

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. Site Details

Site Name:	The Nursery	Site Address:	Knowsley Hall, Knowsley Lane, Prescot, L34 7HE
National Grid Reference:	343596 , 393295		
Site Ref Number:	CS12597827	Site Type: ¹	MACRO

Background

As part of VMO2 (trading as O2)'s and Vodafone's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a radio base station upgrade at the above location to provide enhanced connectivity to the area. An existing telecommunications site has been identified, however the current equipment cannot accommodate the operator's latest requirements. As such, replacement equipment is needed in order to implement this upgrade to VMO2 and Vodafone's service.

This application therefore seeks consent for the siting and appearance of:

The removal of the existing 24m lattice mast (26m to top of antennas) supporting 6 no. antennas and 2 no. dishes and associated ancillary equipment. Their replacement with a 30m lattice tower (30.2m to top), supporting 12 no. antennas, 2 no. relocated 0.3m dishes and 2 new 0.3m dishes, 3 no. equipment cabinets, associated ancillary equipment and works thereto.

2. Pre Application Check List

Site Selection (for New Sites only)

(Would not generally apply to upgrades/alterations to existing site including redevelopment or replacement of an existing site to facilitate an upgrade or sharing with another operator)

Was a local planning authority mast register available to check for suitable sites by the operator or the local planning authority?	Yes	No
If no explain why: N/A existing site upgrade		

¹ Macro or Micro

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Were industry site databases checked for suitable sites by the operator:	Yes	No
If no explain why:		
N/A existing site upgrade		

Site Specific Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Was there pre-application contact:	No
Date of pre-application contact:	N/A
Name of contact:	N/A
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised:	
A description of the proposal and drawings were sent to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council on 15 th April 2024.	
No response has been received to date.	

Annual area wide information to planning authority

Has annual area wide information been provided?	No
If no explain why:	
Summary issues raised:	
Cornerstone's commercial relationship with VMO2 and Vodafone has changed, effectively increasing their independence to work with other companies in the deployment of mobile infrastructure. It means Cornerstone no longer has visibility of VMO2 and Vodafone's full update plan. However, Cornerstone is fully committed to working closely with Local Planning Authorities and following best practice guidance. Cornerstone aims to engage and work with the planning department at the earliest opportunity from when it is instructed to deliver new infrastructure within your Local Authority area and often conduct strategic pre-rollout engagement meetings to discuss their wider rollout. If your Local Authority would like a meeting to discuss wider Cornerstone rollout plans, then please advise. We recognise the importance of developing long term partnerships and will always work with you to deliver improved mobile connectivity.	

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Community Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:	Red	Amber	Green
Outline of consultation carried out:			
A description of the proposal and drawings was sent to the Prescott North Ward Councillors – Frances Wynn, Ian Smith, Mark Burke. To Knowsley Town Council and George Howarth MP.			
Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of relevant correspondence):			
No responses have been received to date.			

School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college (include name of school/college):
None in proximity to the site.
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college (include evidence of consultation):
N/A
Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of main correspondence):
N/A

Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence or the operator of the civil safeguarding area or defence safeguarding area notification (only required for an application for prior approval)

Will the proposed development be on a civil safeguarding area or a defence safeguarding area?	Yes	No
Has the Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/operator of the civil safeguarding area or defence safeguarding area been notified?	Yes	No

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Details of response:

N/A Full Planning Application

Developer's Notice

Copy of Developer's Notice enclosed?	Yes	No
Date served:	N/A – Full Planning Application. Please refer to application form.	

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3. Proposed Development

The proposed site:

This site has been identified as a site which requires and would benefit from an upgrade to accommodate increased network demands, provide modern equipment and allow for continued consistent coverage to be provided to this area by VMO2 and Vodafone.

This proposal is made as part of a continued network improvement program and technical requirement to future proof the network and ensure improvements in capacity for the area. A sequential approach has been taken to ensure that existing masts and equipment are used where possible. Following technical assessment however, the existing installation cannot accommodate the operators' latest technical requirements. As such new equipment is required for this upgrade at this location.

The site is located within an area of established woodland to the south east of the Knowsley Hall estate. The site is located within the woodland, with a cluster of functional / farm buildings to the east and the M57 running to the west. Knowsley Lane also runs to the west of the site and has a mixture of residential and commercial properties (including a dog kennels). There is also another mast at the end of Knowsley Lane which serves another operator.

This application seeks permission for:

The removal of the existing 24m lattice mast (26m to top of antennas) supporting 6 no. antennas and 2 no. dishes and associated ancillary equipment. Their replacement with a 30m lattice tower (30.2m to top), supporting 12 no. antennas, 2 no. relocated 0.3m dishes and 2 new 0.3m dishes, 3 no. equipment cabinets, associated ancillary equipment and works thereto.

The location is shown below:

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Enclose map showing the cell centre and adjoining cells if appropriate:

N/A – existing mast location.

Type of Structure (e.g. tower, mast, etc): Lattice Mast

Description:

The removal of the existing 24m lattice mast (26m to top of antennas) supporting 6 no. antennas and 2 no. dishes and associated ancillary equipment. Their replacement with a 30m lattice tower (30.2m to top), supporting 12 no. antennas, 2 no. relocated 0.3m dishes and 2 new 0.3m dishes, 3 no. equipment cabinets, associated ancillary equipment and works thereto.

Overall Height: 30.2 Metres

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Height of existing building (where applicable):	N/A
Equipment Housing: Percy PSU Cabinet	
Length:	0.705 Metres
Width:	0.831 Metres
Height:	2.048 Metres
Equipment Housing: 2 x ERS Racks	
Length:	0.650 Metres
Width:	0.600 Metres
Height:	1.9 Metres
Materials (as applicable):	
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:	Lattice tower – steel - galvanised
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:	Cabinets - steel – Grey RAL 6009 – Fir Green

Reasons for choice of design, making reference to pre-application responses:

Replacement equipment on the existing mast is required in this location to provide upgraded coverage and capacity to the locality.

The replacement and upgrading of an existing installation is in accordance with the sequential approach to site selection criteria set out within the Code of Practice for Wireless Network Development in England (2022) and is encouraged within the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) over the development of an additional new telecommunications site.

The proposed development has two main elements, the lattice tower which supports the antennas and the microwave dishes, and the ancillary equipment (including equipment cabinets). All are required to successfully deliver mobile phone signal to a locality.

The existing lattice mast is proposed to be replaced with a new lattice mast of greater width to accommodate the amount and weight of the new equipment required to upgrade the mast.

A lattice mast has been proposed as the most suitable design solution because it is able to support the amount of equipment required, it is structurally capable of supporting the size and weight of equipment (including modern antennas which are of larger sizing and greater weight) and is also able to provide the height required by all operators.

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The mast is light framed and allows filtered views and light to pass through it. It is of a typical design for telecommunications equipment in rural areas and will be viewed and understood in this context. It seeks to replicate as far as possible the design of the existing installation which is also of a lattice mast design.

A headframe is proposed to be mounted at the top of the lattice mast, this allows for more targeted coverage by allowing for better positioning / orientation of the antennas. It also ensures that the installation can accommodate the amount of equipment required.

The existing 6 no. antennas on the mast need to be replaced to upgrade the site for VMO2 and Vodafone. 12 no. replacement antennas are proposed to be located on the replacement headframe to provide upgraded technologies and capacity to the area to meet customer demand. Associated ancillary equipment is proposed underneath the antennas. This equipment is generally small and is designed to make the antennas more efficient, allowing the amount of ground based equipment cabinets to be reduced. The antennas are proportionate in scale to the mast and will not be overly prominent within the landscape when considered in the context of the proposed installation.

2 no. existing 0.3m dishes are to be relocated onto the replacement mast and 2 no. 0.3m dishes are also proposed. The dishes will be positioned underneath the headframe on dish brackets fixed to the tower legs. These are essential to link the installation back into the wider network. They are used to link individual radio base stations to each other and, through a series of links, into the wider mobile phone and fixed line networks.

The proposed height is informed by technical data – including the area the mast is required to cover – and selected following an on site design visit with a specialist team. The height selected is essential for the operators equipment to reach the target coverage area. This height is chosen taking into account variations in land levels / topography, heights of existing vegetation and built form which can interrupt the transmission of different technologies and frequencies. The operators antennas must be able to rise above any obstruction within the environment and their dishes must also have a clear line of site to other dishes in the network to form a link. The minimum height has been selected to ensure that the operators antennas and equipment are free from interruption and can provide the required coverage to the target areas.

The colour of the tower is proposed to galvanised. However, it can be coloured any other colour that the authority considers appropriate.

The replacement cabinets are proposed close to the replacement lattice mast within the replacement fenced compound. These are relatively low-level structures. These

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cabinets are necessary for the functioning of the installation and the successful delivery of coverage and connectivity.

The existing compound is to be extended to the south to accommodate the new lattice mast and equipment.

In all aspects of the design the smallest practical components have been utilised to ensure that the visual impact of the development is kept to a minimum and to streamline the design as much as possible. It should be noted that telecommunications development is subject to a number of technical constraints and that the selected design has been chosen to balance both the technical requirements of the operator and technical performance, with the planning considerations and impact on visual amenity.

The proposed design has therefore sought to strike an appropriate balance between operational, environmental and planning considerations. The upgrade installation of this site shall maintain network services and provide improved coverage to this area

Health and Safety - including ICNIRP compliance

This application is supported by a certificate of ICNIRP compliance. Para 122 of the NPPF (2023) states: Local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for an electronic communications system, or set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure.

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4. Technical Justification

Enclose predictive coverage plots if appropriate, e.g. to show coverage improvement. Proposals to improve capacity will not generally require coverage plots.

Reason(s) why site required e.g. coverage, upgrade, capacity

As part of VMO2 and Vodafone's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement to upgrade the existing radio base station at this location to maintain/enhance the coverage in the area. An existing telecommunications site has been identified; however, the current equipment cannot accommodate the latest requirements. As such, the equipment needs to be replaced in order to implement this upgrade to VMO2 and Vodafone's services.

Mobile connectivity and service is required where customers live, work and play.

The increasingly high level of mobile phone use and ownership within the UK population is a very clear indication of the public's overwhelming acceptance of the benefits of mobile communications, which requires the installation and maintenance of base stations to provide the necessary connection between the mobile phones and the UK telecommunications network.

Base stations use radio signals to connect mobile devices and phones to the network, enabling people to send and receive calls, texts, emails, pictures, web, TV and downloads. Without base stations, mobiles will not work. They are made up of three main elements. The cabinets which contain the equipment used to generate the radio signal. The supporting structure such as a mast, which holds the antennas in the air and the antennas themselves. Only the antennas emit radio signals.

Many other everyday items also use radio signals to send and receive information, such as television and radio broadcasting equipment and two-way radio communications. Base stations are connected to each other and telephone exchanges by cables or wireless technology such as microwave dishes, to create a network. The area each base station covers is called a cell. Each cell overlaps with its neighbouring cells to create a continuous network. The size and shape of each cell is determined by the features of the surrounding area, such as buildings, trees and hills, which can block signals. When people travel between cells, the signal is transferred between base stations without a break in service. Each base station covers a certain area only and can only handle a limited number of calls at once. As mobile phones and devices become more popular more base stations are needed to ensure continuous coverage.

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Site Selection Process

Alternative sites considered and not chosen (not generally required for **upgrades/alterations to existing sites** including redevelopment of an existing site to facilitate an upgrade or sharing with another operator)

Site Type	Site name and address	National Grid Reference	Reason for not choosing site
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

If no alternative site options have been investigated, please explain why:

This application seeks to upgrade an existing site which has been positioned to ensure the most effective delivery of mobile phone signal to the locality. The proposed scheme is considered to be in keeping with the existing installation and considered suitable in siting and appearance terms given the context of the surrounding area. The upgrading of an existing site / installation is in accordance with the sequential approach to development set out under para 119 of the NPPF (2023). As such, no alternative site options have been investigated.

Land use planning designations:

The site is located within the green belt and within the Grade II Registered Park and Garden Knowsley Park.

Notwithstanding this, permission has already been given for telecommunications equipment in this location. The site location is shielded by mature trees and generally obscured from the surrounding designations.

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Additional relevant information (include planning policy and material considerations):

PLANNING POLICY

The following documents are considered relevant to the assessment of this application:

- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (As Amended) - Schedule 2, Part 16
- National Planning Policy Framework (2023) – Chapter 10, Supporting High Quality Communications Infrastructure
- National Planning Policy Guidance
- Code of Practice for Wireless Network Development (2022)
- Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted January 2016) – No specific telecommunications policy. Of relevance is policy CS4 Economy and Employment.
- Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan Adopted June 2006 – Policy ENV8 Telecommunications Developments
- Other: The Code of Practice for Wireless Network Development in England (2022)

POLICY ENV8: TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENTS

1. Proposals for new telecommunications masts and associated antennae and buildings will not be permitted unless the applicant has demonstrated that the following criteria would be satisfied:

- a) Where the proposal is for a free standing mast, the need for the development could not, for technical reasons, be met in a more environmentally acceptable manner by:
 - Sharing an existing mast or site,
 - Erecting antennae on an existing building or other structure;
- b) The development would not, by reason of its scale, siting or design, have an unacceptable impact on the character or appearance of the surrounding area, or the amenity of nearby residents.

2. New telecommunications development will not be permitted within environmentally sensitive areas, such as Conservation Areas, residential areas or the Green Belt, unless the applicant has demonstrated that there are no other suitable alternative sites outside such areas and that appropriate steps have been taken to minimise any visual impact through careful siting, design and screening.

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3. Applications for development by telecommunications code system operators must be accompanied by:

- a) Evidence that the proposal would comply with all relevant ICNIRP14 Standards (or future guidance which may supersede the current guidelines), taking into account any cumulative emissions from other nearby telecommunications equipment;
- b) Evidence of how the proposal fits into the wider network, regionally and nationally.
- c) Where the telecommunication development would be on or near a school or college site, evidence that the governing body of the relevant school or college has been consulted

EXPLANATION ENV8

13.40 The telecommunications industry is constantly evolving, and it is recognised that the planning system has a role in facilitating the improvement and expansion of telecommunications coverage. However, it is important that such development does not compromise environmental quality.

13.41 Telecommunication development includes radio masts and towers, antennae of all kinds, radio equipment housing, public call boxes, cabinets, poles and overhead wires. The Government's general policy on telecommunication development is to facilitate the growth and efficiency of telecommunication systems, whilst keeping the environmental impact of such development to a minimum (Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: 2001). A significant proportion of new telecommunications development is connected with the roll-out of mobile telephone networks. These networks are subject, in addition to planning controls, to licensing controls exercised by the Office of Communications (OfCOM).

13.42 All large new telecommunications masts (of over 15 metres in height) and some smaller masts require full planning permission. Many types of smaller development (whilst not requiring a planning permission) require a determination from the Council as to whether prior approval will be required for the siting and appearance of the proposed installation. Policy ENV8 applies both to cases requiring planning permission and to applications for determinations.

13.43 In planning for new telecommunications development, a key requirement for the operators will be to minimise the impact of the network on the visual appearance of the area. Often, it will be appropriate to share an existing mast or construct a mast on an existing building rather than construct a new freestanding mast. Developers will therefore be expected to demonstrate that they have considered mast sharing or the use of an existing building as an option before they can obtain permission for a new mast.

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13.44 All applications for a new telecommunication structure (on a mast or an existing building) must demonstrate that the proposal is needed to provide adequate coverage or quality of service to users of the network. Site conditions, technical constraints, landscape features and capacity requirements will affect the options for the design used by an operator.

13.45 The preferred location for telecommunications development, particularly larger equipment, will normally be within industrial and other employment areas, where feasible. Any applications for telecommunication development in environmentally sensitive areas such as Conservation Areas, the setting of Listed Buildings, the Green Belt, areas of attractive landscape, Sites of Biological or Geological interest, or Local Nature Reserves should demonstrate that there are no suitable alternative locations and that the development would be sensitively sited and designed.

13.46 The impact of telecommunications equipment on human health is a major public concern and all proposals for telecommunications development will be required to meet all relevant standards of the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Consequently all applications should be accompanied by a statement to the effect that the appliance when operational will meet the guidelines.

Planning Assessment

Principle of Development

As this is an established site for telecommunications the principle of siting a telecommunications mast and associated equipment has already been accepted in this location.

The NPPF directly addresses the need for enhanced wireless communication services, at paragraph 20, which states that an LPA's strategic policies must make sufficient provision for:

b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications (our emphasis), security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat)"

Chapter 10 [Para's 118-122] (Supporting High Quality Communications) is most relevant to this application.

Paragraph 118 states that "Advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being. Planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks,

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including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections”.

Paragraph 119 states that “The number of radio and electronic communications masts, and the sites for such installations, should be kept to a minimum consistent with the needs of consumers, the efficient operation of the network and providing reasonable capacity for future expansion. Use of existing masts, buildings and other structures for new electronic communications capability (including wireless) should be encouraged”.

It should be noted that **paragraph 121** states that “Local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for an electronic communications system, or set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure”.

This proposal seeks to expand the electronic communications network to provide advance, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure in accordance with para 118 of the NPPF. This installation is proposed following an identified need for an additional base station to meet customer demands, to ensure the efficient operation of the network and provide reasonable capacity for future expansion. The operator has taken a sequential approach to development and has explored the use of existing masts, sites and buildings however a replacement greenfield installation is considered to be the only appropriate solution to deliver the required levels of coverage within the target area in accordance with para 119 of the NPPF.

The proposed development will ensure the continued delivery of high-quality coverage, improved capacity and meeting future technical requirement for VMO2 (O2) supporting people to work from home and businesses to get have access to superfast internet whether on the road, in their offices or working from home. The continued provision of coverage to the area and improvements in network capacity will deliver a host of community benefits, including access to online banking and health services to name but a few. The availability of coverage and capacity ensures access to friends and family, as well as groups and activities online which can improve physical wellbeing and reduce social exclusion. With regard to climate change, the telecommunications network can assist in the roll out of smart metres and other smart technologies which will help to reduce energy consumption and build general resilience. The continued provision of and improvement to the existing telecommunications network is key to economic, social and environmental improvement.

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Siting and Appearance

As set out above, this is an established site which is already providing coverage for this area for VMO2 and Vodafone. The proposed development seeks to provide improved coverage and capacity to the locality including enhanced connectivity to the area for the operator.

The upgrading of an existing site is in accordance with the sequential approach to development set out within the NPPF (2023). Para 119 states *“The number of radio and electronic communications masts, and the sites for such installations, should be kept to a minimum consistent with the needs of consumers, the efficient operation of the network and providing reasonable capacity for future expansion. Use of existing masts, buildings and other structures for new electronic communications capability (including wireless) should be encouraged”*.

The upgraded site is proposed in broadly the same location as the existing where the principle, siting and appearance of telecommunications development has been established. The proposed development, which has been designed to meet both technical/operational requirements and planning considerations, has been reviewed in the context of the existing site and surrounding area, and is still considered to be appropriate in character and amenity terms for this location.

The design and type of equipment to be deployed has been chosen to provide the greatest possible coverage while, so far as is practicable, minimising the impact on character and amenity and keeping in line with the existing installation.

Policy EN8 of the Local plan requires that “the development would not, by reason of its scale, siting or design, have an unacceptable impact on the character or appearance of the surrounding area, or the amenity of nearby residents”.

A replacement lattice mast and headframe of greater width is required to allow for an increased amount of equipment to upgrade the site and to accommodate the space required and weight of this equipment as well as taking into account structural stability and windloading.

An increase in height up to 30.2m is also required. The proposed height is informed by technical data – including the area the mast is required to cover – and selected following an on site design visit with a specialist team. The height selected is essential for the operators equipment to reach the target coverage area. This height is chosen taking into account variations in land levels / topography, heights of existing vegetation and built form which can interrupt the transmission of different technologies and frequencies. The operators antennas must be able to rise above any obstruction within the environment and their dishes must also have a clear line of

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site to other dishes in the network to form a link. The minimum height has been selected to ensure that the operators antennas and equipment are free from interruption and can provide the required coverage to the target areas. It is acknowledged that the height is taller than the existing installation, this is because modern technologies and frequencies are more prone to interruption and therefore requirement greater clearance. In addition, vegetation in the surrounding area has increased in height since the last mast was installed and as such, an increased height is required to compensate for this.

The installation will allow for the provision of modern technologies and frequencies as well as improved capacity in the network. It is argued that the proposed upgrade is not so substantially different than the existing – the upgrade whilst modernised and slightly larger in scale remains unobtrusive when considered in the constraints to design that exist and the sites location within a wooded area.

It is acknowledged that the site is located within designated Green Belt area and within the boundary of the Knowsley Park Registered Park and Garden, as well as in proximity to a number of listed properties.

The development proposed is in broadly the same location as the existing where the impact of telecommunications development on the registered park and garden, nearby listed buildings and greenbelt has previously been accepted. The development proposed will result in an increase in height and scale, notwithstanding this, the site remains in the wooded area, adjacent to a more functional area within the Registered Park and Garden – the Nursery House. The site will be only slightly more visible than the existing given the presence of mature vegetation and undulating land levels, as well as separation distance from the main areas of the Registered Park and Garden where any impact would be felt more accurately and the listed buildings to the north. When considered in the context of the existing installation and the sites discreet location within the woodland, the development would not result in a significant harm to the Registered Park and Garden or the greenbelt above and beyond that already considered acceptable.

In heritage terms, Para 208 of the NPPF (2023) states that:

“Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use”.

The proposed works would allow for the provision of high quality communications which may otherwise be lost in line with customer commitments, license commitments, the NPPF (2023 – Chapter 10) and to meet government targets with

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1530 Arlington Business Park,
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regard to the provision of high-quality telecommunications networks across the country. This new site will facilitate the provision of upgraded coverage for two operators (VMO2 and Vodafone). The provision of improved coverage and capacity is a significant public benefit which would outweigh any minimal harm that may occur.

Balancing siting and appearance of mobile phone masts against operational efficiency can be challenging and every effort has been made in this case to ensure that the mast is proposed in the best possible location and is of the best possible appearance given the technical and planning constraints which exist. It should be acknowledged by the LPA that operators are limited on the options for where equipment can be located and how it appears.

It is considered that the proposal utilises the most suitable design available to meet coverage demands and to provide suitable coverage. The benefits of the proposal also have to be considered. The provision of enhanced coverage, capacity and connectivity would be provided for VMO2 and Vodafone users. It is considered the public benefits of the proposal are significant in considering the acceptability of siting and appearance.

Having regard to the assessment above, it can be seen that the scheme as proposed within this application has been sited and designed in line with all national and international guidelines as well as the telecommunication industries Code of Best Practice for Wireless Network Development in England (2022) when taking into account the technical constraints that exist.

The development would result in a high-quality design when taking into account technical constraints to development and operational requirements, that respect the character and special qualities of the area in accordance with Policy ENV8 of the Unitary Development Plan.

Other relevant information:

The public benefits associated with providing 5G coverage weigh heavily in favour of the development and can be summarised as follows.

Public Benefits Associated with Improved Coverage and New 5G Coverage

Mobile telecoms networks are now ubiquitous throughout the UK. Individuals and businesses expect to be able to connect and use their mobile device whenever and wherever they so require. Access to quality mobile communication services is an essential utility for the residents, businesses and for commuters that travel through an area daily.

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High quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. Mobile connectivity allows business to be carried out on the move, enables access to information and services anywhere, and opens new opportunities and markets. Telecommunications networks also play a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.

5G is expected to broaden the role that mobile technology plays in wider society by enabling thousands more 'smart' devices on the street which connect to the internet and each other. This will pave the way for new virtual and augmented reality services and help drive the take-up of new innovations such as autonomous cars and remote healthcare technologies. And it could transform the way public services are delivered - such as energy and transport - by allowing greater real-time monitoring and responsiveness in order to reduce waste, pollution or congestion.

At the time of writing, the critical nature of these services has been made ever more apparent. Restrictions on travel resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic has resulted in a continued shift from office based to home working, from physical professional and social gatherings to virtual ones and to reliance on online shopping and entertainment services. Usage within suburbs and peripheral areas has therefore increased dramatically as less people travel to town and city centres.

The recently publish 'Online Nation Report' (June 2022, OFCOM) is supportive of this statement, finding that "The global pandemic since March 2020 has resulted in significant changes in online behaviour; in particular, our online shopping habits that developed during lockdown periods appear to be here to stay. Overall, online companies grew in 2021. The largest online platforms' revenues and profits increased significantly during the lockdown periods and this growth continued in 2021. The growth is being driven by UK consumers' increasing spend on e-commerce and entertainment subscription services, while advertising revenues are also increasing with the continuing brand migration to online.

The more recently published 2023 Online Nation report finds "Data from Ipsos iris shows that 47.9 million UK adults accessed the internet across smartphones, tablets and computers in May 2023 (our sample month), spending an average of 3 hours 41 minutes a day online, a modest increase of 8 minutes year on year (May 2022: 3 hours 33 minutes). Young adults continue to spend the most time online, with 18-24-year-olds spending a daily average of 4 hours 36 minutes, and the 65+ group spending the least time (2 hours 46 minutes). Women continue to spend more time online (3 hours 58 minutes, up 12 minutes on May 2022) than men (3 hours 23 minutes, up by 3 minutes). Online adults in Wales spent the most time compared to the other UK nations (3 hours 47 minutes), while those in Scotland spent the least (3 hours 38 minutes)".

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Ofcom's 2023 communications market report (interactive data published in July 2023) reaffirms the importance of mobile technology in the UK. The average monthly data volumes per mobile data user increased by 1.2 GB (22%) to 6.6GB in 2022. The total number of mobile subscriptions also increased by 3% to 111.8 million in 2022.

It is clear therefore that data-based technologies, such as 4G and 5G services (provided by this proposed development), are increasingly important to our everyday lives, even during more normal circumstances.

This importance has been reaffirmed in a letter from Matt Warman MP, the previous minister for Digital Infrastructure, to English Local Authority Chief Executives. The letter dated 24 May 2021 accompanied the 'Consultation on Changes to Permitted Development Rights for Electronic Communications Infrastructure' and states:

"Digital connectivity is – now, more than ever – vital to enable people to stay connected and businesses to grow. The demand for mobile data is increasing rapidly, and the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how important it is that we all have access to reliable, high quality mobile connectivity...The planning system plays a key role in delivering the infrastructure that we need as households and businesses become increasingly reliant on mobile connectivity."

Upgrading digital telecommunications is evidently a key Government priority and one that is also set out in detail in the NPPF (2021) and summarised within the DDCMS Connected Growth Manual (2019). Furthermore, the Government wants the UK to be a world leader in 5G and has set a target for "the majority of the UK population to have access to a 5G signal by 2027" (House of Commons Library, Building Telecommunications Infrastructure, August 2021). Critical to achieving this is the ability of operators to deploy appropriate infrastructure and in this instance, provide replacement sites to ensure the continuation and development of these services, when existing sites are removed from the network.

Differences between 4G and 5G

In their recent #checkthefacts campaign, Mobile UK highlight the biggest differences between 4G and 5G. These are broadly summarised as:

- Quicker speeds
- Improved latency - Time taken for information to travel from sender to receiver
- Improved capacity - more devices can be connected at one time
- 5G Networks can be sliced – allowing dedicated and reliable networks for local services (such as the emergency services) and individual businesses.

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The new installation will bring next generation technology. The full extent of benefits of 5G technology is still unknown and will, to a significant degree, depend on the ability to provide a comprehensive network coverage. However, the possibilities and potential of the technology seem endless. If allowed, residents and visitors will benefit from:

Much faster download/upload speed and latency – delays between information sent and received will become virtually impossible to perceive; real-time content sharing and data will become a reality. This will effectively make buffering and loading delays a thing of the past, with data only taking 1 millisecond to be received by a device after it has been requested – it currently it takes up to 60 milliseconds.

Multiple Devices can be connected – countless devices will be able to access mobile online services at the same time; it will mean you can always stay connected. For example, if you are at a football stadium or a crowded festival with everyone trying to simultaneously upload and share their experiences to social media without loss of connection.

Improved home working – 5G rivals the speed of fibre broadband and can provide much needed connections where internet connections are still poor and in need of updating. Everyone will have access to fast and uninterrupted sharing, streaming, and browsing via their mobile phone network. It will mean accessible near-gigabit-capable speeds when you are out and about and could, in the future, work alongside or provide an alternative to fibre and wires in the home.

5G supports the development of the “Internet of Things”. This encompasses all the ‘smart’ and connected devices we’re starting to see in homes and beyond, from smart light bulbs and thermostats, to connected kettles, security cameras and more, most of which can be controlled by an app on a mobile phone, or by voice when paired with an AI Assistant such as Amazon Alexa. In some cases, they can even be automated, with lights for example turning on when entering a room and turning off when leaving it. They do this in part by communicating with each other, for example, motion sensors at a room entrance could adjust lighting when people enter or leave a room.

Smart Cities – it also supports the development of “Smart Cities” which develops the “Internet of Things” beyond homes and out into the world to make cities smarter. Examples include traffic lights that can adapt automatically based on traffic flow, automatic deployment of road repair vehicles when potholes are detected, smart power distribution (e.g. so that buildings are not being lit when they are empty) and rubbish bins automatically reporting when they require emptying, all leading to cleaner, safer, more efficient cities, and all with minimal human oversight.

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Cars of the future – When connected to 5G, the cars would communicate and share data with other vehicles and connected infrastructure, avoiding accidents and traffic as a result, and telling smart cities where traffic is building up, so routes for other vehicles can be adjusted. This will also play a large role in self-driving cars, with its speed and reliability key to them rapidly sending and receiving information about the road and other vehicles.

The Environment – 5G connected devices will allow us to reduce our energy use and emissions, so we have a less negative impact on the environment. Multiple devices will connect to each other, so they know when they're in use and powerup or down accordingly. 5G will allow us to download data in a more efficient way, so we use less energy. Smart energy meters will help us reduce household energy use, and smart transport systems will help us produce fewer emissions when we travel.

More information on 5G and its benefits can be found at <https://www.mobileuk.org/5g-benefits>.

Mobile UK also have a useful Local Authority Toolkit which can be viewed through the following link <https://www.mobileuk.org/5g-local-authority-toolkit>.

Practical Applications of 5G Connectivity as Example of Material Socio-Economic Benefit: -

Education:

The relationship between 5G and education is evolving at a massive rate with educators exploring the relevance of Virtual Reality (VR) technologies for education and training. Crucially, VR can support remote learning, allowing students a presence in the classroom even when working elsewhere.

5G's ability to deliver real-time information (low latency), ultra-fast speeds (critical for high definition images and video), increased capacity and heightened security will also allow learning on the job, thanks to technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR) goggles, which can give engineers real-time instructions on how to fix a machine on a production line, for example.

Health:

Patients across the country are now becoming accustomed to relying on remote healthcare services such as NHS 111, virtual GP appointments, and ordering online deliveries of essential medical supplies.

5G will prove critical in providing the infrastructure required to deliver remote health services over the next decade. By design, 5G's ability to deliver real-time information (low latency), ultra-fast speeds (critical for high definition images and video), increased capacity and heightened security are going to be fundamental in scaling the patient benefits of remote healthcare and keeping medical records

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secure and private. For instance, trials have shown that connecting ambulance crews to expert resources using 5G allows paramedics to work with doctors and conduct specialist procedures in real time whilst on the road.

Summary

National planning policy is to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems, and operators have obligations to meet customer demands for improved quality of service. This development proposes improved connectivity and capacity now and for the future by way of a replacement/upgraded telecommunications mast and equipment.

There is a clear and demonstrable requirement for improved electronic communications services. Due consideration has been given to all practicable solutions for providing the required telecommunications service and this proposal has been designed in such a way as to minimise its overall visual impact upon the local area by ensuring the services can be provided from a single site, with any minor negative impact outweighed by the benefits of providing a high quality electronic communications services which caters for coverage and capacity and allows for reasonable future expansion as acknowledged as acceptable within the NPPF and Local Plan.

The proposal represents an appropriate siting and design solution for this area, balancing environmental and planning considerations. A simple design solution is proposed to mitigate visual impact and prevent significant harm to the local environment. The minimal impact of replacing and upgrading the existing development would be outweighed by the significant public benefits of providing improved coverage to the area.

The proposed development is compliant with the relevant policies from the NPPF and Code of Practice for Wireless Network Development in England (2022). The proposal is fully compliant with ICNIRP guidelines and declaration of compliance has been provided.

As such, we respectfully ask that this Application is approved.

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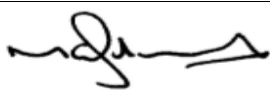
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Confirmation that submitted drawings have been checked for accuracy

Name: (Agent)	Veronica Raescu on behalf of Matthew Silverwood	Telephone:	07867 977748
Operator:	Sinclair Dalby Limited on behalf of Cornerstone		
Address:	3 Princes Street, Bath, BA1 1HL	Email Address:	matt.silverwood@sinclairdalby.co.uk
		Date:	23 rd May 2024
Signed:		Company:	Sinclair Dalby Limited
		(On behalf of Cornersto ne and above operator)	
Position:	Director		

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