

Release pens

Pheasant release pen construction



The fence should consist of two meshes. Small mesh at the bottom and bigger mesh at the top.

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.



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The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust

For over 75 years our scientists have been researching why species like the grey partridge, water vole, corn bunting and black grouse have declined. We are continually developing practical measures to reverse these declines.

Our aim is simple - a thriving countryside rich in game and other wildlife.

We are an independent charity reliant on voluntary donations and the support of people who care about the survival of our natural heritage.

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

Electric fencing

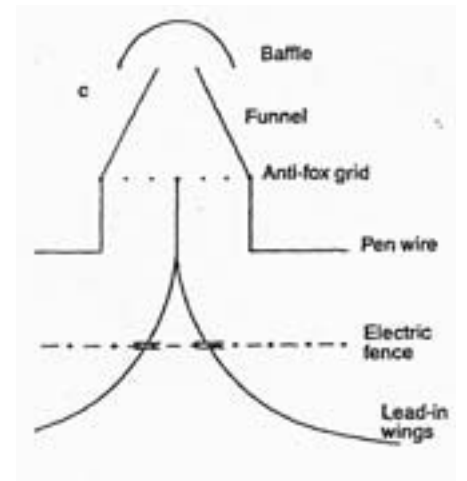
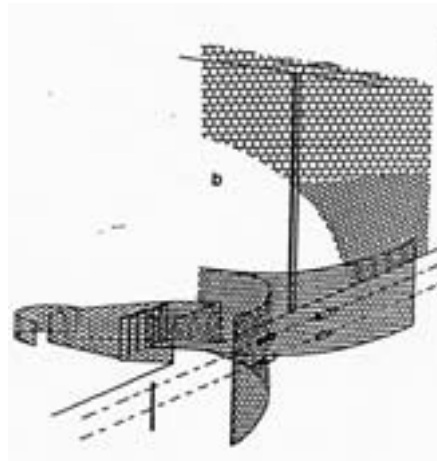
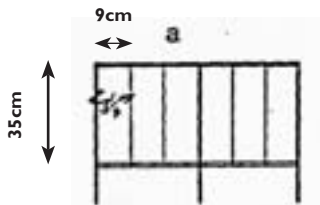
- Two strands of electric fencing wire 50cm out from the netting. Strands at 15cm and 30cm from the ground (see left).
- A further strand part way up the netting, 6-7cm out on insulators will deter mink and other climbers.
- Use treated/tanilised timber or angle iron for posts, no more than five metres 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.



Make gates wide enough for vehicular access.

- 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.



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.

