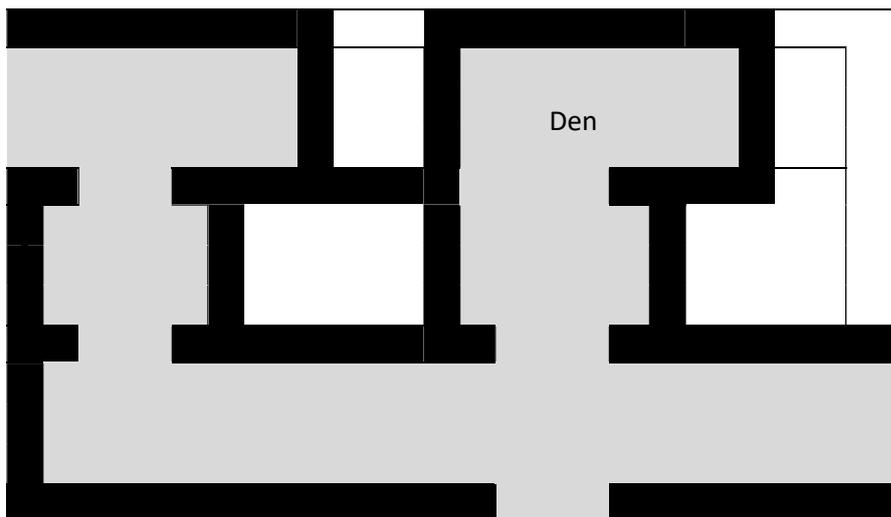


Risk Assessment for The Castle in the Squirrels Playground

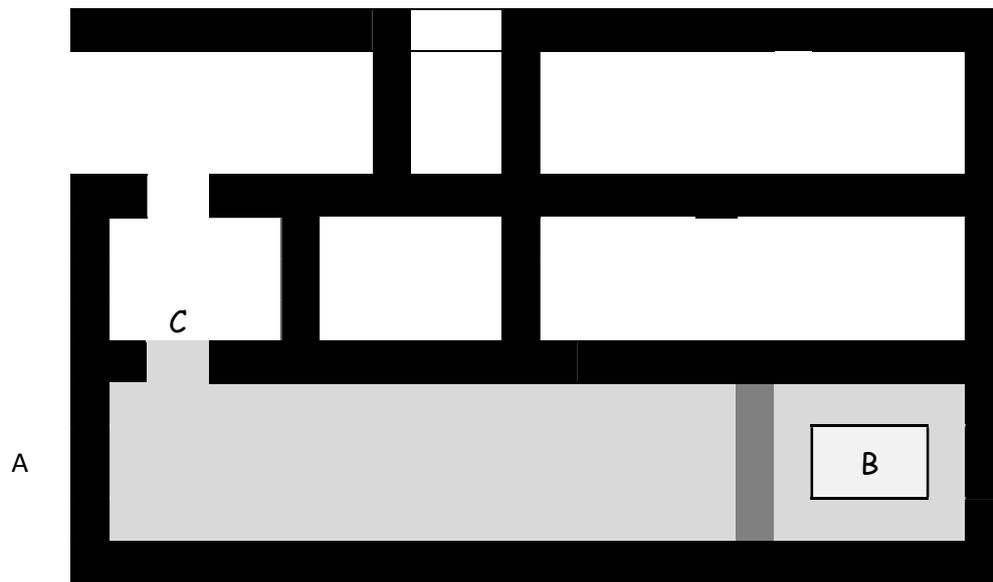
This is a wooden structure. There are three parts to the Castle – a tunnel, a castle and a slide. The risks associated with the use of these features varies and all activity must be supervised. Please note that the slide can be closed off using the bolted gate. A gate is placed at A to allow access to the castle.

The Tunnel – is designed for adventurous play and is indicated grey on the plan. Head torches hanging near the shop can be used. This is a crawling activity with the potential of a den. There are three identifiable low-level risks –



A child may get a wood splinter from the structure	All the wood surfaces have been sanded – the inner tunnel walls are made with planed wood
A child may become frightened inside the tunnel	Check readiness of child. Support and encourage child on first and second attempt
A child may bang head on overhead structure	Encourage children to go slowly and carefully

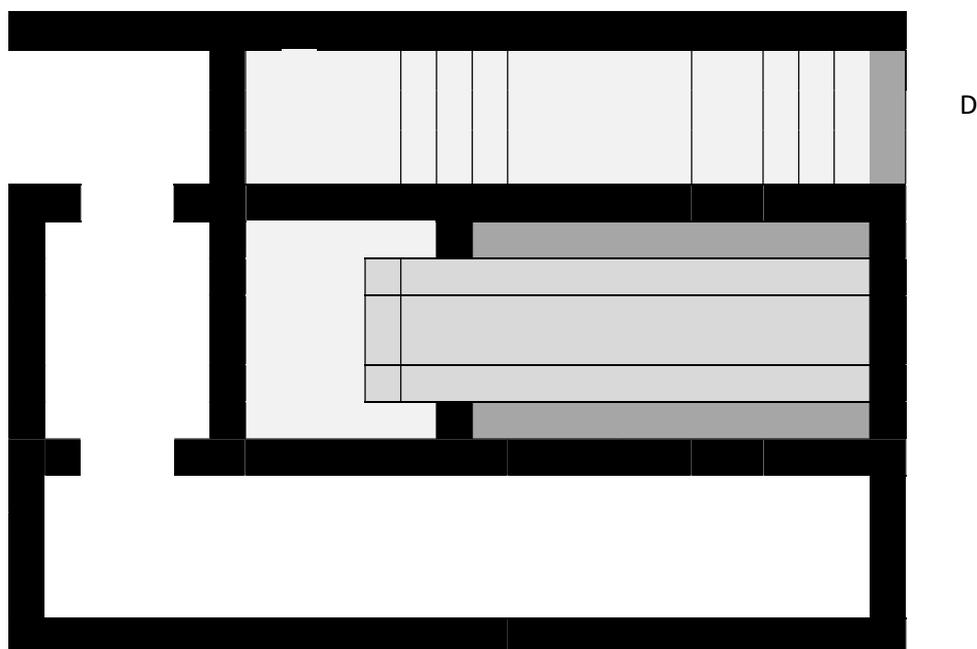
The Castle – shown grey on the plan is designed for adventurous play. It is really a raised platform that is accessed by an opening from the lower tunnel at B or from a crawling step again from the lower tunnel at C. There is a secure access for staff at point A.



There are four identifiable risks.

A child may get a wood splinter from the structure	All the wood surfaces have been sanded – the inner tunnel walls are made with planed wood
A child might attempt to climb on the structure	The height of castellated walls is designed to give enclosure and discourage climbing. This must be a supervised activity.
A child might bang their head on the access marked C	The edges and corners are well rounded. Children need to be encouraged to take their time.
A child might fall at the opening marked B	A wooden bar is placed (dark grey shading) before the opening marked B. This is designed to slow down movement near the opening.

The Slide – is a separate structure that can closed off at the gate marked D. Only older children can use this facility and all children must always be supervised. Access to the slide is gained through the gate and via a series of steps. Only two children can be within at any one time.



There are four identifiable risks.

A child may get a wood splinter from the structure	All the wood surfaces have been sanded – the gap between the slide and the enclosing wall is infilled with expanded foam to prevent fingers/hands being trapped.
A child may fall on the steps	All the wood surfaces have been sanded. Children must be encouraged to take their time on the steps
A child may travel too quickly on the slide	Child must slide in sitting position – adult must be at the bottom of the slide to assist where necessary. Ground surface is rubber matting.
A child may be pushed over by the child travelling down the slide at the bottom	Children are encouraged and reminded to no stand at the bottom of the slide and the child coming down the slide is encouraged to check the bottom is clear before they go down. Adult must supervise and support the children to do this at all times.

Written 13.04.13 and reviewed annually.

Present revision 12.04.26