

Our ref: SDE034 12195



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Head of Planning
South Derbyshire District Council
Planning Department
Civic Offices
Civic Way
Swadlincote
Derbyshire
DE11 0AH

11 October 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**MBNL (EE (UK) LTD AND H3G (UK) LTD)
FULL PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED 5G UPGRADE AT LAND OFF BURTON
ROAD, OVERSEAL, SWADLINCOTE, DERBYSHIRE, DE12 6JL**

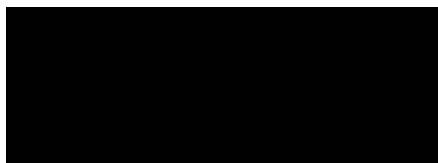
We write on behalf of MBNL (EE (UK) Ltd and H3G (UK) Ltd), to make a formal full planning application for the proposed installation of telecommunications apparatus at the above location. This location has been identified as being necessary for MBNL's business development and meets its specific technical and operational requirements. The identification of this location for development follows pre-application discussions with your Department and we now make a formal application to you as planning authority.

Please find enclosed the associated application package comprising:

- Completed planning application form
- Planning Drawing Refs: 002B, 100B, 150B 215B and 265B with the proposed site outlined in red;
- Supplementary Information, incorporating Supporting Statement;
- ICNIRP Certificate.
- General supporting information regarding operation of networks.
- A sum of £462 in respect of the planning application fee.

If appropriate, we would be keen to arrange a presentation or meeting with your officers and members to discuss this proposal and we would be happy to provide any additional information that is required to assist in the determination of this application. We look forward to receiving your acknowledgement that this application has been registered.

Yours faithfully



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For and on behalf of MBNL (EE (UK) Ltd and H3G (UK) Ltd).

Supplementary Information

1. Site Details

Site Name	Burton Road Overseal	Site Address	Land of Burton Road, Overseal, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 6JL
NGR	E 429168 N 316243		
Site Ref Number	SDE034 12195	Site Type	Greenfield Upgrade

2. Pre-Application Check list

Site selection

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 – upgrade of existing communications site		
Was the industry site database checked for suitable sites by the operator?	Yes	No
if no explain why N/A – upgrade of existing communications site		

Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Date of written offer of pre-application consultation	09/09/2019	
Was there pre-application contact		No
Date of pre-application contact	N/A	
Name of contact	N/A	
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised		
To date we have not received any comments in response to our consultation enquiry.		

Ten Commitments Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model	Red	Amber	Green
Outline Consultation carried out: This proposal was given a Green Traffic Light Rating in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Network Development in England. On that basis, consultation was only undertaken with the local planning authority.			
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised n/a			

School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college (include name of school/college): There are no schools in the immediate vicinity of the existing telecommunications site.
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college: N/A
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised N/A

3.0 Proposed Development

The proposed site

The proposed site at the land off Burton Road, Overseal, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 6JL accommodates an existing ground based communications installation. The proposed development is to upgrade this existing ground based installation to provide 5G coverage to the surrounding area.

The existing equipment is installed within a fenced compound with equipment installed both on the 15m high lattice tower and on the ground, within the existing equipment cabin, south of Swadlincote in the suburban area of Overseal. The surrounding area, of the proposal, comprises of residential housing, agricultural land and a wooded area with saplings. The proposal involves utilising the existing ground based compound area, where the existing equipment is currently installed, as shown in the following photograph:



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

Description:

Removal 1no. existing 15m high lattice tower and 3no. existing antennas, install 1no. 25m high monopole tower with 6no. antenna apertures and 2no. new 600mm transmission dishes, relocate 2no. existing 600mm transmission dishes to new monopole tower, works within the existing equipment cabin and associated ancillary works within the existing compound.

Overall Height:

Height of existing building (where applicable)

N/A

Equipment Housing Existing cabin – equipment internal.	
Materials (as applicable)	
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour	The proposed monopole tower would be constructed from galvanised steel which will naturally dull down to a dark grey colour over time.
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour	Existing cabin – equipment internal.

Reasons for Choice of Design:
The design of the proposed upgrade is influenced by the existing communications base station in situ. The base of proposed antennas needs a height of 20.6m AGL to gain clear visibility over surrounding buildings, topography and other clutter. The lowest possible antenna height is being progressed to meet the new technology coverage demands in the surrounding area and fit into the surrounding network of sites. Any decrease in antenna height would result in a reduction in the coverage footprint in the surrounding area which may result in the need for another new base station in the area to fill the coverage gap. The height and amount of equipment proposed helps to prevent the proliferation of communications sites in the area; thereby minimising impact on the character and appearance of the area. The number of antennas and amount of ancillary equipment proposed is the minimum requirement to provide high quality 5G coverage to the surrounding area. The new antennas are greater in scale and number than the existing due to the higher technical capability of the equipment. In light of the above, it is considered that the design of the mast itself and the ancillary development associated with it, will have a minimal impact on the character and visual amenity of the area. The proposal will help to achieve the Government's aim to provide high quality and reliable communications infrastructure and support the expansion of 5G electronic communications networks.

4.0 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, EE (UK) Ltd and H3G (UK) Limited 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 EE (UK) Ltd and H3G (UK) Limited'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	Yes	No
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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.		
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Frequency	GSM 1865.5-1846.5 MHz
Modulation characteristics ¹	GMSK & QPSK
Power output (expressed in EIRP in dBW per carrier)	56 dBm
Height of antenna (m above ground level) base	20.6m

5.0 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

The proposed upgrade at this established communications site is necessary to provide the surrounding area with the latest 5G technology. The growth of digital connectivity over the last few decades has transformed all aspects of life in the UK and provided the opportunity to work differently, to socialise and interact differently, to bring the world closer and to offer new commercial opportunities. The next generation of 5G coverage offers download speeds far in excess of what has been achieved to date, which results in a vast array of advantages and opportunities. Some of the examples that will emerge from 5G coverage includes, connected and autonomous vehicles; smart traffic management; smart manufacturing; autonomous machines; advanced medical devices; automated agriculture; and greater security provision.

5G operates across multiple spectrums and therefore requires additional antennas and new equipment cabinets to be added to existing base stations to provide the benefits of 5G coverage to the surrounding area.

¹ The modulation method employed in GSM is GMSK (Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying) which is a form of Phase Modulation. The modulation method employed in UMTS is QPSK (Quad Phase Shift Keying) which is another form of Phase Modulation.

6.0

Site Selection Process and Planning Assessment

Site Selection Process:

In accordance with Section 10 of NPPF 'Supporting High Quality Communications', paragraph 113 confirms that the number of radio and electronic communications sites should be kept to a minimum consistent with the needs of consumers, efficient operation of the network and providing capacity for future expansion and that the;

"Use of existing masts, buildings and other structures for new electronic communications capability (including wireless) should be encouraged."

In accordance with Government Planning Policy, the proposal subject of this planning application involves upgrading and existing and established communications site, thereby assisting in keeping the number of communications sites to a minimum. On that basis, no alternative site options were considered before progressing with this upgrade proposal.

Planning Policy and Assessment:

National Planning Policy Framework – Supporting High Quality Communications – Feb 2019

Section 10 of the NPPF published in February 2019 provides very strong support for the provision of high quality communications as follows:

Paragraph 112 states:

"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 113 continues:

"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."

Paragraph 116 confirms 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."

UK Digital Strategy 2017

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport published the UK Digital Strategy in 2017 which includes many aspects that are relevant to this application. One of the main strands of the Digital Strategy is to build world-class digital infrastructure for the UK:

"For businesses to thrive and grow, government needs to create the conditions and set the framework for investment in widespread and up-to-date infrastructure. Digital infrastructure is a critical component of this: digital connectivity is now a utility, and modern life is increasingly impossible without it. Connectivity drives productivity and innovation, and is the physical underpinning of a digital nation."

It confirms the Government's strategy in relation to 5G Technology as follows:

"5G is the next generation of mobile connectivity, and is currently in development. It is expected to represent a significant upgrade: providing ultrafast, low latency, and more reliable mobile connectivity, able to handle our ever-increasing data requirements. This should present huge opportunities to boost productivity and grow the economy. In addition to giving consumers and business users high quality

connectivity, it will also support the development of the Internet of Things: the rapidly-increasing number of connected devices, from connected cars to digital health applications. We want the UK to take a leading role in the development and roll-out of 5G. If the UK is going to be at the forefront of the 5G revolution it will require concerted action from government, industry, academia and local areas both to develop the technology and deploy the networks to support it.”

Development Plan

Policy INF11 Telecommunications of the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2 (Adopted 02 November 2017) is considered relevant to this application and states:

“Proposals for telecommunications development will be permitted provided it has been demonstrated with the necessary evidence that:

- apparatus is located so as to complete or improve coverage; and*
- where a new mast is proposed, there is no opportunity for sharing an existing mast, building or structure; and*
- apparatus is located and designed so as to minimise visual intrusion on the landscape or townscape, through sympathetic siting, design, materials, colour and, where appropriate, camouflage; and*
- it is not located in, nor will have an unacceptable impact on, any designated heritage asset, Site of Special Scientific Interest or local nature reserve unless it can be demonstrated that no technically acceptable alternative site is available and that the need for the development outweighs the degree of harm caused; and*
- where feasible, all cables and pipelines are placed underground, having regard to any archaeological or ecological constraints.”*

Planning Assessment

It should be recognised that irrespective of the installation’s use as a communications base station, changes to a tall structure within any environment will always be, to some degree, a noticeable addition to when viewed from the surrounding area. However, it should be appreciated that the visibility of a development does not automatically result in an overwhelming adverse harm occurring.

The fundamental principle applied by the applicant is always to minimise the contrast between the communications equipment and its surroundings through, where practicable, appropriate siting and design. The siting of the existing communications base station is already established, and the proposed upgrade of equipment is the most effective way to deliver the Government’s aim for the UK to be at the forefront of the 5G revolution. The upgrading of an existing communications base station also accords with Government policy to keep the number of separate base stations to a minimum.

The technical limitations and operational requirements of the equipment also need to be borne in mind when assessing the application and the case should concentrate on whether the minor impact associated with the proposed upgrade outweigh the benefits that the 5G network will bring to the UK population and economy.

The proposed development complies with Policy INF11 Telecommunications of the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2 as follows:

- The proposal is an upgrade of an existing and established ground based communications installation.
- The design uses the existing compound for the proposed mast, thereby minimising the visual impact on the surrounding area as the current communications installation is present at this location.
- The operators support site sharing wherever viable. If operators are able to share sites, as in this case, it reduces the overall visual impact of network infrastructure, because even though shared sites tend to be slightly bigger, it means that fewer sites are needed to improve coverage and capacity, infrastructure becomes more feasible, and is more cost-effective to deploy.
- The increased height of the proposed support structure is required to ensure that the new 5G equipment is in full compliance with ICNIRP guidelines. An ICNIRP certificate confirming compliance with the guidelines accompanies this application.

- While the proposed installation may be a more viable addition to the area, its associated technical requirements of 5G need to be balanced against the visual impact.

As discussed previously, the justification for the proposal's height is that the antennas need to clear the surrounding obstacles in order to function and project the necessary signal across the target area. The design of the upgrade to accommodate 5G equipment is influenced by the existing and established base station in situ. While the upgraded equipment will be visible from the surrounding area, it is not considered to have an unacceptable impact on the character or visual amenity of the setting, especially when balanced against other material planning considerations.

In conclusion, the proposed upgrade of the existing communications base station at this site will provide the latest 5G technology to people and businesses in the surrounding area and will form part of EE and Three's wider 5G network of sites. It will deliver the Government's objective to provide people and businesses with access to the latest high-quality communications services, resulting in improvements to the economy and productivity across the UK. The proposed upgrade to the existing communications site is in accordance with both Central Government Policy and Local Planning Policy and, taking into account the technical constraints of the equipment, the siting and design of the equipment clearly represents the optimum environmental solution.

Contact Details:

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Signed:	<i>Mono Consultants Limited</i>	Date:	11 October 2019

(For and on behalf of MBNL (EE (UK) Ltd and H3G (UK) Ltd))