



Ministry
of Justice

The New Prisons Programme:

**Public Consultation for a new prison near
Market Harborough**

June 2021



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Welcome

Thank you for visiting our pre-application consultation website and accessing information on our proposal for a new Category B prison on land next to HMP Gartree near Market Harborough. Our plans, if successful, would bring many benefits to the local community, such as hundreds of jobs during construction, careers within the prison sector and an increased spend in local businesses.

This proposal is part of the Government's 'New Prisons Programme', the Government has committed over £4 billion to make significant progress in creating 18,000 additional prison places across the prison estate by the mid-2020s, through a combination of new builds, as well as extending, refurbishing and maintaining other prisons.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) have been looking at where best we can develop 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.

Prisoner numbers change over time which is why we must have robust plans in place to make sure we will always have enough places available. We expect there will be an increase in demand for prison places as the activity of our courts system continues to ramp up to full operating capacity following the national restrictions due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The increasing numbers of police, in line with the Prime Minister's commitment to recruit 20,000 additional officers, is also likely to contribute to a higher prison population, and we therefore believe that creating 18,000 additional prison places will help to mitigate pressure on prison places in England and Wales in the coming years.

I hope that you find this consultation document useful, and we welcome your early feedback on our plans.



Alex Chalk MP

Minister of State for Prisons and Probation



New Prisons Programme

Our Prisons by Security Category

This consultation is about building a category B prison for adult men.

Adult male prisons have four security categories. Category A prisons have the highest security and category D prisons have the lowest security. Category A-C prisoners are kept in closed conditions which means that prisoners are kept within secure prison boundaries all of the time. Under very limited circumstances, men held in a category C prison may be released on temporary license (ROTL) to go to work. This is strictly risk assessed and monitored. Category D prisoners are risk assessed to live under open conditions, which means they can leave the prison for certain reasons, such as to go to work.

When the court sends someone to prison, they usually go to a local prison. At the local prison, it is decided what category of prison the prisoner will go to. Usually, they will move to a training prison. Then, they will go to a resettlement prison to get ready for release.

Not all prisoners follow this pattern. For instance, high-risk prisoners may go to a high-security prison and stay there. Some low-risk prisoners, or those with short sentences, may go straight to a resettlement prison.

Category A prisons

- Category A prisons are for higher-risk prisoners or those serving longer sentences.
- Sometimes these are called high-security prisons or maximum-security prisons.

Category B local prisons and training prisons

- Category B local prisons take prisoners straight from courts in the local area.
- Sometimes, local prisons are called reception prisons.
- Training prisons take prisoners from local prisons or category A prisons.

Category C training prisons and resettlement prisons

- Category C training prisons take prisoners from local prisons, or from category B prisons.
- Training prisons help prisoners to manage their risks to make them safer.
- Resettlement prisons help lower risk prisoners to get ready for when they leave prison.

Category D prisons

- Category D prisons hold the lowest-risk prisoners.
- They take prisoners from category C prisons.
- These are sometimes called open prisons as some prisoners can leave to go to work or train, or to visit their family.



New Prisons Programme

New Design

We've made a new design for safe and secure prisons, with helping prisoners to turn their lives around at the heart of the design process. We've done this by talking to prisoners and prison staff. We've also looked at prisons in other countries and talked to people who research prisons. This means we've used real people's experience for our designs so we can build a prison that will help prisoners to improve their behaviour, and prepare better for life outside prison. This is important because when prisoners are properly prepared for life outside prison, they are less likely to offend again. Most importantly, the prison will be secure and safe for prisoners, prison staff and for people living nearby.

Our proposals are for a new Category B Training prison on land next to HMP Gartree, which is also a Category B Training prison. Our proposals are for a 1,715-place prison with seven prison blocks holding around 240 male prisoners each, and ancillary buildings. We have looked at the Category B prison estate, and know that we require more Category B prison places than we currently have, that is why we are proposing to build a new prison and consulting with the local community on this.



New Prisons Programme

Inside the Prison Blocks

The new prison will be very different to many of our older prisons. This will make it better for the men inside and also for people who work there.

- The prison will have 7 separate house blocks (or living accommodation). Each prison block will have 4 floors, with around 60 prisoners on each floor, making a total of around 240 prisoners in each block. The overall capacity of the prison is 1,715. These prison blocks offer men the chance to live in smaller groups than they do in some older prisons. This creates a sense of community that will lead to less violence and better relations with staff. Overall, it means a safer and more secure prison.
- Each floor will have room for group activities. Men will be able to meet for training, prayer, fitness and to talk to each other.
- Most cells will hold 1 prisoner. A few cells will hold 2 prisoners. Many cells will be set up for prisoners with a disability. All cells will have a shower and a toilet.
- Cells and landings will be designed to make technology easier to access. Cells will be able to have a phone so prisoners can talk to family and legal representatives. Cells or landings will be set up to allow prisoners access services such as healthcare through a digital device. Access to phone calls helps to prepare prisoners for release and are strictly supervised. Prisoners do not have access to the internet.
- This means that the prison blocks are future-proofed and whether the prison is run by the government or the private sector, they can put the right equipment in place.

New Prisons Programme

Inside the Other Buildings

- There will be a central space for prisoner services. For instance, prisoners can go there for lessons, for health advice and health checks, to use the library or gym, or to pray.
- The visitors' hall will be a large space that can allow visitors for up to 50 prisoners. The hall will be light and airy, and prisoners and their families can also use the outdoor family visits area. The visitor hall and outdoor visits area will encourage families to visit. This helps families to stay together and prisoners who maintain strong links with their families are less likely to reoffend after they are released.
- Most prisoners currently residing in the existing HMP Gartree are employed in prison workshops or in the prison gardens, and there is a small learning department which provides education including offending behaviour programmes. The new prison would be similar and have:
 - » Workshops which will help prisoners to gain new skills and qualifications. This will help them to gain work after release. Having work can help stop people re-offending.
 - » The workshops will include both heavy and light industry. For instance, prisoners can learn how to weld or how to make clothes. The exact industries will be decided closer to the prison opening.
 - » Space outside for gardening, which includes polytunnels. Other outside space includes a small sports pitches so prisoners can keep fit and meet up in the fresh air.



New Prisons Programme

Prisons like this one

We've already used this design at some other new prisons. HMP Five Wells is due to accept its first prisoner in early 2022, our new prison at Glen Parva will be ready in 2023 and we're about to start building next to Full Sutton Prison. Just like the prison we might build near Market Harborough, these 3 sites will provide safe, decent and secure prisons. They will help prisoners to change their behaviour so they are less likely to re-offend after release. As well as these sites, we are looking for 2 more, bringing the total to 6. The proposed prison near Market Harborough will be based on the new design, with some differences. For example, some features of the Category C prisons such as barless windows are not included in plans for Category B prisons.

HMP Five Wells, Northamptonshire

We started building HMP Five Wells prison in May 2019 and it will be ready to receive prisoners in early 2022. It will look very different to our older prisons. The prison design at HMP Five Wells is the baseline for all new prison builds.

G4S will run this prison as a private operator for 10 years until 2032.

Glen Parva, Leicestershire

We started building a new prison at Glen Parva in Summer 2020 and it is on schedule to receive prisoners in Spring/Summer 2023.

This prison will be privately operated, with an operator announced in early 2022.

Next to HMP Full Sutton, Yorkshire

We're building our next new prison next to Full Sutton prison in East Yorkshire. This new prison will also include our new designs. We have outline planning permission already and hope to start building soon.



Our new Glen Parva prison in Leicestershire, currently under construction



Ministry
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The New Prisons Programme:

Our Plans in Market Harborough

June 2021



Getting to and from the new prison

The proposed site for a new prison is on land next to the existing HMP Gartree, which is already owned by the Ministry of Justice.

The hamlet of Gartree is located next to the site, on Welland Avenue, while the town of Market Harborough is located just over a mile to the south east of this site.

By road

The existing prison is easily accessible via the M1 motorway (Junction 20).

By train

The nearest rail station is Market Harborough, which offers half hourly fast trains to London and Nottingham. Local services to Leicester, Loughborough, Beeston, East Midlands Parkway, Kettering, Wellingborough, Bedford and Luton Airport Parkway also run from Market Harborough Rail Station.

By bus

The number 44 bus runs from Market Harborough Rail Station and stops just outside HMP Gartree on Gallow Field Road.



Planning

As part of government plans to reduce crime, we're spending over £4 billion on 18,000 extra prison places. These prison places will be decent, safe and secure. They'll help us to modernise prisons in England and Wales in the next few years. About 10,000 of these places will be in the 6 new prisons we're building. The other places will come from extending some prisons and refurbishing others.

We also need to have enough of the right kind of prison places. This means we need enough places in each security category so we can hold prisoners securely and keep the public safe. We also need to have enough training places and resettlement places so men can get the help they need to stop them re-offending after release.

A new facility in the East Midlands responds to a national demand for Category B Training prison places. There is less of a need for prisoners to be close to home as the focus during this time is on being in the right prison which offers the right services to enable men to progress through their sentence. Prisoners would usually be moved to a Category C resettlement prison closer to their home town when they are close to being released.

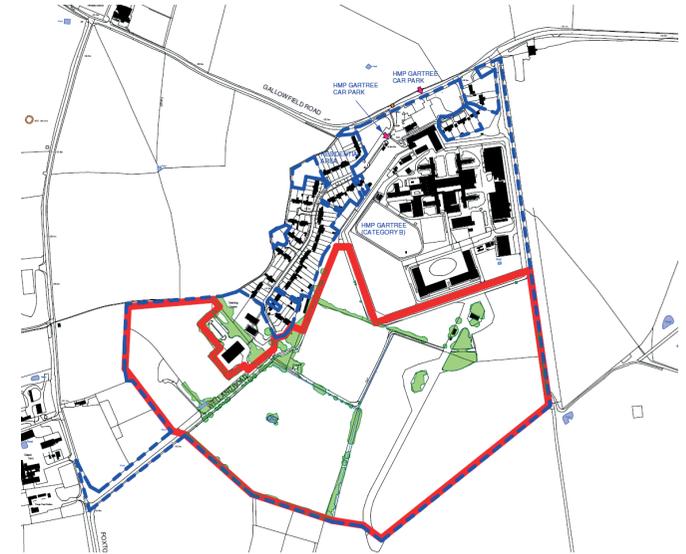
Our plans

We hope to build a category B Training prison near Market Harborough. It will have 7 separate prison blocks, with each block holding around 240 prisoners. The prison blocks will have 4 floors, with 60 prisoners on each. The overall capacity of the prison is 1,715.

The prison will also have some support buildings. These will include a reception area, kitchens, workshops, a visits hall and offices. These buildings will range from 1 floor high to 4 floors high.

Our plans also include a few dog kennels, which will only be used in the daytime for when prison dogs are on site. The dogs go home with their handlers each night. There will also be some polytunnels for gardening, and an outdoor family area that can be used by visitors and prisoners during visiting times. The prison will have about 500 parking spaces for staff and visitors. The whole prison site will be surrounded by secure fencing and a road for security patrols.

We are also considering separate options to expand the existing HMP Gartree as part of our plans to deliver 18,000 prison places across the prison estate. Plans are still at a very early stage and no decisions have been made as to whether to proceed with these proposals. If these plans are progressed, this will be a separate planning application. Unlike the proposals to build a potential new prison on land next to HMP Gartree, we are not at a stage for public consultation for any potential expansion of the existing prison. Should these plans be taken forward, we will undertake further engagement with the local community to share details of the proposed plans and invite feedback.



Our Proposals

Here is a sketch of the site plan and a landscape plan to give you an overall view.



Our Proposals

Here is a drawing of our plans to give you an idea of how the prison will look.



Landscaping

The landscaping aims to protect local wildlife, plants and trees as much as possible. We've taken a lot of care with our initial proposals for landscaping so the new prison would blend in with the rural location. The new prison entrance is located off Welland Avenue with as many of the existing mature trees along the avenue retained as a screen. Further trees have been added to the southern and eastern boundaries of the proposed new prison to help screen the development, but also provide additional biodiversity benefits.

The entrance would be calm and welcoming. The route from the main road to the prison would be planted to provide a pleasant and calming approach for visitors and people passing by. The main car park would be screened by existing trees and shrubbery. We'd plant extra trees and shrubs to blend with existing plants. We'd also improve the landscape outside the prison security fence to help protect local wildlife and increase the biodiversity in the local area

We're still working on our plans but we'll work very hard to build a new prison that fits in with the local rural area and the wider landscape.



A Green Prison

Our plans mean that the new prisons will be the most environmentally friendly in the country.

Our green aims

We want to get a BREEAM rating for the building work. BREEAM is short for the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method. We hope to get an Excellent BREAM rating at the very least, but we'll aim for an Outstanding BREEAM rating, which is the highest rating available. To get this rating, we'll be doing the work listed below.

- ✓ We aim to reduce carbon emissions by 85% compared to our other prisons. We'll do this by using energy efficient heat pumps, lighting, appliances and equipment. We'll also build in renewable energy and choose new building materials based on their low environmental impact. We'll always use responsible suppliers. Over the next 60 years, this should reduce carbon emissions by 280,000 tonnes and save £100 million in energy costs.
- ✓ The new prisons will be all electric so there will be no need for gas boilers. This means the prisons will use no fossil fuels, except for emergency generators.
- ✓ We'll install green drains and water treatment to manage surface water. These will blend into the rural landscape.
- ✓ We'll make sure our plans for the prison near Market Harborough and the land outside the prison fence don't significantly affect local wildlife, plants and trees. The majority of the site is used for grazing with some tree cover along a central ditch and in a small clump to the north east which will be removed. The boundary trees have been largely retained along Welland Avenue along with the hedgerows to the south. We will create new habitats for wildlife inside the secure fence but also in the wider landscape so that local wildlife benefits from the development overall.
- ✓ The new prisons will promote health and wellbeing for prisoners and staff. The prisons will have a comfortable temperature. They will provide modern living conditions which will reduce noise, and they will be decent, safe and secure.
- ✓ During building, we will reduce waste by using modern building methods. This means at least 95% of waste will be re-used so it doesn't go into landfill.
- ✓ We'll also manage noise, vibration, air and light pollution to keep it as low as possible. As part of this, we'll work with the local council to agree a plan to manage builders' and suppliers' traffic. This will help us manage traffic during building work so that it doesn't affect local people and businesses too much.
- ✓ When the prisons are built, we'll encourage staff and visitors to use green transport and active forms of travel. As part of this, we'll provide cycle storage and electric charging points for cars. The proposed prison near Market Harborough is also accessible by public transport links, with a bus service running close to the prison from the train station.



Community Benefits: Market Harborough will gain new jobs from the prison

Case study: New jobs created at HMP Five Wells prison

New prisons can benefit local people and local businesses. There are benefits during the building phase and many more once the prison is up and running.

We're building a similar prison, HMP Five Wells in Northamptonshire so we can show you the benefits from that building work. During the building work HMP Five Wells has provided:

- hundreds of jobs in construction for the community
- over 1,700 work placement days to upskill and prepare people for jobs in construction
- on- the- job training and work experience to upskill over 800 people in their roles
- opportunities for local small and medium businesses to support the building work

The new prison near Market Harborough could create about 600-700 permanent jobs once up and running. These jobs would include prison officers, nurses, teachers, office staff, and so on. This means local people would have the chance of a career in the criminal justice system. Jobs like these are important because they help to protect the public and they help offenders to turn their lives around.



Community Benefits

Some of the benefits from new prisons at HMP Five Wells and Glen Parva

Our new prison plans help to provide new prison places and they also help local people. Whenever we build a new prison, we also aim to provide a long-lasting benefit to the local area.

We work closely with the local Job Centre to ensure local people have opportunities for jobs and training. We work with local schools and charities to give back to the community, such as providing replacement fencing, new outdoor facilities for local schools and providing visits and learning sessions to school children about sustainable and green projects.

We hope to provide similar benefits for local people in Market Harborough.

The new prison at Glen Parva in Leicestershire is like the one we hope to build near Market Harborough. The image here shows what we hope to achieve in and around Market Harborough.

Glen Parva Prison Project – Key Performance Targets by 2023 vs Actual Performance



Have Your Say

We hope this information has helped you to understand our proposed plans for a new prison near Market Harborough. Our plans come from many years of working to find the best ways to build prisons. We want our new prisons to help prisoners turn their lives around, so they stop offending. They will also be as green as possible, so they are friendly to the environment. Finally, we want to help local people by providing jobs and spending in the local and regional economy.

We want to hear what you think about our plans before we decide whether to apply for planning permission. Your comments really count. They can affect the position of the buildings, the kinds of building materials we use, colour schemes and landscaping.

We haven't decided yet if we'll go ahead with these plans, and we haven't applied for planning permission. So, now is a good time to have your say. Our planning team will read all comments and consider them before we decide.

It's easy to have your say. Just fill in the survey on our consultation website. Either click here to go to the consultation website or copy and paste this link address into your internet search bar: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/proposed-new-prison-in-market-harborough>

Throughout the consultation period, you can also send your views by post to us at: PO Box 347, Manchester, M21 3ES.

If you want to have your say, please let us have your comments by 2 August 2021.



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Contact Us

Visit our consultation website: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/proposed-new-prison-in-market-harborough>

Sign up for a virtual webinar session using the linked below:

Thursday 15 July, 7-8pm

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FPfx6w2_TQGMwYlfReqI3A

Friday 16 July, 1pm-2pm

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SdLFbWVtQ8W4xCDXYHA56A

Email us if you have any questions: psdenquiries@justice.gov.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

Why have you selected this site for the proposed new prison?

A new facility in the East Midlands responds to a national demand for Category B Training prison places. It is easily accessible by train from many main cities and towns in the south of England, including London, Luton and Bedford.

In addition, the land is already owned by the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Justice carried out surveys to determine whether the construction of a new prison is practical on this site and concluded that it is. Should a planning application be pursued at this site, the details of these works will be submitted to the local planning authority for review. At this point they will also be made available to the public via the planning portal.

How have you decided on the design?

- We're still working on our plans and that is why we are consulting with you now so you can have your say.
- We haven't made a final decision on the designs or whether to apply for planning permission.
- Our design is based on years of researching and building prisons.
- We believe our new prison design will help prisoners to turn their lives around and reduce re-offending. In turn, this helps to protect the public and keep people safe.
- If we build a new prison here, we will make sure it works with the local rural landscape.
- We will also use our experience of building HMP Five Wells and Glen Parva prisons in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire.
- The new prisons will be the greenest so far. They will lower carbon emissions so they are as close to zero as possible. This will help the UK's fight against climate change.

What type of prisoners will this new prison hold?

Our proposal is for a new category B prison. Category B prisons give prisoners the opportunity to develop their skills so they can find work and resettle back into the community on release, reducing reoffending.

The existing prison, HMP Gartree is also a category B prison.

The new prison would hold prisoners similar to those that are held at HMP Gartree currently.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will the prison be built?

- We haven't yet decided whether to build a prison here and we haven't applied for planning permission.
- If we do go ahead, we'll apply for planning permission later this year. We would anticipate a planning decision from the council in early 2022.
- If we got planning permission, we'd hope to start construction in 2022/23.
- We would intend for the new prison to open in 2025.

What about traffic during construction?

- We know that construction traffic can sometimes be disruptive, we're working on the best ways to keep disruption to a minimum, and your feedback will help us to do this.
- Our planning application would contain detailed plans explaining how we would manage traffic during construction.
- We'd work with the council to reduce any disturbance to local people and businesses.
- Our traffic management plans would be included with our planning application. You'd be able to view this and comment on it. A traffic management plan is designed to ensure that construction vehicles can enter and leave the site safely and that we put in place measures to reduce any temporary impact on the existing highway network.



The traffic management plan covers:

- 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
- The specific mitigation measures which require either specific construction management or physical measures.

How will you deal with traffic from staff and visitors?

- Our planning application would also include a transport assessment. This would show how the prison would affect local roads once the prison is up and running.
- We'll review the local road network to see how the prison would affect local roads, including Welland Avenue.
- If we apply for planning permission, we'll also submit an outline travel plan that will balance providing car parking facilities and encouraging staff and visitors to use green transport. This includes walking, cycling, using buses and trains, and car sharing.
- Our outline travel plan will help reduce travel to and from the site in cars carrying only one person. Mainly, the plan aims to increase green travel choices and then encourage staff and visitors to use them.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many prison jobs will go to local people?

- A new prison near Market Harborough would create about 600-700 permanent jobs once up and running, and local people would be able to apply for these.
- This would provide a chance for local people to build a career in the criminal justice system.
- There would be different kinds of jobs, including prison officers, teachers and trainers, office workers and chaplains.
- Jobs like these are important to protect the public. They also help prisoners to turn their lives around and this helps to reduce re-offending.

Will the new prison be run by the government or by a private company?

- We haven't decided yet who would run the new prison. We expect that at least one of the future four new build prisons will be publicly run.
- We'll consider this and decide long before any new prison is up and running.

Will local builders be able to work on the new prison?

- We expect that hundreds of building jobs would be created. This is based on what happened when we built other new prisons such as HMP Five Wells.
- Hundreds of jobs would be created for the community during the building phase, including apprenticeships and work placements offered through job centres, job fairs and other schemes.
- We want to make sure that small local businesses and local people benefit from the building work of a new prison.
- When we built HMP Five Wells in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, 51% of the building spend went to local businesses (within 25 miles), and 25% of the on-site spend went to companies in the local Wellingborough area.

Will my house price be affected by the proposed prison?

- We aren't aware of any evidence that new prisons lead to a change in house prices.

I'm afraid of prisoners escaping. How likely is this?

- It's extremely unlikely that a prisoner would escape.
- The prisoners in this prison would be securely held, in closed conditions.
- Prisoners are not released on temporary license from Category B prisons.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will you listen to what we say?

- Yes, we'll read all comments from you before we decide if we'll apply for planning permission or not.
- If we do apply for planning permission, you can also send your comments to the council during the planning period.

I'm worried about how the prison will affect our local services. How will you stop this?

- The NHS arranges most healthcare inside prisons for people in prison, except for emergency care, ambulance services and out-of-hours services.
- The NHS will provide prison healthcare services such as GP and hospital services. They will also provide substance misuse and mental health services, and also dental health and eye health services.
- The NHS works closely with us and many other organisations to make sure our prisons have all the healthcare services they need, including mental health services, substance abuse and social care services.
- We work closely with police and the fire service to ensure local services are not impacted.



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