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OPERATIONAL INSPECTION

DATE: 08/05/2026

TIME: 8:21 AM

INSPECTOR: MEGAN CHAPMAN

Risk
15
MEDIUM

Barton Parish Council

Barton Rec Ground
High Street/Wimpole Road
Barton
South Cambs.
CB23 7BG

(UNFENCED) Skate Ramp (Timber)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	There is a missing fixing.
Action	Replace missing fixing(s).

Risk 10 LOW

(UNFENCED) Table Tennis

Manufacturer:

Surface: Other

Total Number of Findings: 0

ANL Site General

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 4

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 400 mm x 400 mm onto aluminium post (2.5 m x 76 mm diameter) to comply to EN safety standards.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	Across the whole play area 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 10 LOW

Finding	There was small bits of glass around the pavilion.
Action	Most of it had been cleaned up, but please doublecheck the area and remove any remaining glass. Inspector let maintenance person know whilst carrying out inspection.

Risk
10
LOW

Finding	There is a trip hazard.
Action	Repair surface to reduce risk of trips.

Risk 12 MEDIUM

Basketball Post

Manufacturer:

Surface: Bitmac / Tarmac

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	There are protruding fixings. If multiple fixings are protruding, the photo only shows an example(s) of the finding.
Action	Cut off the protruding fixing where necessary.

Risk 10 LOW

Bench (Timber & Metal)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Paving

Total Number of Findings: 0

Benches (Timber)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 0

Bicycle Racks

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 0

Bins x 2

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 0

Cable Runway

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 4

Finding	The pommel seat is damaged.
Action	Monitor.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	The metal leg is becoming loose in the ground.
Action	Re-secure item in the ground to prevent it becoming looser.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	There is a missing fixing and fixings that require tightening.
Action	Replace missing fixing and tighten fixings.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	Due to the height of the unit, the item cannot be fully inspected.
Action	Complete an At Height inspection on the item to ensure all areas not reachable or visible from ground level are inspected.

Risk 12 MEDIUM

Climber (Metal)

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 2

Finding	There are loose fixings.
Action	Tighten loose fixings.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	There is metal corrosion present.
Action	Remove the damaged/corroded metal part, supply and install replacement metal part. Apply paint if required.

Risk 15 MEDIUM

Climber (Timber)

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 3

Finding	There are loose fixings across all the rocks.
Action	Tighten loose fixing(s).

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	There are loose fixings across the whole unit, the unit has been taped off by someone else. I have left that tape there as the fixings loose are on the higher up beams.
Action	Tighten loose fixings.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	The item is damaged.
Action	Monitor.

Risk 10 LOW

Fence (Timber)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Gate - Maintenance (tennis court)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 0

Gate - Maintenance(car park)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	The drop bolt on the gate is either missing or damaged.
Action	Install drop plate to existing gate.

Risk 10 LOW

Gate 1 (car park side)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	The item is loose in the ground.
Action	Re-secure item in the ground.

Risk 10 LOW

Gate 2 (tennis court)

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	The item is loose in the ground.
Action	Re-secure item in the ground.

Risk 10 LOW

Picnic Tables (Timber) x 2

Manufacturer:

Surface: Paving

Total Number of Findings: 0

Roundabout

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	There is metal corrosion present.
Action	Investigate cause of corrosion and take appropriate remedial actions to ensure item is safe for use, including removal of corrosion and painting of area where appropriate.

Risk 10 LOW

Seesaw

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 0

Slide

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	The timber is decaying / damaged.
Action	Remove existing worn timbers and replace with new timbers. Monitor the other three legs.

Risk 15 MEDIUM

Slide - Mound & Steps

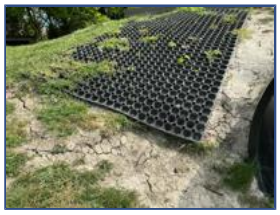
Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	There is a trip hazard.
Action	Adapt the area of the trip hazard to remove the risk.

Risk 10 LOW



Spinner x 3

Manufacturer: Kompan Ltd

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	The seat is damaged.
Action	Replace seat.

Risk 10 LOW

Spring Rocker

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 1

Finding	This item is coming to the end of its safe life and renovation or replacement is recommended. This is due to the corrosion on the spring and clamp, the plastic is also cracked and damaged across the seat and panels.
Action	Remove item and replace with new.

Risk 10 LOW

Swing - Basket (Timber)

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 2

Finding	The leg timber is decaying / damaged.
Action	Monitor.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	The item is loose in the ground, the soil around it is cracking.
Action	Re-secure item in the ground.

Risk 12 MEDIUM

Swing - Junior (Metal)

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass Matting

Total Number of Findings: 5

Finding	The flat seat is damaged.
Action	Remove damaged seat and replace with new seat.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	There is metal corrosion present.
Action	Investigate cause of corrosion and take appropriate remedial actions to ensure item is safe for use, including removal of corrosion and painting of area where appropriate.

Risk 12 MEDIUM

Finding	There are loose fixings.
Action	Tighten loose fixing(s).

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	The ground is eroding, exposing concrete and creating a trip hazard.
Action	Reinstate the ground where it has eroded with soil and grass seed.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	The oilite bushes are worn.
Action	Remove existing pair of worn oilite bushes & replace with a new pair, lubricate and test.

Risk 10 LOW

Swing - Toddler (Metal)

Manufacturer: Unidentified

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 2

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

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	The cradle seat is damaged.
Action	Remove damaged cradle seat and replace with new cradle seat.

Risk 10 LOW

Teenage Shelter

Manufacturer:

Surface: Other

Total Number of Findings: 3

Finding	The timber is decaying / damaged.
Action	Remove existing worn timbers and replace with new timbers. Sand and seal the large middle timber.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	The item is damaged.
Action	Replace damaged or missing item.

Risk 10 LOW

Finding	There is graffiti present.
Action	Remove graffiti using specialist hot wash treatment.

Risk 10 LOW

Tunnel

Manufacturer:

Surface: Grass

Total Number of Findings: 1

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

Risk 10 LOW

INTRODUCTION:

This inspection was carried out in accordance with 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.

Operational Inspections do not involve dismantling and do not examine equipment below ground. They are based on the assumption that the operator is conducting appropriate maintenance in line with manufacturers' recommendations.

INSPECTION METHODOLOGY:

BS EN 1176-7 (2017) recommends that playground operators perform regular Operational Inspections to establish:

- The overall 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 changes in the level of safety of the equipment due to repairs made, or added or replaced components.

To facilitate these inspections, BS EN 1176-7 (2017) advises operators to:

- Ensure equipment inspections are undertaken by competent persons.
- Ensure the manufacturer's inspection and maintenance instructions are strictly followed.
- Be prepared for additional measures to detect any possible deterioration.
- The operational inspection contributes to the operator's ongoing responsibility as set out in point 1 above.

The inspector is qualified and registered as an outdoor operational inspector by the Register of Play Inspectors International. The inspector's level of competence is assessed by the RPII and 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.

The inspection process involves identification of vandalism, minor and major wear, long-term structural issues, changes in Standards compliance and design practices, risk assessments, etc. The inspector utilizes visual and manual inspection techniques and applies his knowledge of the relevant BS EN standards.

LIMITATIONS OF THE INSPECTION:

The inspector employs visual and manual inspection techniques from the ground level or from the highest standing surface. These techniques include manipulation of equipment and components to assess standards compliance and safety levels (as per the RPII inspection methodology). These inspection practices can identify most defects or circumstances which might result in an injury when using the play equipment or facility as intended or in a reasonably foreseeable way, according to the Scope of the inspection Standard. However, they cannot cover or consider all possible circumstances in which injuries and accidents may occur within a play setting.

The inspector is not qualified or competent to carry out inspections requiring the use of tools, intrusive examination of materials, structural measurements, or excavation or dismantling of components. A suitably competent person is required to undertake these tasks should they be necessary for the Operational Inspection.

Operational inspections are limited to the play equipment and ancillary items, and to any fencing provided solely to segregate a play area or play equipment from its surroundings.

RPII INSPECTION METHODOLOGY:
This section outlines the RPII scope for inspections undertaken by the Inspectors listed as Operational Inspectors on the RPII Register of Inspectors when undertaking Outdoor Operational and Outdoor Routine inspections.

Inspections are performed with reference to the standards listed in this preamble only. If no date for the standard is given, the current standard at the time of inspection will be used, except when overlap periods are granted by the standards committee when standards are updated. The information in reports assists 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 also explicitly listed here.

The following standards apply to all equipment installations that are publicly accessible; this includes public parks, pay and play parks, schools, nurseries, public houses, holiday parks, farm parks etc. All equipment used in publicly accessible areas should meet 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.

BS EN 1176 Part 7 - 'Guidance on Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation' (this document provides 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 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).

Operational inspections consider 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 covers 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 consider 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 concern the most obvious defects such as broken or missing parts, litter, and vandalism.

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 (unless contractually agreed to); 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. 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.

MANUFACTURER'S INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS:
Operational inspections necessitate that the manufacturer's inspection and maintenance protocols are complied with. The inspector's capabilities are strictly confined to the equipment as identified and inspected on-site unless the applicable manufacturer's guidance has been furnished in advance. If they are unavailable or cannot be supplied, then the inspection may not qualify as fully Standard compliant and the offered risk assessments should be viewed as provisional. More information about the Operational Inspection was delivered by the inspector to the client as part of the pre-contract data.

TIMBERS:
Timber is an organic material, and its use in playground equipment is cherished and promoted as it allows children to engage more intimately with nature and the environment than traditional steel equipment.

However, timber is known to have inherent flaws or develop them during felling, processing, and production. Examples of these flaws include growth defects, rot, decay, and fungi, which have been known to lead to catastrophic structural failure. These defects can be concealed and are nearly impossible to identify unless the core of the timber is exposed and examined, such as during the cutting of lambs for laminated timbers. Therefore, it cannot be definitively evaluated as entirely safe, even if inspected with specialist equipment such as a resistometer.

During this inspection, timber checks are confined to manual testing only (by probing and sounding timbers). Hence, any findings in this report related to timber equipment should be deemed as indicative only. Please refer to Terms and Conditions delivered at the time of quotation for additional details.

RISK OF CORROSION AND ROTTING:
A high rate of corrosion or rotting under dynamic loading poses a threat to the stability of the anchorage of units where the stability relies on a single cross-section, or where the stability is provided by two-legged members or rows of members.

Operators are thus advised that regular inspections, including the operational inspections, should place considerable emphasis on the condition and stability of items, especially checking for instability, rot, and decay at points of ground contact and also in timber components where attachments and fittings are installed.

RUNWAYS:
Runway cables should be dismantled for an extensive inspection of the main cable at least annually unless the manufacturer suggests otherwise. The trolley should be taken down for an inspection and dismantled to check fixings and moving parts for damage and wear and tear, including the suspension chain and fixings.

SINGLE POINT SWINGS:
At the operational inspection, it is not feasible to certify the safety of the universal joint and above head-height chains and fixings for single point swings. This must be completed by an 'At-Height Inspection'.

PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED WITHIN THE REPORT:
Photographs included in this report aid in identifying inspected items and any faults, failures, or findings. However, they should not substitute an on-site inspection and verification by the operator, as might be necessary to consider any actions resulting from the recommendations in the report. Photographs taken at previous inspections, including the site photo, may be reused in this report if they sufficiently identify or illustrate the inspection and/or its findings. Site, Item, and Finding photo's may also be transported and re-used for different inspection types when different inspectors complete various types of inspections using our Safeplay Live inspection system, if they sufficiently identify or illustrate the inspection and/or its findings.

RISK ASSESSMENT SCORING & MATRIX:
A risk assessment is provided to assist the operator in determining the level of the hazard found. The risk assessment utilises the 5 x 5 matrix methodology and risk is assigned as a productof probability and severity.

Risk Score = Probability X Severity

A final qualitative risk rating of high, medium, or low is then obtained from an outcome matrix based upon the calculated risk score.

RISK SCORE:
The following tables give examples of the factors, which may be considered to determine theappropriate levels of probability and severity utilised in the calculation of quantitative risk scores. Examples indicated are not exhaustive.

Probability Score	Probability of Occurrence
1 VERY LOW	No significant probability • Lightning Strike
2 LOW	Minimal probability of occurrence. Requires significant factor or combination of factors to take place • Significant increase in intensity of use
3 MEDIUM	Medium probability. An added factor is needed to cause an accident. Designed use is unlikely to be problematic, additional factoris required. • Covers or guards loose, removed or vandalised • Absent guard rail or barrier at high levels
4 HIGH	High probability. Accident is probable without any added factor. • Glass contaminant in loose fill surface • Exposed sharp edges on equipment
5 VERY HIGH	Very High probability. If the situation is not addressed an accident is almost certain. • Severely worn chains / shackles • Severely damaged surfacing with impact area

Severity Score	Severity of Injury
1 VERY LOW	No injury likely e.g. damaged or soiled clothing, minor bruising
2 LOW	Minor injury – Laceration or bruising requiringfirst aid only
3 MEDIUM	Injury requiring medical intervention e.g. laceration requiring stitching, sprain, fracture of small bones of hand or foot
4 HIGH	Serious injury including hospitalisation for observation e.g. concussion, fracture of long bones of leg/arm, back/neck injuries,fractured skull
5 VERY HIGH	Severe injury involving the potential for permanent disability

RISK RATING:
Having obtained a risk score, the qualitative risk rating is obtained using the following matrix.

PROBABILITY	5	Very High	L	L	M	H	VH
	4	High	L	L	M	H	H
	3	Medium	L	L	L	M	M
	2	Low	L	L	L	L	L
	1	Very Low	L	L	L	L	L
			Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
			1	2	3	4	5
			SEVERITY				

Very High (25)	Action advised to be undertaken immediately. The Operator or appropriate representative will be notified from the site by telephone(this will be indicated on the report).
High (16-20)	May continue in use. Action required as indicated on the report will be necessary within 1 month.
Medium (12-15)	May continue in use. Action required as indicated on the report will be necessary with 3 – 6 months, as finance allows.
Very Low / Low (1-10)	May continue in use. Action may be required, but monitoring should be undertaken. The necessary action will be indicated on the report where appropriate.