
Guidelines for stock proof fencing

Erecting posts and stakes

Fencing should be constructed in straight lines and be strained between strainer posts. Strainer posts should be used at each end of the fence and at least every 100m (2 nets), also at all changes of direction and sudden changes of gradient (especially at the bottom of dips/hollows).

Straining posts are to be dug in to a depth of at least 90cm, properly rammed, firmed (using stones where necessary) and strutted in the line of the fence. Two struts per post should be used on changes of direction except on acute corners of under 90 degrees where a single strut bisecting the angle of turn may be used.

The point end of the strut should be housed approximately 7.5-10cm deep into the straining post at a height of 75cm above ground level. The bottom end should be dug into the ground and rest tight on a half stake driven into the ground or a large stone well bedded below ground level.

Intermediate stakes are to be driven into the ground to a minimum depth of 55cm at 2.7m intervals, in line with the posts.

Erecting wire

Netting should be properly strained and stapled. Staples to be placed on top, 3rd, 5th and bottom wires of the netting on each post.

Barbed wire should be properly strained and stapled to the outside of the posts and stakes 12.5cm above the top of the netting. A second barbed wire above the first may also be used (optional).

Adjoining a public right of way plain wire should be used instead of barbed wire if the barbed wire may injure people or animals using the right of way.

Staples must not be driven fully home on the intermediate posts in order to allow future repair and retensioning work. They are to be positioned diagonally to the grain of the wood.

If necessary an additional line of barbed wire or piece of netting should be added to the bottom of the fence in hollows or dips. Alternatively gaps below the fence should be filled with stone or soil to ensure that it is fully stock proof.

Fencing should **not** be strained or attached to gate posts, trees, shrubs or other structures. Gaps between the end straining posts and other structures should be stock proofed with tanalised fence rails.

Materials

TIMBER must be round peeled softwood (not spruce) and pressure treated to BS 4072, or timber of equivalent quality and durability.

Straining posts 2m x 120mm top diameter.

Struts 2m x 100mm top diameter.

Intermediate stakes 1.7m x 65mm top diameter, pointed.

Note - longer stakes may be needed in soft or uneven ground conditions.

WIRE must comply to BS 4102 and be galvanised to BS 443.

Line wire: 4mm (8 swg) plain mild galvanised wire.

Barbed wire: Two strand 2.5mm (12½ swg) mild steel galvanised 4 point barbed wire.

Pig netting: C8/80/15 galvanised pig netting.

Staples: 40mm x 4mm galvanised wire staples.

In situations where horses are present HT 13/122/8 horse netting may be used.

This guidance is given for general advice only and may not be appropriate to all situations. For more details and site specific advice please contact the Conservation Service on 01629 816270 or email farming@peakdistrict.gov.uk.