




Play Statement

Project Name	Tree House and Climbing Forest	
Brief description	<p>Two tree houses are joined together with balancing ropes, climbing ropes, scramble nets, tunnels, slide and monkey bars.</p> <p>Equipment Contracted: Kompan Installed: sub-contractors TCL Designed: Sik Holz.</p>	
Expected play benefits;- (A benefit is something that promotes or enhances the well-being of members of the public or society as a whole)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pleasure and fun 2. The physical challenge encourages children to build their fitness. 3. Experience the thrill of climbing and swinging at height. 4. Children can potentially overcome any fears of heights. 5. Development of self-confidence and well-being 6. Learn to assess strength required to pull their bodyweight up and down 7. The mental challenge of finding a way around the climbing forest and mastering different techniques for different obstacles supports cognitive development. 8. The views of the surrounding landscape encourage children to value their woodlands and their environment. 9. Helps with development of balance, spatial awareness and coordination. 10. Learning through experience: accidents from which one might learn 11. Potential for incorporation into imaginative games where woodlands are the play context, 12. Mixing between different age ranges. 13. Maximised rotational possibilities and therefore good potential for some unpredictability and therefore challenge 14. In play provision, a degree of risk is often beneficial, if not essential. Children and young people enjoy challenging, adventurous play opportunities where they can test themselves and extend their abilities. 	
Location	High Lodge	
Expected lifespan / removal method	15 years /Will be removed in line with manufacturer instructions	

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Key risks associated with project	Who is at risk?	Level of risk	Control measures	Monitoring and maintenance
<p>Falling from height As long as the equipment is used in line with its intended use the greatest distance to fall is from the climbing poles (3m).</p>  <p>The risk of falling is most likely from the monkey bars, high ropes and the wobbly rope bridges due to the challenging nature of the activity. The distance to fall from the high rope for a very small 6 yr. old will be <2m.</p> 	Visitors including children	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weekly written ranger checks of all play equipment and sculptures. - Daily written ranger checks of all play equipment and sculptures in peak times. - Monthly operational inspection by trained contractor. - Yearly RoSPA inspections - Compliance with manufacturers/suppliers installation and maintenance guidelines - Perform immediate repairs or closure of any unsafe items until item is deemed safe. - Surfacing maintained to 300mm in line with FC guidance and EN1177. - Equipment in line with EN1176. - The large bottom step on the ladder stops smaller/less capable children from reaching the wobbly rope bridge. - The challenging nature of the wobbly rope bridge and the high ropes helps to ensure that competent children reach the monkey bars. 	<p>Weekly written ranger checks of all play.</p> <p>Monthly operational inspection by trained contractor.</p> <p>Yearly RoSPA inspections</p> <p>Play ranger to monitor type of use</p> <p>Maintenance in line with manufacturer's guidelines</p> <p>Accidents monitored by site manager.</p>


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The distance to fall from the monkey bars for a very small 6 yr. old will be <1.73m.



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<p>Risk of arm or shoulder injury when using monkey bars.</p>		<p>Visitors including children</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>The challenging nature of the wobbly rope bridge and the high ropes helps to ensure that competent children reach the monkey bars.</p>	<p>Accidents monitored by site manager.</p>
<p>Injury to young or inexperienced children</p>		<p>Visitors including children</p>	<p>L</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parental supervision. This is clearly signed as you enter the main play area. We entrust parents to have good judgement of their child's own ability. - The equipment has been designed to be very challenging to reach elements which take greater skill e.g. monkey bars. The large bottom step on the ladder stops smaller/less capable children from reaching the wobbly rope bridge and high ropes. - The equipment is further away from the main hub and the main play area. 	<p>Play ranger to monitor type of use</p>
<p>Injury from improper use and inadequate supervision</p>		<p>Visitors including children</p>	<p>L</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parental supervision. This is clearly signed as you enter the main play area. We entrust parents to have good judgement of their child's own ability. - Weekly written ranger checks of all play equipment and sculptures. In 	<p>Play ranger to monitor type of use</p>


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				<p>peak time checks are undertaken daily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly operational inspection by trained contractor. Annual more in-depth check. - Yearly RoSPA inspections - Compliance with manufacturers/suppliers installation and maintenance guidelines - Perform immediate repairs or closure of any unsafe items until item is deemed safe - Emergency procedures in place 	
Slips, trips or falls		Visitors including children	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weekly written ranger checks of all play equipment and sculptures. In peak time checks are undertaken daily. - Monthly operational inspection by trained contractor. - Remove or cover all obvious stumps and roots from the main trail and clearings. - Clear any obvious hazards. - Ensure area is regularly checked for dangerous trees. - Emergency procedures - Forest craftsmen to ensure all stumps are removed that are less than 10 inches in diameter and not obvious. 	<p>Weekly written ranger checks of all play.</p> <p>Monthly operational inspection by trained contractor.</p> <p>Yearly RoSPA inspections</p> <p>Accidents monitored by site manager.</p>



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Injury from fallen tree		Visitors including children	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per OGB 1 East England tree safety policy guidance management zones and surveys. 	Craftsman monitors tree safety annually
Structural integrity & equipment foundations		Visitors including children	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil engineer annual inspections Monthly operational inspection by trained contractor. Annual check of foundations. 	<p>Foundations checked annually by trained contractor and civil engineer.</p> <p>Maintenance in line with manufacturer's guidelines</p>

Benefit of risk statement – *The Tree House and Climbing Forest is the most challenging piece of play equipment we have on site and is a fantastic piece of equipment for older and more capable children to develop and push their abilities. This equipment is designed to imitate the way we would naturally climb through trees and some of the obstacles are high off the ground which helps children develop the mental discipline to overcome fear of heights. The equipment is designed for children with different levels of abilities so children can gently build up their skill base and experience of balancing and climbing at lower levels before trying it at height. Additionally, the slide and tunnel net offer younger children a wonderful play experience. The equipment will not only help improve children's physical ability and mental wellbeing but through social play will improve emotional development. The natural forest setting of the Tree House and Climbing Forest offers amazing views into the surrounding Breckland landscape as well as into the canopy of the trees; this will help children to value woodlands and their environment for future generations. The challenging nature of this equipment has a degree of risk but we are content that the benefits and our control measures outweigh this. We will continue to monitor any accidents and review if deemed necessary.*

Risk		Benefits of maintaining the identified risk	Alternative options considered	Decision
1.Falls from height		<p>The physical challenge encourages children to build their strength, agility and thereby improving their fitness and wellbeing.</p> <p>Children experience the thrill of climbing and swinging at height. This will help children overcome any fears of height.</p> <p>The views of the surrounding landscape from the structure are fantastic and this will</p>	<p>Reducing the fall height increasing the cushion fall.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> reduce a key element of the challenge May effect warranty and cause rot This could have an adverse effect by allowing smaller and less experienced children to access the equipment. 	<p>Maintain equipment</p> <p>Monitor use of equipment and any accidents. Review when necessary.</p>

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		<p>encourage children to care for their environment.</p> <p>The mental challenge of finding a way around the climbing forest and mastering different techniques for different obstacles simulates cognitive development.</p> <p>Social play in a natural environment helps emotional development.</p> <p>Low rope bridges allow children to safely build up their experience of balancing before trying it at height.</p>		
<p>2. Risk of arm or shoulder injury when using monkey bars.</p>		<p>The physical challenge encourages children to build their strength, agility, coordination and overall fitness and wellbeing.</p> <p>Children experience the thrill of swinging at height. This also helps children overcome any fear of height.</p> <p>The mental challenge of swinging out onto the monkey bars encourages children to be adventurous /courageous and supports cognitive development.</p>	<p>Remove the monkey bars and replace with something easier</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Reduce a key element of the challenge (2) The equipment might not be challenging enough for very competent children. (3) Reduction in the structures ability to improve mental, physical and emotional development. 	<p>Maintain equipment</p> <p>Monitor use of equipment and any accidents. Review when necessary.</p>

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Person providing the knowledge/ carrying out the assessment	Knowledge or Specialism
<p>Holly Berwick Recreation Ranger</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As an FC Recreation Ranger I specialise in the management of a large play area at High Lodge ensuring the public, volunteers, contractors and other staff member's health and safety is protected at all times. - Trained in writing risk assessments and play area inspections. Additional experience of carrying out risk assessments and setting monitoring standards.
<p>John Ireland Safety Health and Environment Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As an FC health and safety manager I am involved in all aspects of FC's undertaking including planting of trees, harvesting timber, wildlife management, repair of machinery, road building and recreation. - Experience of setting, arranging and carrying out risk assessments, site planning, setting and monitoring site standards. - I work closely with other people in FC at head office in the regions and the forest districts to ensure that the health and safety of employees, contractors, volunteers and members of the public is safeguarded.