

Game-fowl release pen



Five Key points

1. Use *electrified netting and electric fencing wire* to protect your poultry. These are proven to be the most effective deterrent against pine martens.
2. Use *netting over the top of the pen* to keep out any avian predators and to prevent an animal entering from an overhanging tree.
3. Use *steel weld mesh* to build the walls of the pen. This durable material cannot be chewed through or enlarged by an animal.
4. It is important to prevent *digging underneath the pen*. This can be achieved by partially burying the galvanised sheeting and steel weld mesh underground.
5. Ensure the release pen and all fencing are maintained to a high standard by *replacing rotting timbers and repairing gaps*.

This release pen was designed by the Kilcormac Game and Conservation Club in Co. Offaly and has been successful in keeping out both mammalian and avian predators. The club raises and releases 600 - 700 birds annually.



The first layer of defence is Green Hotline Electric Poultry Netting (1.22m), which is available in 25m and 50m lengths (Fig. 1 and 2) from www.maceoinltd.com. Netting is stabilised using single- or double-pronged posts and has a built-in gate. The club added plastic pipes to increase stability, which they secured to the netting using cable ties (Main photo above).



Fig.1



Fig.2

The netting is electrified using a rechargeable battery (Fig. 3) and an energiser is used to control the current running between the battery and the netting (Fig. 4). The battery is placed inside the pen and operated externally using a fence energiser cut-off switch (Fig. 5).



Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5

Netting is placed 1.2 metres outside the pen so that it can be easily accessed for cleaning and maintenance (Fig. 6 & 7).



Fig.6



Fig. 7

The walls of the pen are comprised of 1" x 1" steel weld mesh (Fig. 8). This durable material is resistant to being chewed or enlarged by an animal (Fig. 9). One metre of the wire is buried underground and extends outwards away from the pen, to prevent a predator from digging under the fence.



Fig.8



Fig. 9

Galvanised sheeting is attached to the base of the pen, of which approximately 15 cms is buried underground as an additional preventative measure against predators digging their way under the fence (Fig. 10). The galvanised sheeting also prevents visual contact between potential predators and the birds (Fig. 11).



Fig.10



Fig. 11

The frame of the pen is strengthened using reinforced steel bar (Rebar) which is attached to the weld mesh with wire (Fig. 12 & 13).



Fig.12



Fig. 13

Three strands of electrified wire run around the top of the pen to prevent any animals from climbing onto the top netting (Fig 14). Signs are positioned at various points around the pen to indicate that the pen is protected by electrical wiring and netting (Fig. 14). The wire is held in place using wood screw insulators on wooden stakes extending away from the pen (Fig. 15).



Fig.14



Fig. 15

The roof of the pen is covered in Polypropylene Mesh Covering Bird Netting (Fig. 16) to keep out any avian predators and to prevent an animal entering from an overhanging tree (Fig 17.).

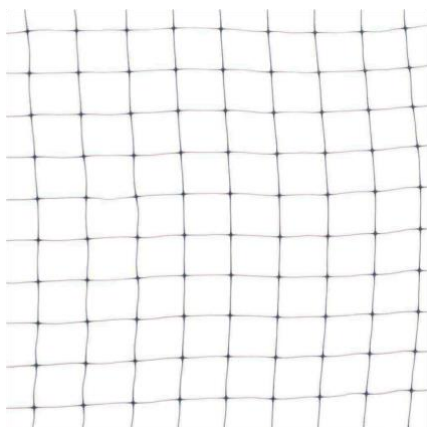


Fig.16



Fig. 17



For a list of the materials used to build the pen please refer to <https://pinemarten.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/pinemartenhubgunclubpeninfo-1.pdf>.

For further information please see the Release pen instructional video at <https://pinemarten.ie/subject/gun-clubs/#foobox-1/0/300496724>.