SPECIFICATION NO: 1.0

Fencing – Stock Netting

1 **NORMAL USAGE**

1.1 Standard stock fencing for ordinary watercourse and farm livestock fencing.

1.2 Fencing where required along a right of way or permissive path plain wire only

1.3 Stockproof fencing for sheep and cattle – spacing of posts (2.5m intermediates for sheep, 2m centre intermediates for cattle) and number of barbed strands (1 strand for sheep, 2 strand for cattle) dependant on stock type

1.4 Mild steel will generally be used as our schemes are often on undulating ground with numerous changes of direction, however high tensile is preferred for long, straight, level sections – this will also allow further spaced intermediate posts.

2 **MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION**

MATERIALS

Timber must be round peeled softwood (not spruce) and pressure tanalised, with **15 years life** span or timber of equivalent quality and durability; UC4 recommended. All timber must be FSC or PEFC certified or sustainably and ethically harvested.

Straining, hanging and shutting posts	2.4 m x 170 mm (8' x 6”-7””) top diameter.
Turning posts	1.7m x 130 mm (7’ x 4”-5”
Intermediate stakes	1.7 m x 80 mm (5' 6" x 3 – 4””) top diameter, pointed.
Rails	7.5cm x 5cm (3” x 2”) at lengths to suit.
Note – longer stakes may be needed in soft or uneven ground	
Plain wire	3.15mm plain mild (or high-tensile) steel galvanised wire Heavily galvanised to BSEN 10244-2 Class A
Barbed wire	Heavy duty twin strand, interlocking 4 point barbed wire. Galvanised to BSEN 10223-2 Class A Manufactured to BSEN 10223-1.
Netting	C8/80/15 hinge joint medium stock fence OR HT8/80-15 unless otherwise agreed with RRT. Must meet minimum British Standard.
Staples	40mm x 4mm heavy gauge galvanised wire staples
Finished height	Approximately 1.09m

2.1 ERECTING POSTS AND STAKES

Fences should be erected with taut netting and wire, strained between straining posts. Strainer posts should be used at each end of the fence and at *least* every 50 m or where a significant change in direction is made, also at all changes of direction and sudden changes of gradient (especially at the bottom of dips/hollows).

Straining posts are to be rammed in with a tractor mounted or tracked post knocker, or dug in to a depth of at *least* 1.1m, properly rammed, firmed (using stones where necessary) and with a box strainer wherever ground conditions dictate; i.e. soft or shallow ground. Struts or wire strainers should be used on any change in direction and on any turners where the angles of change requires it.

Where a strut is to 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.

For smaller changes in fence line direction, turning posts should be used, these should be driven into the ground not less than 65cm.

Intermediate stakes are to be driven into the ground to a minimum depth of 55 cm (21") at 2.5 m intervals (unless otherwise agreed).

All cut surfaces, including on struts and strainers must be treated with preservative.

2.2 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. Netting should not be more than 7.5 cm (3”) above ground level.

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).

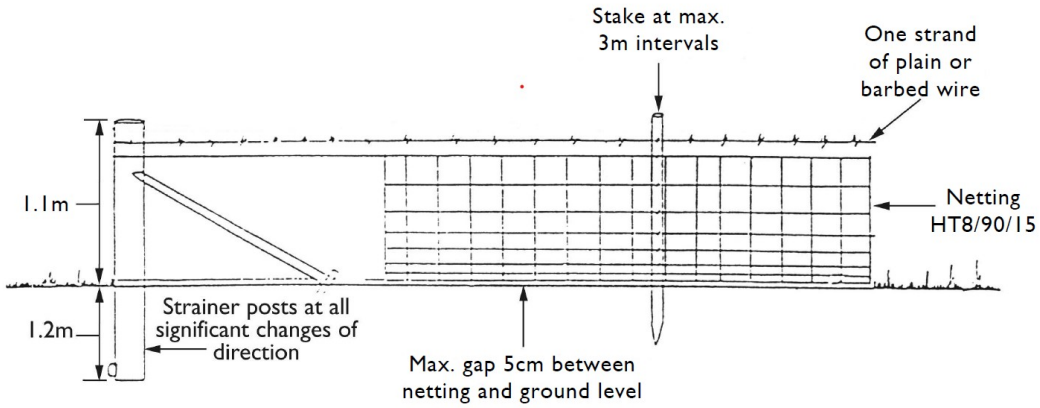
Staples must not be driven fully home on the intermediate posts in order to allow future repair and re-tensioning work. They are to be positioned diagonally to the grain of the wood.

Plane wire should be secured to the posts and centred between netting and ground level .

If necessary an additional line of barbed wire, timber rails or piece of netting should be added to the bottom of the fence in hollows or dips.

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.

3 DIAGRAM



4 FURTHER GUIDANCE NOTES

4.1 When assessing the work for tendering the contractor will consider the following and if necessary discuss the requirement with the supervising officer to adopt the following and quote accordingly:

- In difficult ground conditions, e.g. soft peat, loose gravel or shallow bedrock, it may be necessary to concrete straining posts or use a box strainer assembly
- Longer intermediate posts may also be necessary on soft conditions.

5 POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS

5.1 Where the fence runs parallel to a footpath or access point plain wire should be used instead of barbed OR barbed should be placed on the inside of the fence line with a plain line wire running on the side of the fence likely to come into contact with people.