



NatureBid Auction Measure Specification

Watercourse Fencing



Watercourse fencing can be used to prevent access to a watercourse from grazing livestock, including sheep or cattle. Fencing can help to reduce bank erosion and contamination with sediment and faecal matter, which can reduce water quality.

Please note: this measure can only be used in Bristol Water target areas, since its purpose is to improve water quality

Site selection

- This option can be used next to a permanent watercourse to reduce water pollution caused by livestock access
- This option would be particularly beneficial in areas along the banks of rivers and streams that have become poached by livestock
- This option can be used to replace existing fencing where it is no longer fit for purpose: photos of existing fencing will need to be supplied to FWAG SW

Requirements

- Where necessary, remove all old fencing material before putting up the new fencing
- Ensure that fencing is located on stable ground a safe distance away from the edge of the bank to protect against future erosion
- Use softwood timber that is fully peeled, coated with wood preservative and pressure treated, or treated with an approved preservative - untreated durable timber can be used as set out in the Forestry Commission guide to forest fencing
- Put up a fence at least 1.05m high
- Use strands of galvanised 4 millimetre (mm) mild plain steel wire or 2.5mm barbed wire
- Set the intermediate posts at least 600mm in the ground and no more than 3.5m apart
- Use enough strands to control the livestock
- Use straining posts that are at least 125mm by 125mm square (or have a 100mm top diameter) and are at least 1.87m long

- Set the straining posts at least 750mm into the ground and no more than 150m apart
- Place a straining post at every change of direction (horizontal or vertical) and at each end of the fence
- Use struts that are 75mm by 75mm square, or have a 65mm top diameter, and 1.87m long
- Set the struts at least 450mm into the ground and mortise them into the straining post
- Use intermediate posts that are 75mm by 75mm square (or have a 65mm top diameter) and 1.75m long

Further requirements

- Fencing should not be used on sites of archaeological or historical importance
- If you intend to use this option on a SSSI, or in an area under an agri-environmental agreement, please consult with a FWAG SW Adviser on the suitability of this measure
- Lengths of watercourse fencing that are being funded from another source such as Countryside Stewardship will not be eligible for this measure

