

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

1. Site Details

Site Name:	VARLEY STREET STREET FURNITURE	Site Address:	VARLEY STREET, BESWICK, MANCHESTER, M40 7LS
National Grid Reference:	E: 386186 N: 399048		
Site Ref Number:	MAN16637	Site Type: ¹	Macro

2. Pre-Application Check List**Site Selection (for New Sites only)**

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: No register exists. A physical search of the area was carried out.		
Was the industry site database checked for suitable sites by the operator?	Yes	No
If no explain why: N/A		

Site Specific Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Was there pre-application contact:	Yes
Date of pre-application contact:	10 th August 2021
Name of contact:	Chief Planning Officer
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised: Pre-application correspondence was forwarded to Manchester City Council by email on 10th August 2021. No response to date.	

¹ Macro or Micro

Community Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:	Red	Amber	Green
Outline of consultation carried out: Pre-application correspondence was forwarded by email on 10 th August 2021 to the Miles Platting & Newton Heath Ward – Councillors June Hitchen, John Flanagan & Carmine Grimshaw.			
Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of relevant correspondence): To date no comments have been received.			

School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college (include name of school/college): Park View Community School within 300m.
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college (include evidence of consultation): A letter and drawings was sent to the Headteacher and Governors on 10 th August 2021.
Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of main correspondence): No response has been received to date.

Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator consultation (only required for an application for prior approval)

Will the structure be within 3km of an aerodrome or airfield?	Yes	No
Has the Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator been notified?	Yes	No
Details of response: N/A		

Developer's Notice

Copy of Developer's Notice enclosed?	Yes	No
Date served:	14 th October 2021	

3. Proposed Development

The proposed site:

This application seeks consent for:

The installation of a 20-metre-high monopole, 4 no. equipment cabinets and development work ancillary thereto.

The proposed development is required to provide new infill coverage for the H3G network (known as '3'). This is required because the surrounding area has inadequate coverage levels and also has areas which are 'not spots' (i.e. areas that have no coverage at all).

The site is therefore proposed to deliver improved coverage to the area to ensure that it benefits from adequate coverage levels as well as new 5G coverage. 5G coverage is currently being rolled out by all Operators across the country and is supported and encouraged at government level.

The proposed site is located to the eastern side of Varley St north of the junction with Bradford Rd. The site is an area of grass verge besides Varley St in an area where there is open land to each side and a backdrop of industrial use.

The proposed location is shown on the photograph below:



The search area is located within a predominantly residential area with a lot of recent new development which will increase the demand for services.

Type of Structure (e.g. tower, mast, etc):		Monopole
Description:		
The installation of a 20-metre-high monopole, 4 no. equipment cabinets and development work ancillary thereto.		
Overall Height:		20 metres
Height of existing building (where applicable):		N/A
Equipment Housing:		
Commscope Bowler Cabinet:		1.9m (width) x 0.6m (depth) x 1.752m (height)
Ericsson 6130 Cabinet:		0.65m x 0.7m x 0.95m
Commscope AC Transmission Cabinet:		0.6m x 0.5m x 1.585m
Wrap around cabinet:		2.0m x 0.7m x 1.54m
Materials (as applicable):		
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:	Steel with a grey finish.	
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:	Steel with grey finish.	

Reasons for choice of design, making reference to pre-application response:	
In designing the proposed installation, the applicant has sought to achieve a balance between technical requirements and minimising environmental impact as far as was practicable. It, however, must be acknowledged that technical constraints heavily influenced the design and limited the scope to alter the appearance of the site to a significant degree. There are three main elements to a radio base station; the cabin or cabinets which contain the equipment used to generate the radio signals, the supporting structure that holds the antennas in the air or fixes them to a building or structure and the antennas themselves, which emit the radio signals (along with any necessary amplifier or receiver units). Other elements necessary for the base station to function are the power source (meter cabinet or generator where a REC supply cannot be utilised), feeder cables that link the equipment housing to the antennas and the various support structures, grillages and fixings, often referred to in general terms as “development ancillary to” the base station. Of necessity, the mast is located close to the residential area it is designed to serve and is of a height capable of providing comprehensive coverage. The cabinets are of a type commonly seen on the street and are low level structures that when viewed in the context of the street furniture will not be obtrusive features as will be painted grey and will blend onto the street view. In all aspects of the design now put forward the smallest practical components have been utilised to ensure that the visual impact of the development is kept to the absolute minimum. The proposed development has two main elements, the monopole which would support the antennas, and the radio equipment cabinets located at ground level adjacent to the pole.	

A slim and unfussy design of support structure has been chosen to minimise impact on the surrounding area. The monopole design of support structure is considered suitable. The finish of the monopole and the equipment cabinets is proposed to be grey and the equipment will blend into the streetscene. Whilst the proposed colour scheme is considered wholly appropriate for this site, the applicant would be willing to adhere to any colour scheme deemed more appropriate by the local authority.

Technical Information

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Declaration attached (see below). International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection public compliance is determined by mathematical calculation and implemented by careful location of antennas, access restrictions and/or barriers and signage as necessary. Members of the public cannot unknowingly enter areas close to the antennas where exposure may exceed the relevant guidelines. When determining compliance the emissions from all mobile phone network operators on or near to the site are taken into account. In order to minimise interference within its own network and with other radio networks, Hutchison 3G UK Ltd operates its network in such a way the radio frequency power outputs are kept to the lowest levels commensurate with effective service provision. As part of Hutchison 3G UK Ltd's network, the radio base station that is the subject of this application will be configured to operate in this way. All operators of radio transmitters are under a legal obligation to operate those transmitters in accordance with the conditions of their licence. Operation of the transmitter in accordance with the conditions of the licence fulfils the legal obligations in respect of interference to other radio systems, other electrical equipment, instrumentation or air traffic systems. The conditions of the licence are mandated by Ofcom, an agency of national government, who are responsible for the regulation of the civilian radio spectrum. The remit of Ofcom also includes investigation and remedy of any reported significant interference. The telecommunications infrastructure the subject of this application accords with all relevant legislation and as such will not cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest.	Yes	No
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4. Technical Justification

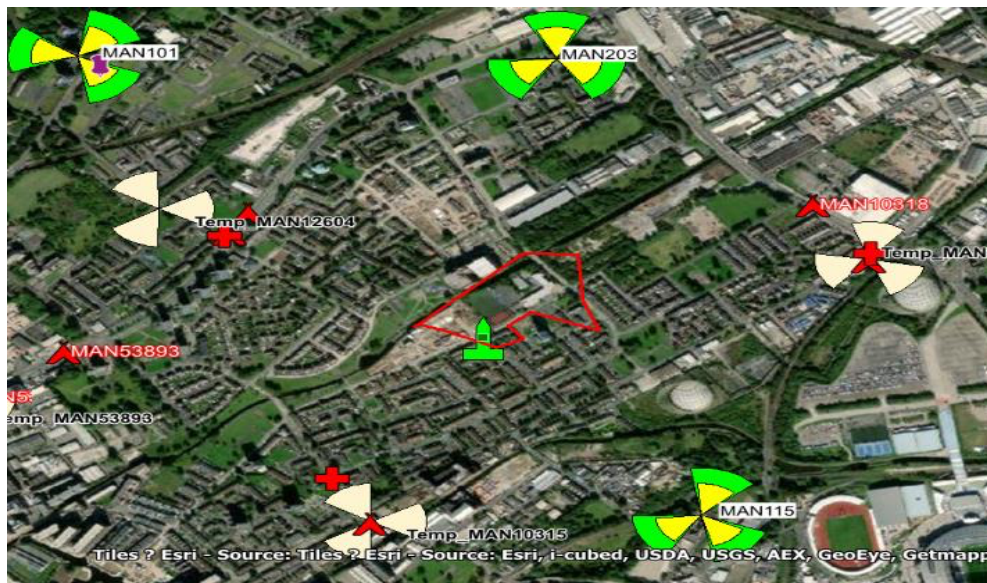
Enclose predictive coverage plots if appropriate, e.g. to show coverage improvement. Proposals to improve capacity will not generally require coverage plots.

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

There is a requirement to upgrade the H3G network in the area to provide improved coverage and capacity, most notably in relation to 5G services, but also in relation to 3G and 4G services. This required because the surrounding area has inadequate coverage levels and also has areas which are 'not spots' (i.e., areas that have no coverage at all).

The map below shows the current requirement for the area. The cell nominal (preferred location by network radio planners) is shown by the green pin, the ideal area within which to locate a mast to meet technical requirements is shown by the red polygon and is set by the Operator.

Adjacent sites are shown by the "propellers" and the site is located in such a way that, as well as filling a coverage gap, it will take traffic from the surrounding sites thus easing congestion in those areas and so having a beneficial effect on the wider area.



As with all 5G infill development this is an extremely constrained cell search area. Moving too far from the optimum cell centre will then potentially interfere with adjoining cells. Options are extremely limited and the most viable solution that minimises amenity issues whilst still meeting technical requirement has been put forward.

Why is 5G required?

With regard to the history of mobile telecommunications development, the first generation of services provided voice calls, the second generation (2G) allowed basic data such as texting and the third generation (3G) offered internet access and the development of apps. Since then the smart phone has developed further and the fourth generation has brought video and much faster data speeds allowing the integration of the smart phone into wider use.

The next generation of mobile telephony is 5G which brings greatly increasing data speeds. The advantages this presents range from near-instant downloads of HD films to connected cars, smart medical devices and smart cities. To bring this new technology into use H3G will need to provide a mix of upgrades to existing sites in addition to the building of new sites. New sites are needed for many reasons, including that the higher radio frequencies used for 5G do not travel as far as those frequencies currently in use, which can leave gaps in the network.

Although 5G will undoubtedly bring new opportunities and huge benefits to society, we cannot escape from the requirement that new structures, antennas and ancillary equipment will be needed. It has been acknowledged by Government that we must ensure that we have the infrastructure in place to deliver 5G across our major centres and transport networks. This is one of the many additional structures that will be needed to provide enhanced services.

The higher frequencies that 5G will use can provide more bandwidth and thus greater capacity but the signal will not travel as far as those of previous generations. The implications to the built environment will be that more infrastructure needs to be deployed, as in this case.

5. 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
SW	Holland St, Beswick, Manchester, M40 7HL	385920E, 399099N	This is the nominal location for an installation. It is entirely residential and not considered suitable for an installation of this nature.
SW	Sandall St, Beswick, Manchester, M40 7BH	386168E, 399103N	A location around the corner from the proposed location but much closer to residences and discounted on this basis.
RT	Queensbury Court, Wardle St, Beswick, Manchester, M40 7DD	386019E, 399109N	Too tall for an installation – 5G is to provide local coverage and a site at this height would leave a “shadow” of non-coverage bypassing much of the area it is designed to serve.
GF	Community Centre, Butler St, Beswick, Manchester, M4 7JD	385666E, 398694N	This location is too far away from the cell nominal to provide the required levels of coverage and too close to the adjacent cell with which it would interfere.
GF	North Car Park, Sport City, Beswick, Manchester, M11 3DU	386627E, 399062N	This location is too far away from the cell nominal to provide the required levels of coverage and too close to the adjacent cell with which it would interfere.

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

This search area is heavily constrained, given the proximity of adjacent sites and the particular coverage requirement, and does need to be located as close to the nominal as possible if the coverage objectives are to be achieved.

Additional relevant information (planning policy and material considerations):

VISUAL IMPACT AND APPEARANCE

Visual impact has been minimised as far as practicable. New 5G coverage, and enhanced 4G coverage, to the area can be achieved with only minimal harm to the surrounding area.

The coverage area is predominantly residential but the site has been carefully chosen to ensure the minimal impact possible on residential amenity and with only limited harm to the area. Although the monopole would be taller than the streetscene installations, it is considered its impact would not be excessive particular when seen in the context of the industrial area behind. The minimal footprint of the site and the location away from the residential element, would help to keep impact to an acceptable level. The existing street furniture and the trees behind and in the wider background would act as either a screen or a backdrop depending on viewpoint. The pole has a slim and unfussy design, would have a grey finish and would assimilate into its surroundings. The ancillary equipment cabinets are also proposed to be grey in colour.

It is considered that the proposal utilises the most suitable design available to meet coverage demands and to provide suitable coverage to the area. It is important to keep the impact of telecommunications development in the area to a minimum and it is considered this proposal achieves this. The benefits of the proposal also have to be considered. New 5G, and enhanced 4G coverage would be provided to the surrounding area for H3G from the development and it is considered the significant public benefits of the proposal outweigh the minimal impact on visual and residential amenity.

PLANNING POLICY

Planning Assessment Principle of Development

This is a prior notification application. As such, the only issues that can be considered when assessing this application are the siting and appearance of the proposed telecommunications monopole and cabinets. The principle of development is therefore not an issue of consideration for this prior approval application.

Notwithstanding this, it is useful to highlight the following paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework:

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 114-118] (Supporting High Quality Communications) is most relevant to this application.

Paragraph 114 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, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections”*.

Paragraph 115 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 118** 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 114 of the NPPF. The mast 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 new streetworks installation is considered to be the only appropriate solution to deliver the required levels of coverage within the target area in accordance with para 115 of the NPPF. This application is supported by an ICNIRP declaration with regards to health and safety, it also provides new infrastructure which enhances the quality and range of services and facilities in accordance with policy C1 of the Local Plan.

Government advice in recent years has been to promote and encourage communications services. Within his presentation to Parliament in July 2015 of the Government report “Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation” the Chancellor of the Exchequer reiterated the importance of a high-speed digital communication infrastructure. *“7.1 Reliable and high quality fixed and mobile broadband connections support growth in productivity, efficiency and labour force participation across the whole economy. They enable new and more efficient business processes, access to new markets and support flexible working and working from home.*

By reducing regulatory red tape and barriers to investment, the government will support the market to deliver the internationally competitive fixed and mobile digital communications infrastructure the UK’s businesses need to thrive and grow, and which will enable the UK to remain at the forefront of the digital economy. The government is working with business so that the market can play the lead role in delivering against the ambitions set out in the Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy, published in March, of near-universal 4G and ultrafast broadband coverage.”

The NPPF (2019) directly addresses the need for enhanced wireless communication services, first mentioned in 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)”*

Leading on from this, paragraph 112 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, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections”*.

It should be noted that paragraph 116 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”*.

The proposal outlined within this document and the supporting enclosures, is in complete accordance with the guidance as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Development Plan Policy

Section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended requires planning applications and appeals to be determined having regard to the provisions of the Development Plan and other material considerations, and section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires applications and appeals to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

For the purposes of Section 70, the current Manchester City Local Plan does have a policy held over from the Unitary Development Plan. For ease of reference it is copied below:

DC17.1 Applications for telecommunications developments will normally be approved if the Council can be satisfied that the development has been sited and designed to minimise its impact on residential amenity and in environmentally sensitive areas. Wherever possible, the Council will expect the potential of existing buildings and masts, including the sharing of such facilities, to be fully explored before agreeing to additional separate development.

There are no existing installations or buildings within the search area that can be utilised. The site has been chosen and designed to maximise the available screening within the local streetscene and the support pole and cabinets are proposed to be colored grey to minimise impact.

Overall, it is considered the proposal complies with both national and local policy. In terms of national policy, the proposal is sympathetically designed, it minimises the number of installations and has a high quality of design. It would significantly enhance the provision of local community facilities and services and would protect amenity.

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.

As explained within this document, 5G technology requires a greater number of masts to cover the same area as that of previous technologies (such as 4G), as 5G cannot travel as far as older technologies.

This means that operators such as H3G are seeking new locations for infill masts to provide improved coverage, such as the one subject to this application.

Search areas are very small given the technical constraints associated with 5G technology and as such, options for locating masts are limited.

Under this application, the search area has been clearly set out and the reasons for selecting this site explained.

It is considered that the installation as proposed is the most suitable option to balance both planning and environmental considerations against the technical requirements of the operator. The siting and design of the mast has been carefully considered and meets the requirements of the relevant telecommunications policies where technically possible, with the potential for public benefit weighing in the favour of any minimal harm that may occur as a result of the installation. For these reasons it is respectfully requested that this application is approved.

Confirmation that submitted drawings have been checked for accuracy

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Signed:		Date:	15 th October 2021
Position:	Director	Company: (for and on behalf H3G UK Ltd)	Sinclair Dalby Ltd