



Risk Assessment APPENDIX 1 – Play Areas

Date	14 th March 2024
Assessed by	Lucinda Edwards (Clerk)
Location	Broadbridge Heath Parish Council Owned Play area – The Ducky – list of sites featured below
Assessment number	APPENDIX 1 TO PARISH COUNCIL'S ADOPTED RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME
Circumstance, activity, task, system or area being assessed	Play areas and infrastructure inspections
Review date	May 2025

Severity		Likelihood		Risk (Severity x Likelihood)	
1	Negligible outcome - Minor injuries, self-treated, slight transient / reversible effects.	1	Very Unlikely - Extremely unlikely to occur	1 - 4	Low risk
2	Minor outcome - Minor Injuries requiring First Aider treatment with no days lost other than the incident	2	Unlikely Occurrence - can happen, but unlikely	5 - 9	Medium risk
3	Moderate outcome - Moderate Injuries requiring hospital treatment (i.e. taken from the scene of the accident to hospital), or work absences of one or more days due to injury or occupational ill health + RIDDOR	3	Possible - Would not be surprised if happened	10 – 25	High risk
4	Major outcome - Major injuries of one or more persons, including permanent disablement (e.g. amputation, loss of sight, serious burns, requires resuscitation and/or hospitalised for > 24 hours).	4	Likely - This event is more likely to occur than not		
5	Extreme outcome - Fatality (death of one or more persons), reportable diseases (e.g. asbestosis), explosion (gas)/serious fire.	5	Very Likely - This will happen. Probably more than once		

No.	Hazard Activity / plant / materials, etc that could cause harm	Risk What the harm might be	No. & type of people in danger e.g. staff, visitor, young person, disabled etc	Current control measures The measures actually in place, not supposedly in place	Risk with current control measures			Further Control Measures What further control measures are needed if risk level is too high?	Action Who will act & when?	Risk if further controls implemented		
					Severity 1-5	Likelihood 1-5	Risk S x L			Severity 1-5	Likelihood 1-5	Risk S x L
1.	Faulty play equipment	Instability or failure of equipment causing falls and subsequent injury. Abrasion/scratched from damaged to wood and metal work	Children	<p>Equipment conforms to BS EN 1176 Play area equipment.</p> <p>Equipment is visually inspected weekly.</p> <p>Operational inspection is carried out at least quarterly.</p> <p>Annual independent play inspection carried out by an independent play inspector.</p> <p>Any equipment which requires remedial attention is made safe and secured from use.</p> <p>Signage is used to highlight faulty equipment detailing that it's not to be used.</p> <p>When purchasing new items of play equipment using metal fixings in the ground is preferred over that of wooden legs</p>	4	2	8					
2.	Slip, trips and falls	Potential for cuts and grazes. Possible twisting of ankles sprains and strains	Children and Adult	<p>Impact surfacing around play area equipment conforms to BS EN 1177.</p> <p>Any hazards identified are reported and repairs/maintenance contracted.</p> <p>Changes in surface level are minimised.</p> <p>Hazardous areas are identified and fenced off to prevent slips and trips until the area can be rectified e.g. damage, spills and flooding. Paths are cleared where required.</p> <p>Fallen leaves are cleared during the autumn and winter periods.</p>	3	1	3					

				<p>Where concerns are raised, grass areas are checked for holes and where holes are found these are filled in.</p> <p>All drains and ditches are cleared and maintained to ensure flooding issues are minimised.</p> <p>The site is checked for animal faeces and any found is removed and disposed of safely</p> <p>Litter picking is carried out during the weekly inspection of the play area.</p> <p>Moss or algae on paths is removed by contractor.</p>							
3.	Trees within play area	Risk of branches and tree falling on to people using the play area	Children and Adults	<p>Trees are inspected every 3 years.</p> <p>Tree work is carried out by an external contractor</p>	3	1	3				
4.	Falls from climbing apparatus/collision between users	Cuts/abrasions, bumps, broken limbs, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	Children	<p>Impact surfacing around play area equipment conforms to BS EN 1177.</p> <p>Equipment is visually inspected weekly, with full operational checks carried out quarterly.</p> <p>Signage detailing age restrictions on equipment.</p>	2	2	4				
5.	Plants – (poisonous and thorny)	Poisoning from berries/plants and scratches and puncture wounds from thorny plants Irritation on contact	Children and Vulnerable adults	<p>Weekly visual checks of areas monitor growth.</p> <p>Planting design within play area limits any plants that are either thorny or irritant.</p> <p>Sting nettles and brambles are cut back as required.</p>	2	1	2				
6.	Litter – Glass	Cuts and lacerations	Children	<p>Play areas are inspected weekly.</p> <p>Arrangements are made urgently to remove any reported glass in play areas.</p>	2	2	4				

7.	Litter – used needles	Needle stick injuries and blood born viruses (HIV, Hepatitis B)	Children and Adults	Play areas are inspected weekly. Any needles found are reported.	2	1	2				
8.	Structures within play areas i.e. Totem poles, statue and sculptures	Falls from height Objects falling over	Children and Adults	Visual inspections are carried out weekly. Quarterly Operational inspections are carried out by an independent play inspector. Structure design is taken into account in play area ensuring that aspects such as falls from height are minimised. When purchasing new items of play equipment using metal fixings in the ground is preferred over that of wooden legs.	4	2	8				
9.	Animal faeces/urine and Ticks	Infection through Zoonic disease i.e. Toxoplasmosis, E coli, Lyme disease and Weils disease	Children and Adults	Signage is in place indicating that dogs are not allowed in play area. Visual inspections are carried out weekly. Dog walkers are encouraged to pickup dog foul. Bag dispensers are available at 2 locations. Ticks are a hard thing to monitor in general but BBHPC will work with its Environmental health department and Public Health England on potential lymes disease outbreaks and where required display signage highlighting the awareness of Lymes disease locations	3	1	3				
10.	Wasps and bees	Stings from wasp and bees Anaphylaxis	Children and Adults	All wasp and bee incidents within play areas are addressed urgently through pest control and nest swarms are removed. Signage is displayed warning visitors of bees and wasps during swarming incidents. Rubbish bins are emptied more frequently during the summer month so wasps populating around bins is minimised.	2	2	4				

11.	Litter – Drug use and waste	Infectious diseases Hepatitis A	Children, Adults and Staff	Play areas are inspected weekly by competent personnel. Incidents of Antisocial behaviour through drug use are reported to Sussex Police	2	1	2						
12.	Waste collection and disposal	Fire/vermin – Rubbish not collected and allowed to accumulate	Children and Adults	Waste bins are emptied a minimum of once a week. This is constantly monitored/	2	1	2						
13.	Access to and from the play areas	Slip/trip hazards e.g. potholes and raised paved edges	Children and Adults	Impact surfacing around play area equipment conforms to BS EN 1177. Changes in surface level are minimised. Hazardous areas are identified and fenced off to prevent slips and trips until the area can be rectified e.g. damage, spills and flooding. Fallen leaves are cleared during the autumn and winter periods. Grass areas are checked for holes and where holes are found these are filled in. All drains are cleared and maintained to ensure flooding issues are minimised.	3	1	3						
14.	Undesirable people within the play area e.g. Anti-Social behaviour	Intimidating behaviour, people feeling unsafe	Children and adults	Anti-social behaviour is not tolerated within BBHPC play areas Incidents that are reported are investigated and people causing anti-social behaviour are asked to leave	3	2	6						

This Generic Risk Assessment covers the following Play areas owned by Broadbridge Heath Parish Council.

The Village Centre Monster Play Area

The Ducky Play Area

Singleton Road Play Area

Charrington Way Play Area