

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### 1. Site Details

Site Name:	Telecommunications Mast	Site Address:	Shields Road Cleadow Tyne & Wear NE34 8AJ
National Grid Reference:	437812E, 563115N		
Site Ref Number:	117083/47382	Site Type: <sup>1</sup>	MACRO

#### 1.1 Background

Telefónica UK Limited has entered into an agreement with Vodafone Limited pursuant to which the two companies plan to jointly operate and manage a single network grid across the UK. These arrangements will be overseen by Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (CTIL) which is a joint venture company owned by Telefónica UK Limited and Vodafone Limited.

This agreement allows both organisations to:

- pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two, independent, nationwide networks
- maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

The proposal is to swap out the existing 17.5m high monopole for a new 17.5m monopole and headframe supporting 6no. antennas and 3no. 300mm dishes on the existing base. The installation of 12no. new remote radio units and relocation of the 3no. existing remote radio units onto the new headframe with associated ancillary development

The new stronger pole is required as the existing pole does not have the structural capacity to support the proposed antennas and equipment. The new pole is of a similar size to the existing pole so that the outward appearance of the site will be unaffected and the change will not be discernable when viewed from distance.

This is an existing telecoms site and the proposed amendment will have minimal impact on the appearance of the site and the area. By utilising the existing site, Telefonica are providing improved speed and capacity to the locality with minimum impact on the character of the surrounding area.

This upgrade at this existing site is required to improve both the speed and the capacity of the network. The proposal will allow Telefonica to enhance the 2G / 3G & 4G speed and capacity, to the surrounding area.

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<sup>1</sup> Macro or Micro

## 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?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Were industry site databases checked for suitable sites by the operator:	<b>Yes</b>	No
Both the Mastdata database and OLO.com were reviewed and checked		

### Site Specific Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Was there pre-application contact:	Yes
Date of pre-application contact:	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Name of contact:	
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised: A Pre-Application consultation email was issued to the planning authority on the 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 in relation to the proposed upgrade of this existing site. At time of submission, no response has been received	

### Community Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:	Red	Amber	<b>Green</b>
Outline of consultation carried out: Pre-Application consultation emails were issued to the Ward Councillors (Cllr Susan Traynor, Cllr Alex Donaldson & Cllr James Foreman) on the 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2018			
Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of relevant correspondence):  At the time of submission, no responses have been received.			

### School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college: No schools in near vicinity. No consultation undertaken. Established site with pole swap out
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college: N/A
Summary of outcome/main issues raised:

N/A

**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	<b>No</b>
Has the Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator been notified?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details of response: Not Applicable		

**Developer's Notice**

Copy of Developer's Notice enclosed?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Date served:	Notice No.1 Form issued 08/10/18	

### 3. Proposed Development

The proposed site:
The application proposal relates to the upgrade of the existing telecommunications base station located at Telecommunications Mast, Shields Road, Cleadon, Tyne & Wear, NE34 8AJ (NGR: 437812E, 563115N)

Type of Structure: Greenfield Monopole	
Description:	
The proposal is to swap out the existing 17.5m high monopole for a new 17.5m monopole and headframe supporting 6no. antennas and 3no. 300mm dishes on the existing base. The installation of 12no. new remote radio units and relocation of the 3no. existing remote radio units onto the new headframe with associated ancillary development	
Overall Height:	17.50m (to top)
Height of existing building ( <i>where applicable</i> ):	N/A
Equipment Housing: N/A – As existing	
Length:	
Width:	
Height:	
Length:	
Width:	
Height:	
Length:	
Width:	
Height:	
Materials ( <i>as applicable</i> ):	
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:	The existing monopole is made of galvanised steel and is grey in colour. The proposed monopole is made of galvanised steel and is grey in colour
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:	No change – as existing

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

The proposed upgrade at this installation is required as a direct result of the need to enhance and improve 2G / 3G and 4G speed and capacity to the area.

The smallest components and the minimum quantity of equipment have been proposed in order to achieve the technical requirement as well as minimise impact. As a result we have been able to reduce the number of antennas required to 6

The height of the antennas is required to ensure a signal can be propagated by the antennas over the surrounding clutter and the topography of the land within the area. This is the minimum height which will allow the effective operation of the network.

The installation will be fibre and dish fed which will enable the installation to link into the national network. The Cabin will contain the technical equipment in relation to the site.

Every effort has been made to minimise the visual impact of the proposed installation. The equipment has been designed specifically for this location and incorporates a number of elements to minimise impact, including:

- 1) This upgrade relates to an established existing site rather than a new additional site in order to avoid unsightly duplication and a reduction in the proliferation of masts. It is also located within a rural area
- 2) Utilising the existing pole rather than a new installation to keep impact to a minimum.
- 3) The height of the proposed antennas has been retained at the existing height to ensure that the desired coverage is achieved whilst ensuring that the installation does not dominate the skyline.
- 4) Keeping the overall impact of the other equipment to a minimum by using the existing Cabin within the compound .

It is considered the proposed equipment is appropriately located. It has been possible to devise a scheme which has a minimal additional visual impact to enhance 2G/3G & 4G speed and capacity to the area

It is further considered the design results in a less intrusive facility and the proposal strikes an appropriate balance between operational and environmental considerations.

Technical Information

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<p>International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Declaration attached (see below)*</p> <p>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.</p> <p>When determining compliance the emissions from all mobile phone network operators on or near to the site are taken into account.</p> <p>In order to minimise interference within its own network and with other radio networks, Telefonica 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</p> <p>As part of Telefonica UK Ltd’s network, the radio base station that is the subject of this application will be configured to operate in this way.</p> <p>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.</p>		

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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4. Technical Justification

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

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.

This upgrade is required as the existing sites within the area are unable to provide the required level of 4G coverage. The proposal will allow Telefonica to enhance 2G / 3G coverage and capacity , whilst also improving 4G coverage to the surrounding area.

4G (sometimes called LTE (Long Term Evolution)) is the next major enhancement to mobile radio communications networks and will allow customers to use ultra-fast speeds when browsing the internet, streaming videos or sending emails. It also enables faster downloads. To meet this demand and improve the quality of service, additional base stations or upgrades to the equipment at an existing base station may be needed.

Further detail regarding the general operation of the network can be found in the accompanying document entitled 'General Background Information for Telecommunications Development'. This information is provided to assist the local

planning authority in understanding any technical constraints on the location of the proposed development.

No plots have been included with the application as this is upgrade is to provide improved speed and capacity to the networks existing coverage rather than to provide additional coverage.

The new site will substantially enhance both the speed and the capacity of the 2G / 3G & 4G networks in the area which will improve the call quality as well as reducing the incidence of dropped calls for 2G and the ability to transfer data for 3G/4G



## 5. Site Selection Process

Alternative sites considered and not chosen.

Site	Site Name and address	National Grid Reference	Reason for not choosing

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

This is an upgrade of an existing established site within the South Shields area which is required to improve both network speed and capacity. The main benefit this proposal brings is that as an existing Telefonica site that is located in a rural location, upgrading at this location should have relatively little, if any environmental impact and would be less visually intrusive than a new installation might be.

Land use planning designations

The proposed location is not subject to any land designations

Additional relevant information (planning policy and material considerations):

### **PLANNING POLICY**

#### **National Planning Policy Guidance**

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. The main thrust of the guidance is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. In general terms in respect of telecommunications the guidance aims to promote sustainable transport (including the need to travel), build a strong and competitive economy, and seeks to secure high quality design.

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. Policies should set out how high quality digital infrastructure, providing access to services from a range of providers, is expected to be delivered and upgraded over time; and should prioritise full fibre connections to existing and new developments (as these connections will, in almost all cases, provide the optimum solution). (paragraph 110)

In more general terms the NPPF confirms that proposals that accord with the provisions of the development plan should be approved without delay

In addition, a set of core planning principles are set out at paragraph 81. These principles set out (in part where relevant to this proposal) that the planning system should:

- a) set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration;
- b) set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period;
- c) seek to address potential barriers to investment, such as inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment; and
- d) be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan, allow for new and flexible working practices (such as live-work accommodation), and to enable a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances.

Significant weight is given to the need to support economic growth through the planning system and the reduction in the need to travel.

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. (para 116)

It is considered the proposed development complies with the broad aims of the NPPF. It assists in the aim to keep the number of installations to a minimum, with two operators achieving coverage for multiple networks from a single site. The equipment has been sympathetically designed with the height kept to a minimum and it would enhance the provision of local community facilities and services.

### **Development Plan Policy**

Section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 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;

Policies DM1 & ED9 – Telecommunications of the South Tyneside Local Development Framework have been saved. However, whilst these are saved policies, the NPPF provides clear guidance on the emphasis in favour of encouraging development.

It is considered the proposal complies with planning policy for the following reasons:

a) It is self-evident that Telefonica UK Ltd and CTIL would not submit this application unless there was an operational need to upgrade this existing base station. This upgrade proposes a scheme which would provide materially enhanced 2G / 3G & 4G speed & capacity to the surrounding area.

b) It is considered that the use and upgrade of this existing greenfield site is preferable to an alternative new site

c) This existing site is currently being utilised by both Telefonica & Vodafone as part of their network sharing agreement.

d) The proposed upgrade is entirely appropriate for this existing site. It is considered that the upgrade of this established site within a rural area responds positively to the local environment and will not have an adverse impact on the surrounding area. The design is of a high standard to ensure that the visual and environmental character of the area is maintained.

It is clear that the proposed development complies with the policy to the extent that it is applicable.

### **Other Material Considerations**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the former Prime Minister David Cameron stated within Prime Minister's Question time: *'ten years ago, we were all rather guilty of leading campaigns against masts and all the rest of it. Our constituents now want internet and phone coverage. We need to make sure that we change the law in all ways necessary, that the wayleaves are granted, that the masts are built, that we increase the coverage and that everyone is connected to the information superhighway'*

This is further substantiated in the most recent budget announcement of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016, which commits to provisions for *"greater freedoms and flexibilities for the deployment of mobile infrastructure"*.

The proposed electronic communications base station forms a part of this greater drive to address the deficit in these essential electronic communications services.

## CONCLUSION

There is a requirement for Telefonica to improve speed & coverage to this area. This has resulted in a requirement to provide significantly enhanced 2G/3G/4G coverage & capacity and improve the network speed in this locality. Network planners have identified a need for an upgrade at this installation and the proposed development will address this identified need in line with their licence requirement and customer demands. The failure to progress the new site will result in a loss of coverage to the locality.


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 application demonstrates the technical need for the installation to provide improved customer service.

In terms of design, scale and layout, it is considered that the proposal responds positively to the local environment and will not have an adverse impact on the surrounding area. The design is of a high standard to ensure that the visual and environmental character of the area is maintained.

The telecommunications infrastructure proposed in this application has been designed and sited by having regard to technical, engineering and land use planning considerations, in order to minimise its impact on the surrounding area. The proposal represents an appropriate siting and design solution for this locality, balancing environmental and planning considerations.

## Confirmation that submitted drawings have been checked for accuracy

### Contact Details

Name: (Agent)	Matt Silverwood	Telephone:	07867 977748
Operator:	CTIL & Telefonica UK Ltd		
Address:	c/o Agent	Email Address:	
Signed:		Date:	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2018
Position:	Associate Director	Company:	Sinclair Dalby Ltd
		(on behalf of CTIL and above operator)	