

NPI Name: Rabbit-proof fencing

NPI Code: RPF

NPI Payment: Year 1: £5.90 per m

NPI Aim(s): To protect newly created EFS Options and facilitate remedial management of EFS(H) sites.

Scheme Applicability: Wider – EFS(W) Higher – EFS(H) Group – EFS(G)

This NPI is: Permanent Rotational

NPI Description and Outcome: 'Rabbit-proof fencing' is eligible in association with 'Stock-proof fencing' or 'Deer fence' is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of EFS(H) sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). 'Rabbit-proof fencing' will help protect newly created EFS Options and facilitate the remedial management of EFS(H) sites.

Length Permitted: Minimum 1 m Maximum Not Applicable*

*DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type ¹		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RPF1C	All 'Rabbit-proof fencing' must be completed by the end of Year 1.	✓		✓
RPF2C	New materials must be used for 'Rabbit-proof fencing'.	✓		✓
RPF3C	The claimed length of 'Rabbit-proof fencing' must be erected in the correct location in the field(s) where it has been approved.	✓		✓

RPF4C	The claimed length of 'Rabbit-proof fencing' must be completed to the Specification outlined below.			✓
RPF5C	Field records must be kept detailing location, length and date erected for the 'Rabbit-proof fencing'.	✓		✓

¹ The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

Specification:

- Erect the 'Rabbit-proof fencing' to BS 1722-2:2006 standard.
- The minimum standard for 'Rabbit-proof fencing' is galvanised wire netting at least 1.05 m wide with mesh no larger than 31 mm.
- The top edge of the wire netting must be fixed to the stock-proof fence or deer fence at least 0.75 m from the ground.
- The wire netting must be fastened to the stock-proof fence or deer fence and the bottom edge of the wire netting must be buried and secured in the ground.
- All gates in 'Stock-proof fencing' and 'Deer fence' must also be rabbit-proofed where this NPI is implemented.
- The 'Rabbit-proof fencing' must be properly strained and secured.
- In EFS(H) sites, 'Rabbit proof fencing' must be erected as detailed in the ssRMP.

Further Advice:

If you intend to complete this NPI on a march boundary you should ensure that you have fully discussed and agreed that you can carry out the NPI requirements and controls on the march boundary with the person who has control of the neighbouring land.

The bottom edge of the wire should be buried in the ground to a depth of 150 mm.

To allow for future adjustments and to prevent damage to the galvanising, staples must be driven in at an angle, but not fully home.

Approval should be sought from DFI TransportNI before new 'Rabbit-proof fencing' is erected along a roadway.

'Rabbit-proof fencing' should not be attached to trees, hedgerows or electricity poles and do not block or restrict rights of way.