

Upper Aire Reverse Auction Specification

# Riparian Fencing

**Why?**

**Fencing provides the following NFM benefits:**

- Fencing prevents livestock access to planted buffer strips - giving newly planted trees chance to establish.
- Preventing livestock from accessing rivers allows riverbanks to revegetate naturally, stabilising banks and improving 'hydraulic roughness' which slows surface water runoff.
- Restricting livestock access to watercourses improves water quality through a reduction in poaching and trampling - both of which are sources of sediment diffuse pollution into rivers.

**Additional benefits include:**

- Fencing off areas can allow for natural regeneration and improved biodiversity along buffer strips



*Riparian Fencing ©Yorkshire Wildlife Trust*

What	Riparian fencing will restrict access for livestock to channel banks and watercourses and reduce the impact of trampling, poaching and bank erosion.
Where – site selection	Fencing can be put installed along any waterway – including rivers, streams, becks and ditches.
When	Fencing can be installed at any time.
How	<p>The minimum requirement is for fencing to be 2metres from the water’s edge.  Wood used for fencing should be FSC, or similar certification to ensure sustainability of supply and should be treated and peeled.  When fencing off rivers, on stable areas of bank the buffer zone must be at least 2m from the water’s edge. On more active sections of river, fencing should be set further back to reduce risk of losing fencing.  On floodplains or areas prone to flooding flood fencing should be used: The fence should be at least 1.05m high – 7 strands of plain wire should be attached using radasers for retightening. This should be topped with 2 strands of barbed wire. Fencing should be installed in 50m long sections with double straining posts at the end to separate sections.  Fencing wire should be galvanised 4mm mild steel plain and 2.5mm barbed wire – or equivalent.  Natural features such as trees should not be stapled to.  Straining posts: Should be no less that 125mm top diameter and 2.1m long.  Struts: Should be 65mm top diameter, 2.1m long and notched into the straining posts.  Intermediate posts: Should be 65mm top diameter, 1.7m long and at greater than 3m intervals.</p>
Must knows	Drinking points must be provided if access to water is fenced off for livestock.

**Benefits for your farm:**

- Fencing off waterways reduces the risk of livestock catching waterborne diseases or developing lameness.
- Successful buffer strips can improve water uptake from the land and therefore reduce localised flooding.

**Ongoing maintenance requirements – Low**

- Requires checking and repairing/replacing after high water events including clearing debris from the wire netting.

**Please note: All work must be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

*If you have any questions or require any more information please contact*  
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