

**N. W. Adams**  
Engineering Design Services

Annual Inspection Report of the Play & Sports facilities at  
Pollards Moor Road, Copythorne

for

Copythorne Parish Council



Register of Play Inspectors  
International Certificate No.1023A

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24th August 2021

*The following forms an integral part of the inspection report*

1. *The equipment has been assessed, as relevant, in accordance with EN 1176: 2017 "Playground Equipment and Surfacing". The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) has been assessed, as relevant, in accordance with BSEN 15312:2007 "Free access multi-sports equipment – Requirements, including safety and test methods."*

*Where there is a compliance failure, this is briefly noted and a risk assessment made of the failure. **Where it is believed action is required this is indicated in more detail (in italics) and identified as a medium or high risk** (see paragraph 13). Where no action is indicated, in my 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). These failures to comply will continue to be monitored and, if necessary, will indicate action on future annual reports.*

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*

*Reports indicate 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 (e.g. some surfaces may become slippery when damp). Regular 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. *Inspections are non-dismantling inspections. Where it is felt that removal of parts for assessment is required, this will be indicated. (See paragraph 14). 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. Tests for impact absorbency are available at an economic rate if required.*
6. *Where there is open water within easy walking distance of the play area it is recommended that a water safety report be commissioned.*
7. *Where there are trees within falling distance of the play area it is recommended that a report on the integrity of the trees are obtained from a competent arboricultural expert (see [www.trees.org.uk](http://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 EN1176 & EN1177 allows well maintained grassed topsoil (not impeded by a high proportion of roots/solids/ stones/bricks) depending on conducive climatic conditions for fall heights up to 1.5m.*
9. *There should be an impact attenuating surface over the entire impact area beneath all equipment with a free fall height of more than 600mm and/or equipment causing a forced movement on the body of the user (i.e. swings, slides, rocking, cableways, carousels etc.).*
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 where 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 surface has been installed. Similar problems may occur with sub surface degradation. While every care is taken to check ground decay and corrosion in supports, this cannot be done fully without removal and destruction of the surface.*
15. *Many facilities are manufactured using timber or timber products. Small splinters are known in rare cases to develop to a projection upon contact and cause injury. Such splinters are very difficult to detect. Checks are made to identify such splinters where obvious but does not preclude the possibility of such circumstances occurring.*
16. *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.*
17. *The Equality Act applies to play areas. There is a duty to, where practical, make reasonable provision for disabled people. EDS can advise.*
18. *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. Engineering Design Services can undertake such an assessment with the next annual inspection. EDS recommend that such formal risk assessments be undertaken every 4-5 years unless the play area is modified.*
19. *Items shown in Italics are recommended for action.*
20. *Items marked "monitor" should be included for the following inspections as defined in EN1176-1 and appropriate action should be taken when required;*
  - (a) *routine visual inspections*
  - (b) *operational inspections*
21. *Swing surfacing areas are calculated with the seat(s) set at the lowest height recommended by EN1176-2 (i.e. the maximum surfacing requirement).*
22. *Should you have any queries either telephone the number on the front cover, alternatively E-mail EDS on [info@engineering-design-services.co.uk](mailto:info@engineering-design-services.co.uk).*



## RPII Inspection Methodology

This document outlines the RPII position on inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed on the RPII Register of Inspectors for Indoor Annual, Outdoor Annual, Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine.

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only; where no date for the standard is given it the date of the standard will be that current at the time of inspection with the exception of where overlap periods are granted by the standards committee when standards are updated. The information contained in reports is provided to assist the owner/operator in fulfilling their responsibilities as detailed in the relevant standard. Other standards referenced within the listed standards do not form part of the inspection.

The following standards are relevant to all installations of equipment that are publicly accessible to users; this would include public parks, play and play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, indoor play centres, farm parks etc. All equipment used or employed in publicly accessible areas should meet with the requirements of the relevant standards (listed below);

BS EN 1176 Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11 Playground equipment intended for permanent installation outdoors & indoors.

BS EN 1176 Part 7 - 'Guidance on Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation' (this document gives guidance to the owners/operators of the facility on the installation, inspection, maintenance and operation of playground equipment, excluding ancillary items).

In the United Kingdom the National Foreword forms an important part to the understanding and implementation of the recommendations set out in this document. 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, in the UK this standard (BS EN 1176 - Part7: 2020) contains no requirements and needs to be read and implemented as guidance, with the use of the term 'shall' therefore becoming a recommendation, as in the term 'should'.

Domestic play equipment falls outside of the scope of BS EN 1176 and has its own standard (BS EN 71 – Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report but any comments concerning compliance within the inspection will still refer to BS EN 1176.

Other equipment that is not clearly identified as unsupervised or domestic (natural play, self-build equipment etc.) will be assessed for compliance with the relevant standard listed below:

**BS EN 15312** Free access multi-sports equipment

**BS EN 14974** Skateparks

**BS EN 16630** Permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment

**BS EN 16899** Parkour equipment (plus RPII/API guidance notes)

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 up to 3.0 metres around, or the fence line if closer.

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, litter, 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 for 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 standing surfaces (where it is possible to stand without hand support) as necessary on the equipment and assess all parts up to 2.5m 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 risk assessed using the inspector's knowledge and experience of the standards named in this document. (Note: Ancillary items are not included in the specific equipment-type parts of the EN 1176 series; hence they are not assessed for compliance with EN 1176 series and are subject to risk assessment). 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.

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. 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).

Where planting or trees are mentioned in the report no assessments of toxicity, suitability or condition are undertaken; the owner/operator should have suitable inspections provided by a competent person.

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.

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.

The details contained within the report are a snapshot of the condition at the time of inspection only and subsequent events may affect the condition of the facility. Suggested remedial actions are based on the knowledge and experience of the inspector and/ or that of the inspection company. The owner/operator should seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person at all times when undertaking repairs and/or modifications to equipment.

## Table 1

The 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 facilities. The inspection guidance is listed in Table 1, with an indication of which parts will be included in an RPII Annual or Post-Installation Inspection. The relevant standards also contain additional parts which the operator should follow.

<b>Inspection Recommendations of relevant standards</b> Refer to relevant standards for full text	Annual Main	RPII Annual/ Post Installation 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]
6.1 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 Maintenance of one post equipment (see note 1)	✓	✓ [1]
6.2.4 Undertaking the Operators inspection protocol	✓	✗

NB: The clause numbers in table 1 are taken from BS EN1176 - Part 7:2020. The content is equally applicable to all other relevant standards listed herein. Playgrounds contain 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 detailed in the relevant standards.

[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 or with a hammer and/or steel rod. Decay in timber may exist which can only be found with specialist equipment.

[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 RPII annual inspections.

[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.

## Copythorne Parish Hall Play & Sports facilities

Date of inspection  
24.8.2021.

### General Comments

Limited potential casual supervision available from roads, footway & properties.

*Early contact with the safer surfacing material supplier recommended regarding problems.*

### Ancillary Items

#### Access

Footpath to the play area.

*Across grass to the basketball area may be a seasonal problem for those with a mobility difficulty.*

#### Access pathway

Soil erosion abutting the PCC edging creating a trip hazard (this is partially due to wheel & push chair users having to step aside the gate arc to gain access). *Make up flush with topsoil & re-grass in the appropriate season, if erosion & puddles remain a problem, consider slabs, grass reinforcement mats laid on mesh/geotextile material on an even surface, chased into the soil at the edges to avoid sharp gradients (<1:5) & trip zones is suggested or other durable surface (photo 1).* Medium risk



photo 1

#### Gate (1)

Controlled pedestrian gate (controller fitted) with a closure rate of 14 seconds.

#### Seats (2) ('William Lashmar' & 'The Wright Family')

Satisfactory.

## **Fencing**

Theoretical entrapment between the abutting timber pales above the upper rail. Low risk

Loosened half round fence log 2nd from the corner abutting the metal play area fencing exposing the screw point. *Replace corroded/short screws with longer ones.*

## **Litter bin (1)**

Loose litter bin on an improved concrete flag base.  
*Consider securing to the rear fence to avoid tipping.* Low risk

## **Signs (49)**

'Children's play area No dogs allowed' attached to the MUGA (1).

*Radius accessible sharp corners of signs to 3mm minimum recommended.*

Signs ('Please shut gate' & 'Parents/guardians') attached to gates are not recommended as in windy conditions they can alter the designed/adjusted gate closure/opening rates.

## **Covid 19 guidance/reminder signage**

Removed.

## **Basketball post & ring**

Support post loose in ground.  
*Monitor closely for further loosening/programme to re-concrete.*

Projecting ( $\geq 8\text{mm}$ ) bolts to the rear of the basketball backboard.  
*Provide dome head/cap or cut off and file down to remove sharp edges.* Low risk

Some erosion of playing surface (soil & grass). Make up playing surface level & flush with topsoil & re-grass in the appropriate season, if erosion & puddles remain a problem, programme for the provision of a durable artificial surface is recommended for consideration.

Warning notices displayed on the backboard "Do not hang from the ring" as required by BSEN15312 (2).

## **Minimum Space**

*See 'Movement Clash' below.*

## **Movement Clash**

The 'group' seat swing frame has been installed too close to the adjacent fence and the mixed seat swing too close to the 'group' seat swing in both cases inviting passage through moving swing seats. *A minimum gap between each of 600mm is recommended.*  
Low/medium risk

**General surface/safer surfacing combined**

*See individual equipment notes.*

**Cleanliness and tidiness**

Well maintained on a daily basis.

## **Equipment and Surfacing**

### **1. Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)**

#### **BSEN15312 Compliance**

The item fails to meet the requirements of BSEN 15312 in the following respect(s):

There are no anti-cycle bars (detachable) between the front side panels and the rear panel.

#### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

*Wash off algae accumulation from the plastic panels.*

#### **Playing surface**

Grass.

#### **General Maintenance**

Immediate playing surface recently regulated & re-turfed. *If erosion & puddles remain a problem, programming for the provision of a durable artificial surface recommended for consideration.*

An alternative gap has been provided adjacent to the ball screen to discourage persons from passing through the side of the panel.

*Continue to monitor for sports balls recommended conflicting with persons using the through route and play area.*

### **2. 2.38m maximum, 1 bay, 1 cradle/1 flat seat swing (Creative Play)**

#### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

#### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

Mixing cradle/flat swing seat types in one bay is not recommended. If two or more bays or independent swing frames are available separate the seat types. In cases where only one bay or swing frame is provided no recommendation for action is made (see 'Movement Clash').

Missing recess caps (4) to the upper crotch strap fixings. *Replace.*

*Untwist chains to extend their life.*

#### **Surfacing**

Wet pour

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

### **General Maintenance**

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

### **3. 2.36m maximum, 1 bay, 1 'group' seat swing (Creative Play)**

#### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

#### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

Entrapments within the cabled webbing of the 'nest' seat. Low risk

Twisted safety chains due to seat 'flipping'. *Untwist seat to release these chains to avoid premature link wear.*

#### **Surfacing**

Wet pour

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

### **General Maintenance**

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

### **4. Spinner (without seating) (Creative Play)**

#### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The carousel meets the requirements of EN1176 when unloaded, where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

#### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

No remedial maintenance work is required at this time.

#### **Surfacing**

Wet pour

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176.

### **General Maintenance**

Note excessive 'crumbing' of the yellow EPDM safer surfacing wearing pad. *Refer to Supplier.*

## **5. Trampoline (1.44m x 1.44m) (EuroTramp)**

### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

Minor amount of litter beneath the rebound surface. *Programme to remove/contact the supplier regarding advice on access for cleaning.*

### **Surfacing**

Wet pour

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176 (1.72m to fence).

### **General Maintenance**

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.

## **6. Multi-unit (Creative Play)**

### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

(Note where the slide access (platform) is greater than 1.2m from the ground, the slide wall height perpendicular to the sliding surface should be 150mm minimum). Low risk

### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

Loose vehicle 'drivers'seat. *Tighten loose fixings during a prolonged dry spell recommended.*

Loose 'steering wheel'. *Tighten centre hub fixing.*

Slackened suspension bridge chains allowing the boards to contact. Low risk

*Tighten loosened rotating bar fixings of access to the slide facing the 'William Lashmar' seat.*

*Tighten loosened bolts (4) at both ends of overhead sloped ladder & rung bracket fixings during a prolonged dry spell recommended.*

*Tighten vertical net climber cable end fixings (12) during a prolonged dry spell recommended.*

*Tighten plastic panel fixings into timber during a prolonged dry spell recommended.*

*Replace missing handgrip bolt caps (4) above the vertical net.*

There is concern by accidents on some types of overhead bars. There is, however, a strong development value in these items. *If possible, on angled or 'S' shaped bars, consideration should be given to level bars with firm grips & even spacings. The protective surface under all bars must be kept in good condition.* Medium/high risk

*Recommend an additional feature panel board to the lower part of the highest platform to provide additional rigidity/stability to the structure/refer to the Supplier.*

Open suspended bridge. *Consider an additional platform beneath if a problems for users/monitor for problems.*

### **Surfacing**

Wet pour

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176 (1.72m to fence).

### **General Maintenance**

There is a soft spot/hollow area immediately in front of the lower tunnel entrance possibly due to sub base settlement. *Refer to Supplier as soon as possible to avoid splits/tearing of the safer surfacing material.*

## **7. Challenge trail (Creative Play)**

### **EN 1176 Compliance**

The item meets the requirements of EN1176 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

### **General Maintenance/safety comments**

Loosened (but secure) cable link end eye bolts (7). *Tighten.*

### **Surfacing**

Wet pour

### **Surfacing area dimensions**

The surfacing meets the requirements of EN1176 (1.72m to fence).

### **General Maintenance**

The surfacing is in satisfactory condition and no work is required at this time.