

Dry Stone Wall Repair

The dry stone wall at the end of the pathway from St Bridget's Church towards the A595 has fallen into disrepair at the end section nearest the church. There is a danger of it falling onto the road, potentially causing an accident and injury to members of the public.

The issue was first brought to the clerk's attention by the clerk from Lowca parish council after one of their councillors had raised it at a meeting. One of the Lowca councillors spoke to the owners of the adjacent field and was advised the wall was not the landowner's responsibility, because when the path was created part of the agreement was that the dry stone wall was the responsibility of those who had requested the pathway. The Lowca clerk undertook preliminary investigations into the status and ownership of the pathway and the Parton clerk was able to follow through on this.

The following historical detail has been uncovered. The pathway was created in 2004, with the aid of The Environmental Trust. Groundwork West Cumbria were in charge of managing the project. In a letter dated 26th November 2004 from Groundwork to Cumbria Highways they state “ will be registered as a permissive path. It will be open at all times to the public and, under agreement with the landowner, will be maintained by Parton Parish Council”.

The letter would indicate that although ownership has not been transferred, the council agreed to maintain this pathway. The council minutes for this period have been sent to archive, so if further confirmation of this status is required, it will be necessary to recover them. The council has the power to carry out this repair under the Highways Act 1980 s.s.50.

Quotations have been sought and council are invited to resolve to either:

A) Accept one of the quotations:

B) Seek further quotations:

or C) Retrieve council minutes to see if they offer further insights.