

12.1 Protective fencing

Properly erected fences are required to protect new hedges and hedges that have been laid or coppiced. A fence may also be required to protect newly planted trees. Normally hedge restoration includes fencing on one or both sides of the restored hedge. Where the hedge is fenced on both sides the fences must be at least 2 metres apart.

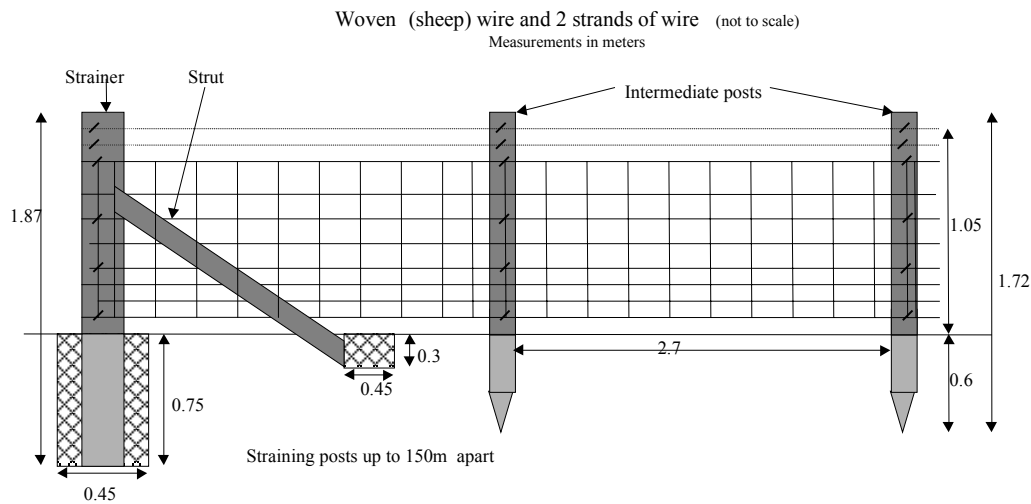
Hedge restoration, whether by planting, coppicing or laying, must follow the line and contours of the original field boundary. **Mechanical aids such as diggers or excavators must not be used to straighten, level or remove existing field boundaries or habitats.**

Normally a woven wire (sheep) fence with two strands of barbed wire is the minimum requirement for all types of fencing, which must be completed to at least BS 1722 standards (see summary of specifications below). Any alternative form of fencing must be agreed in advance and specified in written approval.

Summary of the standards required

1. The overall height of the fence shall be not less than 1.05m high from the ground level to the top wire.
2. Straining posts shall be equivalent in strength and durability to 125mm top diameter round timber OR 125mm by 125mm sawn timber and at least 2.17m long when not set in concrete and at least 1.87m long when set in concrete.
3. Straining posts shall be set at centres not exceeding 150m or at each change in direction or gradient.
4. Holes for straining posts shall be excavated with vertical sides and the soil shall be thoroughly rammed back around the post in 150mm layers. If the post is set in concrete, holes shall be 450 x 450 mm on plan or 450 mm diameter and 750 mm deep; otherwise they shall be not less than 1050 mm deep.

5. The top end of the strut shall fit into a notch in the straining post and the bottom end shall be set in a hole at least 450 mm deep x 300 x 450 mm and bear against a suitable base plate. Struts shall be set at 45 degrees to the straining post. Struts shall be equivalent in strength and durability to 65mm top diameter round timber OR 75mm by 75mm sawn timber and at least 2.17m long when not set in concrete and at least 1.87m long when set in concrete.
6. Intermediate posts shall be equivalent in strength and durability to 65mm top diameter round timber OR 75mm by 75mm sawn timber and at least 1.72m long and set at centres not exceeding 2.7m.
7. If cleft (split) posts are used, these must be of sufficient size to contain a circle of at least 65mm diameter on top e.g. a half-round post must be at least 130mm on the flat side.
8. All posts shall be free of bark.
9. Both line wire and woven wire shall be galvanised and comply with BS 4102. Line wire shall normally be 2.5 mm mild steel 2 ply barbed wire. The wire shall be properly strained and fastened to the posts with galvanised staples. To allow for future adjustments and to prevent damage to the galvanising, staples shall be driven in obliquely but not fully home.
10. Unless otherwise specified on your approval/undertaking, fencing of field boundary restoration must be woven wire plus two strands of barbed wire (regardless of the presence or absence of sheep). Specifications for the woven wire are C8/80/30 for cattle, horses and sheep or C8/80/15 for lambs, with two strands of barbed wire to BS 4102. Use of green coated wire is optional. Both strands of barbed wire may be above or one strand may be above with one strand below the woven (sheep) wire.
11. If rabbits and hares are a problem in the vicinity the fence must be proofed against them. Proofing against rabbits and hares must be carried out with galvanised wire netting. The netting must be not less than 1.05m wide and have mesh no larger than 31mm. The top edge of the netting must be fixed not less than 0.75m in height. The netting must be fastened to the fencing, and the bottom edge of the fencing should be buried in the ground 150mm and then turned outward 150mm and anchored. All gates in protective fences must also be proofed.



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Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)

Note: Consent must be obtained from the Environment & Heritage Service (EHS), Department of the Environment before any works are carried out within or along an ASSI boundary. The EHS contact telephone number for further information is 028 9054 6595.

Management plans are provided for participants in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Management Schemes

