

**Name:**  
**Address:**

**Development Control Manager  
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Date:

Dear Sirs

**Ref: Planning Application 09/01220/FUL : Gartree Wind Turbines**

Whilst I strongly believe in the concept of renewable energy, I think the location at Gartree is inappropriate from a planning perspective because:

- These massive structures, at 125m high (a total of 150m above Lubenham), less than 1km from 400+ residents (plus inmates of Gartree prison) and less than 2km from 8000+ residents will destroy the quality of life for many. They would be intrusive and visually dominant, overwhelming the immediate environment. The visual impact would be massive and inescapable (Planning ref EV1, EV5(2), EV11).
- The turbines are far too close to far too many people. With so many people living within such close proximity it is guaranteed that a substantial number will suffer significant loss of amenity. (Planning refs EV5(2)(3), EV11). There are minimum setback distances in many countries, for good reasons. In particular the proximity to Gartree prison raises serious issues, voiced by our MP Edward Garnier QC, Shadow Attorney General. Confining 800+ people (some of whose mental state is precarious and all of whom are serving life sentences) and subjecting them to constant noise and flicker would seem to be foolish in the extreme.
- Both the building work and the operation of these structures would represent major hazards to the wildlife in the area, particularly colonies of bats, of which there are some rare species. There are also otters, reptiles, Red Kites, Hawks, Skylarks and other less common species of birds. (Planning refs RM/6, RM/9, RM/11).
- The area is very popular with walkers, riders, cyclists etc. The turbines and their construction would have a serious detrimental effect on the amenity value for both local residents and visitors. (Planning refs EV5(2)(3)(11) RM(6)).

I also believe that there are many other reasons why these machines should not be built in this location although they may not, strictly speaking, be planning issues:

- A high pressure gas pipeline runs across the site. No-one appears to have done a full assessment of the risk to this from heavy, sharp, aerodynamic objects flying into the ground at speeds of around 200mph, in the event of ice throw or blade breakage (a not infrequent event).
- There is considerable evidence that noise, especially low frequency noise and amplitude modulation (pulsating or thumping noise), can cause serious and permanent health problems. I urge the planning committee to take this into account.
- Furthermore, I understand that Ofgem have now revised their estimate of the operational time of wind turbines down to 15%, in stark contrast to the 25-30% claimed by the wind industry. This clearly indicates the inadequacy of their contribution to reducing carbon emissions.
- There is evidence that houses in close proximity to wind turbines lose very significant proportion of their value, some even being rendered valueless. We don't want that to happen here.

I reserve the right to comment further on this application.

Yours faithfully