

Our ref: CTIL_30072700

25/11/2021

Sevenhampton Parish Council
Belinda Holder
parish.clerk@sevenhampton.org

Clarke Telecom Ltd
Unit E
Madison Place
Northampton Road
Manchester
M40 5AG

Dear Ms Holder,

PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL_30072700, LAND AT THE GRANGE, BROCKHAMPTON, GLOUSTERSHIRE, GL54 5SS, NGR E: 404160 N: 222697.

Cornerstone is the UK's leading mobile infrastructure services company. We acquire, manage, and own over 20,000 sites and are committed to enabling best in class mobile connectivity for over half of all the country's mobile customers. We oversee works on behalf of telecommunications providers and wherever possible aim to:

- promote shared infrastructure
- maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

As part of the Smart Meter rollout, there is a requirement for a new radio base station in this location to provide connectivity to the Brockhampton area.

Smart Meter is an electronic device that records consumption of electronic energy and communicates the information to the electricity supplier for monitoring and billing. Smart Meters typically record energy hourly or more frequently, and report at least daily.

There is a legal obligation for all energy companies to complete their Smart Meter 'roll out'. This means that energy suppliers need to take reasonable steps to offer Smart Meter installation to their customers by the deadline. Customers are entitled to refuse going forward with the installation if they wish to.

In some areas of the country, these Smart Meters contain a sim card which connects to the Telefonica Network to enable them to operate. However, due to the poor connectivity in some rural areas, Smart Meters cannot be rolled out without first installing the infrastructure necessary to connect the Smart Meters back in to the network and relay their data.

In the first instance, all correspondence should be directed to the agent.

Cornerstone Planning Consultation Letter to Councillors - Standard V.3 – 15/04/2021

Registered Address:
Cornerstone Telecommunications, Infrastructure Limited,
Hive 2, 1530 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA.
Registered in England & Wales No. 08087551.
VAT No. GB142 8555 06

 Cornerstone, Hive 2,
1530 Arlington Business Park,
Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA

New installations are required to be installed to cover these rural 'not spots', enabling the energy suppliers to take reasonable steps to offer Smart Meter installation to their rural based customers, in line with their legal obligations.

The infrastructure needed to enable the Smart Meter to operate is also the same as that needed for 2G, 3G and 4G service provision for Telefonica UK Limited. Some of these rural areas are not currently serviced by Telefonica as it was not commercially viable to provide connectivity to such a low populated area. Brockhampton is one such location. However, the Smart Meter roll-out has meant that there is now a viable opportunity to finally fill these rural holes in service provision bringing them in to the 21st Century technological age.

Cornerstone are in the process of progressing suitable sites in the Gloucestershire area for radio base stations that will improve service provision for Telefonica UK Limited. We aim to work with you to progress a proposal that is both acceptable to your authority and meets our customer's technical network requirements. This approach accords with Cornerstone's Best Practice Commitments to ensure consultation with Local Planning Authorities and other appropriate key stakeholders.

As part of Telefonica's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a new installation at this location to provide Smart Metering capabilities as well as new 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity, ensuring that the Brockhampton area has access to the latest technologies.

Smart meters can only operate where there is connectivity in to the network. Mobile phones can only work with a network of base stations in place where people want to use their mobile phones or other wireless devices. Without base stations, the mobile phones and other devices we rely on simply won't work.

Our technical network requirement is as follows:

- CTIL_30072700 for Telefonica UK Ltd at The Grange

The site is fundamentally needed to enable the rollout of Smart Meters in this rural area of Brockhampton and the surrounding area. It will also provide the opportunity to provide much needed 2G, 3G and 4G service provision where currently there is little to no coverage for large swathes of this rural area. This will ensure that the energy suppliers can fulfil their legal Smart Meter obligations and that Telefonica's customers can finally have access to the latest service provision currently available. The installation will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as new technologies improve increasing the demand for 4G technology.

A number of options have been assessed in respect of the site search process and the preferred Telefonica option is as follows:

- Land at The Grange, Brockhampton, Gloucestershire, GL54 5SS, NGR E: 404160 N: 22697.

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The proposed works comprise the installation of a 17.5m lattice tower supporting 3 no. antennas, 1 no. equipment cabinet, 1 no. electric meter cabinet, and ancillary development thereto including 6 no. Ericsson Radio Systems (ERSs) contained within a 1.10m high timber post.

The column height of 17.5m is essential in order to reach the target coverage area. If the column were to be any lower in height it would not be able to reach the target coverage area and an additional installation would still be required. This would lead to the proliferation of masts, contrary to national planning guidance.

The antennas are proposed to be open and not shielded as this provides the optimal service provision to the surrounding area. If the antennas were to be shrouded, they would not be as efficient at providing the latest technologies to this cell area. Thus an additional installation would likely to be required in this cell area which would lead to the proliferation of masts contrary to the NPPF.

The ERS's are small each one about the size of a shoe box. They are designed to make the antennas more efficient and reduce the amount of ground based equipment cabinets thus minimising the visual impact on the surrounding area. Given their height above ground level underneath the antennas, at some 1.5m, they will not be overly prominent in the streetscene.

The GPS module is very small; about the size of a tennis ball, located at the top of the column. It is designed to minimise the signal loss ensuring maximum service provision to the surrounding area.

The cabinets are designed to appear like other statutory undertakers equipment cabinets. They are small for telecommunications apparatus.

Alternative site options considered and rejected are as follows:

- **Greenfield – SW Option Brockhampton, Cheltenham, GL54 5SP NGR E: 403198 N: 222335.**
An installation at this location would be within an AONB and SSSI and development within this sensitive area should be avoided and other locations are considered to be more appropriate to deliver the required level of coverage to the target area.
- **Greenfield – SW outside Cotehay Farm, Brockhampton Mews, Brockhampton, Cheltenham, GL54 5TH, NGR E: 403266 N: 222935.**
A site in this location would not be able to be built due to the proximity of over head power lines would make the installation of a radio base station in this location problematic. A site in this location has therefore been discounted for this reason.
- **Rooftop – Severhampton Church, Church Lane, Severhampton, Cheltenham, GL54 5SW, NGR E: 403268 N: 221731.**
The louvers are too low in elevation in order to provide the required coverage to the target area. Therefore, this site has been discounted.
- **Greenfield – Manor Farm, Brockhampton, Cheltenham, GL54 5SW, NGR E: 403240 N: 222033.**

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A site in this location would not be able to be built due to the proximity of over head power lines would make the installation of a radio base station in this location problematic. A site in this location has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Greenfield – Brockhampton Park, Brockhampton, Cheltenham, GL54 5SP, NGR E: 403358 N: 222430**

There are Listed Buildings in close proximity, therefore development on this heritage asset should be avoided and other locations are considered to be more appropriate. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

The Local Planning Authority must register and our records of other potential sites have already been reviewed, the policies in the Development Plan have been taken into account and the planning history of the site has been examined.

All Cornerstone installations are designed to be fully compliant with the public exposure guidelines established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). These guidelines have the support of UK Government, the European Union and they also have the formal backing of the World Health Organisation. A certificate of ICNIRP compliance will be included within the planning submission.

In order to give you time to send your comments or request further information, we commit to allow at least 14 days before an application is submitted to the Local Planning Authority. This 14-day period starts from the date at the top of this letter.

Finally, we would be interested in any local stakeholders or groups that you consider would like to know more about our proposals. For your information pre-consultation letters and a set of plans have been sent to the Local Planning Authority, local ward councillors for the Sandywell district Cllr Robin Hughes, the Bourton-on-the-Water and Northleach Cllr Paul Hodgkinson and local MP Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown.

We look forward to receiving any comments you may have on the proposal.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me (quoting cell number [CTIL_30072700])

Yours faithfully

Joshua Fiteni

Joshua Fiteni
Town Planner
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(for and on behalf of Cornerstone)

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