

UPPER SPINNEY FENCING SURVEY

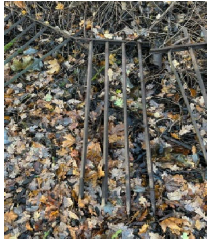
INTRODUCTION - In August 2024 exploratory work was started in order to reveal the fencing running along the north eastern side of the Upper Spinney which was almost completely hidden from view from years of neglect which had allowed scrub of weeds, brambles and ivy to cover an area of approximately 200 square meters. The purpose of the clearance work was to establish the condition and extent of survival of the fencing along this section in order to prepare a comprehensive survey of the fencing. It is hoped that this fencing survey will be the first of a number of surveys of the Upper Spinney which will be part of a bid for major project funding to restore its trees, flora and fauna as well as its historic fencing.

HISTORY OF FENCING - The fencing dates from approximately 1895 when Abington Park was created after the gift of land from the Wantage Estate by Lady Wantage. Originally both the Lower and Upper Spinney had been surrounded by fencing but the fencing around the Lower Spinney was removed to form the boundary of the Park with the houses along Wellingborough Road. The fencing was made by Hill & Smith of Brierley Hill in Birmingham, one of the premier manufactures of fencing in England.

NUMBERING OF THE SECTIONS OF FENCING - The 116 sections of perimeter fencing around the Upper Spinney are listed starting at the edge of the north eastern side close to the main path running up to Weston Favell. The sections run in ascending numerical order in an anticlockwise direction.

Sections	Post (lhs)	Uprights	Condition	Images
1 ✓		Complete	 The first section of the fencing was damaged some time in the past and the horiz rail has been wired up to the post.	 Fencing in November 2021
1.5		(15- not counted as can be reused elsewhere)	There is a gap for 3 bars before the next section which has been filled with a 15 bar section. This is attached with an old clamping repair to uprights. The lhs post is missing.	Note: This 15 bar section could be reused elsewhere if the rail to the first section is reconnected to the first post.
2 ✕		17	Bent section of horizontal. Missing fence post	
3 ✕		Complete	Fair condition apart from missing fence post. Old repair where the post is missing.	 Section 2 Section 3
4 ✓		Complete	Good condition	
5 ✓		Complete	The cattle fence intersects with the centre of this section. Horiz bar bends slightly where the ground dips.	 Section 5
6 ✓		Complete	Good condition	
7 ✓		Complete	Good condition	

8	✓	Complete	Good condition	
9	✓	Complete	Good condition	
10	✓	Complete	Good condition apart from slight bend in horizontal bar	
11	✓	Complete	Good condition apart from slight bend in horizontal bar	
12	✓	16	Skewed to lhs	
13	✓	Complete	Skewed to lhs	
14	✓	17	Substantial damage to this section from falling tree. Post is cracked & missing its lower half.	
15	✓	17	Heavy damage. 2 uprights detached and forced into ground by fallen tree	
16	✓	Complete	Section runs behind large oak tree.	
17	✗	0	End post missing but post hole visible in ground.	
18	✗	0	Missing and post holes not visible	
19	✗	0	Missing and post holes not visible	
20	✗	0	Missing and post holes not visible	
21	✗	0	Missing and post holes not visible	
22	✗	0	Missing and post holes not visible	
23	✗	0	Missing and post holes not visible	
24	✗	0	Missing and post holes not visible	
25	✗	0	Detached section with post and 7 bars on ground. Diagonal support to post behind fallen tree.	
26	✗	0	Detached section of 9 bars resting onto tree with diagonal support behind tree. A post hole corresponding to this section is visible on the ground.	

27	✖		Detached section with post and 12 bars resting onto tree with diagonal support behind tree. A post hole corresponding to this section is visible on the ground.	
28	✖		Detached section with 17 bars on ground. A post hole corresponding to this section is visible on the ground.	
29	✖		Detached complete horizontal section with 15 bars on ground with another detached section with 4 bars on ground + 1/4 post top. From here the fencing starts to turn inwards over 4 sections from 29 to 33. A post hole corresponding to this section is visible on the ground.	
30	✖	13	Post missing but base of post visible in the ground. Retaining horizontal top bar bent upwards. The diagonal stays now on the outside of the fencing.	
31	✓	13	The first of the 2 springs from the park runs through this section. Three upright sections recovered within the Spinney buried in the stream. An iron bar 'gate' placed across the stream to act as a barrier.	
32	✓	Complete	Bottom of post cemented into block with crack at the base of the post.	
33	✓	Complete		
34	✓	Complete	End of the section as it approaches post embedded into tree	

35	✓	Complete	Good condition. This is where uncovering work to the fencing stopped our work on the fencing and all the fence sections along this northern facing side are hidden by thick undergrowth and ivy.	
36	✓	Complete	Good condition	
37	✓	Complete	Good condition	
38	✓	Complete	Good condition	
39	✓	Complete	Good condition	
40	✓	Complete	Good condition	
41	✓	Complete	Good condition	
42	✓	Complete	Good condition	
43	✓	Complete	Good condition	
44	✓	17	Break to horizontal retaining bar	
45	✓	Complete	One upright bent to access spinney	
46	✓	Complete	Good condition	
47	✓	Complete	Good condition	
48	✓	Complete	Good condition	
49	✓	Complete	Good condition	
50	✓	Complete	Good condition	
51	✓	Complete	Good condition	
52	✓	Complete	Good condition	
53	✓	Complete	Good condition	
54	✓	Complete	Good condition	
55	✓	Complete	Good condition	
56	✓	Complete	Good condition	
57	✓	Complete	Good condition	
58	✓	Complete	Break to horizontal retaining bar	
59	✓	16		
60	✓	0	An almost complete section of detached fencing lies on ground of 17 bars brought down by falling branches in 2020.	
61	*	12	2nd stream which runs through the spinney. This sections has been split in 1/2 by damage from falling branches in a storm from 2020. A 7 bars section lies on the ground with the rest still upright.	
62	✓	Complete	Good condition	
63	✓	Complete		
64	✓	Complete		

65	✓		 Detached section with 18 bars on ground from fallen branches. Post broken at top but complete.	 Storm damage to fencing in Dec 2021
66	✓	Complete	Damaged section from Dec 2021 storm, bent back into the Spinney but still standing. Post split at top with bottom section still in situ.	
67	✓	Complete		
68	✓		0 Missing section with only LHS post still standing	Fence removed by contractors and scrapped according to previous Park Warden Chris Lacey.
69	*		0 Missing section with missing LHS post.	Fence removed by contractors and scrapped according to previous Park Warden Chris Lacey.
70	✓	10		
71	✓	Complete	Good condition	
72	✓	Complete	Good condition	
73	✓	Complete	Good condition	
74	✓	Complete	Good condition	
75	✓	Complete	Good condition	
76	✓	Complete	Up to the Rice & Co. cattle fence	
77	✓	Complete	Good condition	
78	✓	Complete	Good condition	
79	✓	Complete	Good condition	
80	✓		6 The old entrance to the spinney with gate missing (now in lock up)	
81	✓	Complete	Good condition	

82	✓	17	 Top rail is dislodged to LHS and broken in middle. Old clamp repair to uprights. Image is taken from inside Spinney looking out.	
83	✓	Complete	Closest to the FP. Has a N'ton Council sign attached. Image is taken from inside Spinney looking out.	
84	✓	Complete	Tree by lake has broken the fencing and forced it out towards the fishing lake.	
85	✓	0	The diagonal stays now revert back to the inside	
86	✓	Complete		
87	✓	Complete	Post cracked to top.	
88	✓	Complete		
89	✓	Complete		
90	✓	Complete	Good condition	
91	✓	Complete	Good condition	

				
92	✓	Complete	Good condition. Section behind large tree to corner of fishing lake.	
93	✓	Complete	Good condition	
94	✓	Complete	Horizontal top rail bent slightly in middle	
95	✓	Complete	Two bars have been bent to gain access to spinney	
96	✓	Complete	Two bars have been bent to gain access to spinney	
97	✓	Complete	Good condition	
98	✓	Complete	Good condition apart from the rhs end where it joins cracked post of section 99.	
99	✓	Complete	Cracked and bent top to post	
100	✓	18	Missing lower section of post	
101	✓	Complete	Good condition	
102	✓	Complete	Good condition	

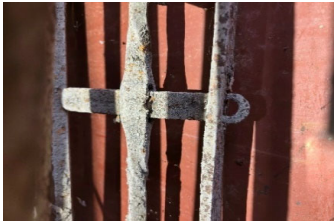
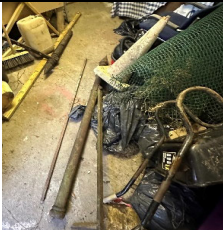
103	✓		This is a short section probably of 10 bars now missing which would have been very similar to section 113.	
104	✖		0 One of the main entry points for drug users in Spinney.	
105	✖		0 One of the main entry points for drug users in Spinney.	
106	✓	Complete - 10 bars only	Section 106	
107	✓	Complete	Good condition	
108	✓	Complete	Top of post missing	
109	✓	Complete	Good condition	
110	✓	13		
111	✓	10		
112	✓	Complete		
113	✓		Section badly damaged by fallen tree from storm damage of 19 February 2022. This is where the conduit passes under the main path.	

114	✓	Complete	Fair condition	
115	✓	1	All of the section missing apart from one upright rammed into the ground by the falling tree. The lhs post cracked at base - see above	
116	✓	5	The uprights have been rammed into the ground by the falling tree. Post bent and missing top.	

Recovered from fence clearance

Recovered fallen fencing which is now hidden behind the entrance of the first spring to the spinney (behind section 31)		As found
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Upper Park Lockup

Upright bars	31	11 have slight bends; 5 bent in half	
Sections of fencing	2 x 10 bar section + 1 x 4 bar section		
Gate		1 x 6 bar section with sliding latch	
Posts		3 incomplete posts + 1 incomplete top post with horizontal rail for uprights and 1 complete post with diagonal retaining bar	

SUMMARY

TOTAL bars missing		456	
TOTAL bars loose		200	
TOTAL bars to replicate		256	
TOTAL of missing sections to rest		22.5	
TOTAL posts missing		20	
TOTAL posts loose (complete pos		7	
TOTAL posts to replicate		13	
% of whole sections missing		19.0%	
% of bars missing (to replicate)		11.5%	
% of posts missing (to replicate)		11.2%	

Fence section measurements

Each fence section	9" x 69¼"	
Post	75½" from base to tip	3" external diameter
Post top rail housing	2½" h x 4" w	
Post support strut	53" & approx. 2ft underground ending with a square base plate	
Uprights	1" sq. bar	69¼" from base rail to tip
Uprights	62½" from base rail to underside of top rail	

Christopher Calnan 14 Dec 2024