
Guidelines for top wiring

Materials

Line wire should be galvanised (BS4102) 4mm mild steel or 3.15mm high tensile steel, and in appropriate circumstances 2.5mm mild steel 2-ply twisted barbed wire. Timber posts must be 75mm top diameter round timber two metres long and set at centres not exceeding three metres (mild steel wire) or 10 metres (high tensile steel wire). All timber must be fully peeled and tanalised or treated with an appropriate preservation to ensure a long life.

Construction

Knock the posts into the ground leaning towards the wall. Stock proofing a wide wall from both sides should be considered with posts set alternatively on either side and fastened. Alternatively, every fifth post should be tightened by means of wire passed through the wall and fastened to a batten. Where two lines of wire are to be used they should be positioned 200mm apart stapled to the upright posts. Any fencing wire must be properly strained and fastened to posts with galvanised staples.

Barbed wire must not be used on land adjoining a public highway (footpaths and bridleways) where it may injure people or livestock legally using the highway, including concessionary or permissive public access.

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.