

SANCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Risk Assessment and Management – Play Areas May 2022

The Children’s Play Area is located in Houghton Lane, Sancton, YO43 4QU, and the Back Field (informal sports area) can be found behind it. Monthly visual inspections of the play equipment are carried out, and annual inspections are carried out by external professional company. The Clerk holds copies of these inspections.

CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA

ITEM/AREA	RISK IDENTIFIED	RISK LEVEL	CONTROL	RESIDUAL RISK
Entrance gate	Personal injury	Low	New metal gate fitted in 2016. Rubber buffers fitted at opening and hinge end to prevent finger entrapment. Self-closing spring to ensure gate is not left open.	Low
	Injury to third party	Low	Young children required to be accompanied by an adult.	Low
Signage	Personal injury	Low	Signage fixed securely. In 2020, COVID-19 and ‘No Food’ signs fitted. Telephone number amended. No perceived risks.	Low
Site	Personal injury	Low	Site cleared of hazards. Surface – grass, or wet pour (around roundabout only) in good condition, no holes. Contractor engaged to cut grass, trim, cut hedges. Signage detailing terms of use displayed on gate – No dogs, children under 5 years accompanied by an adult, equipment suitable from 18months to 13 years, and shoes must be worn. Grit bin nearby for winter use.	Low
	Risk to third party, property or individuals	Low	Low level of use. Adults required to accompany young children.	Low
	Entrapment	Low	No ropes. No risk perceived.	Low

ITEM/AREA	RISK IDENTIFIED	RISK LEVEL	CONTROL	RESIDUAL RISK
Litter bin	Personal injury	Low	Fixed securely by ERYC in March 2015 just outside entrance gate to Play Area. Emptied weekly by ERYC.	Low
	Risk to health	Low	Keeps litter off the site, minimising any health risks.	Low
Fencing	Personal injury	Low	No perceived problems from Wicksteed Safety Inspector. New wooden fencing erected in 2016.	Low
	Risk to third party, property or individuals	Low	No perceived problems.	Low
Picnic table	Personal injury	Low	Replaced by new table in 2017.	Low
	Risk to third party, property or individuals	Low	Picnic table anchored to the ground to prevent it falling on someone. Picnic table anchored by Cllrs Shepherd/Cary/Mr Stokes	Low
Security	Personal injury/abduction	Low	Site is in open location, in view of housing. Strangers would be noticed. Adults accompany young children.	Low
Timber birds nest swing	Personal injury	Low	All timber in good condition.	Low
	Risk to third party, property or individuals	Low	Young children should be accompanied by an adult, to prevent falling or being hit by swing.	Low
	Entrapment	Low	Sent to manufacturer to replace 2 links, noted by The Play Inspection Co, but this may not be possible due to diameter of rope attaching. Very low risk of finger entrapment.	Low
	Bird deterrent	Low	Plastic spikes added to top of the frame	Low

ITEM	RISK IDENTIFIED	RISK LEVEL	CONTROL	RESIDUAL RISK
Scooter springer	Personal injury	Low	In good condition. Set in grass, so falling would be on to soft ground.	Low
	Risk to third party, property, or individuals	Low	Toddlers to be accompanied to prevent accidents, as per sign on gate.	Low
	Entrapment	Low	No perceived risk.	Low
Normandy Multi play unit	Personal injury	Low	In good condition. Slide run out noted by The Play Inspection Co – uneven ground causes the run out to be more than 10 degrees. No action required. Monitor use. Run out onto grass – soft landing.	Low
	Risk to third party, property, or individuals	Low	Young children to be accompanied by an adult.	Low
	Entrapment	Low	Small hole in roof has been previously mended to prevent finger entrapment but children removed patches. Scramble net (replaced 2017) passes the requirements of BS EN 1176:2017 for head entrapment. Four rope handles replaced (2018) with solid plastic ones to conform to BS EN 1176:2017 for head entrapment.	Low
Timber swing, flat seat/cradle	Personal injury	Low	In good condition. No perceived problems. Set in grass – soft landing. The Play Inspection Co noted mixed swings. Low level of use (22 children under 16yrs catch school buses in village) – not considered to be a risk, due to low level of use. Extra safety chains fitted to prevent injury should the main suspension point fail.	Low
	Risk to third party, property, or individuals	Low	Young children to be accompanied by adult.	Low

ITEM	RISK IDENTIFIED	RISK LEVEL	CONTROL	RESIDUAL RISK
	Entrapment	Low	No risk perceived.	Low
	Bird deterrent	Low	Plastic spikes added to top of the frame	Low
Whizabout roundabout	Personal injury	Low	In good condition. Mechanism checked October 2019 by manufacturer – found to be in good condition. Wet pour in good condition.	Low
	Risk to third party, property, or individuals	Low	Young children to be accompanied by adult.	Low
	Entrapment	Low	Young children to be accompanied by an adult.	Low
Freestanding Platform Slide	Personal injury	Low	New in March 2018. Safamat Surfacing for soft landing.	Low
	Risk to third party, property, or individuals	Low	Young children to be accompanied by adult.	Low
	Entrapment	Low	No risk perceived	Low

NOTE: In all this area the risk is perceived as low for older children. Young children must be accompanied by an adult to reduce their risk of injury.

All remaining risks are managed to a reasonable level.

This risk assessment will be reviewed on receipt of an Annual Inspection from an external body.

This risk assessment paper was reviewed and adopted by Sancton Parish Council at its meeting on 20th June 2022.