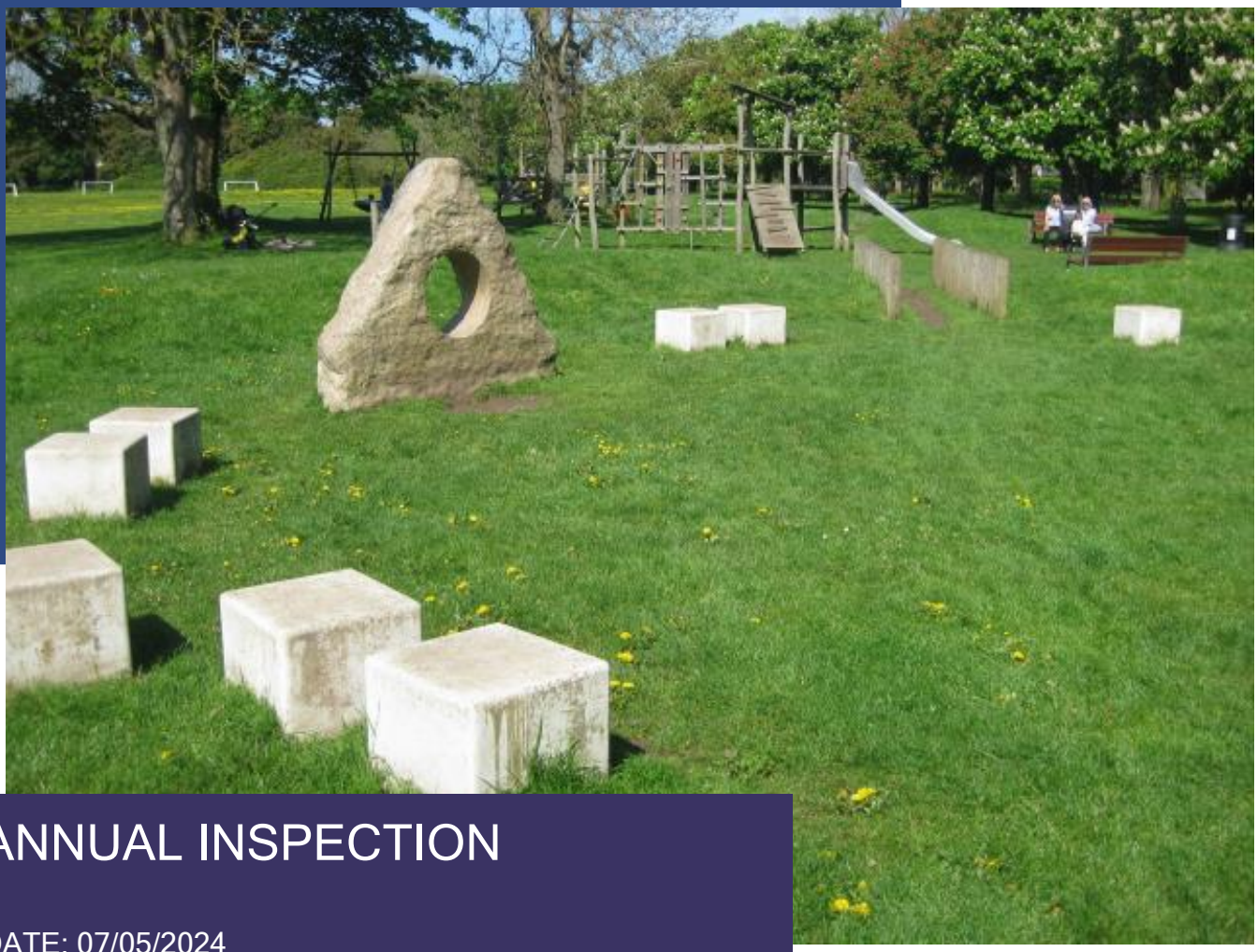
Dave Potter
Unit 3, Brook Court, Blakeney Road, Beckenham, BR3 1HG
0208 658 5631
dave@annualplayinspections.co.uk
RPII Inspector Number: 1018a

ANNUAL PLAY INSPECTIONS



ANNUAL INSPECTION

DATE: 07/05/2024

TIME: 10:45

INSPECTOR: DAVE POTTER

Risk 15 MEDIUM

Chichester Community Development Trust

Havenstoke Drive Play Area
Blomfield Drive
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 6BZ

ANC - A - Site General

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 2

Finding	There is unrestricted access in & out of the area and this is considered an open access facility. This presents a risk of injury as a consequence of children, wandering from site and/or dogs, entering site and endangering children. Dog bites found on equipment, see below.
Action	No remedial action, information only. Use local knowledge to complete the risk assessment. Dogs were present on site at the inspection but under control at that time

N/A

Finding	Trees are overhanging into the area and/or over equipment. If not already undertaken, It is advised that a specialist inspection is undertaken to complete the risk assessment.
Action	It is advised that a specialist inspection is completed regarding this finding.

N/A

ANC - Bench(es) (Timber)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 0

ANC - Bicycle Rack

Manufacturer:

Surface: Other

Total Number of Findings: 0

ANC - Bin(s)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	No bins on site - this may be a local decision.
Action	Consider whether bins would improve the safety of the area

Risk 6 LOW

ANC - Sign(s) (Operator)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	There is no operator sign for the play area, BS EN 1176 recommends that signage with provision of the following information be provided: (1) General emergency telephone number. (2) Name of site operator and telephone number to contact maintenance personnel. (3) Name of the playground. (4) Address of the playground. (5) Other relevant local information, if applicable. (6) It is good practice to include the recommended age range of the equipment provided and dog ban signage.
Action	Supply and install replacement (like for like) standard Operator Sign 600 mm x 400 mm onto aluminium post (2.5 m x 76 mm diameter) to comply to EN safety standards.

Risk 10 LOW

ANC - Timber entrance feature

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 0

Balance Beam

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	The timber is decaying / damaged.
Action	Monitor.

Risk 6 LOW

Blocks for seating and/or agility play

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 0

Cable Runway

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 3

Finding	The impact absorbency of grass matting is heavily dependent on the presence of live grass and open soil structure. In this case, there is an absence of live grass and/or the soil structure is compressed, which has resulted in the surface having a reduced or low impact attenuating property. Tiles at take off platform and along the length of the cable have reduced impact attenuation.
Action	Ensure all levels are correct and the ground is sound and level.Supply and lay new grass matting over existing matting and extend surface by up to 500 mm to all sides so as to tuck all outer edges into grass.

Risk 12 MEDIUM

Finding	Runway cable should be dismantled for a thorough inspection of the main cable, traveller, pommel seat, chain, fixing points and fixings. This should be carried out at least once a year, unless the manufacturer recommends otherwise.
Action	Perform a thorough inspection of main cable.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	Seat damaged - dog bites suspected.
Action	Regularly monitor for further deterioration and damage, replace as necessary.

Risk 10 LOW

Climber (Timber)

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 2

Finding	The logs which are intended to be grasped exceed the required grasp size.
Action	Consult with manufacturer is recommended in order to establish the best remedy.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	Toggle entrapment(s) present on item at junctions of logs.
Action	Consult with manufacturer is recommended in order to establish the best remedy.

Risk 10 LOW

Multi Play - Timber

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 3

Finding	The grass matting is missing at foot of slide
Action	Prepare area and supply and install new mat.

Risk 12 MEDIUM

Finding	Rails designed for gripping exceed the required diameter.
Action	Consult with manufacturer is recommended in order to establish the best remedy.

Risk 6 LOW

Finding	Splits are present in timber, and these can permit water to reach the wood inside its preservative envelope and rot and/or decay may follow. Regular inspections should include examination of the timbers for rot or decay.
Action	Monitor.

Risk 6 LOW

Multi Rocker

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Rocking Hen

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Rocking Monkey

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Sculpture with hole

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	The ground is eroding.
Action	Reinstate the ground where it has eroded with soil, grass seed and grass matting.

Risk 10 LOW

Stepping Posts

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Swing - Basket (Timber)

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 2

Finding	The impact absorbency of grass matting is heavily dependent on the presence of live grass and open soil structure. In this case, there is an absence of live grass and/or the soil structure is compressed, which has resulted in the surface having a reduced or low impact attenuating property.
Action	Ensure all levels are correct and the ground is sound and level.Supply and lay new grass matting over existing matting and extend surface by up to 500 mm to all sides so as to tuck all outer edges into grass.

Risk 12 MEDIUM

Finding	One of the suspension mechanisms is working loose and movement is detected, this is likely to result in collapse onto the safety chains.
Action	Repairs/replacement of the mechanism required. At height check of the second suspension mechanism is recommended with further action as required.

Risk 15 MEDIUM

Swinging Steps

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	Splits are present in timber, and these can permit water to reach the wood inside its preservative envelope and rot and/or decay may follow. Regular inspections should include examination of the timbers for rot or decay.
Action	Monitor.

Risk 4 VERY LOW

INTRODUCTION:
This inspection was carried out to the principles and relevant parts of the following standards:

- Children's Playgrounds play equipment and surfaces to BS EN 1176 (2017).
- Skateboarding/roller play items to BS EN 14974 (2019).
- Free access multi-sports equipment to BS EN 15312 (2006).
- Adult fitness equipment to BS EN 16630 (2015) and the RPII/API joint statement of 26th August 2011.

Inspections are non-dismantling and do not examine equipment below ground, and assume the operator is carrying out suitable maintenance including as recommended by the manufacturers. Trees are not inspected.

INSPECTION METHODOLOGY:
BS EN 1176-7 (2017) recommends that playground operators carry out an Annual Main Inspection in order to establish:

- the overall level of safety of equipment, foundations, and surfaces.
- compliance with the relevant parts of EN 1176.
- the effectiveness of all safety measures and any changes made to safety measures.
- effects of weather, presence of rotting or corrosion.
- any change in the level of safety of the equipment as a result of repairs made, or of added or replaced components.

In order to achieve this BS EN 1176-7 (2017) advises operators that:

1. inspections of equipment should be undertaken by competent persons.
2. inspections may involve excavation or dismantling of certain parts.
3. the manufacturer's inspection and maintenance instructions should be followed.
4. additional measures may be necessary to detect other possible deterioration.

This annual inspection should be considered as solely contributing to the operator's discharge of this responsibility as set out in 1 above.

The inspector is a qualified and registered as an outdoor annual inspector by the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII, Registration Number 1018A) and his level of competence as assessed by RPII is limited to the inspection methodology framework published by the RPII and set out below and in the pre-contract information provided by the inspector to the client within the quotation for this inspection unless .

In summary the range of competence covers identification of vandalism, minor and major wear, long-term structural problems, changes in the Standards compliance and design practices, risk assessments etc. In order to undertake the inspection within this competence framework the inspector uses visual and manual inspection and manipulation of equipment and components, and applies his knowledge of the relevant BS EN standards.

LIMITATIONS OF THE INSPECTION:
The inspector uses visual and manual inspection techniques employed from ground level or from the highest standing surface, including manipulation of equipment and components to assess standards compliance and levels of safety (see above and the RPII inspection methodology set out below). These inspection practices are capable of identifying most defects or circumstances which could result in an injury when using the play equipment or facility as intended or in a manner that can be reasonably anticipated per the Scope of the inspection Standard; however the inspections cannot cover or take into account all possible circumstances in which injuries and accidents may occur within a play setting.

He is not qualified or competent to carry out inspections which require the use of tools including calibration tools, intrusive examination of materials, structural measurements or excavation or dismantling of components. Where the operator has need for these in order to complete the Annual Main Inspection requirements a suitably competent person is required.

Inspections are restricted to the play equipment and ancillary items, and to any fencing provided solely to segregate a play area or play equipment from its locale.

RPII INSPECTION METHODOLOGY:

This section outlines the RPII scope for inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed as Annual Inspectors on the RPII Register of Inspectors when undertaking Indoor Annual, Outdoor Annual, Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine inspections.

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only; where no date for the standard is given it will be the standard that is current at the time of inspection except 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, unless they are also explicitly listed here.

The following standards are relevant to all installations of equipment that are publicly accessible to users; this includes public parks, pay 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 – Part 7) 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 standards (BS EN 71 series – Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report but any comments concerning compliance will follow the requirements and recommendations of BS EN 1176.

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

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 these 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 three 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 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).

All inspections are non-dismantling, non-destructive and do 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. (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 a general safety assessment).

The owner/operator is responsible for the overall safety of the equipment and area.
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 the impact attenuating properties of any surfaces; the identification of any corrosion, rot or other deterioration in any apparatus or equipment other than by an external inspection; the inspection of any equipment (or part thereof) that is beneath the playing surface (loose-fill materials may be moved to expose foundations); 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. 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 always seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person 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.

Inspection Recommendations of relevant standards 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 Inspection 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 EN 1176 - 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

[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.

MANUFACTURER'S INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS:
The Annual Main Inspection requires that the manufacturer's inspection and maintenance requirements are followed and the inspector's competence is strictly limited to the equipment as found and inspected on site unless advanced provision of the relevant manufacturer's guidance has been provided to him. If they have not/cannot be provided, then the inspection cannot be considered as fully Standard compliant and the risk assessments given can only be considered as provisional. Further details of the Annual Main Inspection were provided by the inspector to the client as part of the pre-contract information provided.

INSPECTOR'S ADVICE:
The inspection practices undertaken by the inspector and described above are capable of identifying most circumstances which could result in an injury. However, some elements of play equipment cannot be sufficiently checked using these procedures, for example because they are concealed from view and/or are not responsive to manual inspection or manipulation or are sealed-for-life.

In the event of this occurrence a provisional risk assessment will be given in this report with advice on what on what further actions should be undertaken by the operator in order to complete the risk assessment.

TIMBERS:
Wood is a natural material and the use of timber in playground equipment has been valued and encouraged because it enables children to connect more closely with nature and the environment than traditional steel equipment.

However, flaws in wood are known to be inherent and/or to develop during felling, processing and production of timber. Such flaws include for example growth defects, rot, decay, and fungi, any of which have been known to cause catastrophic structural failure. Such flaws can be hidden and are almost impossible to identify unless the core of the timber has been exposed and inspected e.g. during the cutting of lams for laminated timbers. Consequently, it cannot be definitively assessed as completely safe even if inspected with specialist equipment e.g. a resistometer.

At this inspection the checking of timbers is restricted to manual testing only (by probing and sounding timbers, see RPII Inspection Methodology above, and consequently, any findings in this report relating to timber equipment must be considered as indicative only. Please refer to Terms and Conditions provided at the time of quotation for further information.

Adhering to the manufacturer's inspection and maintenance instructions, regularly checking the equipment for rot and decay or its indicators, will assist the operator in reducing the risk of failure from exposed and visible rot and decay. As will following the BSEN 1176-7:2017, (6.2.1) guidance for **single, twin and line of post items**, and removing such equipment before the end of the manufacturer's operating life.

RISK OF CORROSION AND ROTTING:
The high rate of corrosion or rotting under dynamic loading endangers the stability of the anchorage of units in which the stability depends on only one cross section, or in which the stability is provided by two-legged members or rows of members.

Operators are therefore reminded that regular inspections, including the operational inspections, should pay particular attention to the condition and stability of items particularly checking for instability, rot and decay at points of ground contact and in also in timber components where fixings and fittings are attached.

RUNWAYS:
Runway cables should be dismantled for a thorough inspection of the main cable at least once a year unless the manufacturer recommends otherwise. The trolley should be taken down for inspection and taken apart to examine fixings and moving parts for damage and wear and tear, including the suspension chain and fixings.

Refer to/obtain and implement the manufacturer's guidance for inspection timescales and for maintenance requirements, including the replacing of any worn or damaged elements.

SINGLE POINT SWINGS:
It is not possible at the annual inspection to certify the safety of the universal joint and above head-height chains and fixings for single point swings.

Refer to/obtain and implement manufacturer's guidance for inspection timescales and for maintenance requirements, including the replacing of any worn or damaged elements.

IMPACT ABSORBING SURFACING (IAS):
The assessment of the suitability of non-loose-fill IAS is restricted to the visible condition and dimensional compliance. The critical height of impact absorbing surfaces is not tested.

LOOSE FILL IMPACT ABSORBING SURFACING (IAS):
The assessment of the suitability of loose-fill IAS will additionally take account of the depth of the material and its particulate size as set out in BS EN 1176-1,Table 4.

Where the inspector finds the particulate size of the material is outside the relevant range as given in Table 4 he is only able to give a provisional risk assessment of the surfacing. To complete the risk assessment and establish a suitable depth for the IAS in relation to the fall height of the equipment the operator should refer to the Certificate of Test to BS EN 1177 (2008) provided by the supplier of the material. In cases where the particulate size of the IAS has deteriorated over time it may be necessary, in order to fully meet the requirements of BS EN 1176 and provide a reliable risk assessment, to replace the surfacing with material which meets the particulate sizes given in Table 4.

PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED WITHIN THE REPORT:
Photographs have been provided within this report to assist in the identification of items inspected and any faults, failures, or findings. They should not be considered as a substitute for on-site inspection and verification by the operator as may be required to consider any actions which are to be taken as a consequence of recommendations contained in the report. When photographs taken at pervious inspections, including the site photo, are considered to sufficiently identify or illustrate the inspection and/or its findings these may be reused in this report.

Dave Potter
Unit 3, Brook Court, Blakeney Road, Beckenham, BR3 1HG
0208 658 5631
dave@annualplayinspections.co.uk
RPII Inspector Number: 1018a

ANNUAL PLAY INSPECTIONS

ANNUAL INSPECTION

DATE: 07/05/2024

TIME: 10:00

INSPECTOR: DAVE POTTER

Risk 12 MEDIUM

Chichester Community Development Trust

Havenstoke Park Trim Trail
Blomfield Drive
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 6BZ

ANC - A - Site General

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 3

Finding	Trees are overhanging into the area and/or over equipment. If not already undertaken, It is advised that a specialist inspection is undertaken to complete the risk assessment.
Action	It is advised that a specialist inspection is completed regarding this finding.

N/A

Finding	Strimmer damage found on all timbers at ground level, this will make rotting of the timbers more likely.
Action	Program for strimming away from the timber posts.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	BS EN 16630 (2015) requires a free-standing information board to be provided giving safety and user information for all of the equipment on site. Information should include: - Equipment only to be used by youths and adults or over 1.4m tall. - That users should read and follow the instructions provided on each individual item. - Users should seek assurance of their own medical safety before use. - That over exertion should be avoided . - Contact details for maintenance personnel. - Address of the facility.
Action	Supply & install fitness item information sign/label.

Risk 12 MEDIUM

Balance Bars

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Chinning Bars

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Dips

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	Sign bent
Action	Monitor

Risk 6 LOW

Hurdles

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Ladder Climb

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Overhead Bars

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 2

Finding	Sign partly obscured
Action	Clean

Risk 4 VERY LOW

Finding	Risk of accessing tree from top of ladder.
Action	Consider trimming branches away from item. See also notes on signage in Site General above.

Risk 10 LOW

Parallel Bars

Manufacturer: Proludic UK Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

INTRODUCTION:
This inspection was carried out to the principles and relevant parts of the following standards:

- Children's Playgrounds play equipment and surfaces to BS EN 1176 (2017).
- Skateboarding/roller play items to BS EN 14974 (2019).
- Free access multi-sports equipment to BS EN 15312 (2006).
- Adult fitness equipment to BS EN 16630 (2015) and the RPII/API joint statement of 26th August 2011.

Inspections are non-dismantling and do not examine equipment below ground, and assume the operator is carrying out suitable maintenance including as recommended by the manufacturers. Trees are not inspected.

INSPECTION METHODOLOGY:
BS EN 1176-7 (2017) recommends that playground operators carry out an Annual Main Inspection in order to establish:

- the overall level of safety of equipment, foundations, and surfaces.
- compliance with the relevant parts of EN 1176.
- the effectiveness of all safety measures and any changes made to safety measures.
- effects of weather, presence of rotting or corrosion.
- any change in the level of safety of the equipment as a result of repairs made, or of added or replaced components.

In order to achieve this BS EN 1176-7 (2017) advises operators that:

1. inspections of equipment should be undertaken by competent persons.
2. inspections may involve excavation or dismantling of certain parts.
3. the manufacturer's inspection and maintenance instructions should be followed.
4. additional measures may be necessary to detect other possible deterioration.

This annual inspection should be considered as solely contributing to the operator's discharge of this responsibility as set out in 1 above.

The inspector is a qualified and registered as an outdoor annual inspector by the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII, Registration Number 1018A) and his level of competence as assessed by RPII is limited to the inspection methodology framework published by the RPII and set out below and in the pre-contract information provided by the inspector to the client within the quotation for this inspection unless .

In summary the range of competence covers identification of vandalism, minor and major wear, long-term structural problems, changes in the Standards compliance and design practices, risk assessments etc. In order to undertake the inspection within this competence framework the inspector uses visual and manual inspection and manipulation of equipment and components, and applies his knowledge of the relevant BS EN standards.

LIMITATIONS OF THE INSPECTION:
The inspector uses visual and manual inspection techniques employed from ground level or from the highest standing surface, including manipulation of equipment and components to assess standards compliance and levels of safety (see above and the RPII inspection methodology set out below). These inspection practices are capable of identifying most defects or circumstances which could result in an injury when using the play equipment or facility as intended or in a manner that can be reasonably anticipated per the Scope of the inspection Standard; however the inspections cannot cover or take into account all possible circumstances in which injuries and accidents may occur within a play setting.

He is not qualified or competent to carry out inspections which require the use of tools including calibration tools, intrusive examination of materials, structural measurements or excavation or dismantling of components. Where the operator has need for these in order to complete the Annual Main Inspection requirements a suitably competent person is required.

Inspections are restricted to the play equipment and ancillary items, and to any fencing provided solely to segregate a play area or play equipment from its locale.

RPII INSPECTION METHODOLOGY:

This section outlines the RPII scope for inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed as Annual Inspectors on the RPII Register of Inspectors when undertaking Indoor Annual, Outdoor Annual, Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine inspections.

Inspections are undertaken with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only; where no date for the standard is given it will be the standard that is current at the time of inspection except 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, unless they are also explicitly listed here.

The following standards are relevant to all installations of equipment that are publicly accessible to users; this includes public parks, pay 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 – Part 7) 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 standards (BS EN 71 series – Safety of Toys). Where domestic equipment can be identified this will be acknowledged in the report but any comments concerning compliance will follow the requirements and recommendations of BS EN 1176.

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

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 these 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 three 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 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).

All inspections are non-dismantling, non-destructive and do 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. (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 a general safety assessment).

The owner/operator is responsible for the overall safety of the equipment and area.
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 the impact attenuating properties of any surfaces; the identification of any corrosion, rot or other deterioration in any apparatus or equipment other than by an external inspection; the inspection of any equipment (or part thereof) that is beneath the playing surface (loose-fill materials may be moved to expose foundations); 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. 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 always seek the advice of the manufacturer or a competent person 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.

Inspection Recommendations of relevant standards 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 Inspection 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 EN 1176 - 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

[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.

MANUFACTURER'S INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS:
The Annual Main Inspection requires that the manufacturer's inspection and maintenance requirements are followed and the inspector's competence is strictly limited to the equipment as found and inspected on site unless advanced provision of the relevant manufacturer's guidance has been provided to him. If they have not/cannot be provided, then the inspection cannot be considered as fully Standard compliant and the risk assessments given can only be considered as provisional. Further details of the Annual Main Inspection were provided by the inspector to the client as part of the pre-contract information provided.

INSPECTOR'S ADVICE:
The inspection practices undertaken by the inspector and described above are capable of identifying most circumstances which could result in an injury. However, some elements of play equipment cannot be sufficiently checked using these procedures, for example because they are concealed from view and/or are not responsive to manual inspection or manipulation or are sealed-for-life.

In the event of this occurrence a provisional risk assessment will be given in this report with advice on what on what further actions should be undertaken by the operator in order to complete the risk assessment.

TIMBERS:
Wood is a natural material and the use of timber in playground equipment has been valued and encouraged because it enables children to connect more closely with nature and the environment than traditional steel equipment.

However, flaws in wood are known to be inherent and/or to develop during felling, processing and production of timber. Such flaws include for example growth defects, rot, decay, and fungi, any of which have been known to cause catastrophic structural failure. Such flaws can be hidden and are almost impossible to identify unless the core of the timber has been exposed and inspected e.g. during the cutting of lams for laminated timbers. Consequently, it cannot be definitively assessed as completely safe even if inspected with specialist equipment e.g. a resistometer.

At this inspection the checking of timbers is restricted to manual testing only (by probing and sounding timbers, see RPII Inspection Methodology above, and consequently, any findings in this report relating to timber equipment must be considered as indicative only. Please refer to Terms and Conditions provided at the time of quotation for further information.

Adhering to the manufacturer's inspection and maintenance instructions, regularly checking the equipment for rot and decay or its indicators, will assist the operator in reducing the risk of failure from exposed and visible rot and decay. As will following the BSEN 1176-7:2017, (6.2.1) guidance for **single, twin and line of post items**, and removing such equipment before the end of the manufacturer's operating life.

RISK OF CORROSION AND ROTTING:
The high rate of corrosion or rotting under dynamic loading endangers the stability of the anchorage of units in which the stability depends on only one cross section, or in which the stability is provided by two-legged members or rows of members.

Operators are therefore reminded that regular inspections, including the operational inspections, should pay particular attention to the condition and stability of items particularly checking for instability, rot and decay at points of ground contact and in also in timber components where fixings and fittings are attached.

RUNWAYS:
Runway cables should be dismantled for a thorough inspection of the main cable at least once a year unless the manufacturer recommends otherwise. The trolley should be taken down for inspection and taken apart to examine fixings and moving parts for damage and wear and tear, including the suspension chain and fixings.

Refer to/obtain and implement the manufacturer's guidance for inspection timescales and for maintenance requirements, including the replacing of any worn or damaged elements.

SINGLE POINT SWINGS:
It is not possible at the annual inspection to certify the safety of the universal joint and above head-height chains and fixings for single point swings.

Refer to/obtain and implement manufacturer's guidance for inspection timescales and for maintenance requirements, including the replacing of any worn or damaged elements.

IMPACT ABSORBING SURFACING (IAS):
The assessment of the suitability of non-loose-fill IAS is restricted to the visible condition and dimensional compliance. The critical height of impact absorbing surfaces is not tested.

LOOSE FILL IMPACT ABSORBING SURFACING (IAS):
The assessment of the suitability of loose-fill IAS will additionally take account of the depth of the material and its particulate size as set out in BS EN 1176-1,Table 4.

Where the inspector finds the particulate size of the material is outside the relevant range as given in Table 4 he is only able to give a provisional risk assessment of the surfacing. To complete the risk assessment and establish a suitable depth for the IAS in relation to the fall height of the equipment the operator should refer to the Certificate of Test to BS EN 1177 (2008) provided by the supplier of the material. In cases where the particulate size of the IAS has deteriorated over time it may be necessary, in order to fully meet the requirements of BS EN 1176 and provide a reliable risk assessment, to replace the surfacing with material which meets the particulate sizes given in Table 4.

PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED WITHIN THE REPORT:
Photographs have been provided within this report to assist in the identification of items inspected and any faults, failures, or findings. They should not be considered as a substitute for on-site inspection and verification by the operator as may be required to consider any actions which are to be taken as a consequence of recommendations contained in the report. When photographs taken at pervious inspections, including the site photo, are considered to sufficiently identify or illustrate the inspection and/or its findings these may be reused in this report.