

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. Site Details

Site Name:	British Rail	Site Address:	Plymouth Street Vanguard Yard Merthyr Tydfil Mid Glamorgan Wales CF47 0AZ
National Grid Reference:	E: 305086 N: 205796		
Site Ref Number:	Cornerstone 12275921	Site Type: ¹	Macro

2. The Proposal

Brief summary of the proposal:

The existing monopole can be seen below in Figures 1 – 3, and is located behind Farmfoods car Park to the South East of Merthyr Tydfil train station. The nearest residential properties are located on the North side of the railway line therefore do not directly overlook the site.

The current monopole installation is being replaced with a taller monopole installation of similar design to facilitate significantly improved connectivity. The proposal is to remove the existing 12m high monopole and replace it with a 15m high monopole and proposed antennas.

3. Pre-Application Check List

Site selection:

After a phone call to the LPA it was felt that the industry database was a more up to date source of information than the LPA mast register.

Was the industry site database checked for suitable sites by the operator?

Yes

¹ Macro or Micro

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Registered Address:

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If no explain why: N/A		
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Annual area wide information to planning authority

Can the annual area wide information be provided on request?		No
If no explain why: Summary issues raised: “Cornerstones commercial relationship with Vodafone has changed, effectively increasing our independence to work with other companies in the deployment of mobile infrastructure. It means we no longer have visibility of Vodafone full update plan. However, Cornerstone is fully committed to working closely with Local Planning Authorities and following best practice guidance. We aim to engage and work with the planning department at the earliest opportunity from when we are instructed to deliver new infrastructure within your Local Authority area and often conduct strategic pre-rollout engagement meetings to discuss our wider rollout. If your Local Authority would like a meeting to discuss wider Cornerstone rollout plans then please advise. We recognise the importance of developing long term partnerships and will always work with you to deliver improved mobile connectivity		

Pre-application consultation with planning authority

Was there pre-application contact:	Yes
Date of pre-application contact:	24/01/2023
Name of contact:	The Director of Planning

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Summary of outcome/Main issues raised:

Prior to the submission of this application the applicant-initiated pre-consultation discussions with the local planning authority. This provides an opportunity for the LPA to discuss development proposals and identify site specific issues.

Strategic level pre-rollout meetings are held with the LPA to discuss the necessities of the project, benefits and best practice going forward.

Stakeholder Consultation

Outline consultation carried out:

Prior to the submission of this application the applicant initiate pre-consultation discussions with the local planning authority. This provides an opportunity for the LPA to discuss development proposals and identify site specific issues.

No comments were received in respect to the consultation submitted at the time of submission.

Further consultation with the local Ward Councillors for Town Ward (Councillors Julia Jenkins, John Thomas, Andrew Barry and David Jones) and Gerald Jones MP.

Summary of outcome and main issues raised:

No site-specific responses had been received at the time of submission

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Schools/Colleges

Location of site in relation to school/college: Caedraw Primary School, The Military Preparation College and Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School are in relatively close proximity to the site.
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college: Caedraw Primary School, The Military Preparation College and Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School Has been notified prior to submission.
Summary of outcome/main issues raised: There has been no response from Caedraw Primary School, The Military Preparation College or Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School at the time of submission.

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

Will the structure be within 3km of an aerodrome or airfield?	Yes	
Has the Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator been notified?	Yes	
Details of response: There has been no response at the time of submission.		

Site Provider Letter

Copy of Site Provider Letter enclosed?	Yes	
Date served:	10/02/2023	

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4. Pre-Application Check List

Type of Structure:	
Description: Proposed removal and replacement of the existing 12m High Phase 1 Monopole with proposed 15m High Phase 4.5 Monopole on a proposed concrete base. Proposed installation of 3No. Antennas, 1No. Meter Cabinet, 1No. Cabinet and associated ancillary works. Existing 1No. 300Ø Dish to be relocated and existing 2No. Cabinets to be relocated and refreshed.	
Overall Height: +17.94mAGL	
Height of existing building (where applicable):	N/A
Equipment Housing:	
Depth:	Derby cabinet 990mm
Width:	Derby cabinet 600mm
Height:	Derby cabinet 1720mm
Materials (as applicable):	
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:	Galvanised
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:	Grey

Application Background:
WHP have done a planning history check on the LPA web site and there is no telecoms information.

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Design Statement

The existing monopole can be seen below in Figures 1 – 3, and is located behind Farmfoods Car Park to the South East of Merthyr Tydfil railway station. The nearest residential properties are located on the North side of the railway line therefore do not directly overlook the site.

The current monopole installation is being replaced with a taller monopole installation of similar design to facilitate significantly improved connectivity. The proposal is to remove the existing 12m high monopole and replace it with a 15m high monopole and proposed antennas.

There are no other suitable alternative options other than to upgrade the existing installation. Discounted options were put forward and assessed at the original planning application stage and this was deemed to be the most appropriate location. Given the height that is required for this upgrade there is a lack of available suitable rooftops in the immediate area to house telecoms equipment.

The proposed monopole design has been selected to minimise visual impact by integrating with the existing streetworks furniture, having similar vertical lines and overall appearance to the street lights that are common feature in the built environment.

The immediate area is retail in nature, the local businesses in this area and residents to the North will greatly benefit from the improved wireless connectivity to the area that this upgrade will provide. Views of the site benefit from partial screening from the existing hedgerow that lines the railway line.

The presence of the existing column sets a clear precedent for telecommunications development in this location and indicates that the principle of this proposal is acceptable in terms of siting. Although it is accepted that the height of the mast and overall size of the headframe will increase, in order to ensure optimum coverage in the area, it is felt that such an increase would not detract from the character of the area in which the proposal sits.

Any other proposal to satisfy the identified requirement would result in the addition of a separate additional ground-based column in close proximity to the existing structure. In our opinion, such a proposal would, in this instance be unnecessary and result in a greater visual impact.

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Figure 1

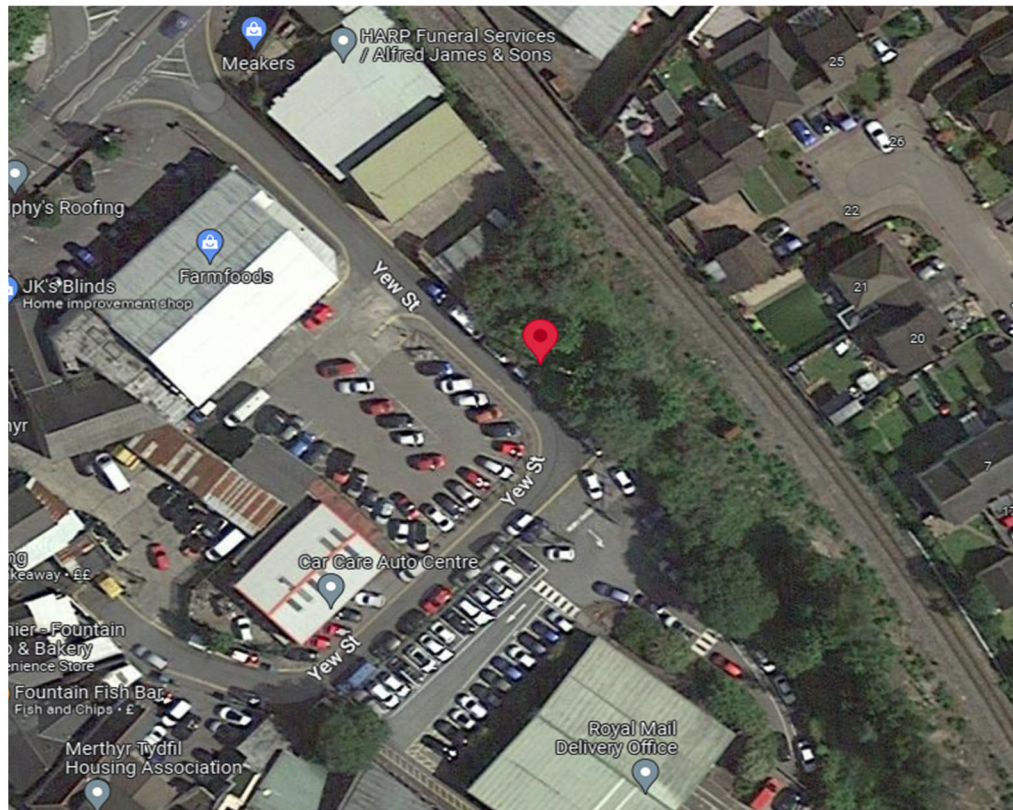


Figure 2



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Figure 3



Site Ref	12275921	Site Address:	Vanguard Yard, Yew Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 0AZ
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Local Planning Authority: Merthyr Tydfil Council

Development Plan: Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan 2016 - 2031 (2020)

Site and its surrounds (LP Map Extract – reference only)



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The site is designated as being within the settlement boundary, with urban uses to the north, east, south and west. The site designation is not a material consideration.

This is an existing telecommunications installation.

Merthyr Tydfil Council does not have a specific telecoms policy. Therefore Technical Advice Note (TAN) 19 (Telecommunications) is of relevance. The National Planning Policy section of this supporting statement goes into detailed analysis of why this site is in compliance with PAN62.

Policy Analysis:

This proposed development at the site existing seeks to consolidate all requisite elements (for site sharing) into one location, minimised to ensure the scale and mass of the design is sympathetic to its surrounds (with only limited changes to the headframe and monopole finish), thus limiting visual impact on the wider character of the area. The proposal remains suitably distant from sensitive receptors (including heritage assets to the north), yet providing capacity to ensure that it would deliver the level of service needed in this location. In this regard the proposal would accord with the Development Plan.

It is accepted the scheme would qualify as a visual change but any perceived harm (to amenity or character of the area) would be materially outweighed by the tangible benefits the development would bring in terms of enhanced digital services to residents, businesses and visitors alike.

It fully accords with the requirements of TAN19.

Reason(s) why site required:

5G's ability to deliver real-time information (low latency), ultra-fast speeds (critical for high-definition images and video), increased capacity and heightened security will also allow learning on the job, thanks to technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR) goggles, which can give engineers real-time instructions on how to fix a machine on a production line, for example. Radio planning engineers plan cellular networks using highly sophisticated computer programs that incorporate the above propagation models. Armed with data on cell site location, cell site configuration, maps, terrain etc they are used to predict areas of coverage deficiency (so called 'coverage holes'), new site requirements and configurations.

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Reason site chosen:

Outline the main reasons the site was chosen

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

A comprehensive analysis of alternative locations has been carried out and the proposed development site was found to be the most efficient and least visually intrusive solution for delivering the operators' coverage requirements.

RADIO PLANNING AND PROPAGATION

When planning cellular telecommunications networks it is important for engineers to predict, with a high degree of confidence, the behaviour of cellular transmissions. This then enables the operator to calculate how many cell sites are needed to provide the level of coverage required by the services they offer under the terms of their licence.

The strength of radio signals detected at a receiving device naturally reduces the further away it is from the transmitter. In general the reduction (or decay) in signal power is affected by a number of variables. The main factors are

- frequency,
- distance (from transmitter),
- terrain (such as hills),
- clutter (such as buildings, foliage, vehicles, and water)
- and atmospheric conditions (such as rain).

A reduction in the strength of the radio signal increases the likelihood of dropped calls and reduced data rates for internet browsing, for example.

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Clutter

Any physical object obstructing the propagation of radio signals causes a reduction in signal strength reaching a customer's device. A common term for these objects is 'clutter'. The more obvious examples are buildings and geographical terrain such as hills and trees.

Buildings cause a varying amount of signal reduction depending on their height, construction, thickness of walls, amount of windows etc. Glass causes a lower reduction in signal than brick/concrete walls.

Customers will inadvertently be aware of this by finding that sometimes they need to go near windows, a higher floor of a building or even outside in order to achieve a stronger signal for their mobile devices.

Tree Clutter

The effects of trees on signal degradation should never be underestimated. Signal absorption and shadowing effects vary according to vegetation and density, and are caused by the main tree trunk, branches and leaves.

Cell sites located in or near trees will have signals significantly reduced. As a result a number of extra sites may need to be built locally in order to counter-effect this.

Signal variation throughout the seasons is also a practical concern. Leaves on trees in the spring and summer can cause shadowing and reduce radio voice quality and increase the number of dropped calls.

As a result the bottom of an antenna should be a) above the top level of the trees, b) allow greater height due to the antenna downtilt at build or for future requirements and c) allow some room for future growth of the trees.

In the case where the cell site utilises point-to-point microwave backhaul transmission the microwave dish should not be obscured at all.

Propagation Models

In essence these are mathematical formulae used to characterise radio wave propagation, in order to determine the received signal strength at a receiving device.

The most well-known propagation model used for mobile telecommunications is 'Okamura-Hata'. More specific studies have been performed to investigate specific

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clutter and terrain such as dense-urban and urban environments. Resulting from these are propagation models for specific clutter types.

Coverage Planning Tools

Radio planning engineers plan cellular networks using highly sophisticated computer programs that incorporate the above propagation models. Armed with data on cell site location, cell site configuration, maps, terrain etc they are used to predict areas of coverage deficiency (so called 'coverage holes'), new site requirements and configurations.

Network Changes

Over time the topography and clutter in an area is subject to change. For example, building developments, housing and tree growth can all change. As a consequence the signals received from local phone masts can degrade, as they are dependent on these factors. These reasons along with customer complaints, network consolidation (mast sharing) and new technologies (4G) require a re-evaluation of a network operator's telecommunications infrastructure.

Mast sharing can result in some masts no longer being needed. As a result they are decommissioned and physically removed.

Technical surveys undertaken for reasons above may highlight that antenna height increases are required – this is more likely for sites with low antenna heights around 15m AGL, particularly street furniture sites. More details on these reasons below.

While thus far this document is generic to mobile telephony masts it should be noted that each mast has to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Site Height increases

There are a number of reasons why an operator may request a height increase on existing structures. The main ones are described below.

Maintaining existing coverage

The antennas inside, for example, street furniture sites are generally of 2 physical build designs – 'Single Stack' and 'Dual Stack'. The former describes when the set of antennas are all at the same height. The latter describes a site with 2 sets of antennas one above the other.

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The 'Dual Stack' is by far the preferred option. This is due to a number of factors including greater flexibility & control for different technologies and providing optimum service performance to customers.

Network Consolidation between Vodafone and Telefonica and new 4G technologies facilitate a Single Stack structure being upgraded to a Dual Stack structure. In a straight swap scenario at equal height the new lower aperture antennas would be lower than they were originally - resulting in significantly reduced coverage. To ensure existing coverage is maintained the whole structure needs to be increased in height.

Clutter changes

A more extreme example is when the local clutter or tree lines have changed, or are such that the mobile signals are blocked, resulting in lower quality calls and downloads for mobile device users. To provide sufficient services to customers height increases on existing masts or additional new masts are required. The former is the preferred option in many cases.

ICNIRP Compliance

The addition of new technologies and mast sharing affects ICNIRP compliance – a higher minimum mast height is required in some cases.

Planning Policy Framework/Development Plan Policy

Site Ref	12275921	Site Address:	Vanguard Yard, Yew Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 0AZ
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Local Planning Authority: Merthyr Tydfil Council

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Policy Analysis:

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

This is an upgrade to an existing site thus no other standalone new facilities have been investigated. By upgrading the current facility the most sequentially preferable option has been progressed.

² Site Type: Mast and Site Sharing, Installation on Existing Buildings and Structures, Camouflaging and disguising equipment, using small scale equipment, and Erecting a new Ground Based Mast.

Public Access Statement

This can be emailed to the LPA on request.

Construction and Maintenance Access

Access to the site for construction and maintenance is indicated on the drawings.

Health and Safety – including ICNIRP compliance

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.

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In order to minimise interference within its own network and with other radio networks, Cornerstone' 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 Cornerstone'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

Additional relevant information

Practical Applications of 5G Connectivity as Example of Material Socio-Economic Benefit:-

Education:

The relationship between 5G and education is evolving at a massive rate with educators exploring the relevance of Virtual Reality (VR) technologies for education and training. Crucially, VR can support remote learning, allowing students a presence in the classroom even when working elsewhere.

5G's ability to deliver real-time information (low latency), ultra-fast speeds (critical for high definition images and video), increased capacity and heightened security will also allow learning on the job, thanks to technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR) goggles, which can give engineers real-time instructions on how to fix a machine on a production line, for example.

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Health:

Patients across the country are now becoming accustomed to relying on remote healthcare services such as NHS 111, virtual GP appointments, and ordering online deliveries of essential medical supplies.

5G will prove critical in providing the infrastructure required to deliver remote health services over the next decade. By design, 5G's ability to deliver real-time information (low latency), ultra-fast speeds (critical for high definition images and video), increased capacity and heightened security are going to be fundamental in scaling the patient benefits of remote healthcare and keeping medical records secure and private. For instance, trials have shown that connecting ambulance crews to expert resources using 5G allows paramedics to work with doctors and conduct specialist procedures in real time whilst on the road.

Confirmation that submitted drawings have been checked for accuracy

Name: (Agent)	Susannah Help	Telephone:	
Company	WHP Telecoms		
Company Address:	1a Station Court Station Road Guiseley Leeds LS20 8EY	Email Address:	s.help@whptelecoms.com
Signed:		Date:	11 th February 2023
Position:	Planner	(on behalf of Cornerstone)	

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