

PLAY AREA OPERATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT

Name of Site Owner: Horsmonden Parish Council

Name of Play Area: Locket Green Play Area

Name of Inspector: Peter Bamford **Inspector's RPII Cert No. & Exp Date:** OP3607 / 5.9.2027

Date & Time of Inspection: Tuesday 19th May 2026 @ 1.50pm

Inspector's Signature: 





Risk Scores – an explanation


A risk assessment of faults and Standard failures is given in terms of **LOW**, **MEDIUM** & **HIGH**. As a general principal items marked **LOW** as only require monitoring. Items marked as **MEDIUM** require appropriate action within the resources and individual site assessment. Items marked **HIGH** as 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.

Numeric risk scores come in the following bands:

- 1 – 3** Very low risk
- 4 – 7** Low risk
- 8 – 12** Medium risk
- 13 – 20** High Risk
- 21+** Unacceptably high risk.

Site Access

Site Access	 	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are all road barriers undamaged & securely fixed?	N/A			
Are all road signs present & legible?		 <p>There are 'School' Children Crossing signs in both directions but not 'Playground'. The play area opens straight onto the road; is used outside of school hours & therefore drivers need to be warned.</p>	LOW 2	

		NB 14.11.20 The Parish Council have been in touch with Kent County Council on this matter. It is not possible to have both signs & so the Parish Council have decided to stay with the signage that has always been there, without issue or accident.		
Are pathways in good condition without any trip hazards?	✓		LOW 2	
Are pathways suitable for wheelchair access?	✓		LOW 2	
Are there no weeds & is planting cut back from overhanging the path?	✗	 <p>Weeds are coming back around the edges & legs - treat</p>	LOW 2	
Are adjacent fences undamaged & not a hazard?	✓		LOW 2	

General Location

General Location	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are safety measures for any nearby water in good condition?	N/A			
Is protection for electricity items in good condition?	N/A			
Are car parking safety measures in good condition?	N/A			
Do nearby trees appear to be in good condition & not likely to fall?	N/A			
Are tree ties & stakes in good condition?	N/A			
Is there no hazardous planting which intrudes the play area?	✓		LOW 2	
Is the site & surrounding free from litter & debris?	✓		LOW 2	

Is the site & surrounding areas free from animal fouling?	✓		LOW 2	
Is there no glass or sharp objects on, or near the area?	✓		LOW 2	

Ancillary Items


Gates & Dog Grids	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Do gates open & close properly (from 90° to shut in 5-8secs)?	✗	The gate to the road is closing too quickly. The gate by the Kindergarten is closing too slowly - adjust both	MED 7	
Are closing mechanisms working, in good condition, with no loose covers?	✓		LOW 2	
Is the gap either side of the gate not less than 12mm when in use?	✓		LOW 2	
Are there no protrusions (bolts, etc) on the gate?	✓		LOW 2	
If dog grids are present are they securely fixed & clean underneath?	N/A			
Is the vehicle access gate locked?	N/A			

Fences & Hedges	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are all fences complete, undamaged, & securely fixed?	✓		LOW 2	
Are any hedges in good condition?	N/A			
Are there no protrusions (bolts, etc) from the fence?	✓		LOW 2	

Signs & Seats	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
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Are all signs present, legible & securely fixed?	✓		LOW 2	
Are all seats & benches undamaged & in good condition?	✓			
Is paint/preservative in good condition?	N/A			

Litter Bins	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are all litter bins complete & undamaged?	✓		LOW 2	
Are they securely fixed against movement?	✓		LOW 2	
Are any inserts locked against unauthorised removal?	✓		LOW 2	
Have the bins been emptied?	✓		LOW 2	

Other	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are all internal barriers secure & in good condition?	N/A			
Are internal paths & routes between items in good condition?	✗	 The wetpour is starting to shrink again, leaving a small trip hazard - monitor	LOW 4	

If there are drains on site, are covers present & secured?	N/A			
Is the general surface free from trip hazards?	✓		LOW 2	
Does the site appear to be well drained without excessive puddles?	✓		LOW 2	
Are any cycle racks in good condition & fixed?	N/A			
Are there no unauthorised items on the site?	✓		LOW 2	


ROCKING ITEMS

Manufacture: Playdale

Year of Installation: 2009



Rocking Item	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are all supports & springs present & secure & free from decay at ground level?	✓		LOW 2	
Are ground fixings secure & without undue movement?	✓		LOW 2	
Does the item move smoothly & noiselessly?	✓		LOW 2	
Are all hand grips & footrests present & securely fixed?	✓		LOW 2	

Is all timber, metal or laminate in good condition?	✓	 <p>There is another cracked weld at the base of the handles on the side nearest the gate. Monitor for the time being 20.2.2023 – there is no further deterioration 15.5.2023 – there is no further deterioration 14.8.2023 – there is no further deterioration 20.11.2023 – there is no further deterioration 19.2.2024 – there is no further deterioration 21.5.24 - there is no further deterioration 24.8.24 - there is no further deterioration 18.11.24 - there is no further deterioration 17.2.25, 12.5.25, 18.8.25, 12.11.25, 18.2.26, 19.5.26 - there is no further deterioration</p>	LOW 2	
Where chains or ropes are present are they secure & in good condition?	N/A			

Surfacing	✓ X	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are safety surfaces undamaged with no holes in wet pour & all tiles securely fixed without undue gaps?	✓		LOW 2	

Are loose fill surfaces level, without rubbish or fouling & at least 300mm deep?	N/A			
Is safety surface level with the surrounding ground & not causing trips hazards?	✓		LOW 2	
If surfacing is grass, is it in good condition without undue wear?	N/A			
Are there no trip hazards on or at the edge of the surfacing?	✓		LOW 2	
Are there no weeds present?	✓		LOW 2	

SWINGS

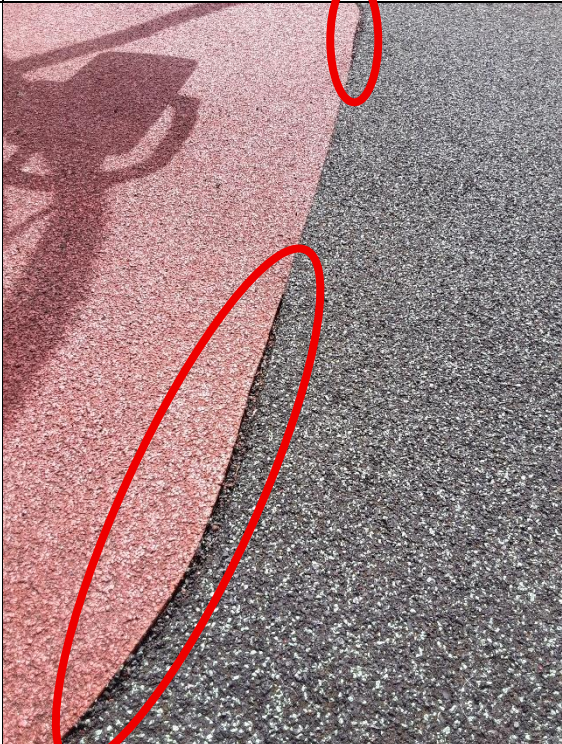
Manufacture: Playdale

Year of Installation: 2009



Swings	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are all supports present & secure & free from decay at ground level?	✓		LOW 2	
Is all timber or metal work undamaged & free from rot or corrosion?	✓		LOW 2	
Are supports secure in the ground & all fixings secure?	✓		LOW 2	
Does it work properly without undue noise?	✓		LOW 2	
Are the chains intact & in good condition with less than 40% wear?	✓		LOW 2	
Are the swing seats unbroken with no exposed metal?	✓		LOW 2	
Are the seats fixed securely & undamaged (with secure centre bar on cradle seats)?	✓		LOW 2	

On single point swings is the beam padded where children might strike it?	N/A			
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Surfacing	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are safety surfaces undamaged with no holes in the wet pour & all tiles securely fixed without undue gaps?	✗	 <p>There is shrinkage between the colours, leaving a small trip hazard - monitor</p>	LOW 4	
Are loose fill surfaces level, without rubbish or fouling & at least 300mm deep?	N/A			
Is safety surface level with the surrounding ground & not causing trips hazards?	✓		LOW 2	
If surfacing is grass, is it in good condition without undue wear?	N/A			
Are there no trip hazards on or at the edge of the surfacing?	✓		LOW 2	
Are there no weeds present?	✓		LOW 2	



BALANCE BEAMS, STEPPING LOGS & PLAY HOUSES

Manufacture: Playdale

Year of Installation: 2019

Infant Tractor

Items	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are all supports present & secure & free from decay at ground level?	✓		LOW 2	
Is all timber or metal work undamaged & free from corrosion?	✓		LOW 2	
Do all top surfaces have a non-slip top?	✓		LOW 2	
Are all nuts & bolts secure without any projecting thread?	✓		LOW 2	
On Play Houses are all doors & windows secure & in good condition?	✓		LOW 2	
Are there NO finger entrapments in any doors or windows?	✓		LOW 2	
Are Play Houses clean inside without graffiti (especially obscenities)?	✓		LOW 2	

Surfacing	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are safety surfaces undamaged with no holes in wet pour & all tiles securely fixed without undue gaps?	✓		LOW 2	
Are loose fill surfaces level, without rubbish or fouling & at least 300mm deep?	N/A			
Is safety surface level with the surrounding ground & not causing trips hazards?	✓		LOW 2	

If surfacing is grass, is it in good condition without undue wear?	N/A			
Are there no trip hazards on or at the edge of the surfacing?	✓		LOW 2	
Are there no weeds present?	✓		LOW 2	

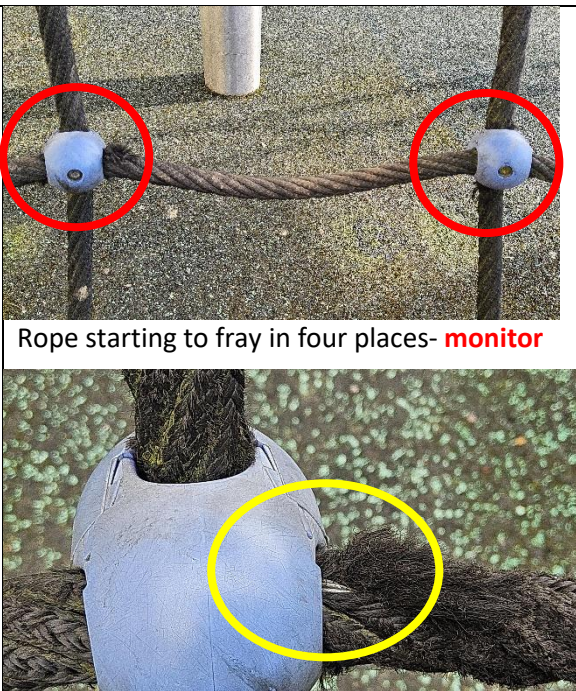
MULTI-PLAY ITEMS

Manufacture: Playdale

Year of Installation: 2009



Multi-Play Items	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are all supports present & secure & free from decay at ground level?	✗	There is movement in the single platform post (nearest the Kindergarten) which takes a significant amount of strain. Consult the Manufacturer regarding the potential for rot – the failure of this post would undoubtedly leave users injured. Monitor ongoingly – 15.11.20, 16.2.21, 10.5.21, 27.8.21 28.11.21, 24.2.22, 16.5.22, 23.8.22, 22.11.22, 20.2.23, 15.5.23, 14.8.23, 20.11.23, 19.2.24, 21.5.24, 24.8.24, 18.11.24, 17.2.25, 12.5.25, 18.8.25, 12.11.25, 18.2.26, 19.5.26 no increase in movement	MED 12	
Is all timber or metal work undamaged & free from corrosion?	✓		LOW 2	
Are all guard rails & barriers present & all parts securely fixed?	✓		LOW 2	
Are all platforms secure & undamaged?	✓		LOW 2	
Are there no signs of fresh timber or holes in metal where something may have been removed?	✓		LOW 2	
Are all nuts & bolts secure without any projecting thread?	✓		LOW 2	

Are all ropes or chains secure & undamaged & free from wear?	✗	 <p>Rope starting to fray in four places- monitor</p> <p>Bare metal exposed, no broken strands – monitor & budget to replace the rope</p>	LOW 2	New net arrived, to be fitted asap
Is the slide chute secure, undamaged & free from obstructions?	✓		LOW 2	
Are any moving parts secure & do they move freely without undue noise?	✓		LOW 2	

Surfacing	✓✗	Action Necessary	Risk	Action Completed
Are safety surfaces undamaged with no holes in wet pour & all tiles securely fixed without undue gaps?	✓		LOW 2	
Are loose fill surfaces level, without rubbish or fouling & at least 300mm deep?	N/A			
Is safety surface level with the surrounding ground & not causing trips hazards?	✓		LOW 2	
If surfacing is grass, is it in good condition without undue wear?	N/A			

Are there no trip hazards on or at the edge of the surfacing?	✓		LOW 2	
Are there no weeds present?	✓		LOW 2	