

POST INSTALLATION SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

For Walberswick Parish Council

31st July 2016

Play Area, Common, Walberswick



An independent safety assessment of the playground and equipment by

David Bracey ILAM Dip.

David Bracey Play Safety Inspections

3 Magnolia Court, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2SF

01502 587351 / 07500043756

info@safeplaygrounds.co.uk / www.safeplaygrounds.co.uk



David Bracey has over twelve year's experience of Play Inspections. Several thousands of sites have been successfully inspected. David has thirty years previous experience in Local Government working in Parks, Playground, Leisure and Environmental Management. He was a Play Inspector for Rospa between 2004 -11, and now concentrates working for his own company.

The company provide convenient and timely inspections undertaken by a Fully Independent Inspector, which guarantees a sensible approach and impartial report with no personal interest other than the safety of the facility. No links to any manufacturer or installer means a Fully Independent Inspection is given.

David Bracey is qualified to Rpii Annual Inspector Standard, which is the highest level. Has passed a Criminal Disclosure Check and holds Full Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance.

The following forms an integral part of the inspection report

Reading it may save you unnecessary expenditure

SEE ALSO INSURANCE NOTES

1. The equipment has been assessed, as relevant, in accordance with BS EN 1176: "Playground Equipment", BS EN 15312 (Sports Areas), BS EN 14974 (Wheeled Sports) and EN 16630 (Outdoor Fitness Equipment).

The BS EN1176 was published on 1 January 1999 when existing standards were withdrawn.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. Generally equipment that fails BS EN 1176 but passed the previous standard BS 5696 at time of installation should be considered safe (excluding any maintenance issues).**

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 medium or high risk.** (See paragraph 13). Where no action is indicated, in our opinion there is no practical economic action that can be taken and the 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).

Standard compliance is not mandatory or retrospective.

2. The inspections cover:

Site safety

Suitability and conditions of ancillary items

Standard compliance, suitability and condition of equipment

Dimensional compliance, suitability and condition of surfacing

The report indicates 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. Routine inspections should be undertaken by the operator to monitor the effects of these.

3. Standard assessment is undertaken where appraisal may be made without dismantling or destruction.
4. The inspections are non-dismantling inspections. Where it is felt that removal of parts for assessment is required, this will be indicated. (See paragraph 13). It is not possible to check for internal corrosion/rot without dismantling the equipment.
5. Surfacing has been assessed solely in terms of the area covered and its condition or security.

6. Where there is open water within easy walking distance of the play area it is recommended that a water safety report be commissioned (David Bracey Play Safety Inspections can undertake this).
7. 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 (see www.trees.org.uk for list of qualified consultants)
8. Where no protective surface is provided with items which have a fall height in excess of 600mm, the installation of a protective surface should be considered. Such surfacing is not mandatory but does represent good practice. It should be noted that BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177 allow well-maintained grass for fall heights of up to 1500mm.
9. Surfacing up to a fall height of 600mm does not require testing for impact absorbency.
10. In addition to inspecting the equipment and surfacing, the inspection also looked at ancillary items and general design features where relevant to safety.
11. 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 inspection by removal of the 'D' shackle and pin is carried out as a regular maintenance feature in the site owner's work programme.
12. It should be noted that this is a safety report, not a standard compliance report, and compliance/non compliance with EN1176 is normally indicated. However failures may not be mentioned where they are very minor, or of a technical nature, and have no noticeable effect on safety.
13. A risk assessment of faults and Standard failures is given in terms of low, medium and high. **As a general principle items marked as "low" only require monitoring.** Items marked as "medium" require appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment. **Items marked as "high" require urgent action.** In rare cases where an item is likely to result in major injury or death, the operator or appropriate representative will be notified from the site by telephone. This will be indicated on the report.
14. There can be problems with assessing ground decay where synthetic surfaces have been installed. Similar problems may occur with sub-surface degradation. While care is taken to check ground decay and corrosion in supports, this cannot be done fully without removal and destruction of the surface.
15. In order to provide economic reports, standard wording is used for most common standard/maintenance failures. The inspector also works using previous year's reports (where available). **This may mean that where there have been few changes to the site, the current report may be similar to the previous year's report.**
16. The Disability Discrimination Act applies to play areas. There is a duty, where practicable, to make reasonable provision for equal opportunities for disabled people. David Bracey Play Safety Inspections can advise on this.
17. The Management of Health and Safety Regulations require a risk assessment of the play area for risks to users. This is a highly specialised subject. A risk assessment is included in the report, although it is normally recommend that such formal risk assessments be undertaken every 4-5 years.

INSURANCE NOTES

The HSE and the courts state that where practical risks should be reduced to 'an acceptable level'. It is worth noting that the courts are being reasonably robust regarding claims and recent instances show that courts have thrown out speculative claims and also at the same time awarded costs against the claimant.

Successful litigation depends upon being able to prove negligence on behalf of the operator. Just because someone has an accident it does not mean that the operator was negligent. It could however be deemed that the failure of the operator to reduce the risk to an acceptable level is negligent. Some items of equipment, by the very nature of the activity that takes place on them, are deemed to be medium or high risk. This may be deemed to be an unacceptable level. For instance any sports facility (including Multi Use Games Areas etc.) will normally be at least medium risk. This is because by playing sport there is always a risk of injury (torn ligaments, sprains and contact injuries etc.). Someone cannot successfully sue just because they got an injury. They have to prove that they got the injury as a result of the negligence of the site operator. Similarly Wheeled Sports (Skateboard etc.) facilities, even in perfect condition, are high risk. This acknowledges that some 'nasty' injuries occur when a skateboarder, for instance, tries a complex trick and gets it wrong with subsequent injury. The only time the operator could be held responsible is if the accident could be caused by their negligence and 'getting a trick wrong' by the skateboarder is nothing to do with the operator.

It should be appreciated that there is no such thing as 'no risk'. There is a risk associated with everything we do and Low Risk is as low as you can get. Therefore as you cannot get lower than low risk, it is reasonable that remedial work on items indicated with low risk failures in this report *and where some remedial action is suggested* is only undertaken when resources are available. Very low cost work is recommended to be completed within 12 months but in all other circumstances a much longer time cycle is acceptable and in the case of equipment nearing the end of its useful working life any action may not be considered necessary.

Finally, Professor David Ball, an adviser to the HSE, has estimated that the risk of a life threatening injury on any form of play area is less than 1:30,000,000. The HSE consider a 1:10,000,000 chance is negligible so the

risk of any life threatening injury on an area where children and young people play is insignificant.

In spite of this, it is recommended that all site operators carry a minimum of £5,000,000 public liability insurance for their own protection and that they undertake routine documented inspections of their own in addition to the annual report.

Name of site: Play Area, Common, Walberswick

Owner: Walberswick PC

Client: Walberswick PC

Date: 31st July 2016

Inspector: David Bracey

Site Comments

Newly installed play items and refurbished items on existing play site. The design age range for the play area is 3 to 12 years. The equipment is well constructed and installed and is fit for the purpose intended. The layout and design of the scheme is very good.

Site and Ancillary Items

The following items have been inspected and found to be in good order:

Orientation

Minimum Space - equipment

Traffic Clashes – users

General Surface – Grass

Work to be completed

Disposal of rubbish/site tidy to be undertaken – 1st August 2016.

Play Area

Item 1: Large Ship

Supplier: Marriot Play and Leisure Services



EN 1176 Standard Compliance	Yes
Label to EN 1176	No
Other safety failures	No
Installation Correct	Yes
Installation faults	No
Surfacing type	Safergrass and Grass
Dimensions	Correct
Dimension size	-
Random depth	30mm /150mm
Estimated Critical Fall height	1900mm

Where, in the Inspector's opinion, the depth/hardness of surfacing may be inadequate, this is indicated in Additional Comments. As a matter of good practice the supplier should provide certification that the above depth of surfacing meets the HIC requirements of EN 1177.

Surfacing installation	Correct
------------------------	---------

Additional comments	A Slide has been ordered from Fahr Industries that conforms to EN1176 and will be installed as soon as possible. The area where
---------------------	---

the slide is to be installed has been made safe (blocked off) and conforms to EN1176

Item 2: Viking Ship

Supplier: Marriott Play and Leisure



EN 1176 Standard Compliance	Yes
Label to EN 1176	No
Other safety failures	No
Installation Correct	Yes
Installation faults	No
Surfacing type	Grass
Dimensions	Correct
Dimension size	-
Random depth	150mm
Estimated Critical Fall height	1000mm

Where, in the Inspector's opinion, the depth/hardness of surfacing may be inadequate, this is indicated in Additional Comments. As a matter of good practice the supplier should provide certification that the above depth of surfacing meets the HIC requirements of EN 1177.

Surfacing installation	Correct
Additional comments	Shields to be installed on sides to EN1176.

Item 3: 1 Bay 2 Flat Seat Swing (2400mm)

Supplier: Playscape – Refurbished by Marriot Play and Leisure



EN 1176 Standard Compliance	Yes
Label to EN 1176	No
Other safety failures	No
Installation Correct	Yes
Installation faults	No
Surfacing type	Tiles (refurbished) / Safergrass (new)
Dimensions	Correct
Dimension size	-
Random depth	30mm
Estimated Critical Fall height	1500mm

Where, in the Inspector's opinion, the depth/hardness of surfacing may be inadequate, this is indicated in Additional Comments. As a matter of good practice the supplier should provide certification that the above depth of surfacing meets the HIC requirements of EN 1177.

Surfacing installation Correct

Additional comments Refurbishment include infilling holes in metal supports and making good. And infilling gaps between tiles with purpose filler and laying new Safergrass Matting.

Item 4: Springy Sheep

Supplier: Fahr



EN 1176 Standard Compliance	Yes
Label to EN 1176	No
Other safety failures	No
Installation Correct	Yes
Installation faults	No
Surfacing type	Safergrass
Dimensions	Correct
Dimension size	-
Random depth	30mm
Estimated Critical Fall height	400mm

Where, in the Inspector's opinion, the depth/hardness of surfacing may be inadequate, this is indicated in Additional Comments. As a matter of good practice the supplier should provide certification that the above depth of surfacing meets the HIC requirements of EN 1177.

Surfacing installation	Correct
Additional comments	Algae removed from item, and left in a clean condition.

Risk Assessment Evaluation

Client: Walberswick PC

Site: Play Area, Common, Wlberswick

Date: 31st July 2016

Type: Age 3 – 12 years

Risk Score	Risk Categories
1 -3	Very Low Risk -Monitor
4 -7	Low Risk – Monitor and take reasonable action if possible
8 - 12	Medium Risk – Take action to reduce if possible, or available
13 - 20	High Risk – Take Action immediately and access control measures
21 +	Unacceptable Risk – Remove or immobilise before taking immediate action and assessment of control measures

Ancillary Items and Environmental or Other Hazards

Ancillary Items	Risk Score	Comments	Action or Control
General Surface – Grass	3		

Environmental Hazards	Risk Score	Action, Comment or Control Recommended
Free/Fall Space	2	
Traffic Clashes	3	
Design Defects	3	

Equipment and Surfacing

Equipment Items	Surface	Risk Score	Action, Control or Comments
Large Ship	Safergrass/Grass	5	
Viking Ship	Grass	3	
Flat Seat Swing	Safergrass/Tiles	4	
Springy Sheep	Safergrass	3	

Risk assessment evaluation should be read in conjunction with Annual or Post Installation reports. Where action or control relates to maintenance, non-compliance or minor defects read Annual Inspection or Post Installation reports for detailed comments. Serious or high risk failures should, however be noted. Failure to comply with the standards will be identified in the reports.

Design, location and physical site factors may determine the overall risk of the site. These may be difficult to change economically, However, where maintenance or control methods are undertaken the site could be reduced to **N/A** Risk subject to a future inspection and reassessment.

ASSESSED LEVEL OF RISK FOR THE PLAYGROUND ITEMS INSPECTED AT THE TIME OF INSPECTION WAS LOW RISK

Name of site: Play Area, Village Green, Walberswick

Owner: Walberswick PC

Client: Walberswick PC

Date: 31st July 2016

Inspector: David Bracey

Site Comments



The inspection included checking the depth of woodchip at the play area (not provided by Marriot Play and Leisure). The woodchip was tested at 150mm deep, which is 150mm less than recommended (300mm). However, it is thought that the surfacing will be replaced by Safergrass Matting when funds allow (6 months?). The surface currently is Low risk, and is acceptable for use at the present time but it is recommended to rake the woodchip weekly (?) towards and under the major fall areas under the Slide and Swings, to ensure that maximum impact absorption possible is given.

