Swing*

Item No. N/K

Manufactured: Circa 1976

CFH:1.2

Safety Surface: Artificial turf

The eroded areas remain unchanged.



4.2 *Bespoke Multi Unit*

Item No. N/A

Manufactured: 2019

CFH: 0.8M

Safety Surface: Grass

The unit and surrounding surface are in good condition although the timbers on the unit are due a wood preservative treatment.



4.3 *Bench Seat*

Broken and removed.



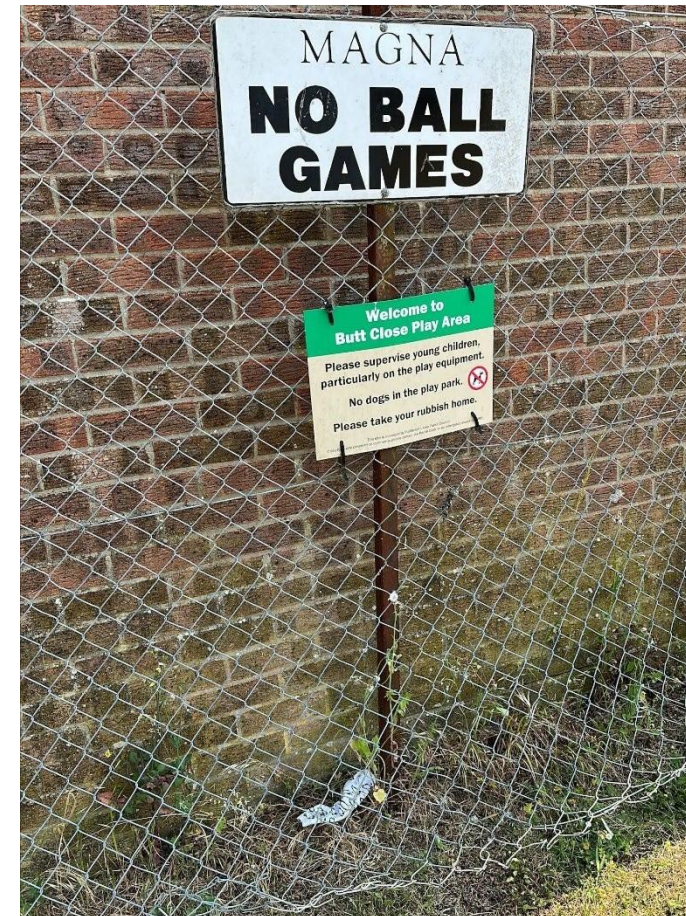
4.4 *Fencing*

The fencing issues here must be addressed.



4.5 Signage

Suitable signage is present



5. COSTS

Item	Issues	Recommendation (s)	Supply Only	Supply & fit
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APPENDIX 1. RISK TABLE

Severity	
1	Minor
2	Moderate
3	Serious
4	Major
5	Life Changing

Probability	
1	Highly Unlikely
2	Low Likelihood
3	Possible
4	Likely
5	Highly Likely

Probability

Severity		1	2	3	4	5
	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