Pheasant release pen construction

Fence construction
- Minimum of 2.1 metres high
- Ideally two meshes. Small mesh at the bottom (2cm, must be wire) and bigger mesh at the top (5cm, can be black plastic).
- 30cm of wire either dug in or laid out and pegged at the bottom. (Remember the same under gates).
- Netting hung loosely to make climbing difficult.
- Fringe folded outwards at the top (30cm). (Remember the same for gate entrances).
- No square corners.
- Enclose approximately one third each of open sunny area, shrubby ground cover and roosting trees.
- Allow one hectare for each 1,000 birds.

A release pen should be approximately one third each of open sunny area, shrubby ground cover and roosting trees.
**Electric fencing**

- Two strands of electric fencing wire 50cm out from the netting. Strands at 15cm and 30cm from the ground (see left).
- A further strand part way up the netting, 6-7cm out on insulators will deter mink and other climbers.
- Use treated/tanilised timber or angle iron for posts, no more than five metres apart. Do not attach straining wires or netting to growing trees.

- Make gates big enough to walk in carrying a crate full of birds. A gate wide enough for vehicular access is an excellent idea.

Two strands of electric fencing wire should be 18 inches out from the netting.

- An anti-fox re-entry grid every 50 metres of netting is recommended.
  a) GWCT anti-fox grid.
  b) Re-entry funnel with non-exit baffle, lead-in wings and electric fence positions.
  c) Aerial view of the funnel.

An anti-fox re-entry grid is recommended every 50 metres.

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**More information**

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust’s Advisory Service can provide further advice on release pens for gamebirds, and on all aspects of game management. For information, please contact 01425 651013.