

This sheet gives a design for fencing to contain livestock, including cattle, horses, pigs and sheep.

### Responsibilities

Fencing is the responsibility of the landowner or manager. If the path is enclosed and barbed wire is used, it must be attached to the side of the posts furthest from the path, preferably with a strand of plain wire on the near side of the posts. It should be noted that fencing out a path will mean that the ground is not grazed and so provision will need to be made for cutting the vegetation and physically enabling access for mowers to do so.

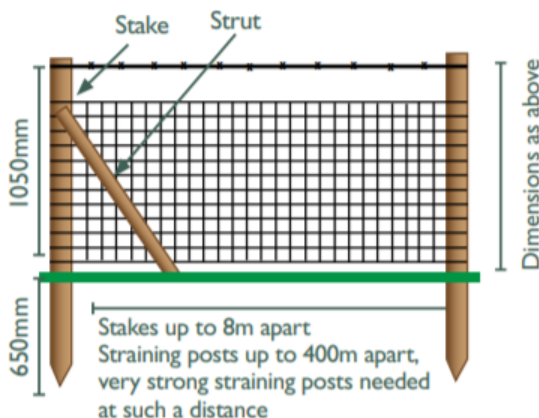
### Designs of Livestock Fencing

Two alternative designs are given below, one using heavy-weight stock netting (for any animal) and one which is high-tensile (for most animals).

The following defines the required components:

- Straining post—strong posts which are used to hold the tension in the wire—use at corners and at intervals as described below
- Stakes—intermediate posts, which support the wire and mesh
- Struts—posts set at a diagonal between the uprights and the ground
- **In some soils (e.g. clay) the stakes and straining posts will need to be buried to 700-900mm and so will be longer than given here**

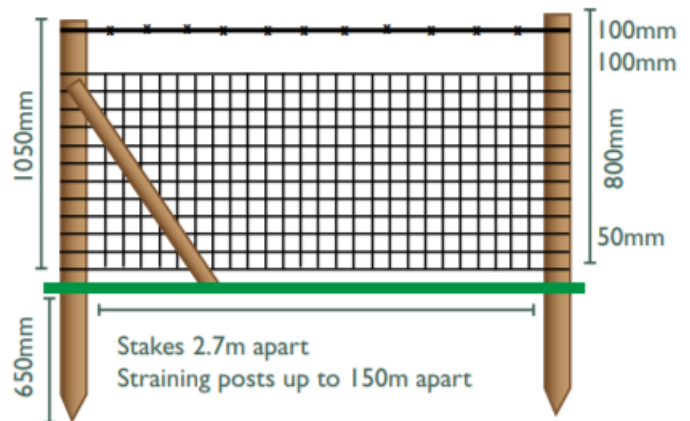
### Design for High-Tensile Stock Netting



### Components:

- Straining posts (round) 2.1m x 175mm diameter
- Stakes (round) 1.7m x 75mm diameter
- Struts (round) 2.1m x 100mm diameter
- Stock netting HT8/80/15 for all stock (HT8/80/30 sufficient if no lambs), should be galvanised
- 264mm spring steel wire
- 40mm stapes

### Design for Heavyweight Stock Netting



### Components:

- Straining posts (round) 2.1m x 215mm diameter
- Stakes (round) 1.7m x 75mm diameter
- Struts (round) 2.1m x 100mm diameter
- Stock netting B8/80/15 for all stock (B8/80/30 sufficient if no lambs), should be galvanised
- 4mm mild steel wire
- 40mm stapes

### Installation (both designs)

- Ensure fence line is clear of obstructions.
- Dig holes for straining posts and corner posts, then set into the ground.
- Strain bottom plain wire to give line for struts. Do not fasten bottom wire but retain in position with strainers.
- Put struts into position.
- Strain top wire, leaving it on the strainers.
- Knock in the intermediate stakes at high and low points along the fence line.

This guidance is suitable for most situations in Hampshire; for further advice email [countryside@hants.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@hants.gov.uk) or call 0300 555 1391

- Staple top wire to high and low intermediates, adjusting the tension if necessary at the strainers.
- Knock in the remaining intermediates and staple the top wire to them. Adjust if necessary to final tension, cut and fasten.
- Strain stock netting using stock fence grip and monkey strainers, then staple to high and low intermediates. Staple to remaining intermediates, cut and fasten off.
- Check the tension on the bottom wire, staple two intermediates, cut and fasten off. Re-treat any newly exposed wood (eg tops of posts)

Where fencing meets gates the top wire must be unbarbed for two stakes on heavyweight or one stake on high tensile. For complete guidance please refer to the TCV handbook 'Fencing, A Practical Handbook' by Elizabeth Agate.