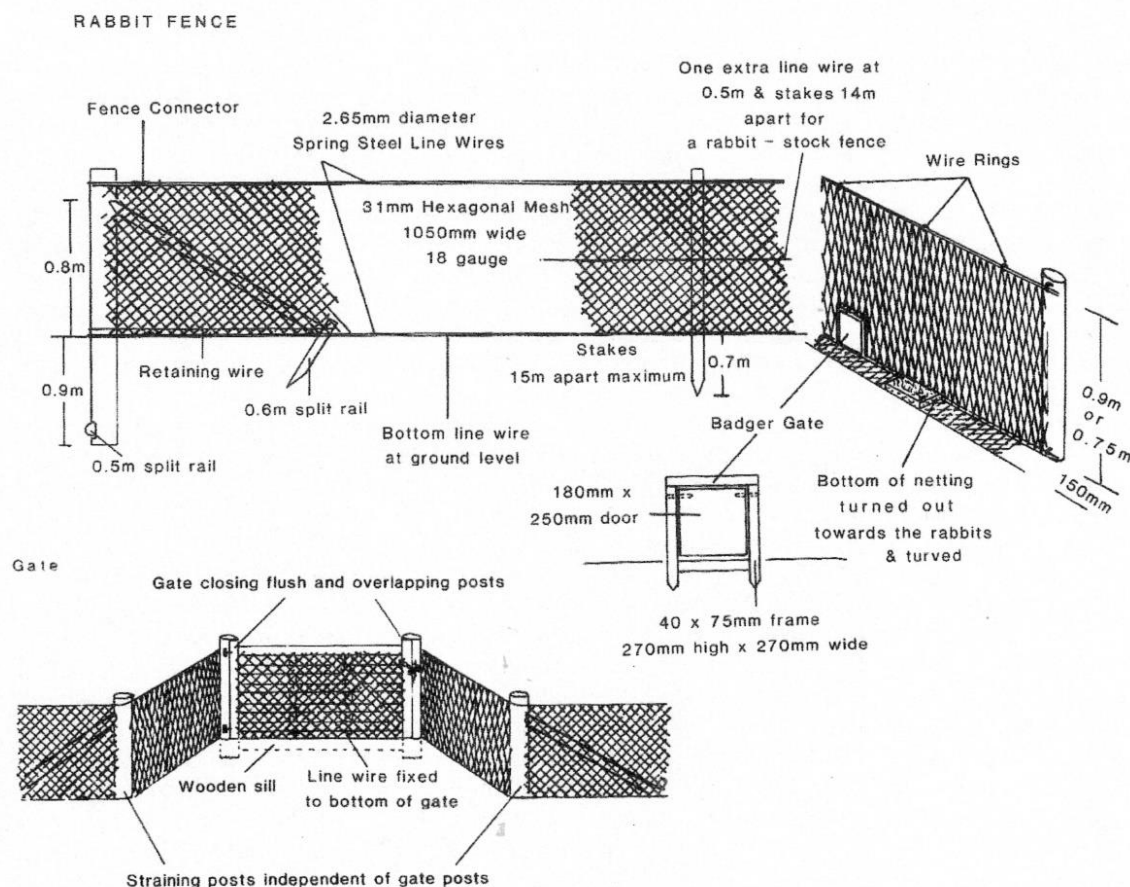


Rabbit Fencing



Not to scale. For descriptions of recommended netting and possible alternatives see Figure 18 page 18. Netting sizes and patterns.

Figure 1. Rabbit fence specification.

ple, in the uplands where conditions are particularly harsh.

Once a decision has been made on the fence specifications to be used, a detailed list of type, quantity and source of materials and tools required can be compiled using the specifications given on pages 6-11 in conjunction with sketch map (page 25) and Tables 1 to 6.

Rabbit fences

The basic specification for rabbit fencing is shown in Figure 1. The additional modifications required when it is necessary to exclude domestic stock in addition to rabbits are also detailed: these involve slightly larger and more robust

posts and an extra line wire.

Raising the height above 0.9 m will not make the fence a more effective barrier to rabbits and it must not be allowed to drop below 0.675 m (McKillop, Pepper and Wilson, 1988). The maximum size of hexagonal mesh netting that can be specified to exclude rabbits is 31 mm. Some juvenile rabbits, capable of surviving without their mother, can pass through 36 mm mesh (Figure 2) (the next available size of hexagonal mesh). Rabbits are capable of gnawing through 19 gauge mild steel wire. Therefore netting of 18 gauge wire should be used for all permanent rabbit fences and 19 gauge netting should only be used for tempor-