

Our ref: CTIL\_300718

19/07/2021

Loppington Parish Council  
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Clarke Telecom Ltd  
Unit E  
Madison Place  
Northampton Road  
Manchester  
M40 5AG

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL\_300761 GRASS VERGE IN LOPPINGTON, SHREWSURY, SY4 5SE, NGR E: 346690 N: 329355**

Cornerstone is the UK's leading mobile infrastructure services company. We acquire, manage, and own over 20,000 sites and are committed to enabling best in class mobile connectivity for over half of all the country's mobile customers. We oversee works on behalf of telecommunications providers and wherever possible aim to:

- promote shared infrastructure
- maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

As part of the Smart Meter rollout, there is a requirement for a new radio base station in this location to provide connectivity to the Loppington area.

Smart Meter is an electronic device that records consumption of electronic energy and communicates the information to the electricity supplier for monitoring and billing. Smart Meters typically record energy hourly or more frequently, and report at least daily.

There is a legal obligation for all energy companies to complete their Smart Meter 'roll out'. This means that energy suppliers need to take reasonable steps to offer Smart Meter installation to their customers by the deadline. Customers are entitled to refuse going forward with the installation if they wish to.


In some areas of the country, these Smart Meters contain a sim card which connects to the Telefonica Network to enable them to operate. However, due to the poor connectivity in some rural areas, Smart Meters cannot be rolled out without first installing the infrastructure necessary to connect the Smart Meters back into the network and relay their data.

New installations are required to be installed to cover these rural 'not spots', enabling the energy suppliers to take reasonable steps to offer Smart Meter installation to their rural based customers, in line with their legal obligations.

**In the first instance, all correspondence should be directed to the agent.**

Cornerstone Planning Consultation Letter to Councillors - Standard V.3 – 15/04/2021

Registered Address:  
Cornerstone Telecommunications, Infrastructure Limited,  
Hive 2, 1530 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA.  
Registered in England & Wales No. 08087551.  
VAT No. GB142 8555 06

 Cornerstone, Hive 2,  
1530 Arlington Business Park,  
Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA

The infrastructure needed to enable the Smart Meter to operate is also the same as that needed for 2G, 3G and 4G service provision for Telefonica UK Limited. Some of these rural areas are not currently serviced by Telefonica as it was not commercially viable to provide connectivity to such a low populated area. Loppington is one such location. However, the Smart Meter roll-out has meant that there is now a viable opportunity to finally fill these rural holes in service provision bringing them in to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century technological age.

Cornerstone are in the process of identifying a suitable site in the Loppington area for a radio base station that will provide a smart metering service. A by-product of providing smart metering is the improvement of the coverage and capacity for *Telefonica UK Limited in the area for Loppington*. The purpose of this letter is to consult with you and seek your views on our proposal before any planning submission is made. We understand that you are not always able to provide site specific comments, however, Cornerstone are committed to consultation with communities on their mobile telecommunications proposals and as such would encourage you to respond.

As part of Telefonica's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a new installation at this location to provide Smart Metering capabilities as well as new 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity, ensuring that the Shrewsbury area has access to the latest technologies.

Smart meters can only operate where there is connectivity into the network. Mobile phones 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.

Please find below the details of the proposed site and the alternative site options considered and discounted in our site selection process: -

Our technical network requirement is as follows:

### **CTIL\_300718, TELEFONICA UK LIMITED, GRASS VERGE IN LOPPINGTON**

The site is fundamentally needed to enable the rollout of Smart Meters in this rural area of Loppington and the surrounding area. It will also provide the opportunity to provide much needed 2G, 3G and 4G service provision where currently there is little to no coverage for large swathes of this rural area. This will ensure that the energy suppliers can fulfil their legal Smart Meter obligations and that Telefonica's customers can finally have access to the latest service provision currently available. The installation will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as new technologies improve increasing the demand for 4G technology.

A number of options have been assessed in respect of the site search process and the preferred (Telefonica) option is as follows:


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The proposed works comprise the installation of a 20m slim-line monopole supporting 3 no. antennas, 1 no. equipment cabinet, 1 no. meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto including 1 no. GPS module.

The operators have carefully considered the design of the proposed column. The operators are proposing the most sensitive design currently available to them which will provide Smart Meter connectivity as well as the necessary 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity to the surrounding area. The 3 antennas need to be installed at the top of the monopole. However, they have been designed to be as tight as possible and virtually the same width as the main column, to minimise their visual appearance.

The column height of 20m is essential in order to reach the target coverage area. If the column were to be any lower in height it would not be able to reach the target coverage area and an additional installation would still be required. This would lead to the proliferation of masts, contrary to national planning guidance.

The new antennas are all unshrouded for technical reasons. The higher the radio frequency the more signal attenuation there is. The higher frequency latest 4G antennas are unable to operate effectively through the Glass Reinforced Plastic that the shroud is made up of and as such if these antennas were to be shielded then they would not be able to provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area. An additional installation would be needed elsewhere within the cell area, leading to the proliferation of masts.

This is the slimmest design possible which will enable all technologies to be supported from this site. If the column and antenna headframe width were to be any slimmer then the technology would not fit in the one column and another radio base station would be required, which would lead to the proliferation of masts contrary to national Government guidance set out in the NPPF and The Code of Best Practice. Similarly if the column were to be a uniform width throughout then the overall width would have to increase which would appear more visually prominent in the streetscene, than the proposed design.

The proposed design is more visually sensitive and much easier to assimilate into a streetscene than lattice towers or unshrouded pole designs with bulky headframes. These non-stealth designs are preferred by operators as they are structurally capable of hosting more equipment and give greater scope for antenna orientation and are thus more efficient structures. However, such designs would appear alien in this location. Therefore the operator has compromised on obtaining maximum coverage in order to better assimilate in to its surroundings.


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 commonly found equipment cabinets. 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.

Alternative site options considered and rejected are as follows:

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- **Greenfield – Loppington Village Hall, Loppington, Shropshire, SY4 5SG, NGR E: 347120 N: 329467**

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. The pitched roof of the village hall would not be able to structurally support an installation either. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Rooftop – Dickin Arms, Nonely Road, Loppington, Shropshire, SY4 5SG, NGR E: 347072 N: 329348**

The rooftop is too low in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target coverage area. The overhead wires would be a health and safety issue and a site would be too problematic. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Greenfield – Dickin Arms, Nonely Road, Loppington, Shropshire, SY4 5SG, NGR E: 347072 N: 329348**

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.

- **Greenfield– Scholars Lane, off B4397, Loppington, Shropshire, SY4 5ST, NGR E: 346970 N: 329198**

The verge at this location is too narrow to accommodate the operator's equipment. As such, it would lead to highway safety issues. A site in this location has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Rooftop – St Michael and All Angels Church, Nonely Road, Loppington, Shropshire SY4 5SQ, NGR E: 347170 N: 329275**

This is a Grade 1 Listed Building therefore development on this heritage asset should be avoided and other locations are considered to be more appropriate. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Existing Structure – Pole Topper BT Pole, Loppington, Shropshire, SY4 5ST, NGR E: 347044 N: 329345**

It is not possible to utilise this existing structure in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target area due to technical and legal reasons. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Greenfield – Loppington Garage, Loppington, Shropshire, SY4 5ST, NGR E: 346890 N: 329161**

An installation at this location is located too far to the West to deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

The Local Planning Authority must register and our records of other potential sites have already been reviewed, the policies in the Development Plan have been taken into account and the planning history of the site has been examined.

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All Cornerstone 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.

In order to give you time to send your comments or request further information, we commit to allow at least 14 days before an application is submitted to the Local Planning Authority. This 14-day period starts from the date at the top of this letter.

We would also be grateful if you could please advise of any local stakeholders or groups that might like to make comments. For your information pre-consultation letters and a set of plans have been sent to the, local ward councillor for The Meres Cllr B Williams, and local MP Owen Paterson.

We look forward to receiving any comments you may have on the proposal.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me (quoting cell number [CTIL\_300718])

Yours faithfully

*joshua fiteni*


Joshua Fiteni  
Graduate Town Planner  
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(for and on behalf of Cornerstone)

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