New Prison near Chorley, Lancashire

The New Prisons Programme

Contents

- Welcome from Catherine McKinnell MP
- The New Prisons Programme
- The New Prison near Chorley, Lancashire
- How the New Prison will Operate
- Other Planning Conditions set at Outline Stage
- Next Step – Reserved Matters Application
- Reserved Matters – Appearance
- Reserved Matters – Layout
- Reserved Matters – Scale
- Your Comments and the Engagement Process

Welcome from Minister Catherine McKinnell MP

Thank you for visiting our website, which provides further information on the Reserved Matters Application process for the new 1,715 place category C resettlement prison on land next to HMPs Garth and Wymott in Lancashire.

The Government published its 10-year Prison Capacity Strategy, in December 2024, which sets out our commitment to delivering 14,000 new prison places. On 14 May 2025, the Lord Chancellor announced a £4.7 billion package of funding to continue delivery of these places, with an aim of reaching the 14,000 place target by 2031. This includes building three new prisons – HMP Welland Oaks in Leicestershire which began construction in September 2025, one in Buckinghamshire and this new prison in Lancashire. The prison is designed to give prisoners the best chances upon release and provide safe, secure and decent prison places. The team working on the project have a wealth of experience, having previously opened HMPs Five Wells, Fosse Way and Millsike.

In December 2024, Outline Planning Permission was granted for a new prison next to the existing HMPs Garth and Wymott. The next step in the planning process is to complete a Reserved Matters Application which will provide more detailed information regarding the appearance, layout and scale of the proposed new prison, as all other matters were agreed as part of the Outline Planning Application. Throughout this document, all three of the reserved matters will be considered in turn, alongside some additional information to provide you with an overview of the project.

I am committed to community engagement and providing an opportunity for those with an interest in the new prison development to comment on the proposals within the Reserved Matters Application.

I hope that this document will be helpful to you, and that you will let us know any thoughts you have on the Reserved Matters.

Best wishes,

Catherine McKinnell MP

Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending

The New Prisons Programme

In December 2024 the government set out in the 10-Year Prison Capacity Strategy the commitment to delivering an additional 14,000 prison places with the aim to do so by 2031. This includes the construction of new prisons as well as the refurbishment and expansion of the existing estate and temporary accommodation.

So far, the New Prisons Programme has opened three new prisons: HMP Five Wells, HMP Fosse Way and HMP Millsike.

The fourth new prison, HMP Welland Oaks in Leicestershire is currently under construction.

HMP Five Wells, Northamptonshire

HMP Five Wells was completed in early 2022, the first of the new design prisons. HMP Five Wells is a category C men's resettlement prison and was opened in March 2022.

HMP Fosse Way, Leicestershire

We started building HMP Fosse Way in the Summer of 2020 and it was officially opened in June 2023. HMP Fosse Way is a category C men's resettlement prison.

HMP Millsike, Yorkshire

We started building HMP Millsike in the Summer of 2023 and it was officially opened in March 2025. HMP Millsike is a category C men’s resettlement prison.

HMP Welland Oaks, Leicestershire

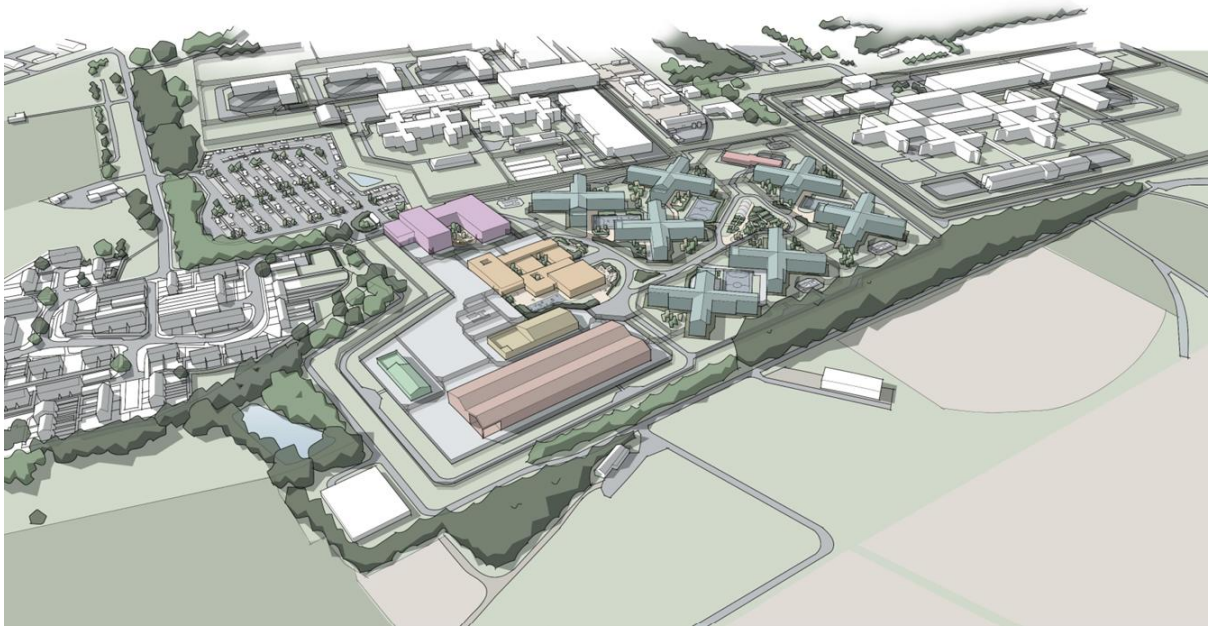
Construction on HMP Welland Oaks began in September 2025 and it is expected to open in early 2029 as a Category B training prison.

The New Prison near Chorley, Lancashire

The new prison near Chorley will provide much needed safe, decent and secure prison places to the estate. The prison's design will make it one of the most environmentally sustainable facilities in the estate, and its modern technology will help support rehabilitation, giving prisoners the tools and opportunities they need to turn their lives around.

In total, the new prison will include 13 new buildings, including seven houseblocks, set within a secure perimeter fence. The design of these buildings has been prepared in accordance with His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service's (HMPPS) strict technical standards to maintain the level of security needed for a category C prison.

The prison will be separated into three areas:



Site Map 1

1. Entrance Resource Hub

CGI - Entrance Resource Hub 1

The Entrance Resource Hub is the only entrance and exit to or from the prison. It serves as the primary point of contact for families visiting prisoners and for professional visitors (e.g. solicitors). This building includes the visitors centre, which has been designed to cater to the needs of families and provides a range of facilities to ensure a positive experience. It is also the staff entrance to the prison and vehicle lock for prisoner transport.

2. Central Services Zone

CGI - Central Services Zone 1

This includes the kitchen and workshops as well as the Central Services Hub which includes healthcare, education, a library and a multi-faith centre. Workshops and education play a key role in prisoner rehabilitation by providing space for prisoners to gain new skills and training. Most day-to-day healthcare will be managed within the new prison.

3. Houseblocks

CGI - Houseblocks 1

This area will have seven new houseblocks with room for around 245 prisoners each (a total of 1,715 prisoners). Each houseblock is four storeys high and in the shape of an “X”. Three of the wings are made up of cells and there is one support wing per houseblock where prisoners receive food and medication etc. There is also a small building known as the Care and Separation Unit which provides specialised care and support for prisoners who require additional attention and supervision.

How the New Prison Will Operate

Our plans will deliver a new category C resettlement prison on land to the north of the existing HMP Wymott and east of the existing HMP Garth.

Category C resettlement prisons are secure prisons which means that prisoners are kept within secure prison boundaries (either a high wall or fencing). Prisoners will typically move to a category C resettlement prison in the last two years of their sentence in order to prepare them for release. Most prisoners will have a home address within 90 minutes travel distance of the prison.

Our new prison design has public safety as a priority, whilst also helping prisoners to turn their lives around during their sentence. Once the prison is operational, limited numbers of risk assessed prisoners who are deemed suitable and safe may be permitted to leave the prison on ROTL (Release on Temporary Licence), for example to go to work, to help facilitate their resettlement and reintegration into the community ahead of their release. The ROTL approach is the same as in nearby prisons.

The prison is expected to be privately operated with plans in place to launch an operator competition in due course.

Security is an area that is constantly evolving. The enhanced security of the new prison includes:

- A high perimeter fence (5.2 meters).
- Extensive CCTV within each building and in the grounds, passive and active drug dogs for searching of prisoners, staff, visitors.
- Secure barless cell windows which do not open but have air vents for fresh air circulation. Barless windows can reduce the level of contraband entering prisons or being moved between cells.
- Careful consideration of the positioning of the buildings to reduce the risk of throwovers of illicit items, with two sides of the site facing on to the existing establishment, enhancing security for both sites. The layout has been carefully planned to position the houseblocks at the greatest practical distance from neighbouring residential buildings.
- Enhanced searching of visitors and staff, including body scanners.

Other Planning Conditions set at Outline Stage

In December 2024, Outline Planning Permission was granted for the new prison by Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Outline Planning Permission establishes the principle of development at the site and sets out certain conditions that must be adhered to, this includes Reserved Matters.

The project team are working closely with the Local Planning Authority to ensure all planning conditions are discharged, some of these will be ahead of works commencing and some will be throughout construction.

In addition and separately to the Reserved Matters, other planning conditions for the new prison include:

- Off-site highways improvements have been agreed as part of the Outline Planning Permission. These include traffic-calming measures on Ulnes Walton Lane and Moss Lane, upgrades to existing bus stops on Willow Road and Ulnes Walton Lane, and the provision of a new 2-metre-wide footway linking the existing northbound bus stop on Ulnes Walton Lane with the access junction for HMP Garth and HMP Wymott.
- Additional measures include tactile paving, a step-free pedestrian crossing on Moss Lane, and improvements to the A581/Ulnes Walton Lane junction to enhance accessibility, connectivity and road safety.
- Prior to commencement of each phase of development, a Construction Management Plan (CMP) shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in consultation with the Highway Authority. The Plan will be implemented throughout construction and include measures for site parking, construction hours, loading/unloading, material storage, site compounds, hoarding, wheel washing, dust control, waste management, construction traffic routing, and engagement with local residents.
- A plan for Biodiversity Management for each phase of construction will be submitted and approved by the LPA to manage biodiversity impacts during the build. Prior to each phase of development, a phasing plan for the delivery will be submitted and approved by the LPA and then implemented in line with the phasing plan.
- Development works, including demolition, ground works and vegetation clearance, will only take place for each phase following submission and approval of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan and a Construction Environmental Management Plan which considers ecology matters.

As part of the Section 278 works, we will also deliver traffic calming measures on Ulnes Walton Lane and Moss Lane, footway improvements along Moss Lane, including the creation of the new site entrance. This will be undertaken alongside the implementation of the A581 roundabout, as well as highway works on Ulnes Walton

Lane through to School Lane to support the wider scheme. A temporary bellmouth access will also be constructed on Ulnes Walton Lane to facilitate site access during the construction period.

Full details of the conditions are provided in the Appeal Decision granting Outline Planning Permission found online: 21/01028/OUTMAJ

Next Step – Reserved Matters Application

In December 2024, Outline Planning Permission was granted for the new prison by Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

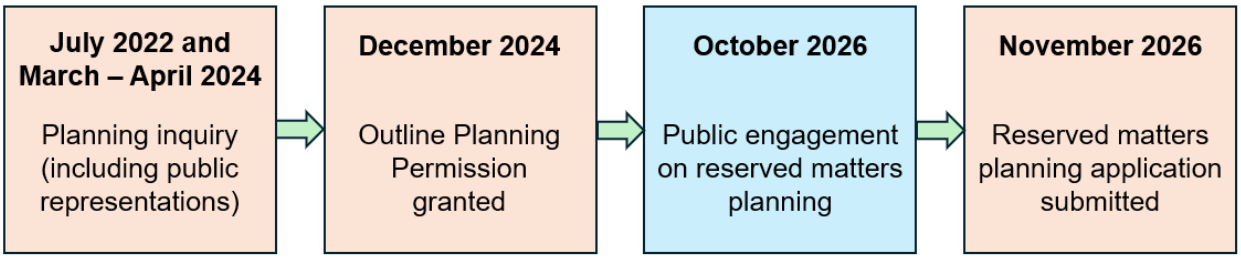
Outline Planning Permission establishes the principle of development at the site and sets out certain conditions that must be adhered to.

Following the Outline Planning Permission being granted in December 2024, there is now a second step in the planning process, called a **Reserved Matters Application**. Reserved matters are aspects of a proposed development which are 'reserved' at outline application stage to be determined at a later stage.

This application will provide further technical details about the **appearance, layout** and **scale** of the new prison –

- **Appearance** is how the buildings will look, such as materials and colours
- **Layout** refers to how the buildings, roads, paths, parking areas, gardens and open spaces are arranged on the site
- **Scale** refers to the size of the proposed buildings, including height and floorspace

This is what has happened so far, and the next steps for the prison –



Following submission of the Reserved Matters Application, Chorley Council will consider the application, and we would anticipate a decision in early 2027.

Reserved Matters – Appearance

As part of the reserved matters application, we propose that the appearance of the prison will feature:

- An Entrance Resource Hub, Central Services Hub and Kitchen Buildings constructed of buff-coloured facing brickwork, with a grey metal roof
- A Support Building and Workshop constructed from metal wall panels with a grey metal roof
- The Houseblocks constructed of a buff colour concrete with a grey metal pitched roof
- The Houseblocks, workshop, kitchen and support buildings will have pitched roofs with solar panels and other buildings such as the Entrance Building and Central Services Hub will have flat roofs
- Lighting will be directional and is designed to emit as little light pollution as possible

HMP Millsike - Entrance Building 1

The main entrance building will be three storeys in height and be similar to that created at HMP Millsike (see image 1 above). The building will be constructed of buff-coloured brick and metal cladding.

There will be a workshop providing employment and vocational teaching facilities for the prisoners. The building will be constructed of grey metal panels, with a grey roof and buff brickwork. There will be solar panels on the roof of the workshops.

Perimeter Fencing 1

The perimeter fencing will be a metal grey fence with barbed wiring which will be 5.2 metres in height, the bottom two metres of the fence will have steel sheeting (see image above).

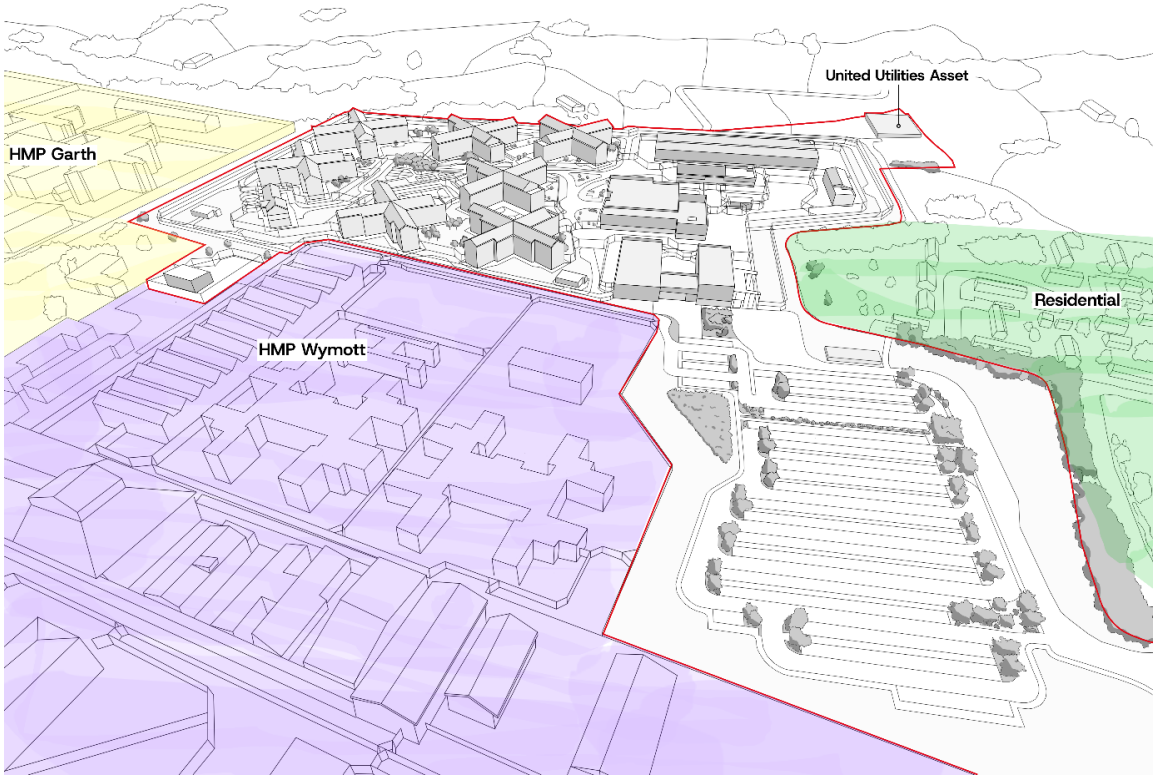
HMP Millsike 1

We propose that the buildings are similar in colour to those constructed at HMP Millsike and HMP Fosse Way**.** Images of the colour palette used for HMP Millsike and HMP Fosse Way are shown above.

Example of X Houseblocks 1

The image above shows that the buildings will be of a modern, simple and functional appearance and will be finished in a combination of coloured concrete, brick or brick cladding and glazing. **A key difference is that the houseblocks on this development will have pitched roofs.** Other buildings across the site are likely to incorporate palettes of metal panelling and brickwork.

Reserved Matters – Layout



Site Plan of New Prison 1

The layout of the site is being considered as part of the reserved matters application. The proposed arrangement of buildings has been designed to make efficient use of the site while seeking to minimise impacts on neighbouring residential areas. This includes locating taller accommodation buildings further away from existing homes, placing lower-height buildings closer to residential boundaries, and positioning key infrastructure and vehicle access routes to reduce potential impacts on local communities as much as possible.

- The Entrance Resource Hub is situated closest to residential properties and is the building that staff and visitors will approach and enter from the car park.
- Seven houseblocks will be arranged across the site, providing an efficient layout that maximises operational effectiveness. These residential buildings, which are four storeys in height, will be positioned away from existing housing estates to help reduce visual impact on the neighbouring communities. Lower-height buildings are to be positioned closer to neighbouring residential properties to help create a more gradual transition between the development and the surrounding area.
- A car park will be situated to the south of the site, accessed from Moss Lane, directing vehicle access away from nearby residential roads and minimising impacts on nearby residential areas. The majority of vehicle movements will take place within the site boundaries, reducing activity around the perimeter.
- The retention of existing trees will be prioritised where possible to provide screening around the car park and help integrate the development into the

landscape. There will be new tree planting along the north-eastern boundary, near the new United Utilities pumping station, to provide additional screening and enhance the site’s landscaping.

Reserved Matters – Scale

Year 1 View Looking South-West From Pump House Lane 1 (Source: LVIA [21/01028/OUTMAJ])

The scale of the buildings is being considered as part of the reserved matters application. The proposed building heights have been designed to support the efficient operation of the site while considering safety and security. Scale also seeks to create a development that is visually appropriate within its surroundings.

- The residential houseblocks will be four storeys with a pitched roof, they will be approximately 18 metres high. In comparison, the existing residential accommodation blocks at HMPs Garth and Wymott are three storeys with a mixture of flat/pitched roofs. The houseblocks will incorporate pitched roofs as an additional safety feature and will be located alongside larger operational buildings, such as the boiler house.

- The scale of the proposed houseblocks is comparable to those delivered at other modern prisons, including HMP Millsike.

- The height of the other buildings does not exceed 15 metres.

- The floorspace of each building has been designed to support the operational and functional requirements of the prison, ensuring the efficient use of space.

Full technical details of the appearance, layout and scale of the prison will be submitted as part of the reserved matters application and will be available to view online via the local authority planning portal. Once submitted, you will be able to provide comments on the application directly to the Local Planning Authority which they will consider as part of their determination process.

Your Comments and the Engagement Process

The Engagement Period

We welcome your comments and feedback on the appearance, layout and scale proposals for the new prison. You can find out more and submit your comments on the Reserved Matters in the following ways –

- **Online –** this Information Pack will be available online from **12 October – 1 November 2026 where you can submit comments via the website:**
    - https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/new-prison-in-lancashire/

- **In-Person –** we will be holding a community drop-in event on **21 October 2026** from **3pm to 8pm, at the Wymott Conference Centre, opposite HMP Wymott.**
    - **Address:** HMP Wymott, Ulnes Walton Lane, Leyland, Preston, PR26 8LW
    - **Directions:** Exit Ulnes Walton Lane onto Moss Lane and take the first left. Continue to the roundabout and take the third exit, continuing north. The Wymott Conference Centre is located on the left-hand side. The site is currently enclosed by hoarding, but signage will be in place to direct you to the correct entrance.
    - **What three words:** ownership.carpeted.sized

- **In writing** – should you wish, you can also submit comments in writing to us. Please address this to – **Briefing and Correspondence Team, 8th Floor, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ**

Next Steps

Following the engagement period, the Ministry of Justice will prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and submit this to Chorley Council as part of the Reserved Matters Application. The SCI will report on the points raised within any comments received on the reserved matters and will provide the Ministry of Justice's responses to those matters. The SCI will be reviewed by Chorley Council as part of their decision on the application. Whilst your comments will be reported, your details will remain confidential. Once the Reserved Matters Application has been submitted, you will also be able to submit comments directly to Chorley Council.