

PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT – BOUNDARY FENCE TO POLLARDS COURT HIGH BANK CAR PARK



Date: 12 September 2025

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Location: High Bank Car Park

Inspection carried out by: J Jones, Clerk & RFO and A Binding grounds maintenance contractor

Background / introduction

A site inspection was carried out at High Bank Car Park, focusing on the pathway leading to Pollards Court and the embankment to the stream. The purpose was to assess the condition of the remaining boundary fencing, previous paneling and fence posts were removed following damage during storm Dargah and assess the vegetation along the stream and determine necessary maintenance actions.

It should be noted that the footpath in question is not a designated public footpath as originally thought but serves as rear access to the residential properties backing onto it. Based on current understanding and land registry information, it is understood that the boundary fence belongs to Porlock Parish Council. Therefore, the Council is considered responsible for its upkeep and any associated safety measures.

Options or recommendations

Following the inspection, the following remedial actions are recommended:

1. Fence Post & Panel Removal

- Remove remaining two failed fence posts and panels.
- Use treated timber for durability and ensure secure anchoring to support the existing structure.

2. Railing Installation

- Install a new wood railing to the length of the path
- Ensure proper alignment and secure fittings to restore safety and boundary definition.

3. Vegetation Management

- Remove or the vegetation covering the fencing.
- Implement ongoing vegetation control to prevent future rot and allow for regular maintenance inspections.

Financial and legal considerations

- **Ownership Responsibility:** As the footpath is not public and the fence is assumed to be under Parish Council ownership, the Council is liable for its maintenance and any safety-related issues.
- **Safety Compliance:** The deteriorated fence poses a risk to public safety, particularly near the stream edge. Prompt repairs are necessary to meet duty-of-care obligations.
- **Budget Implications:** As an unplanned cost the repairs would be paid through earmarked reserves and ongoing vegetation management should be reviewed against the future operational maintenance budget. Cost £874.00 EMR 335

Summary of findings

- The remaining two fence posts have failed, compromising the structural integrity of the fence.
- The fencing is rotting due to dense mountain ivy growth.
- The fence serves a critical safety function by protecting the stream edge near the car park and pathway.
- Immediate action is required to prevent further deterioration and ensure public safety.

Sources of information

- On-site inspection conducted by the clerk & grounds maintenance contractor.
- Visual assessment of structural damage and vegetation impact.

- Historic title deed boundary ownership documents.
- Maintenance history and budget records for High Bank Car Park.
- **Image references:**

