



Ministry
of Justice

The New Prisons Programme, Gartree

March 2022



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Introduction

We've created this document to update you on our plans for a new prison in Gartree, near Market Harborough. In September 2021, we submitted an outline planning application to Harborough Council for a new Category B prison next to HMP Gartree, near Market Harborough.

We aim to cut crime and keep the public safe, and so we are investing £3.8 billion over the next three years to deliver 20,000 additional prison places.

We have been looking at where best we can build new prisons, and where there is likely to be most demand for prison places. We believe that, following detailed feasibility work, land next to HMP Gartree is a good location for one of these prisons.

We understand that the proposals are significant, complex and there is considerable community interest in the scheme. As such, we have asked Harborough District Council to delay determining the new prison proposals until April. This will allow us to meaningfully re-engage with you as the local community to provide clarity and information about the plans, ahead of determination.

Please take the time to review the information which aims to address concerns raised during the consultation.



Robin Seaton
Deputy Director – SRO New Prisons



Ministry
of Justice

Our Plans



The Site

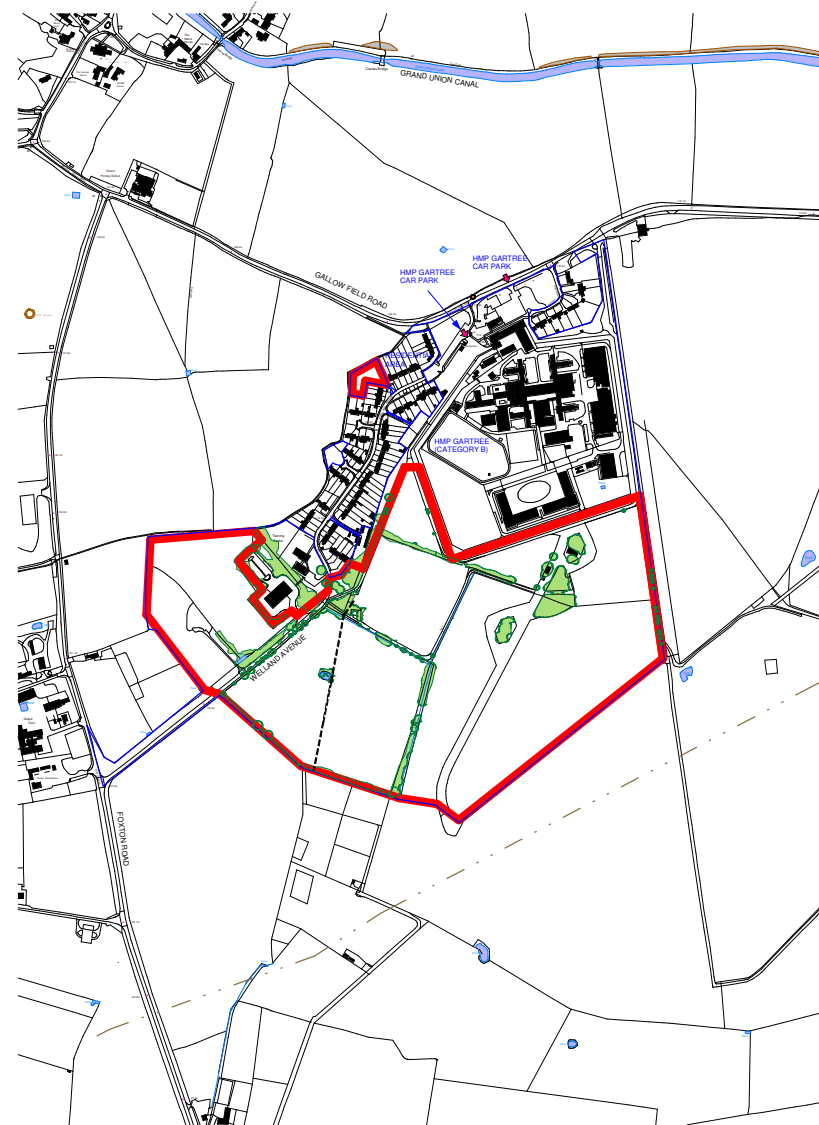
Why build here?

The land next to the existing HMP Gartree Prison is ideally located for a new Category B prison because of its suitability for building, geographic location and good transport links. The site is also already owned by the Ministry of Justice.

Is the site in the green belt?

The Harborough Local Plan (2011-2031) identifies both the existing HMP Gartree prison and the proposed development site as areas of open countryside, as opposed to Green Belt Land or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

An area of open countryside typically relates to land that sits outside of a settlement boundary. We have carefully considered the environmental impact of our proposed plans.



Overview of the Plans

We've made a new design for safe and secure prisons which prioritises rehabilitation to cut down on reoffending. Our new design standards set high expectations of prisoners, who will be required to spend their time productively by working hard, improving their education or learning a new skill. Our standards have been set by talking to prisoners, prison staff and assessing prisons in other countries. We have used real people's experience for our designs so we can build a prison that will help prisoners to significantly improve their behaviour and prepare better for a productive life outside prison.

Most importantly, the prison will be safe and secure for prisoners, prison staff and for people living nearby. The proposed new prison, HMP Gartree will reflect the ambitious design shown at HMP Fosse Way, Leicestershire, and HMP Five Wells, Wellingborough.

What will the site look like?

Our proposals are for a 1,715-place prison with seven prison houseblocks holding around 240 male prisoners each, along with ancillary buildings. This design will help create a sense of community and promote safety and security, with prisoners living in smaller groups, with designated spaces for group activities on every floor. Most cells will hold 1 prisoner with a few cells holding 2 prisoners. All cells will have a shower and a toilet. In-cell technology will be provided to further improve living conditions, allowing prisoners to focus on turning their lives around, by getting the skills they need to move away from crime and into employment. More information on this can be found in the In Cell Tech section.

The prison will include:

- A central space for prisoners which includes educational and medical facilities, including a library and gym, as well as prayer space.
- A visitors' hall.
- Adjoining the main visits hall is a supervised outdoor family visits area.
- Workshops which will help prisoners to gain new skills and qualifications in both heavy and light industry. For instance, prisoners can learn skills in construction, catering and printing.
- Gardening space, which includes polytunnels.
- Small sports pitches so prisoners can keep fit which promotes mental and physical wellbeing.





Indicative image of the new prisons proposal in Gartree

Overview of the Plans

How will you shield the site from the local community?

We have carefully considered the prison's design and its visual impact. The height of the prison blocks would be limited to four floors to reduce any visual impact to the surrounding area.

Extensive landscaping has been prepared to compliment the buildings and to screen the development, including the parking facilities, from the general public whilst also providing bio-diversity enhancements.

The site entrance has been carefully positioned off Welland Avenue as the existing trees will effectively screen the development from the public. Additionally, the route from the main road to the prison will be landscaped to provide a pleasant and calming approach for visitors and people passing by.

As part of the plans, the MOJ will commit to:

- A Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 25.29% that will be maintained across the site for at least 30 years.
- 20,000 sqm of native broadleaved woodland trees will be planted at the east, south and west perimeters of the site
- 230 sqm of new hedgerow planting to replace the 28sqm lost, presenting a significant gain in habitat for woodland birds, butterflies, small mammals and amphibians.
- Newly relocated badger population with a series of new setts linked to the open countryside along the eastern and southern boundaries
- Five new ponds will be created, one within the prison and four to the northwest. These new habitats will increase wetland connectivity provide support frogs, toads, newts, reptiles and a range of insects and birds.
- 33,000sqm designated open space to the West of the development, which will also have public walking access.

Mitigation Measures

How will you prevent light pollution?

State of the art, energy efficient lighting will reduce any pollution generated by the prison and lighting will be only be directed where needed and within the prison grounds. Extensive landscaping around the site will also limit light pollution by screening the development from the surrounding area.

How will waste water from the prison expansion be dealt with? Will it cause additional pressure to the existing drainage network?

Alongside the application, a Foul Water Drainage Report and Foul Water Plan has been submitted which considers the impact the development would have on the existing drainage network. As part of these plans, a foul water pumping station will be delivered on site to serve the proposed new prison and eliminate impact on existing services. We are also aware of a need to upgrade the existing water treatment facility at Foxton, which will further ensure that any additional pressure to the existing drainage network is offset through infrastructure improvements. We are working closely with Anglian Water about the requirement for and the delivery of infrastructure improvements.

A sustainable drainage system will also be used to manage the flow of surface water. This means that surface water runoff, such as rain fall, is managed so that it is not able to flow directly into the main sewer system all at once. Instead, the water is released over an extended time, reducing the impact on the downstream network. A proposed Drainage Strategy has been prepared separately for the site and is included with the planning application submission. Details will be finalised as part of a reserved matters application.

Will the new prison affect local health care services in the area?

The new prison would have its own healthcare facilities on site. Prisoners will be able to receive advice on site, as well as treatment and check ups.

The NHS commissions healthcare for prisoners across the UK. We are working closely with the NHS and other organisations to provide the necessary health services including mental health services, substance misuse, GP services and social care services.

All local emergency services including the NHS, police and fire services have been consulted and should our proposals go ahead, detailed planning with these local services will continue throughout the construction and operation of the prison to manage any impact.





View looking south-west from public footpath, close to eastern boundary of HMP Gartree*



View looking north-west from public footpath west of Market Harborough*



View looking north from the public footpath on Mill Hill*

*Proposed View at Year 15

Highways & Access

The proposed site access point will be located via a new access point off Welland Avenue. This has been strategically positioned as far away as possible from the Gartree estate to minimise impacts from traffic.

A Transport Assessment Outline Travel Plan has been prepared by the project team which evaluates the transportation aspects of the development and considers the existing highway network and sustainable transport provision within the vicinity.

What traffic impact will there be once the prison is open?

A Traffic Impact Assessment was completed for the site which focused on trips for staff and visitors to and from the site once the prison was open.

The assessment outlined that Welland Avenue, Gallow Field Road/ Foxton Road junction would continue to operate within acceptable capacity, when the prison is open. The shift changeover hours for staff at the prison would also happen outside of the local highway network peak.

The project team has also submitted an outline travel plan that will help reduce travel to and from the site in cars carrying only one person and encourage staff to use greener modes of transport. This includes walking, cycling, using buses and trains, and car sharing. Additionally, the MoJ are looking to financially contribute to the local bus service that currently serves HMP Gartree and will serve the new prison. Discussions are ongoing with Leicestershire County Council.

Have you thought about traffic in surrounding villages?

We have discussed the potential highway impact from the site with Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council.

Whilst our Transport Assessment has identified no issues with transport network capacity, we have considered the implications of the proposed development and committed to the following improvements:

- Improve signage across key locations for both Lubenham and Foxton villages
- Making Foxton a 20mph zone (exact details to be agreed).
- Gateway features at entrances to both Foxton and Lubenham villages, such as a white 'picket fence' type feature with 20mph signs as replacements for the existing 30mph signs.

Highways & Access

How will traffic be managed during the construction phase?

We are committed to both minimising any disruption and keeping roads safe.

A Construction Management Plan will be agreed upon with Harborough District Council ahead of works starting on-site and will set out the building works proposed and how the construction team will minimise the impact on residents.

We will also develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan with the Council to manage builders' and suppliers' traffic, so that it doesn't affect local people and businesses too much.



Construction

During the construction phase for the new prison, approximately 100 jobs will be created, along with an injection of approximately £72.8 million(net) into the local economy. However, we know that construction phases for developments can sometimes be disruptive, especially if they are not properly managed.

Before work starts on site, a Construction Management Plan will be created and agreed with the council, which will set out the building works and how the construction team will manage the project to minimise the impact on the local residents.

What is a Traffic Management Plan and how will it work?

As outlined in the Highways and Access section a Traffic Management Plan would be put in place which is designed to ensure that construction vehicles can enter and leave the site safely and that measures are put in place to reduce any temporary impact on the existing highway network.

More specifically, the Traffic Management Plan would cover:

The number and type of vehicles required during the construction phase of the project

The construction timescales including peak construction periods

The construction access routes for use by construction vehicles

The specific construction traffic impacts which would require mitigation and a plan for how we would mitigate these.

Will air quality diminish on site?

An Air Quality Assessment has been completed which outlined the possible impacts of the development on air quality both during construction and when the prison is open.

Whilst the report found no risks to air quality while the prison is open, the team will monitor the air quality on site daily during the construction phase, which will be compared against standard measures and industry best practice.

What about noise control, will this negatively impact surrounding areas?

An acoustic survey has been completed and has not identified any significant issues with the site both during the construction and when the prison is open. However, noise and vibration levels will be closely monitored on site during construction, with strict reporting and feedback mechanisms in place.



Social Value

The proposed development is part of a programme that will:

- Ensure we meet our public protection obligations
- Put the prison on a sustainable footing
- Deliver safe and secure prison places
- Focus on supporting rehabilitation for prisoners to give them the tools to turn their lives around

Alongside this main programme, delivering real social value has been embedded into our plans. There is evidence of this from what we have already delivered at our recent and current prison builds and in the existing prison estate.

Should the plans be approved, a Social Value Handbook will be created for the site, which includes our commitments to the community, which will be monitored to measure the social and economic benefits of the project to the local communities and businesses in Harborough and the wider region.

Will this actually be delivered? Have you done this before?

The MOJ is committed to delivering real social value for the local community through the scheme. A case study of our activity can be found for HMP Fosse Way in Leicestershire opposite.

Do local people get a say in what social value is delivered?

Absolutely. We are keen to hear from local people about what you would like to see delivered in their community. If you have any suggestions at this stage, let us know and stick your ideas to our working with and contributing to the local community board.



Community Benefits

Alongside our commitment to delivering social value, (please view the Social Value section for more information) the plans will unlock a vast array of wider community benefits. A summary of these benefits can be found in the table below.

Gartree Estate

Area of Impact	Activity	Amount
Play Area	A new play space for Gartree Village on MoJ owned land. Community will be consulted on what they would like delivered.	£50k
Garages	Demolish and clear derelict garages in Gartree. We will work with Lubenham Parish Council to explore how the space could be used for the community.	£200K
Gartree Estate Improvements	Weekly inspections around HMP Gartree and the Gartree estate to identify potential local issues and resolve them, including litter and fly-tipping. Review and rationalisation of existing staff parking. Explore conversion of Batchelors Quarter building to be converted into a usable asset for use by the local community.	£250k
Broadband	Acceleration of fibre connectivity (FTTP) to residents' houses within Gartree estate BT Community Fibre Team have anticipated early installation in 2022 / 2023.	£250k - £500k
Welland Avenue	Investigate whether local residents on Welland Avenue would welcome resurfacing works to the private section of the road.	£500k
Ecology	Current Biodiversity Net Gain for the proposed development is 26.29% which will be maintained for at least 30 years 2ha areas of native broadleaved screening will be planted at the east, south and west perimeters of the new prison. 0.73km of new hedgerow to replace the 0.28km lost Newly relocated badger population with a series of new setts linked to the open countryside along the eastern and southern boundaries Five new ponds will be created, one within the prison and four to the northwest. Designate 3.3ha area to the West of the development, which will also have public walking access.	£1m - £2m

Community Benefits

Alongside our commitment to delivering social value, (please view the Social Value section for more information) the plans will unlock a vast array of wider community benefits. A summary of these benefits can be found in the table below.

Gartree Estate

Area of Impact	Activity	Amount
Foxton Primary School	Contribution towards a footpath improvement linking Gallow Field Road and Swingbridge Street.	£103k
Business	Financially contribute to the local bus service that currently serves HMP Gartree and will serve the new prison.	£500k
Total Value		£3m - £4.25m

Community Benefits

Alongside our commitment to delivering Social Value, (please view the Social Value section for more information) the plans will also unlock a vast array of wider community benefits. A summary of these benefits can be found in the table below.

Highway Improvements

Area of Impact	Activity	Amount
Lubenham Village	<p>New Vehicle Activated Signs at four locations (including upgrade of existing signs & two wigwags control signals for level crossings)</p> <p>Widen existing pedestrian refuge island between Rushes Lane and Foxtan Road; including reducing the width of the footpath on the southern side to accommodate widening as necessary.</p> <p>Installation of a new pedestrian refuge island between Westgate Lane / Foxtan Road (at existing dropped crossing point)</p> <p>Gateway features at entrances to the village</p> <p>Road safety rumble strips at gateways</p>	£375k - £500k
Foxtan Village	<p>Enable Foxtan to be a 20mph zone (exact details to be agreed)</p> <p>Traffic calming measures/ improvements to be installed at the junction with Swingbridge Street to deter vehicles from cutting through for access to Main Street.</p> <p>Gateway features at entrances to the village including 20mph signs as replacements for the existing 30mph signs.</p>	£375k - £500k
Total		£750k - £1m

Community Benefits

Alongside our commitment to delivering Social Value, (please view the Social Value section for more information) the plans will also unlock a vast array of wider community benefits. A summary of these benefits can be found in the table below.

Local Benefits

Theme	Detail	Value
Spending	25% Local employment within 25 miles of site 40% Local employment (offsite manufacturing within a 40-mile radius of the site) 100 jobs created of which at least 25% are former prisoners or those near to release 40% spend with Small and Medium sized enterprises (circa £70-80m)	£230m – £270m total spend within a 100-mile radius
Employment	25% Local employment within 25 miles of site 40% Local employment (offsite manufacturing within a 40-mile radius of the site) 100 jobs created of which at least 25% are former prisoners or those near to release	Glen Parva actuals for indicative benefits to Gartree: 30% achieved 85% achieved 275 jobs created of which at least 18% are former prisoners or those near to release.
Community	£50k spend with Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises One community project per year 15 targeted events – job fairs, school visits etc 1,750 Work placement Days Monthly newsletters Site tour offered to local residents 50 new apprentice opportunities	£445, 255 spent Three community projects delivered (e.g. memorial garden built at a school) 25 targeted events delivered 2,651 work placement days delivered

Security

The security of our prisons is a top priority and is why we are investing £100m on new security measures, including x-ray body scanners to disrupt the supply of contraband into prisons. HMPPS works closely with police and other partners to tirelessly mitigate the risk through intelligence led operations and improvements in physical and dynamic security.

Security is an area that is constantly evolving; the enhanced security of the New Prisons includes:

- The windows will not open, they will have air vents to allow the flow of air, this removes the opportunity to pass items in or out of cells via the windows; it will also deter drone drops.
- There is high fencing in all areas inside the prison wherever prisoners move about, such as exercise yards and workshops.
- Areas which may be vulnerable to throwovers are limited to protect the prison against this security risk.
- Enhanced searching of visitors and staff.
- CCTV within each building and in the grounds, drug dogs for searching of prisoners, staff, visitors and communal areas; patrols inside and outside the perimeter fence.
- Anti-drone technology – we plan to install the most up to date anti-drone technology.
- Technology to block and or detect mobile phones

Prisons Designed to Support Rehabilitation and Cut Crime

New Prisons are designed to facilitate education and employment, rehabilitation, healthcare and purposeful activity by: providing spaces for education and skills development; having workshops for training and employment; IT in cells to facilitate access to resources; welcoming facilities for visitors, peer support and therapeutic activity, including to address substance misuse; and include association spaces and quiet areas, together with adequate spaces for work.

Time Well Spent

Building on needs assessments completed during the early days in custody, prisoners will continue on their resettlement journey with a clear plan to address the issues which have been identified e.g. substance misuse, work skills and educational needs. This will ensure time in prison is well spent and purposeful.

HMPPS has committed to deliver a transformed Prisoner Education Service. Through this, education will have a clear purpose and a goal. We will focus on two overriding priorities. First, improving the numeracy and literacy of all prisoners. Second, incentivising them to improve their qualifications to increase their prospects of finding work. The aim for every prisoner should be to improve their levels of numeracy, literacy, training and qualifications during their sentence, with a tailored plan developed from entry into prison.

Zero-tolerance to drugs and treating addictions from day one

Tackling addiction is crucial to rehabilitation and reducing reoffending. As part of a zero-tolerance approach towards drugs, prisoners will be assessed on arrival for drug and alcohol addictions, allowing prison staff to make comprehensive plans for their recovery from day one. These plans can be further progressed in a training prison environment such as the new prison at Gartree, where staff will provide a full range of drug and mental health treatment including the use of abstinence-based treatment.



Prisoner Daily Regime

7.45am-8.30am	Unlock, have breakfast, speak with staff, clean cells and open air time.
8.30am-11.45am	Attend work or other activities, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education: learning and skills training• Work: manufacturing goods, recycling/upcycling, laundry, domestic/industrial cleaning.• Programmes/courses: to reduce the risk of re-offending relating to issues such as drug or alcohol misuse and violence and to engage in one-to-one work with psychologists and other professionals.• Resettlement focussed activity: with professionals in areas such as housing and employment.
12.30pm -1.30pm	In cell
1.35pm - 4.55pm	Unlock, attend work or other activities. Undertake visitation
5.30pm - 6.00pm	In cell
6.00pm - 7.30pm	Education, gym, faith-based activities, Library time
7.30pm	In cell for the night - 5:30pm on weekends

In-cell technology

A key part in rehabilitation is ensuring prisoners can access learning products and supporting them to take ownership of managing everyday tasks. In prisons which currently have this option the technology provides prisoners with access to a range of educational courses and general information. This system is not the same as the internet, it is an intranet i.e., limited to communicating within the prison only.

Each cell will also have a secure, landline style telephone; this provides better access to family and friends, so that relationships with those key individuals can be maintained. For security reasons, prisoners are only allowed to dial numbers which have been approved in advance and no incoming calls are allowed from people outside the prison, or from other prisoners. Prisoners must buy phone credit to pay for the cost of calls and phones are switched off at certain times e.g., at night. Having access to a phone helps keep prisons safer too e.g. it means there are fewer time restrictions on when calls can be made, this reduces the frustration and potential flash points that queuing for phones in communal areas may cause; it also allows phone calls home to take place at times that are more suitable for everyone, such as after a shift at work, or at a child's bedtime.

In-cell TV can also provide a platform for learning opportunities and exercise guides to allow time in cell to be purposeful. Prisoners have to pay to rent a TV and like all other privileges in prison, it can be taken away if a prisoner behaves badly.

Successful Rehabilitation

Our focus for the proposed prison is to provide a safe and secure facility which supports rehabilitation and gives prisoners the tools to turn their lives around. Whilst this will be achieved through the ambitious design and provision of training facilities, we also work in partnership with organisations to help reform criminals. Across our estate, the MoJ works with the Prison Fellowship, which is the world's largest Christian non-profit organisation for prisoners, former prisoners, and their families. The charity has a network of over 3,000 volunteers who work in almost all of the 121 prisons in England and Wales.

The following section outlines work being done at the existing HMP Gartee, which showcases the future rehabilitation work that the new prison would receive.

Prison Fellowship Work at HMP Gartee

- Letter Link: Setting up a letter writing network for prisoners to tackle isolation and loneliness.
- Chaplaincy Support: Visiting prisoners, leading, or assisting in Sunday services, running music groups, Bible studies, parenting courses, and offering bereavement counselling.
- Bible Study: Preparing a weekly bible study based on the lectionary to prison who have signed up for the service.
- Prayer Line: Providing a free number for prisoners to and leave a confidential message with a personal prayer request. The team will respond in prayer to every request issued (where appropriate).

HMP Gartree Sycamore Tree

This accredited victim awareness programme teaches the principles and application of restorative justice to prisoners. It is taught in groups of up to 20 prisoners, over a 6-week period and explores the effects of crime on victims, offenders, and the wider community. Following this, prisoners discuss what it would mean to take responsibility for their personal actions. The final week of the programme offers a unique opportunity for prisoners to make a symbolic act of restitution in the presence of their peers, prison staff, victims of crime and members of the local community. This includes writing and reading out poems/ letters, a specially composed piece of music being played, drawings, paintings, cake baking, planting seeds, lighting candles and creative craft work, photograph frames and origami swans which are given away, just to name but a few. At the end of the course, the prisoners are individually assessed by a trained tutor (the assessment is then verified by an external moderator) and each prisoner can achieve the award of 'Understanding the Restorative Justice Process'.

"As someone who has worked as a volunteer at HMP Gartee within the chaplaincy team, I know first-hand the benefits a training prison can offer those, who while serving their sentences are also given the tools to enable them to begin to address their offending behaviour through participation in tailored training, education, and courses as part of their rehabilitative journey back into society."

Janet | Prison Fellowship Volunteer



Successful Rehabilitation

HMP Gartree Angel tree

The Gartree Angel Tree Project is now in its twentieth year and has been well received by the prisoners, families and staff members. The scheme gives parents in prison the opportunity to send a Christmas present to their children to provide some small joy to families. The local Gartree Prison Fellowship volunteers arranges for gifts to be purchased to the value of £20. These gifts are donated by members of churches in the local community and volunteers help wrap and deliver the presents. Often, this is complimented by a Christmas concert that the local chaplaincy organizes for the prisoners.

“The prisoners are very grateful to the local community for the kindness shown to them and their families, at what can be a difficult time for them.”

Maureen | Angel Tree Coordinator

What Happens Next?

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our proposals. This document has been prepared in response to feedback received during the pre-application consultation stage and covers the key themes raised.

Please visit the Frequently Asked Questions section which has been prepared to respond in more detail to questions received both ahead of and post planning application submission.

Additionally, you can visit our website by scanning the QR code below.



If you do not have access to a smart phone, please speak to a member of the team here today or via the telephone and email address provided.

Is this a done deal?

The outline application has not received any preferential treatment and will be determined by Harborough District Council's Planning Committee in due course. The plans are subject to the same scrutiny that every development of this scale must receive.

Has engagement activity finished now?

We are keen to keep an open dialogue with the community as the plans progress and we want to hear from you. Any questions you may have can be asked via the following channels:



Call our community information number on 0333 358 0502.



Email us at PSDenquiries@justice.gov.uk

How else can we engage with you in the future?

We want to build a closer, long-term and more productive relationship with the community outside the planning process. As such, we are establishing a new community liaison group.

If you would like to become a member of the community liaison group, please email us at: PSDenquiries@justice.gov.uk.





Ministry
of Justice

Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions

Why build a new prison here?

The land next to the existing HMP Gartree Prison was identified as the best available location for a new Category B prison because of its suitability for building, geographic location and good transport links. The site is also already owned by the Ministry of Justice.

Despite widespread analysis, no brownfield site could be found to match the required criteria.

What visual impact would the new prison have?

Our proposals are for a 1,715-place prison with seven prison blocks holding around 240 male prisoners each, along with ancillary buildings.

Careful consideration has been given when preparing the new prison design, with the inmate blocks being limited to four floors to reduce any visual impact to the surrounding area.

Extensive landscaping has been prepared to compliment the low-rise buildings, in order to screen the development, including the parking facilities, from the general public whilst also providing bio-diversity enhancements.

The site entrance has been carefully positioned off Welland Avenue as the existing trees will effectively screen the development from the public. Additionally, the route from the main road to the prison will be landscaped to provide a pleasant and calming approach for visitors and people passing by.

Isn't the site in the Green Belt? I have heard that this is also considered an area of outstanding beauty. Is this true?

The site is not located within the Green Belt. The fundamental aim of Green Belt planning policy is to prevent urban sprawl from surrounding areas by establishing a "buffer zone" between urban and rural land, separating town and country and preserving land for forestry, agriculture and conservation. This planning tool is for local authorities to define and maintain within their areas.

The development also does not sit on land designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which is protected by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act). These areas are selected and protected by Natural England in partnership with Local Authorities, who assess the land against a strict natural beauty criterion. This includes determining the historical, cultural or geological significance of the land. As such, there are only 46 AONBs in the UK, an example being the Cotswolds.

The Harborough Local Plan (2011-2031) identifies both the existing HMP Gartree facility and the proposed development site as areas of open countryside, as opposed to Green Belt Land or an AONB.

An area of open countryside typically relates to land that sits outside of a settlement boundary and careful consideration is required from a developer in the design and environmental impact of any plans proposed.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will the development affect waste water and surface water drainage?

A Foul Water Drainage Report and Foul Water Plan has been submitted which considers the impact the development would have on the existing drainage network. As part of these plans, a foul water pumping station will be delivered on site to serve the proposed new prison and eliminate impact on existing services. We are also aware of a need to upgrade the existing water treatment facility at Foxton, which will further ensure that any additional pressure to the existing drainage network is offset through infrastructure improvements. A sustainable drainage system will also be used to manage the flow of surface water. This means that surface water runoff, such as rain fall, is managed so that it is not able to flow directly into the main sewer system all at once. Instead, the water is released over an extended time, reducing the impact on the downstream network. A proposed Drainage Strategy has been prepared separately for the site and is included with the planning application submission. Details will be finalised as part of a reserved matters application.

How will you preserve wildlife?

Preserving and enhancing the local wildlife at the site has been a key factor throughout our proposals.

- A Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 25% that will be maintained across the site for at least 30 years.
- 20,000 sqm of native woodland trees will be planted at the east, south and west perimeters of the site including Alder, Aspen, Silver Birch, Field Maple, English Oak, Rowan Scots Pine and Bird Cherry.
- 230 sqm of new hedgerow planting to replace the 28sqm lost, presenting a significant gain in habitat for woodland birds, butterflies, small mammals and amphibians
- Newly relocated badger population with a series of new setts linked to the open countryside along the eastern and southern boundaries
- Five new ponds will be created, one within the prison and four to the northwest. These new habitats will increase wetland connectivity provide support frogs, toads, newts, reptiles and a range of insects and birds.
- 33,000sqm designated open space to the West of the development, which will also have public walking access.



Frequently Asked Questions

How will you address light pollution?

State of the art, energy efficient lighting will reduce any light pollution generated by the prison and lighting will only be directed where needed and within the prison grounds. Extensive landscaping around the site will also limit light pollution by screening the development from the surrounding area.

How will you address noise pollution?

An acoustic survey has been completed and has not identified any significant issues with the site both during the construction and when

the prison is open. Noise and vibration levels will be closely monitored on site during construction, with strict reporting and feedback

mechanisms in place. The operational prison will consider and address noise with design features, such as non-opening cell windows.

How will you address air pollution?

An Air Quality Assessment has been completed which outlined the possible impacts of the development on air quality both during construction and when the prison is open.

Whilst the report found no risks to air quality while the prison is open, we will monitor the air quality on site daily during the construction phase, which will be compared against standard measures and industry best practice.

How will construction traffic be managed?

We are committed to both minimising any disruption and keeping roads safe. A Construction Management Plan will be agreed upon with Harborough District Council ahead of works starting on-site and will set out the building works proposed and how the construction team will minimise the impact on residents.

We will also develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan with the Council to manage builders' and suppliers' traffic, so that it doesn't affect local people and businesses too much.

Would the new prison affect the local highway network?

A Traffic Impact Assessment was completed for the site which focused on trips for staff and visitors to and from the site once the prison was open. The assessment outlined that Welland Avenue, Gallow Field Road/Foxton Road junction would continue to operate within acceptable capacity, when the prison is open.

The shift changeover hours for staff at the prison would also happen outside of the local highway network peak, and therefore would also have minimal effect on local services, such as schools. The project team has also submitted an outline travel plan that will help reduce travel to and from the site in cars carrying only one person and encourage staff to use greener modes of transport.

This includes walking, cycling, using buses and trains, and car sharing. Additionally, we are looking to financially contribute to the local bus service that currently serves HMP Gartree and will serve the new prison. Discussions are ongoing with Leicestershire County Council.



Frequently Asked Questions

What highways and transport improvements will be provided?

Whilst our Transport Assessment has identified no issues with transport network capacity, we have considered the implications of the proposed development and committed to the following improvements:

- Improve signage across key locations for both Lubenham and Foxton villages
- Making Foxton a 20mph zone (exact details to be agreed).
- Gateway features at entrances to both Foxton and Lubenham villages, such as a white 'picket fence' type feature with 20mph signs as replacements for the existing 30mph signs.

Do we really need more prisons?

We have looked at the MOJ prison estate and know that, in the future, we will require more prison places than we currently have; this includes Category B prison places like the ones we are proposing in Gartree. As such, we are investing £3.8 billion over the next three years to make significant progress in delivering the 20,000 much-needed additional prison places.

Protecting the community and getting criminals off the streets whilst delivering real rehabilitation opportunities and reducing reoffending is at the core of the Government's prison building programme.

Are you expanding the existing prison?

We had also submitted a separate planning application for a new houseblock at HMP Gartree, which would hold up to 247 additional male prisoners. We have withdrawn this application to focus on the new prison proposals.

Will the new prison affect local health services?

The new prison would have its own healthcare facilities on site. Prisoners will be able to receive advice on site, as well as treatment and check-ups.

The NHS commissions healthcare for prisoners across the UK. We are working closely with the NHS and other organisations to provide the necessary health services including mental health services, substance misuse, GP services and social care services.

All local emergency services including the NHS, police and fire services have been consulted and should our proposals go ahead, detailed planning with these local services will continue throughout the construction and operation of the prison to manage any impact.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will my community be safe once the prison is operational?

Yes. Our new design has public safety as a priority, whilst also helping prisoners to turn their lives around during their sentence. In a category B prison, prisoners are kept in closed conditions which means that prisoners are kept within secure prison boundaries all of the time.

Additionally, prisoners would not be released on temporary license from a Category B prison. When a prisoner approaches the end of their sentence and following rigorous monitoring, a prisoner is then able to be transferred to a category C or resettlement prison to get ready for release. As such, no prisoners at this new prison would be released into the community during their sentence.

Have you considered other near-by planning approvals and developments?

Yes, the wider planning context has been considered as part of our new prison proposals.

Is this a done deal?

The outline application has not received any preferential treatment and will be determined by Harborough District Council's Planning Committee in due course. The plans are subject to the same scrutiny that every development of this scale must receive.

Has engagement activity finished now?

We are keen to keep an open dialogue with the community as the plans progress and we want to hear from you. Any questions you may have can be asked via the following channels:

- Call our Freephone community information number on 0333 358 0502.
- Email us at PSDenquiries@justice.gov.uk

Should the outline planning application be approved, the MoJ will also be required to submit a reserved matters application which will provide full detail of the finalised plans. This will be further consulted on by the Council before being determined.

We are also exploring the option of establishing a new community liaison group because we want to build a closer, long-term and more productive relationship with the community outside the planning process. If you would like to become a member of the community liaison group, please email us at: PSDenquiries@justice.gov.uk.



Ministry
of Justice

Real experiences: preparing for a productive life outside of prison



Real experiences: preparing for a productive life outside of prison

The following stories outline real life experiences* of prisons changing lives and preparing for prisoners for a successful life outside of prison.

Naz



“ I lost a good job in finance when I committed fraud and was sentenced to time in prison. Because of the type of crime, I had absolutely no chance of returning to my previous career.

An Employment Advisory Board connected me with employers who would offer me a job. These Boards are made up of local businessmen and women who work with prison staff to improve employment prospects for inmates.

The Board linked me with a local plant, tool and event hire company. I joined them on day release from prison to learn the skills of the trade and prepare for release.

Today, I am a full-time branch manager, helping to pay my family's bills, paying taxes, and making a positive contribution to our society.

I cleaned up my act, took a second chance to go straight, turned my life around. ”

Craig



“ I had 63 criminal convictions, was in prison 16 times, had mental health needs resulting from trauma, left school at 13 having never sat an exam, my prospects were poor. My convictions initially were things like petty theft, criminal damage and then they progressed as my addiction did onto on to robbery, burglary and possessing class A drugs.

On that last sentence there were two officers that saw I was trying to break away from my reputation and that I wanted to change, they provided me with an opportunity to break away from my past and work in a role in the MOJ.

Recruiting reformed criminals provides the MoJ with tenacious, bright, capable, loyal, skilled, hardworking people that reflect the true nature of our diverse society.

People with lived experience can share trade secrets of criminal thinking that will allow colleagues to target services that are more likely to engage those still offending. Not only do they gain top talent, but you can utilise this tacit knowledge to cut crime. ”



Real experiences: preparing for a productive life outside of prison

Warren



“ I am not making excuses, but many offenders come from abuse, poverty, neglect and that often encourages pathways to crime. I was a product of that and was wasting my life.

When we reduce offending through offering opportunity, we repair some of those inequalities and we limit ongoing crime and meet our obligations to safeguard society.

I used the opportunity I was granted in prison to get a telehandler licence and NVQ, a Dumper / Roller NVQ and different qualifications in being a first aider and a traffic and fire marshal.

I'm now out of prison and working on major infrastructure projects, having spent 17 years in the system. Thanks to the opportunities and training I was provided I can make my mum and daughter proud. ”

Dave



“ I had been in and out of care and prison since I was young. Finding employment and learning skills before leaving prison meant that I didn't fall back into a life of crime and drug addiction.

In prison, I got accredited on the site management safety training scheme and a range of really valuable qualifications. Before release, I was connected to a construction firm near where my family live. I now have a job that I love and can contribute to society, instead of being a threat. ”

*Case Studies have been altered to anonymise prisoner details.





Ministry
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**Real experiences: local supply chain,
training and employment opportunities**



Real experiences: local supply chain, training and employment opportunities

Digital Construction Apprentices

HMP Five Wells is trailblazing a scheme for delivering engineering skills and the first to take on digital construction apprentices via Kier's award-winning programme.



Local Employment

HMP Five wells measured the offsite social value during the construction phase, achieving 90% local employment within 25 miles of offsite manufacturing facilities across the UK and Ireland.

Site Ready Project

Site Ready is a work readiness project for young people in Northamptonshire who are in care and under threat from gang life. As part of the construction for HMP Five Wells, 20 young people (aged 14-16) were funded to go through the programme. Each young person was able to attend three half-day sessions per week. The eight-week programme included work shadowing, mentoring and constructions skills training.





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Glossary of Planning Terms



Glossary of Planning Terms

Acoustic survey

This is used to determine if a proposed development will have a noise effect in the surrounding local area.

Air quality assessment

This is used to determine if a proposed development will affect air quality in the surrounding local area.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

An area with statutory national landscape designation, the primary purpose of which is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Together with National Parks, AONB represents the nation's finest landscapes. Natural England designates AONB – our site is not an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Biodiversity Net Gain

To achieve a Biodiversity net gain, a proposal must leave the natural environment and wildlife habitats in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

Construction management plan

A plan that outlines the proposed building or construction works and the approach to limiting the effects on the surrounding community.

Green Belt Land

Green Belt is a designation for land around certain cities and large built-up areas, which aims to keep this land permanently open or largely undeveloped. There is no Green Belt around Market Harborough.

Outline planning application

A general application for planning permission to establish whether development is acceptable in principle, subject to subsequent approval of detailed matters. Our new prisons proposals is an outline planning application.

Reserved matters application

After approval of outline planning consent, reserved matters must be submitted to gain the right for development. This type of application deals with the outstanding details which were omitted from the outline planning application, like siting, landscaping and appearance. Subject to outline planning approval, we would need to submit a reserved matters application which would require further public engagement and consultation.



Glossary of Planning Terms

Sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS)/sustainable drainage system

These are drainage solutions that provide an alternative to the direct channelling of surface water through pipes and sewers. An example is an attenuation pond.

Traffic impact assessment

This assessment looks at whether a particular development project will affect the safety and efficiency of the local transport network and how it will overcome any areas of concern. It includes junction modelling, car traffic monitoring, public transport evaluation and assesses public safety.

Traffic management plan/ Outline Traffic Management Plan

These are procedures for managing the impact of construction traffic.





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