



## Metal Fencing For Retirement Homes

**Jacksons  
Fencing**

### Products

- 36m of 1.25m high Barbican Imperial® fencing and gates

### Background

Located in the historic town of Waterlooville, Hampshire, Wellesley Court Retirement Living is part of the MHA care home network. It was developed to provide a safe and supportive environment where older people can enjoy community life while maintaining independence. The site includes thoughtful amenities such as a café, hair and beauty salon, and a rooftop terrace. With lift and wheelchair access throughout, every area is designed for comfort and accessibility.

As part of its commitment to safety and aesthetics, Wellesley Court required a practical solution to define pathways and protect residents without creating an institutional feel. The installation of metal fencing for demarcation was a key element in achieving this balance, providing security and guidance while blending seamlessly with the landscaped surroundings and architectural style of the development.

At the same time, the fencing provided subtle path demarcation to guide residents and discourage walking on grassed areas, without creating an enclosed or restrictive feel. Wayfinding principles were integrated as these have been shown to support residents' independence and reduce anxiety, including the use of black fencing to create a high contrast boundary against lighter backgrounds for improved visibility.

Accessibility was also a priority: gates were installed that are easy to operate for staff and residents while remaining secure and lockable when needed. This combination of visibility, contrast, logical layouts, and accessible features ensures that the environment is not only safe but also intuitive and reassuring for everyone in the community.





## Challenge

As with any retirement living development, safety and security are paramount. Protecting vulnerable individuals, particularly those with cognitive or physical limitations, requires careful planning. The fencing needed to provide reassurance without appearing harsh or institutional, which can negatively impact the sense of comfort and community in a care home setting.

Another important consideration was accessibility. The fencing and gates had to integrate seamlessly with the existing architecture and landscaped areas, complementing the colour scheme of the buildings and guiding residents along wheelchair friendly paths. Gate latches needed to be positioned at a height suitable for wheelchair users, ensuring ease of use for everyone. At the same time, the design had to avoid obstructing movement or creating barriers that could feel restrictive.

## Solution

### Barbican Imperial vertical bar railings

For this project, to meet the requirements for safety, accessibility, and aesthetics, approximately 36 metres of Barbican Imperial® steel paling fencing at a height of 1.25 metres was installed, along with matching single-leaf swing gates. This choice provided a strong physical barrier without compromising the welcoming atmosphere of the retirement community, ensuring residents felt safe while maintaining the open, landscaped feel of the grounds.

The Barbican Imperial® design features a classic pale-through-rail construction, offering strength without the harsh look often associated with security fencing.

Its smooth, rounded pales are particularly important in care home environments, where residents may hold onto the fence for support as they move along pathways. Unlike timber fencing, metal construction eliminates the risk of splinters, ensuring a safer solution. Additionally, the pales that extend above the top rail create a natural handhold, further enhancing accessibility and comfort. Finished in a powder coated black, the fence complements the architectural style of Wellesley Court and blends seamlessly with landscaped areas, achieving a balance of safety, practicality, and aesthetics.

The gates were fitted with padlockable latches positioned for easy access, ensuring usability for residents and staff, including those using wheelchairs. Barbican Imperial® fencing offers the option of decorative finials and post tops for more prestigious applications, though Wellesley Court opted for a clean, minimalist design without these additions.

### Choosing Barbican Imperial® for Long-Term Performance

Investing in high quality fencing is essential for long term performance and cost control. Inferior materials, such as untreated timber or ungalvanised steel, deteriorate quickly, leading to frequent replacements that disrupt residents and increase maintenance costs. By choosing a durable solution like Barbican Imperial® metal fencing, which comes with a 25 year guarantee, Wellesley Court ensures reduced long term expenses and minimises stress for both staff and residents.



Barbican Imperial vertical bar railings with single leaf gate



Barbican Imperial vertical bar railings detail

## Maintaining Visibility and Openness

An important consideration in the fence installation was maintaining visibility for residents. The railings positioned around windows were carefully designed to ensure that views remain unobstructed, which is essential in environments where many individuals spend a significant amount of time indoors. Preserving sightlines to gardens and outdoor spaces not only enhances natural light and visual connection with nature but also supports wellbeing and a sense of openness, avoiding any feeling of confinement. High visibility also increases safety, as residents can quickly alert staff using the orange cord if they notice any potential danger outside, ensuring peace of mind and a proactive approach to security.

## Additional Benefits of Thoughtful Design

As an added benefit, the chosen fencing solution also supported environmental considerations. Its design allows small wildlife, such as hedgehogs, to move freely through the grounds, helping maintain local biodiversity. This thoughtful approach ensured that practical needs were met while enhancing the overall harmony of the outdoor space.

Beyond security, the fencing serves a practical role in guiding residents along designated paths and discouraging access to grassed areas and gardens, helping maintain the grounds without imposing restrictions. As an added benefit, the pale spacing allows small wildlife such as hedgehogs to move freely, supporting local biodiversity. This thoughtful approach demonstrates how a well-chosen fencing solution can enhance safety, accessibility, and environmental harmony without compromising on aesthetics.

## Other Fencing Options for Retirement Living

When planning fencing for retirement living environments, certain options are generally recommended to balance safety, aesthetics, and practicality. Vertical bar or railing systems are often preferred for perimeter security because they look welcoming while being difficult to climb. For areas requiring privacy and security, EuroGuard Combi combines steel panels with timber slats for effective concealment. Timber acoustic barriers are ideal for reducing noise near generators or busy roads, while decorative railings such as Bow Top or Sentry work well for car parks and guiding visitors. These choices reflect the need for security without compromising the sense of openness and comfort that residents value.



Barbican Imperial vertical bar railings



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