

Fitness Equipment SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

For Stradbroke Parish Council

On 17th October 2020

The Elvin Fitness Trail, Playing Field, Wilby Road, Stradbroke, Suffolk



An independent safety assessment of the fitness equipment by

David Bracey ILAM Dip.

David Bracey Play Safety Inspections

35 Chestnut Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 3JA

01502 217547 / 07500043756

Davidbracey2@tiscali.co.uk / www.playgroundinspections.weebly.com



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

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

The BS EN1176 was published on 1 January 1999 when existing standards were withdrawn.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.

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, 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 - 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.

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 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.

Name of site: The Elvin Fitness Trail, Playing Field, Wilby Road, Stradbroke

Owner: Stradbroke Parish Council

Date: 17th October 2020

Inspector: David Bracey

Site Comments

The fitness equipment is set out along a trail. Unfortunately three items do not have sufficient safety surface and two have the path in the falling space. It is not certain whether path was installed after the fitness equipment. Recommendations are given in the report. Maintenance is required as noted in the report

Timber Play Equipment

It has been noticed recently by Rpii inspectors, that timber play equipment in the UK, is increasingly suffering from fungal and rot attack possibly due to environmental changes such as mild and wet weather conditions.

Inspectors and clients have seen timber posts snap off, where no external rot has been detected visually or by resonance testing. This is a worrying situation.

It is therefore advised that all clients check all wooden play equipment regularly other than the Annual Inspection. Apart from probing with a thin blade, to see if water egress is found or softness in the timber, a forceful push on the timber may be needed to test the soundness of the item.

Site and Ancillary Items

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

Access

Seats x 3



Hogging Path



The Elvin Fitness Trail

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

BSEN 16630 Permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment was introduced in April 2015.

This Standard strongly recommends that items are carefully located to ensure they cannot be confused with childrens' playground equipment.

Areas intended for adult fitness equipment need to be provided with information signage that the items are for adults and how each item should be used.

The equipment is designed for particular muscle groups and are for youth and adults taller than 1400mm (4 foot 6 inches) use only.

It is always recommended that all the above points are adhered to.

It is STRONGLY recommended that signs are made to point out that the equipment is designed for particular muscle groups and are for youth and adults taller than 1400mm (4 foot 6 inches) use only.

Item: Parallel Bars - Manufacturer Unknown
Provided by Mid Suffolk DC



EN16630 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN16630 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

Repair / Maintenance recommended

Recommended to replace missing information sign - Low risk.



Recommend smooth down rough edges to sign post - Low to Medium risk.



Surfacing: Matting

EN 16630 Compliance

The surfacing meets the dimensional requirements of EN 16630.

Repair / Maintenance recommended

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

Item: Gate Climb - Manufacturer Unknown
Provided by Mid Suffolk DC



EN16630 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN16630 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

Repair / Maintenance recommended

Recommend clean off algae, which may be slippery when wet - Low risk.



Surfacing: Matting

EN 16630 Compliance

The surface fails in the following respects:

Insufficient protective surfacing has been provided – should be 1630mm from item (currently 1000mm) – Recommend add matting to ensure compliance – Low to Medium risk.



Paths is in the falling space at side - Recommend Monitor - Low risk.

Repair / Maintenance recommended

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

Item: Chin Up Bar - Manufacturer Unknown
Provided by Mid Suffolk DC



EN16630 Compliance

The item fails to meet the requirements of EN16630 in the following respects:

Finger entrapments in holes on supports – Recommend infill or cap off -
Low risk.



N.B. One bar/post has been removed.

Repair / Maintenance recommended

Recommend smooth down damage to sign - Low risk.



Surfacing: Matting

EN 16630 Compliance

The surface fails in the following respects:

Insufficient protective surfacing has been provided – should be 1600mm (currently 600mm) – Recommend monitor – Low risk.



Repair / Maintenance recommended

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

Item: Horizontal Ladder - Manufacturer Unknown
Provided by Mid Suffolk DC



EN16630 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN16630 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

Repair / Maintenance recommended

Recommend remove algae which may be slippery when wet - Low to Medium risk.



Recommend prune back branches 1500mm from item - Low to Medium risk.



Surfacing: Matting

EN 16630 Compliance

The surface fails in the following respects:

Insufficient protective surfacing has been provided – should be 2070mm (currently 1000mm on path side and 200mm on hedge side) – Recommend remove item as path is also in falling space and a serious injury could occur if fallen onto path and compliance cannot be achieved due to the location of the path – Medium risk.



Repair / Maintenance recommended

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

Item: Multi Exerciser Bench - Manufacturer Unknown
Provided by Mid Suffolk DC



EN16630 Compliance

The item fails to meet the requirements of EN16630 in the following respects:

Metal fixings exposed - Recommend infill or cap off - Low risk.



Repair / Maintenance recommended

Recommend remove algae, may be slippery when wet - Low risk.



Surfacing: Grass

EN 16630 Compliance

The surfacing meets the dimensional requirements of EN16630.

Suitably well maintained grass and topsoil underneath, with at least 150mm of soil beneath is acceptable to EN16630 for items with a fall height of up to 1500mm subject to a risk assessment.

Repair / Maintenance recommended

Recommend remove nettles - Low risk.



Item: Sit Up Bench - Manufacturer Unknown
Provided by Mid Suffolk DC



EN16630 Compliance

The item meets the requirements of EN16630 where this may be tested on site without dismantling or destruction.

Repair / Maintenance recommended

Recommend remove algae, may be slippery when wet - Low risk.



Recommend relace faded sign – Low.



Surfacing: Grass

EN 16630 Compliance

The surfacing meets the dimensional requirements of EN1176.

Suitably well maintained grass and topsoil underneath, with at least 150mm of soil beneath is acceptable to EN16630 for items with a fall height of up to 1500mm subject to a risk assessment.

Repair / Maintenance recommended

Recommend remove nettles - Low risk.



Risk Assessment Evaluation

Client: Stradbroke Parish Council

Site: The Elin Fitness Trail, Playing Field, Wilby Road, Stradbroke

Date: 17th October 2020

Type: Fitness

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
Access	2		Monitor
Signs	5		See Report
Grass	2		Monitor
Seats	2		Monitor

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

Equipment and Surfacing

Equipment Items	Surface	Risk Score	Action, Control or Comments
Parallel Bars	Matting	7	See Report
Gate Climb	Matting	9	See Report
Chin Up Bar	Matting	6	See Report

Horizontal Ladder	Matting	12	See Report
Multi Exercise Bench	Grass	6	See Report
Sit Up Bench	Grass	6	See Report

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 **Low Risk** subject to a future inspection and reassessment.

ASSESSED LEVEL OF RISK FOR THE PLAYGROUND AT THE TIME OF INSPECTION WAS MEDIUM RISK