

Barbed wire to keep out flytippers on Pinner Green Common is 'illegal'

The fence, judged to have been illegally erected on Pinner Green Common, near Latimer, has been removed.

The fencing was reported to have been put up in 2013 around a small piece of common land adjoining Blackwell Hall Lane to prevent fly-tipping. The land is owned by Chiltern District Council.

The fencing did not have the Secretary of State for Environment's consent, under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006, and was therefore unlawful as the public has the right to walk on the common. The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum and the Open Spaces Society, Britain's leading pressure-group for common land, pressed the local authority to remove the unlawful obstruction. The district council has now written to say the barbed wire strands have been removed so that pedestrian access is once again available.

Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, said: "This is a splendid outcome. "Too often common land suffers unlawful encroachments and no one is prepared to act. "We are pleased that the Local Access Forum recognised this to be an important issue, which could have set a dangerous precedent for other commons and access land. "The forum pursued this with determination and we are grateful to Chiltern District Council for ensuring the fence was removed. "It is excellent that Pinner Green Common, which although small is nevertheless of public value, is open once more for people to enjoy."