

Our ref: CTIL_30284001_TEF_88846_NA (Opt A)

Chief Planning Officer

Manchester City Council
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Via Email

01st April 2020

Dear Sirs

PROPOSED RADIO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL_30284001_TEF_88846_NA (OPT A) SW ON PRINCESS ROAD (OPT A), SW ON PRINCESS ROAD, MANCHESTER, M14 7FS, N.G.R E: 383863 N: 393921

Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (Cornerstone) is a joint venture company owned by Vodafone Limited and Telefónica UK Limited, commonly known as O2, who manage a single grid network across the UK for these companies. This agreement allows both organisations to pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two, independent, nationwide networks. It maximises opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations and where possible can significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development.

5G rollout has begun and both Vodafone and Telefónica are in the process of upgrading their existing radio base stations in their single grid network wherever possible. As part of this continued network improvement program, there is a specific technical requirement to provide new 5G coverage in this area of Manchester. An existing streetworks style base station has been identified in the area, however it cannot accommodate for both operators latest requirements. In order to fit in to the operator's single grid network, an additional new streetworks style base station is required for Telefónica service in close proximity to the existing streetworks style base station that will be retained and in due course upgraded with improved Vodafone service.

Mobiles 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.

This proposed new site will enable 5G coverage to be provided to this area of Manchester. The Government recognises that widespread coverage of mobile connectivity is essential for people and businesses. That is why the Government is committed to extending mobile geographical coverage further across the UK, with continuous mobile connectivity provided to all major roads and to being a world leader in 5G. This will allow everyone in the country to benefit from the economic advantages of widespread mobile coverage.

As well as improved mobile signal, 5G networks are also crucial to drive productivity and growth across the sectors that local areas are focusing on through their emerging Local Industrial Strategies. Enabling and planning for 5G implementation is central to achieving the Government's objective to deliver prosperity at the local level and enable all places to share in the proceeds of growth.

5G service provision will bring faster, more responsive and reliable connections than ever before. More than any previous generation of mobile networks, it has the potential to improve the way people live, work and travel, and to deliver significant benefits to the economy and industry through the ability to connect more devices to the Internet at the same time, the 'Internet of Things'. This will enable communities to manage traffic flow and control energy usage, monitor patient health remotely, and increase productivity for business and farmers, all through the real-time management of data.

The demand for mobile data in the UK is increasing rapidly, and as households and businesses become increasingly reliant on mobile connectivity, the infrastructure must be in place to ensure supply does not become a constraint on future demand.

This letter therefore invites the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with planning policy guidance and Best Practice Commitments, to enter into pre-application discussions with regard to our preferred site option prior to a formal planning submission. Several steps in the site identification process have already been undertaken. The Local Planning Authority must register and our records of other potential sites have been reviewed, the policies in the Development Plan have been taken into account and we have examined the inter-operator site sharing database.

Our technical network requirement is as follows:

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The site is needed to maintain and improve 2G, 3G, 4G coverage and capacity for Telefónica to ensure that its customers continue to experience access to the latest service provision currently available and have access to a new 5G network. This is because the operator needs to find a replacement for the site it is currently providing 2G, 3G and 4G services from Princess Road, which cannot be upgraded for Telefonica's technology requirements for technical reasons highlighted above and more fully explained in the discount section below. The proposed new installation will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as new technologies improve increasing the demand for 4G and new 5G technologies.

The preferred Telefónica option is as follows:

SW ON PRINCESS ROAD, MANCHESTER, M14 7FS, N.G.R E: 383863 N: 393921

The proposed works comprise the Installation of a 20m slim-line column supporting 6 no. antennas, 2 no. transmission dishes, 2 no. equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto including a GPS module, and 3 no. Remote Radio Units (RRUs).

The operator is limited in siting options as there is a requirement to provide equivalent replacement coverage and capacity for this area of Manchester. The replacement of an existing site means that the operator has to be located as close as possible to the existing installation in order to maintain the provision of equivalent coverage and capacity to the surrounding local area. This is the nearest suitable location that the operator is able to position their replacement apparatus.

The proposed height at 20m is essential in order to provide equivalent replacement coverage to the target coverage area. 5G new radio technologies operate in higher frequency bands than older technologies. Since it operates at higher frequencies where attenuation of the radio signal is naturally higher and the effects of clutter are greater it will normally require a higher structure to achieve the same coverage footprint.

In order to minimise the width of the proposed column, the antennas are split in to a dual stack formation where 3 antennas will be located at the top of the column and the other 3 antennas will be located underneath. Thus, if the column were to be any lower, the antennas would not be able to operate effectively nor reach the target coverage area.

The column is a simple, functional, vertical structure necessary to provide replacement and new service provision to Manchester and the surrounding area. There are other vertical structures in the streetscene which will help it assimilate in to the local environ. The column is proposed to be finished in a grey colour but can be coloured any other colour that the LPA consider appropriate.

The cabinets are designed to appear like other statutory undertakers equipment cabinets. They are small for telecommunications apparatus and are proposed to be coloured green to assimilate with other equipment cabinets commonly found in urban environments. The cabinets can be installed under the operators permitted development rights, but have been included on the plans and in the description in order to remain fully transparent.

The RRUs are designed to make the antennas more efficient and reduce the need for equipment cabinets at ground level, therefore minimising ground level clutter in this area. They are located underneath the lowest set of antennas, out of the natural eye line of the casual passer-by and therefore will not appear prominent in the streetscene.

Alternative site options considered and rejected are as follows:

Site ³	Site Name and address		NGR	Reason for not choosing ⁴
ETS - existing Telecom site	Name	Existing site (NR_85069)		RD - Redevelopment not possible
	Line 1	Princess Road	Eastings	The operator has fully investigated upgrading this site to provide the latest technologies for 4G services as well as new 5G coverage / capacity in to the Telefonica network. However, the design of the existing pole is not able to support the new 5G antennas for both Vodafone and Telefonica. To continue to share an existing structure at this location would require significant redevelopment of the existing structure to a much more structurally robust mast capable of hosting all the equipment from both operators. This would move away from the relatively uniform and slimline street furniture poles proposed and therefore it is felt that a secondary, more slimline, street-pole is a more appropriate and sensitive solution to 5G service provision whilst minimising impact for a street furniture setting. This existing telecommunications site has been discounted for Telefonica's new technology requirements for this reason. A new replacement site for Telefonica is therefore needed to provide this operator with the latest 2G, 3G 4G and 5G technologies. The existing site will remain in place for Vodafone technologies.
	Line 2	Whalley Range	383897	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393807	
	Postcode	M20 1BH		
ETS - existing Telecom site	Name	Existing site (3_M0523)		RD - Redevelopment not possible
	Line 1	Princess Road	Eastings	Existing SW Sites operated by 3 cannot be redeveloped by a second operator without substantial redevelopment into a more traditional/substantial structure which would require a large foundation base. This type of development cannot be undertaken on the public highway as there is insufficient space. In addition, EE are looking to upgrade all their SW sites in the near future for 5G. These reasons make this site unavailable for any sharing by the Operator.
	Line 2	Wilbraham Road	383896	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393853	
	Postcode	M20 1BH		
ETS - existing Telecom site	Name	Existing EE SW site (Orange_GMN0290)		RD - Redevelopment not possible
	Line 1	Princess Road	Eastings	Existing SW Sites operated by EE cannot be redeveloped by a second operator without substantial redevelopment into a more traditional/substantial structure which would require a large foundation base. This type of development cannot be undertaken on the public highway as there is insufficient space. In addition, EE are looking to upgrade all their SW sites in the near future for 5G. These reasons make this site unavailable for any sharing by the Operator.
	Line 2	Whalley Range	383866	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393855	
	Postcode	M16 8GW		
GF - Greenfield	Name	Whalley Grange High School		T - Technical Difficulties
	Line 1	Wilbraham Road	Eastings	The Schoolplaying Field was considered as a location for the proposed mast, however as this sites at a lower level than Princess Road, a mast with a height of approx 25 metres would be required. The applicatn deemed that a structure this tall would not be acceptable and would have a greater visual impact on the area than the proposed site would have.
	Line 2		383844	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393859	
	Postcode	M16 8GW		
RT - Roof Top	Name	Tudor House		T - Technical Difficulties
	Line 1	252 Mauldeth Road West	Eastings	The rooftop is too low in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target coverage area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
	Line 2	Whalley Range	383844	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393786	
	Postcode	M21 7TH		
GF - Greenfield	Name	BP Petrol Station		RD - Redevelopment not possible
	Line 1	Princess Road	Eastings	A mast at this location is not viable due to a physical lack of space in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
	Line 2	Whalley Range	383908	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393947	
	Postcode	M14 7FS		

All Telefónica 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.

We would be grateful if you could advise us of any pending telecommunications applications or recent planning decisions in this particular area so these can be evaluated.

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 ward councillors for Fallowfield Ward and the local MP Afzal Khan.

We enclose a copy of our Consultation Plan and welcome your suggestions.

We look forward to receiving your response within 14 days of the date of this letter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Hann".

Jennie Hann BSc MTPL MRTPI

Planning Manager

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(for and on behalf of Cornerstone and Telefónica UK Limited)