



Safety Inspection Report

Annual Inspection

Recreation Field

Box Parish Council

09 September 2025

Summary of Report

Full report available from clerk@boxparishcouncil.gov.uk

The document is a safety inspection report for the Recreation Field, detailing the condition and necessary maintenance of various play equipment and facilities as of September 9, 2025.

Annual Safety Inspection Overview

The safety inspection report details the findings and recommendations for the Recreation Field conducted by Playsafety Ltd on September 9, 2025.

- The inspection was led by Jonathan Peters.
- Various play and ancillary items were assessed for safety and compliance.
- Each item received an innate risk score and actual risk score based on findings.

Findings on Gates and Fencing

The inspection revealed several issues with gates and fencing that require attention.

- Gates had trip points on the surface, necessitating leveling (Innate risk score: 4, Actual risk score: 5).
- Minor repairs are needed for fencing (Innate risk score: 3, Actual risk score: 4).

Surface and General Maintenance Issues

The general surface and maintenance of the area showed signs of decay and required repairs.

- Timber decay was noted, with recommendations to replace affected parts (Innate risk score: 3, Actual risk score: 4).
- Bird fouling was present, suggesting regular cleaning with disinfectant (Innate risk score: 3).

Specific Equipment Findings

Various play equipment items were assessed, revealing multiple maintenance needs.

- The BMX track showed ground erosion, requiring repairs (Innate risk score: 13).
- The cantilever swing relies on one post for stability, needing special maintenance attention (Innate risk score: 8, Actual risk score: 12).
- The slide had finger entrapment issues and toggle entrapment, requiring monitoring (Innate risk score: 5).

Compliance and Risk Assessment

The report includes compliance with safety standards and risk assessments for each item.

- Items were evaluated against standards such as EN 1176 and BS 8461.
- Risk scores were calculated based on likelihood and severity, with scores ranging from 1 to 25.
- Scores of 1-7 are low risk, 8-12 are medium risk, and 13+ are high risk, necessitating urgent action.

Recommendations for Remedial Actions

The report outlines specific tasks to mitigate identified risks and improve safety.

- Immediate repairs are recommended for decayed timber and ground erosion.
- Regular monitoring of equipment stability and maintenance of protective surfaces is advised.
- Items with high risk scores should be prioritized for urgent action to ensure safety compliance.

Risk Assessment and Scoring Methodology

The risk assessment process evaluates both the likelihood and severity of potential outcomes to determine overall risk levels.

- A risk score is calculated by multiplying likelihood (1-5) by severity (1-5).
- Scores of 1-5 indicate low risk, 6-15 medium risk, and 16-25 high risk.
- The risk matrix uses color coding: Green for low risk, Amber for medium risk, and Red for high risk.

Inspection Scope and Compliance Standards

Inspections are conducted according to RPII's standards, focusing on compliance and safety of publicly accessible equipment.

- Inspections cover equipment in public areas like parks, schools, and play centers.
- Compliance with standards is not legally mandatory but is recommended for safety.
- Domestic equipment is assessed under different standards (BS EN 71) and is not included in public inspections.

Inspection Process and Limitations

The inspection process includes various types of inspections, each with specific focuses and limitations.

- Annual and post-installation inspections assess compliance and defects related to wear and vandalism.
- Operational inspections focus on cleanliness, structural integrity, and visible defects.
- The inspection is non-destructive and does not include detailed assessments of underground or electrical components.

Risk Exposure and Child Development

Acceptable levels of risk are essential for children's development and play experiences.

- Risks above low risk can be acceptable if they provide developmental benefits.
- Operators must balance risk with the benefits of play activities.

Ownership and Responsibility

The report may highlight issues that are not the site owner's responsibility, emphasizing the need for clarity in ownership.

- Inspectors report all risks that could affect user safety, regardless of ownership.

Timber Inspection and Maintenance

Timber structures require careful inspection to identify hidden decay and ensure safety.

- Decay in timber can be difficult to detect; regular inspections are necessary.
- Resistance penetration testing can identify defects before they become apparent.

Planting and Tree Assessment

The report does not include assessments of planting or trees, which require expert evaluation.

- Operators should conduct suitable inspections for trees and plants from qualified experts.

Contribution to Annual Main Inspection

The inspection contributes to the operator's overall safety management and compliance with standards.

- The report includes findings relevant to the operator's responsibilities under the standards.
- Specific inspection recommendations are provided to guide the operator in maintaining safety.

Summary of EN 1176 Requirements

The EN 1176 standard outlines safety requirements for playground equipment to prevent injuries.

- Key requirements include no obstacles in free and falling spaces, proper surfacing, and design considerations for user safety.
- Specific dimensions and safety features are mandated for various types of equipment, including swings, slides, and climbing structures.

Summary of EN 16579 Requirements

EN 16579:2018 specifies safety and functional requirements for portable and permanent playing field goals.

- Goals must be made of suitable materials and meet strength and stability tests.
- Regular inspections are required, including routine visual checks before use and operational inspections every six months.

Rudloe Play Area

The document is a safety inspection report for the Westwood Road Play Area, detailing findings, risk assessments, and recommended actions for various play and ancillary items.

Annual Safety Inspection Overview

The report details the findings from the annual safety inspection of the Westwood Road Play Area conducted on September 9, 2025, highlighting various risks and necessary remedial actions.

- Conducted by inspector Jonathan Peters.
- Focused on play equipment and surrounding surfaces.
- Identified multiple items with varying risk scores.
- Recommendations for maintenance and repairs provided.

General Surface Condition and Risks

The general surface of the play area presents some trip hazards that require leveling.

- Innate risk score: 3.
- Trip points on the surface need to be made level, with a risk score of 5.
- Overall risk level categorized as low.

Gates and Fencing Compliance

The gates and fencing in the play area were found to be in satisfactory condition with no significant findings.

- Gates - Self-Closing: Innate risk score of 4, no remedial tasks required.
- Gates - Maintenance: Innate risk score of 4, no remedial tasks required.
- Fencing - Bow-Top: Innate risk score of 3, no remedial tasks required.

Play Equipment Risk Assessment

The inspection revealed several play items with varying risk levels, particularly the goal posts and multiplay equipment.

- Goal Posts: Innate risk score of 8, with worn ground areas and corrosion noted.
- Multiplay - Larger: Innate risk score of 6, with issues related to surface condition and missing components.
- Rocker - Seesaw: Innate risk score of 5, with trip points and crumbling surface identified.

Maintenance Findings and Recommendations

The report outlines specific maintenance tasks required to mitigate identified risks across various play items.

- General maintenance tasks include making surfaces level and repairing crumbling areas.
- Specific tasks for the multiplay equipment include monitoring and repairing the protective surface.
- Recommendations for the seesaw include checking and replacing worn components.

Compliance with Safety Standards

The inspection assessed compliance with relevant safety standards for play equipment and surfacing.

- Standards referenced include EN 1176-1:2017+A1:2023 and EN 1176-2:2017.
- Non-compliance noted for some items, but no immediate action required for retrospective changes.
- Compliance is not mandatory but serves as a guideline for safety.

Risk Scoring Methodology

The report explains the methodology used to calculate risk scores based on likelihood and severity of potential harm.

- Risk scores range from 1 to 25, with scores of 1-7 considered low risk.
- Likelihood and severity are assessed on a scale of 1 to 5.
- The matrix used helps categorize risks into low, medium, and high levels.

General Notes on Inspection Process

The inspection process is outlined, detailing what is included and excluded from the assessment.

- Inspections are non-destructive and do not include dismantling equipment.
- The operator is responsible for ongoing safety and maintenance.
- Recommendations for further expert assessments are provided for specific concerns.

Swing Set Safety and Requirements

Swing sets must adhere to specific safety and design standards to ensure children's safety during use.

- Minimum ground clearance at rest: 350mm (400mm for group seats).

- RoSPA recommends a maximum seat surface height of 635mm for cradles and flat seats.
- Distance between seat and frame: 20% of swing suspension + 200mm.
- Distance between seats: 20% of swing suspension + 300mm.
- Pivot splay at crossbar: width between seat fixings plus 5% of swing suspension length (+30% for group and Type 4 seats).
- Swing sets for young children should be separated from those for older children to avoid cross traffic.

Surfacing Requirements for Swings

Proper surfacing is essential for swings to minimize injury risks during falls.

- Synthetic surface requirements: $0.867 \times \text{length of suspension member} + 1.75\text{m} + 0.5\text{m}$ of obstacle-clear space.
- Loose-fill surface requirements: $0.867 \times \text{length of suspension member} + 2.25\text{m}$.
- Minimum side width for seats no greater than 500mm: 1.75m (0.875m each way from seat center).
- Areas for two seats in one bay may overlap if the distance between seats is correct.

Slide Safety and Design Standards

Slides must meet specific safety criteria to ensure safe use by children.

- Maximum vertical height for stairway without a change of direction: 2.5m.
- Minimum length of starting section at the top of each chute: 350mm, with a downward slope of 0-5°.
- Starting section barriers required for slides over 1m free fall height: 500mm minimum height.
- Maximum angle for sliding sections: 60° at any point, average of 40°.
- Run-outs of at least 300mm are required for sliding sections under 1.5m long.

Cable Runway Safety Standards

Cable runways must be designed to ensure safe operation and prevent accidents.

- Stop at the end should progressively slow down the traveller.
- The traveller should not be removable without tools, and no access to internal mechanisms is allowed.
- Suspension mechanism must be flexible and at least 2m above the ground to prevent strangulation risks.
- Maximum loaded speed is 7m per second, with a minimum distance of 2m between parallel cables.

Rotating Items Safety Requirements

Rotating playground equipment must comply with specific safety standards to protect users.

- Maximum free height of fall: 1000mm (1500-3000mm for overhead items).
- Maximum speed at periphery under reasonable use: 5m per second.
- Hand grips should be between 16-45mm in diameter.
- Platforms for roundabouts should be circular, enclosed, and revolve in the same direction.

Rocking Items Safety and Design Standards

Rocking equipment must be designed to ensure user safety and prevent injuries.

- Gaps in accessible joints should be under 12mm throughout the range of movement.
- Progressive restraint at the extremity of movement is required.
- Foot rests are necessary where ground clearance is less than 230mm.
- Hand grips must be firmly fixed and non-rotating, with a diameter of 16-45mm.

Installation, Inspection, and Maintenance Protocols

Proper installation and maintenance protocols are crucial for playground safety.

- Operators must establish appropriate safety systems and keep records of inspections.
- Routine visual inspections are recommended daily or weekly, while operational inspections should occur every 1-3 months.
- Annual main inspections should assess long-term safety levels.
- Corrective maintenance should only be performed after consultation with the supplier or a competent person.