

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

1. Site Details

Site Name:	ASHTON OLD ROAD STREETWORKS	Site Address:	ASHTON OLD ROAD, BESWICK, MANCHESTER, M11 2FY
National Grid Reference:	387825E, 397442N		
Site Ref Number:	MAN16636	Site Type: ¹	Macro

2. Pre-Application Check List

Site Selection (for New Sites only)

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: A physical search of the area was carried out.		
Was the industry site database checked for suitable sites by the operator?	Yes	No
If no explain why:		

Site Specific Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Was there pre-application contact:	Yes
Date of pre-application contact:	2nd June 2021
Name of contact:	The Chief Planning Officer
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised: Pre-application correspondence was forwarded to Manchester City Council by email on 2nd June 2021. To date no comments have been received.	

Community Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:	Red	Amber	Green
Outline of consultation carried out: Pre-application correspondence was forwarded by email on 2nd June 2021 to the Clayton & Openshaw Ward – Councillors Sean McHale, Donna Ludford and Thomas Frederick Robinson.			

¹ Macro or Micro

Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of relevant correspondence):

No responses have been received to date.

School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college (include name of school/college):

St Barnabas Primary Academy, Parkhouse Street and Your Nursery Ltd - St. Vincents School House, Greenside Street are within 300m.

Outline of consultation carried out with school/college (include evidence of consultation):

Pre-application correspondence was forwarded by email on 2nd June 2021 to the Primary Academy and the Nursery.

Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of main correspondence):

No responses have been received to date.

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	No
Has the Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator been notified?	Yes	No
Details of response:		
N/A		

Developer's Notice

Copy of Developer's Notice enclosed?	Yes	No
Date served:	17th June 2021	

3. Proposed Development

The proposed site:

The proposed development is required to provide new infill coverage for the H3G network (known as '3'). The site is primarily required to provide new 5G coverage and capacity to the area surrounding the site. It would also improve 4G coverage and capacity.

The proposed site is on the pavement bordering the wide grass verge on the south-west corner of the junction of Ashton Old Road and Redby Street. This location is surrounded by industrial and commercial property, with no residential property in the vicinity. This location has been chosen due to these attributes of the nature of the surrounding area and because the width of the pavement is well suited to accommodate a telecoms installation. This location would also benefit from the bushes and trees on the grass verge and the street lights, traffic lights and large advertising boards along Ashton Old Road. The proposed location is shown on the photograph below:



The nominal is centred on Ashton Old Road in the Beswick district of Manchester. The area is predominantly industrial in nature, however there is limited scope for a streetworks installation due to the width of the surrounding pavements and existing services beneath.

The proposed location has existing streetlights and trees that will help the site to blend into the streetscene at the current location. As there were no suitable locations noted closer to the nominal, due to the narrow pavements, services and narrow roads around the Business Parks presenting visibility issues, this location was then investigated as there was space for an installation, tree screening and derelict land to the rear and this was therefore considered the most suitable location.

The development involves the installation of a 20 metre high monopole. The pole would support 6 no. antennas. The three uppermost antennas provide 5G coverage, and the lower set of 3 antennas would provide 4G coverage. The pole would also support 2 no. transmission dishes below the antennas. These are required to link the site into the wider network. Ancillary equipment cabinets are proposed at ground level adjacent to the pole.

Type of Structure (e.g. tower, mast, etc):		Monopole
Description: The installation of a 20 metre high monopole supporting 6 no. antennas and 2 no. transmission dishes, 4 no. equipment cabinets and development works ancillary thereto.		
Overall Height:		20 metres
Height of existing building (where applicable):		N/A
Equipment Housing:		
Commscope AC Transmission cabinet:		0.6m x 0.5m x 1.585m
Ericsson 6130 cabinet:		0.65m x 0.7m x 0.95m
Commscope Bowler cabinet:		1.9m x 0.6m x 1.752m
Wrap around cabinet:		2.0m x 0.7m x 1.54m
Materials (as applicable):		
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:	Steel with a grey finish.	
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:	Steel with a grey finish.	

Reasons for choice of design, making reference to pre-application response:	
<p>In designing the proposed installation, the applicant has sought to achieve a balance between technical requirements and minimising environmental impact as far as was practicable. It, however, must be acknowledged that technical constraints heavily influenced the design and limited the scope to alter the appearance of the site to a significant degree.</p> <p>There are three main elements to a radio base station; the cabin or cabinets which contain the equipment used to generate the radio signals, the supporting structure that holds the antennas in the air or fixes them to a building or structure and the antennas themselves, which emit the radio signals (along with any necessary amplifier or receiver units). Other elements necessary for the base station to function are the power source (meter cabinet or generator where a REC supply cannot be utilised), feeder cables that link the equipment housing to the antennas and the various support structures, grillages and fixings, often referred to in general terms as “development ancillary to” the base station.</p> <p>In all aspects of the design now put forward the smallest practical components have been utilised to ensure that the visual impact of the development is kept to the absolute minimum. The proposed development has two main elements, the monopole which would support the antennas, and the radio equipment cabinets located at ground level adjacent to the pole.</p> <p>In terms of the height of the proposed structure, it is acknowledged it would be taller than the existing street furniture and trees. This is necessary as the site is proposed to provide 5G services and 5G uses higher frequencies which do not propagate through material and potential obstructions as well as lower frequencies, thus there is a need to ensure that the antennas clear local clutter, in particular the trees in the area.</p> <p>There are other vertical structures in the form of streetlights, road signs and advertising boards, as well as trees close to the site and in the surrounding area, which would provide a good degree of screening and/or backdrop to the proposed development. The level of screening of the equipment will depend on the specific viewpoint, however, overall, the screening would assist in minimising visual impact to an acceptable level. This screening would enable the column to assimilate into its surrounding environment, where the tall trees will ensure impact</p>	

on the amenity of the area is kept to an acceptable level given the commercial and industrial use of the area.

It is considered the proposed equipment is appropriately located. It has been possible to devise a scheme which has a minimal visual impact on the surrounding area. The design results in a less intrusive facility than other designs, therefore preserving the character and appearance of the area. It is further considered the proposal strikes an appropriate balance between operational and environmental considerations, and the impact of the development would be outweighed by the significant public benefit of the proposal.

Technical Information

	Yes	No
<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, Hutchison 3G 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 Hutchison 3G 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> <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.</p>		

4. 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

There is a requirement to upgrade the H3G network in the area to provide improved coverage and capacity, most notably in relation to 5G services, but also in relation to 4G services.

The first generation of services provided voice calls, the second generation (2G) allowed basic data such as texting and the third generation (3G) offered internet access and the development of apps. Since then the smart phone has developed further and the fourth generation has brought video and much faster data speeds allowing the integration of the smart phone into wider use.

The next generation of mobile telephony is 5G which brings greatly increasing data speeds. The advantages this presents range from near-instant downloads of HD films to connected cars, smart medical devices and smart cities. To bring this new technology H3G will need to provide a mix of upgrades to existing sites and the building of new sites. New sites will be needed for many reasons, including that the higher radio frequencies used for 5G do not travel as far as those frequencies currently in use leaving gaps in the network.

Although 5G will undoubtedly bring new opportunities and huge benefits to society, we cannot escape from the requirement that new structures, antennas and ancillary equipment will be needed. It has been acknowledged by Government that we must ensure that we have the infrastructure in place to deliver 5G across our major centres and transport networks. This is one of the many additional structures that will be needed to provide enhanced services.

The higher frequencies that 5G will use can provide more bandwidth and thus greater capacity but the signal will not travel as far as those of previous generations. The implications to the built environment will be that more infrastructure needs to be deployed, as in this case.

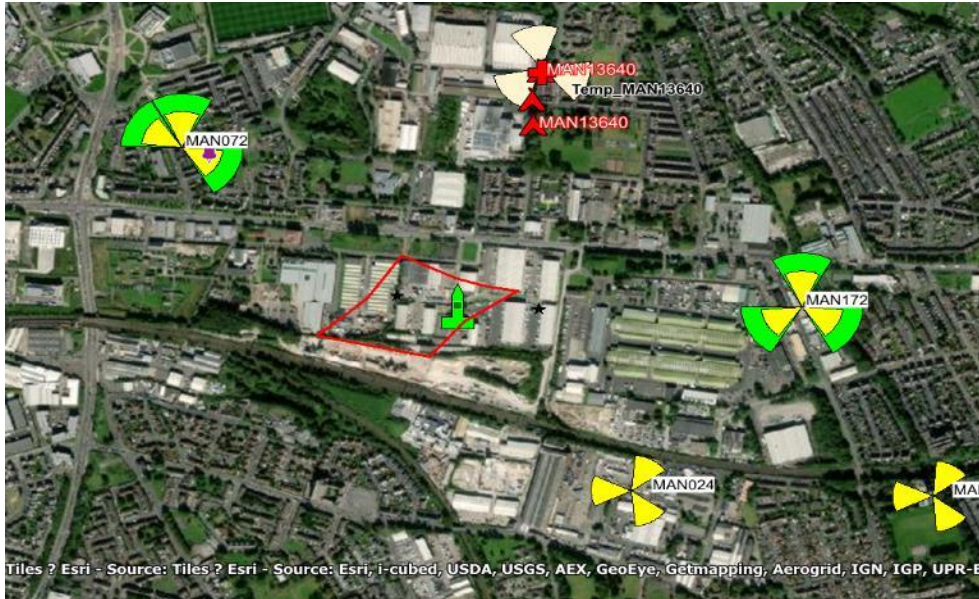
5. Site Selection Process

Alternative sites considered and not chosen (not generally required for **upgrades/alterations to existing sites** including redevelopment of an existing site to facilitate an upgrade or sharing with another operator)

Site Type	Site Name and address	National Grid Reference	Reason for not choosing site
SW	Welcomb Street, Manchester, M11 2NB	387936E, 397288N	This is the location of the nominal, however the roads are narrow, as are the pavements, which are therefore unable to accommodate a monopole and cabinets.
GF	City Works Business Park, Manchester, M11	Various	The buildings are not suitable for a rooftop installation and space within the park is at a premium. Given the low level nature of the building, a site within the Business Park would be no less prominent than the proposed option.
ETS	Existing O2 streetworks site, Whitworth St, Beswick, Manchester, M11 2NJ	387970E, 397385N	The structure does not have the technological or physical capability to be shared by a third party – the mast would need to be redeveloped to accommodate another Operator and this would result in a higher structure with an open headframe to ensure vertical and horizontal separation between the two Operators.
SW	Whitworth Street, Beswick, Manchester, M11 2NJ	387943E, 397386N	There needs to be 30m separation between the two masts and this limits the area available here. Discounted in favour of the current option.
SW	Pavement to the front of K's Cafe, Ashton Old Road, Beswick, Manchester, M11 2NA	388082E, 397440N	This location was investigated however gas services were found in the footway along the north side of the highway.
SW	Ashton Old Road/Welcomb Street, Ashton Old Road, Beswick, Manchester, M11 2NA	387881E, 397467N	There are services evident in the pavement and the grass verge – discounted in favour of the proposed option.
SW	Ashton Old Road/Welcomb Street, Ashton Old Road, Beswick, Manchester, M11 2NA	387918E, 397442N	This appeared to be a good location due to ample tree screening and commercial use of the buildings opposite, however the pavement is not of sufficient width to accommodate an installation.

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

The map below shows a basic coverage map confirming the area where a site is required – within the red polygon – and showing the locations of the adjacent sites (the “propellers”). This particular coverage requirement is based on the green peg in the centre of the map, with the red square demonstrating the extent of the search area. There is limited scope to move far from the nominated position.



The ‘cell centre’ is on Welcombe street and is marked by the green peg on the map. However, the roads, and pavements, here are too narrow to accommodate an installation. Our search was therefore widened to identify a location where it is possible to site an installation while keeping impact on visual amenity to a minimum.

As with all 5G infill development this is an extremely constrained cell search area. Moving too far from the optimum cell centre will then potentially interfere with adjoining cells. Options are limited due to the narrow pavements and the most viable solution has been proposed in this application.

Additional relevant information (planning policy and material considerations):

VISUAL IMPACT AND APPEARANCE

Visual impact has been minimised as far as practicable. New 5G coverage, and enhanced 4G coverage, to the area can be achieved with only minimal harm to the surrounding area.

The location of the equipment ensures only limited harm to the area. Whilst it would be visible it is considered this impact would be not be excessive. The minimal footprint of the site would ensure impact is kept to an acceptable level. The pole has a slim and unfussy design and would have a grey finish to match the street furniture and blend into the skyline, allowing it to assimilate successfully into its surroundings. The ancillary equipment cabinets are also proposed to be grey in colour.

Although the monopole would be taller than the trees and other street furniture in the area, the commercial and industrial nature of the area, the siting of the installation on the junction

of Ashton Old Road's junction with the closed off Redby Street and derelict grass verge to the rear and both sides all act as assets that contribute to the suitability of this location – which in addition would not have any impact on residential amenity.

It is considered that the proposal utilises the most suitable design available to meet coverage demands and to provide the required coverage to the area. It is important to keep the impact of telecommunications development in the area to a minimum and it is considered this proposal achieves this.

The benefits of the proposal also have to be considered. New 5G, and enhanced 4G coverage would be provided to the surrounding area for H3G from the development and it is considered the significant public benefit to the area outweighs the minimal impact on visual amenity.

PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework (2019) (NPPF)

The new National Planning Policy Framework came into force in July 2018 replacing the guidance published in March 2012. The guidance has subsequently been updated in February 2019. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied.

Paragraph 7 of the NPPF states "*The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development*", and in paragraph 10 that "*at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development*". In order to achieve the sustainable development objective, the NPPF has identified 3 overarching objectives (paragraph 8):

"a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;

b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy."

For **decision-taking** (paragraph 11) this means:

"c) approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay; or

d) where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, granting permission unless:

- i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed; or*
- ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole."*

Further to this, paragraph 38 states that *"Local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way. They should use the full range of planning tools available, including brownfield registers and permission in principle, and work proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area."*

The proposed development will enable the provision of enhanced mobile communications services to the surrounding area from a single monopole, providing improved services for 3G, 4G and 5G technologies, bringing about substantial public benefit both socially as well as allowing for certain businesses to expand, adapt and thrive as well as access new markets.

Government advice in recent years has been to promote and encourage communications services. Within his presentation to Parliament in July 2015 of the Government report "Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation" the Chancellor of the Exchequer reiterated the importance of a high-speed digital communication infrastructure. *"7.1 Reliable and high quality fixed and mobile broadband connections support growth in productivity, efficiency and labour force participation across the whole economy. They enable new and more efficient business processes, access to new markets and support flexible working and working from home."*

By reducing regulatory red tape and barriers to investment, the government will support the market to deliver the internationally competitive fixed and mobile digital communications infrastructure the UK's businesses need to thrive and grow, and which will enable the UK to remain at the forefront of the digital economy. The government is working with business so that the market can play the lead role in delivering against the ambitions set out in the Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy, published in March, of near-universal 4G and ultrafast broadband coverage."

The NPPF (2019) directly addresses the need for enhanced wireless communication services, first mentioned in paragraph 20, which states that an LPA's strategic policies must make sufficient provision for:

*"b) infrastructure for transport, **telecommunications** (our emphasis), security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat)"*

Leading on from this, paragraph 112 states that *"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"*.

It should be noted that paragraph 116 states 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”.

The proposal outlined within this document and the supporting enclosures, is in complete accordance with the guidance as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Development Plan Policy

Section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended 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, the current Manchester City Local Plan does have a policy held over from the Unitary Development Plan. For ease of reference it is copied below:

DC17.1 Applications for telecommunications developments will normally be approved if the Council can be satisfied that the development has been sited and designed to minimise its impact on residential amenity and in environmentally sensitive areas. Wherever possible, the Council will expect the potential of existing buildings and masts, including the sharing of such facilities, to be fully explored before agreeing to additional separate development.

There are no existing installations or buildings within the search area that can be utilised. The site has been chosen and designed to maximise the available screening within the local streetscene and the support pole and cabinets are proposed to be colored grey to minimise impact.

The proposed development would not appear out of place. There are other vertical features along Ashton Old Road and the minimal impact of the development would be outweighed by the benefits of the proposal to local businesses.

Overall, it is considered the proposal complies with both national and local policy. In terms of national policy, the proposal is sympathetically designed, it minimises the number of future installations and has a high quality of design. It would significantly enhance the provision of local community facilities and services and would preserve amenity.

Summary

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 development proposes improved coverage to the surrounding area for H3G.

A simple design solution is proposed to mitigate visual impact and prevent harm to the local environment. The minimal impact of the development would be outweighed by the significant public benefits of the provision of enhanced coverage to the area.

The proposed development is compliant with the relevant policies from the NPPF and Development Plan, as outlined within this supporting statement.

The proposal is fully compliant with ICNIRP guidelines and declaration of compliance has been provided.

Confirmation that submitted drawings have been checked for accuracy

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Signed:		Date:	21st June 2021
Position:	Director	Company: (for and on behalf H3G UK Ltd)	Sinclair Dalby Ltd