



**North York Moors  
National Park**

# Stockproof Fencing

## **For hedgerows**

Protective fencing is needed to protect new growth from livestock and, where appropriate, rabbits and hares. There should be a minimum of 1m left on either side of the planting.

## **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 100 m (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 90 cm (3'), 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 cm (3") deep into the straining post at a height of 75 cm (30") 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 55 cm (21") at 2.7 m (9') 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 12.5 cm (5") 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 re-tensioning 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 stockproof.

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 stockproofed with tanalised fence rails.

## Materials

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

- Straining posts - 2 m x 150 mm (7' x 5-6") top diameter.
- Struts - 2 m x 100 mm (7' x 4") top diameter.
- Intermediate stakes - 1.7 m x 65 mm (5' 6" x 3") 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 - 4 mm (8 swg) plain mild galvanised wire.
- Barbed Wire - Two strand 2.5 mm (12½ swg) mild steel galvanised 4 point barbed wire.
- Pig Netting - C8/80/15 galvanised pig netting.
- Staples - 40 mm x 4 mm (1½" x 8 swg) galvanised wire staples.

Specifications for Rabbit Proofing a Stock Fence

Wire netting of the following specification should be used, galvanised 1.05 m x 32 mm (42" x 1¼") 19 swg rabbit netting.

Rabbit netting should be properly strained and stapled to the outside of the posts and stakes, with the top of the netting at least 75 cm (30") above the ground, at the same height as a line wire of the pig net. The rabbit net is to be clipped to at least 3 of the pig net wires using galvanised or zinc clips at least every 90 cm (1 yd) along the fence.

The bottom 15 cm (6") of the rabbit net is to be turned out, i.e. away from the rabbit proof enclosure, and buried to prevent rabbits burrowing under the netting. Additional netting should be used in hollows to ensure that 15 cm (6") is buried and that the top height of the rabbit netting is not reduced.

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