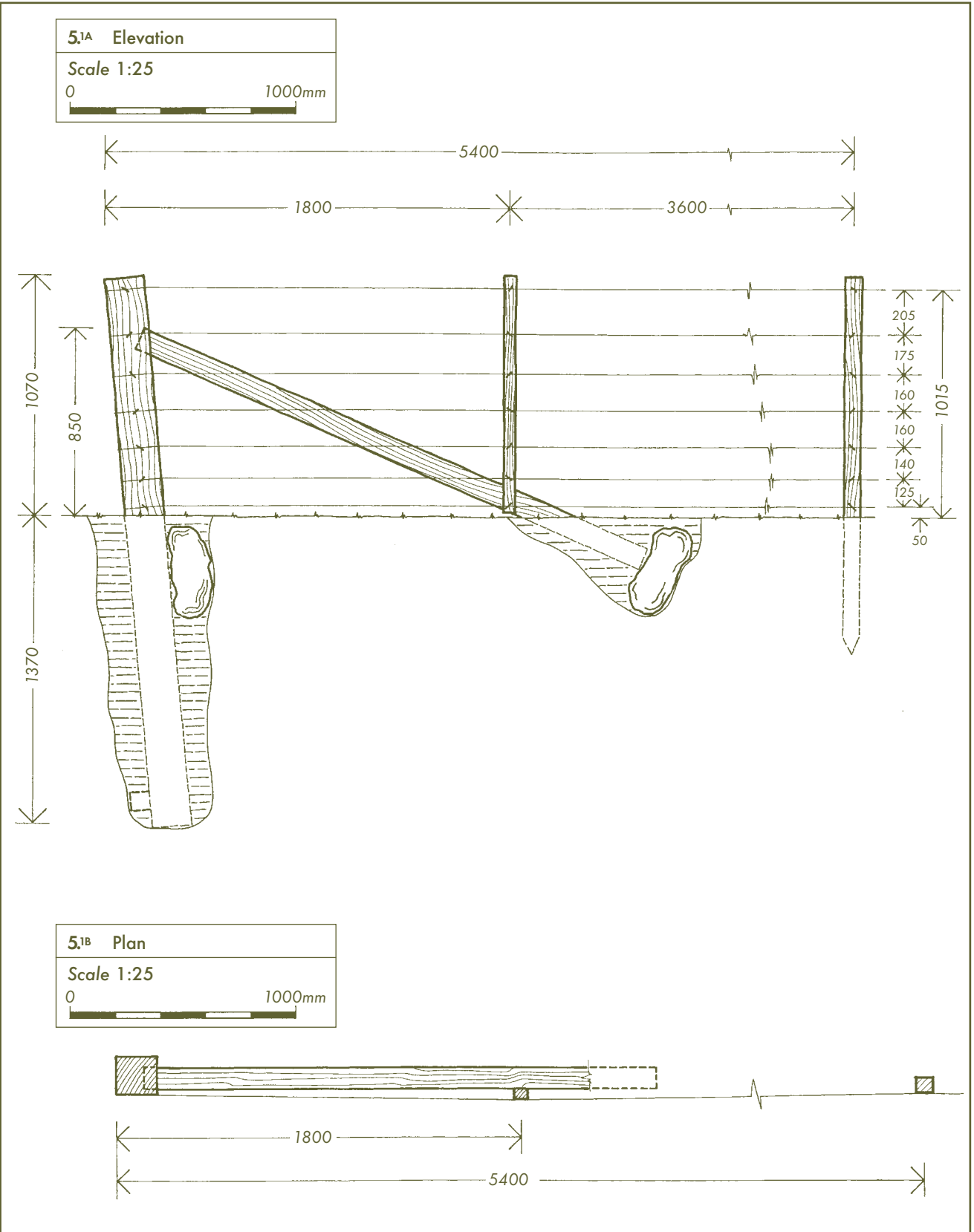




Information Sheet **No.51**
Post & Wire Fence with Timber Droppers

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Stockproof (cattle and horses)	Stockproof (sheep)	Visual Appearance	Installation Cost (/unit length)	Ease of Installation	Suitability for use alongside Public Paths
✓	✓	☹️	£	☹️	☹️



• **Notes**

A basic, relatively cheap, but effective fence. 7 no. plain wires ensure that it is stockproof against lambs, sheep, cattle and calves.

This type of fence is best suited to long straight runs. It is less suitable for undulating ground or where the fence turns many corners. The fact that posts are at 5.4m to 9.0 metre centres may make it suitable for hard ground where post installation is difficult.

Land managers may request that a barbed wire is substituted for the top plain wire (and sometimes also for the third top wire), especially if cattle are present. If barbed wire is used, it should be fixed to the side of the post away from the public. Mild steel twin strand barbed wire is recommended. Some types of high tensile (HT) twin strand barbed wire have a tendency to 'untwist' and become slack. Single strand HT barbed wire can become brittle.

• **Construction and Installation Details**

End strainers : 2440 x 175 x 175 sawn or 2440 x 175 diam. machine rounded. With round strainers, use jointing strands to fix the wires to help prevent the strainers rotating in the ground when the wires are tensioned. Round strainers will look better if used in conjunction with round struts and posts. Struts should be used on all end strainers.

Intermediate strainers : 2440 x 150 x 150 sawn or 2440 x 150 diam. machine rounded at 100m intervals (maximum) and at changes in direction and slope. Struts will only be necessary at significant changes in direction or slope.

When installing strainers, make the hole as narrow as possible and backfill with well rammed earth and stones. Strainers rarely need to be concreted, except where ground conditions prevent the strainer hole being dug to the full depth.

Struts : 2440 x 100 x 100 sawn or 2440 x 100 diam. machine rounded as required. Mortice into strainers. With square sawn end strainers, mortices should be offset as shown in Dwg. 5.^{1B} to prevent rotation of the strainers when the wires are tensioned. With round strainers, mortice the strut into the mid-line of the strainer.

Lean strainers back slightly against the pull of the fence. To minimise movement of the strainer when the wires are tensioned, nail a timber cross piece to the 'back' of the lower end and, during installation, place a large stone block on the 'front' side just below ground level. This can be further assisted by positioning a stone block tightly against the lower end of the strut.

Posts : pointed 1675 x 75 x 75 sawn or 1675 x 88 diam. machine rounded at 5400 centres. Post centres can, if required, be increased to 9000 maximum.

Droppers : 1020 x 50 x 38 sawn at 1800 centres. (Note : wire droppers are not recommended because they have a tendency to slide on the wires).

Wires : 7 no. 12 gauge high tensile. 10 gauge high tensile is also suitable. Fix wires to posts with 38mm (1.5") staples; angle staples to prevent splitting the post timber and do not hammer fully home so that the wires are free to move. Fix to droppers with 32 mm (1.25") staples: angle staples to prevent splitting the dropper timber; hammer fully home and, on each dropper, alternate the angle on successive wires to prevent the dropper sliding.

• **User Notes : Design Modifications and Reference Information**

