

PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

Puddletown Parish Council

Inspection undertaken June 2023

This report issued June 29th 2023

Park Name: Puddletown Rec. Play Area

Location: Dorchester Road, Puddletown. DT2 8GE

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 It supersedes 1176:1998 which was withdrawn on 31 May 2009.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

MUGA's are examined in this report in accordance with guidelines published in BSEN15312. Games areas not complying with this guidance 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.

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.

Contents

REPORT NOTES 2

1. OVERVIEW 5

1.1.	Location picture	6
1.	ANCILLARIES & EQUIPMENT RISK FINDINGS	7
2.	ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS	9
3.	SPECIFIC FINDINGS	10
4.1	Step Trail inc. Huck Slack Rope	11
4.2	G.L.Jones Slide	12
4.3	Huck Spiders Web	13
4.4	Spielart Cantilever Swing	14
3.5	Spielart Gnome Smithy Playhouse	15
4.6	Huck Circus Trampoline	16
4.7	Wooden Stepping Logs	17
4.8	Balance Trail	18
4.9	Spielart Double Swing Frame	19
4.10	Fencing & Gates.....	20
4.11	Signs	21
4.12	Seating inc. Teen shelter	22
4.13	Sutcliffe Play MUGA End	23
4.	COSTS	24
APPENDIX 1.	RISK TABLE	25

1. OVERVIEW

The Play Area is located on Dorchester Road and is shown outlined on the location shot below.

The site is not overlooked other than by passing walkers on the footpath.

Most of the equipment in the site newly installed in 2016.

As part of the re-design of the site the car park entrance was moved. Previously it ran past and through the play area. There is a well-used footpath running to one side of the area which is regularly used by dog walkers etc.

The Play Area (in white outline) occupies an area of approximately 1,400m² (28m x 50m)

The Toddler Play Area (marked in red) occupies an area of approximately 375m² (24 x 15)

The entire site occupies 22,150 (300m x 75m)

The overall risk for Puddletown Rec at the time of the inspection was low.

1.1. Location picture



1. ANCILLARIES & EQUIPMENT RISK FINDINGS

Ancillaries

KEN HUSSEY – INDEPENDENT PLAY INSPECTION & CONSULTANCY

No.	Item	Condition	Risk/Risk Level	Control Required / Control Present	By When
1	Gates (Pedestrian)	Require attention	4 /Low	2 nd Gate to toddler area / Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
2	Vehicle Entrance	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Maintain warning signs	Ongoing
3	Fencing	Required attention	6 /Low	Allows climbing / Damaged sections	Replace
4	Benches / seats	Requires attention	6 /Low	Review Position / Remove	Within 3 months
5	Rubber Grass Mats	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
6	Sand	Satisfactory	3 /Low	Keep sand levels at indicator line	Ongoing
6	Planting	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
7	Signage	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
Overall Risk for Ancillary Items at time of inspection				Low	4

Equipment					
No.	Item	Condition	Risk/Risk Level	Control Required / Control Present	By When
8	Step Trail	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Remove concrete /Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
9	G.L.Jones Slide	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
10	Spiders Web	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
11	Cantilever Swing	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
12	Play House	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
13	Trampoline	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
14	Stepping Logs	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
15	Balance Trail	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
16	Double Swing Frame	Satisfactory	2 /Low	Keep suitably maintained	Ongoing
17	MUGA	Satisfactory	4 /Low	Display anti-climb signs	Within 3 months
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	Maintain Gates & signs	Ongoing
19	Layout	Requires attention	4 /Low	Fit second gate to toddler area	Ongoing
20	Overlooked	Requires Attention	4 /Low	There is limited visibility of the site – other controls need to be in place	Ongoing
21	Proximity to Power	Requires Attention	9 /Medium	Maintain signage and ensure access restricted	Ongoing
Overall Risk for Environmental factors at time of inspection				Low	5

2. ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Item	Issues	Recommendation (s)
4.10	Large mesh allows the fence to be climbed	Fit smaller gauge mesh to prevent climbing / Plant fence line
4.10	Mesh is broken leaving pointed ends	Replace broken sections
4.12	Seating is too close to fencing and unstable	Remove / if replaced then relocate
4.12	Extensive areas of rot developing in bespoke seating	Remove or replace
4.13	Rebound panel corroded	Repalce

3. SPECIFIC FINDINGS

The benches and one picnic table are in a terminal state of repair and should be removed.

The mesh stock fencing has breaks in it leaving hazardous pointed ends and needs to be replaced.

Options for planting along the mesh fencing should be looked at.

Erosion near the slack rope is exposing stone and concrete in the fall area. This should be removed.

A replacement panel for the Muga is on order.

The recommended sign advising against climbing is not present. .

4.1 Step Trail inc. Huck Slack Rope

Item No. 4591-80

Manufactured: 09/12 Ser. No. 12

CFH:0.2m

Safety Surface: Grass

There are no current issues with this configuration of a combination of slack rope, boulders & stepping logs other than the exposed rocks and concrete in the fall area – which should be removed.



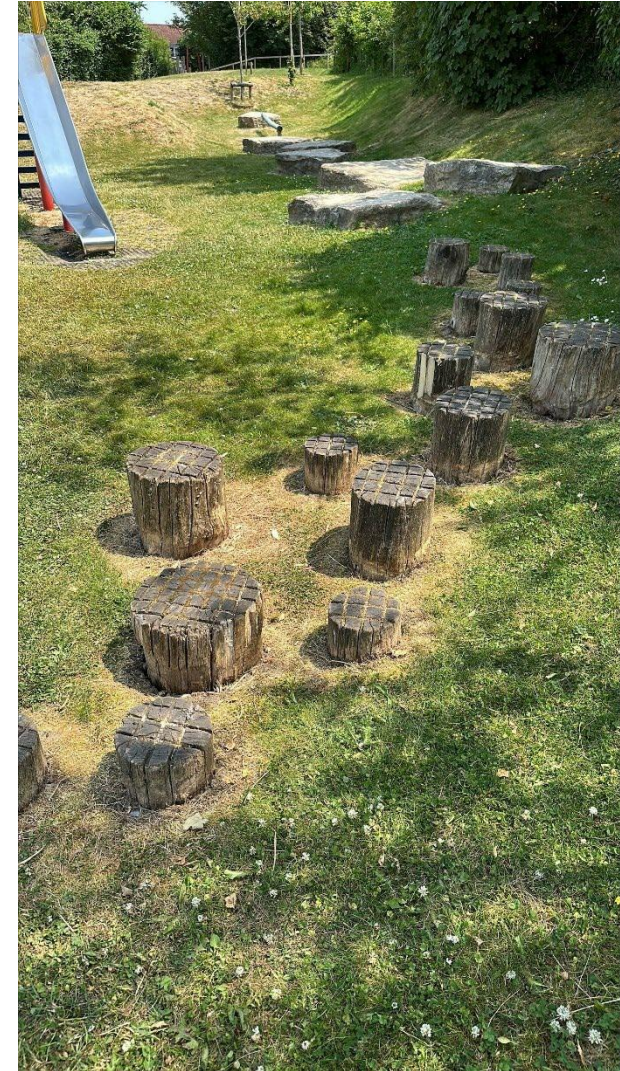
G.L.Jones Slide

Safety Surface: Grass with Rubber Matting

CFH:1.0m

Safety Surface: Grass with grass mat

4.2



This item predates the current BSEN1176 standards on entrapments and there is a potential entrapment between the risers. However, this is very low risk.

There are no other issues with this unit.



4.3 ***Huck Spiders Web***

Item No. 4597

Manufactured: 12/16 Ser. No. 11

CFH:1.5m

Safety Surface: Grass

Huck unit with natural oak posts.

No issues



4.4 *Spielart Cantilever Swing*

Item No. Q19

Manufactured: 2016

CFH: 2.0m

Safety Surface: Grass Mat

There are no significant issues with this unit.



3.5 *Spielart Gnome Smithy Playhouse*

Item No. C76

Manufactured: 2016
CFH: 0.5m
Safety Surface: Sand

There are no issues with this unit.



4.6 *Huck Circus Trampoline*

Item No. 20.02.112
Manufactured: 2011
CFH: 1.0m
Safety Surface: Grass

There are no issues with this unit.



4.7 **Wooden Stepping Logs**

Item No. n/k

Manufactured: 2016

CFH: 0.4m

Safety Surface: Grass

There are no issues with this unit.



4.8 **Balance Trail**

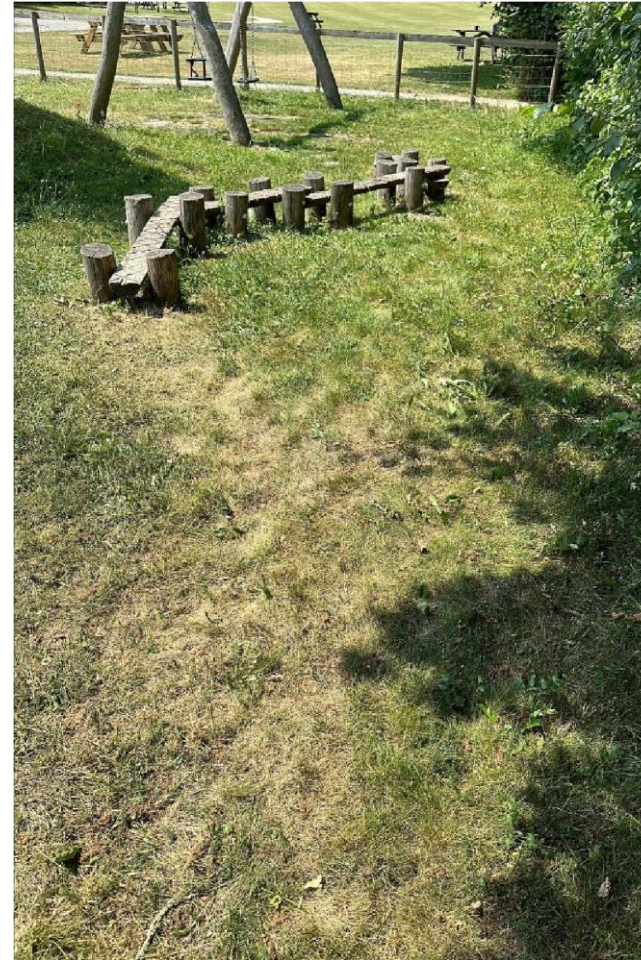
Item No. N/K

Manufactured: 2016

CFH: 0.2m

Safety Surface: Grass

There are no issues with this unit.



4.9 *Spielart Double Swing Frame*

Item No. Q1-1C

Manufactured: 2016

CFH: 1.25m

Safety Surface: Grass

There is some corrosion staining appearing on the toddler seat.

There are no other issues with this unit.



4.10 Fencing & Gates

Consideration should be given to planting to prevent the climbing hazard caused by the mesh fencing. The stock mesh fencing on at the entrance has a number of breaks and requires replacement / repair. When this light gauge fencing breaks it leaves pointed ends which can be a hazard to young children.

There is only one entrance and exit to the toddler area via a Monohinge gate, which is functioning as expected.



4.11 Signs

Location and contact signs are present and suitable.

The sign warning of the presence of overhead power cables is clearly displayed and securely fixed.



4.12 Seating inc. Teen shelter

Most, if not all of the rustic seating originally installed is in need of removal and/or replacement. A heavy individual sitting forcibly on any of the seats may cause collapse and injury. The one picnic table sited within the play area is extremely unstable and should be removed.

It is difficult to see why some of the seats are still in place given their condition.



4.13 Sutcliffe Play MUGA End

Item No: TZU 009

Manufacture Date: 05.09.06

Sports England guidance on signs recommends that a sign is displayed with the wording below. Such a sign is not currently displayed.;

“Do not climb on the framework and do not hang on the ring”

The rebound panel is scheduled for replacement.



4. COSTS

Item	Issues	Recommendation (s)	Supply Only	Supply & fit
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4.10	Basketball sign missing	Fit Sign	POA	POA
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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