



**General Background
Information for
Telecommunications
Development.**

Scotland

Introduction.

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.

This document is designed to provide general background information on the development of UK mobile telecommunications networks.

It has been prepared for inclusion with planning applications and supports network development proposals with general information.

Background

Over 30 years ago under the Telecommunications Act 1984, a licence was granted to mobile network operators. The licence was to provide wireless (or mobile) phone services utilising unused radio frequencies adjacent to those transmitted for over 50 years by the television industry.

With the wireless technology being new and the number of potential customers unknown, several tall masts were used to provide basic radio coverage to the main populated areas.

As the way we use our phones and other technologies have changed over the past 30 years, where we locate masts is crucial.

Due to the increased data transfer necessary for the latest telecommunication services, locations of base stations must be where the local demand exists.

Digital networks.



2G

2G digital networks developed in the early 1990s.

This digital technology is also known as GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications), which is the common European operating standard. This technology enabled phones to interconnect to other networks throughout Europe and internationally.



3G

In 2000, the 'Third Generation' mobile telecommunications service was launched, known as 3G or UMTS.

In addition to voice services, this allowed broadband access to the internet for mobile phones and laptop computer data card users.



4G

2013 saw the launch of 4G services on the network.

This technology allows for ultra-fast speeds when browsing the internet, streaming videos or sending emails. It also enables faster downloads.



5G

2019 saw the introduction of 5G services, with the Government's ambition for the UK to become a world leader in this technology.

5G Connectivity will ensure that everyone benefits from early advantages of its potential and that the UK creates a world-leading digital economy that works for all.

Planning policies.

Planning policy and guidance on telecommunications - National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and PAN 62.

NPF4 is particularly supportive of Digital Infrastructure. This is not only specific to this policy, it is referenced throughout the Framework and is directly connected to, and underpins, many other key policies.

Some quotes from the NPF4 are provided below (**our emphasis in bold**)

"**Improved digital is a priority** to sustain current businesses and create 'smart' communities. We are committed to investment in ultrafast broadband to ensure every property is connected and to **improve mobile coverage**. This will **unlock opportunities for rural businesses and remote working, and make future community growth more feasible.**"

"We will continue to **support further investment in digital connectivity** but will need to go further to adapt to climate change and make use of emerging technologies. Priorities include satellite and mobile solutions to address 'not spots' and to support local living by reducing the need to travel unsustainably."

"**Digital connectivity will facilitate remote working, supporting the growth of towns and villages out with the larger cities and potentially leading to a renaissance in more rural living.**"

"This is a **significant utility including 4G and 5G mobile infrastructure facilitating home-based working, renewable energy development, rural repopulation and access to services**. The data transmission network can also support the availability and use of 'big data.' **Digital capability is a feature of a number of City Region and Growth Deals.**"

"This is a **fundamentally important utility, required to support development, community wellbeing, equal access to goods and services, and emissions reduction from reduced demand for travel**. This will help to deliver our spatial strategy by complementing a **new emphasis of living locally and by helping to sustain and grow rural and island communities.**"

Policy Intent

"To **encourage, promote and facilitate the roll-out of digital infrastructure** across Scotland to unlock the potential of all our places and the economy."

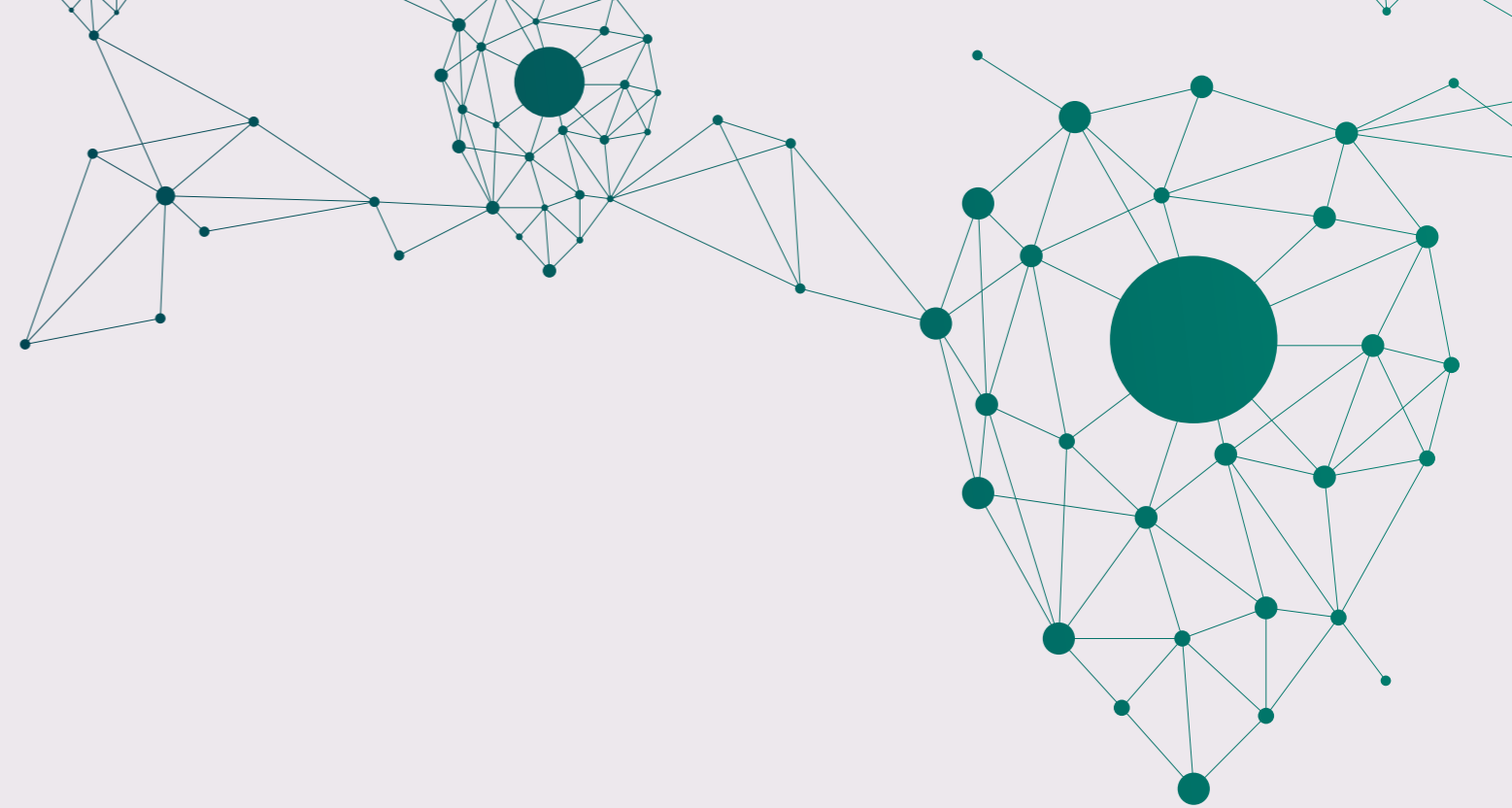
Policy Outcomes

"Appropriate, **universal and future-proofed digital infrastructure** across the country."

"Local living is supported, and the need to travel is reduced."

Policy 24 – Digital Infrastructure

- a)** Development proposals that incorporate appropriate, universal, and future-proofed **digital infrastructure will be supported.**
- b)** Development proposals that **deliver new digital services or provide technological improvements, particularly in areas with no or low connectivity capacity, will be supported.**
- c)** Development proposals that are **aligned with and support the delivery of local or national programmes for the roll-out of digital infrastructure will be supported.**



d) Development proposals that **deliver new connectivity will be supported where there are benefits of this connectivity for communities and the local economy.**

e) Development proposals for digital infrastructure will only be supported where:

- i. the visual and amenity impacts of the proposed development have been minimised through careful siting, design, height, materials and landscaping, taking into account cumulative impacts and relevant technical constraints;
- ii. it has been demonstrated that, before erecting a new ground-based mast, the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure, replacing an existing mast and/or site sharing has been explored; and
- iii. there is no physical obstruction to aerodrome operations, technical sites, or existing transmitter/receiver facilities.

Policy 29 – Rural Development

c) Development proposals in remote rural areas, where new development can often help to sustain fragile communities, will be supported where the proposal:

- i. will support local employment;
- ii. supports and sustains existing communities, **for example, through the provision of digital infrastructure;** and
- iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, siting, design and environmental impact."

Site/Mast sharing

Cornerstone actively encourages and supports site-sharing for both commercial and environmental reasons.

All operators are required to explore site-sharing opportunities under the terms of their licences.

Cornerstone has implemented many measures to identify and maximise site-sharing opportunities.

Consultation & legal case.

Consultation

Cornerstone is committed to carrying out appropriate consultations with Local Planning Authorities, stakeholders and the public.

The Code of Best Practice on Mobile Network Development gives guidance on the factors that operators should consider when determining what consultation is required, as each development is different.

These factors are equally applicable for Local Planning Authorities who carry out their own consultation once the application has been submitted.

Legal case

The following legal case may be helpful:

Harrogate case November 2004

The Court of Appeal gave a judgement that Government Planning Guidance in PPG8 (now replaced by the NPPF) is perfectly clear in relation to compliance with the Health and Safety standards for mobile phone base stations.

The Court of Appeal and the High Court both upheld Government policy in response to a planning inspector's decision that departed from that policy and failed to give adequate reasons for doing so.

Bardsey case January 2005

The Court of Appeal confirmed that the permitted development regime for mobile phone base stations is compliant with the Human Rights Act. This was a case in which a local planning authority failed to comply with its obligations to act within the 56 day period provided under the permitted development regulations.

Further information.

We trust that this document answers your main queries regarding our planned installation.

The enclosed site-specific details will identify any alternative discounted options and reasons why they were rejected and how the proposed site complies with national and local planning policies.

The Local Government Ombudsman's Special Report on Telecommunication Masts gives some positive recommendations and advice to Local Planning Authorities in determining prior approval applications.

The Digital Connectivity Portal provides guidance for local authorities and network providers on improving connectivity across the UK. Produced by DCMS, it promotes closer co-operation between network providers and local authorities, and offers guidance on effective policies and processes to facilitate deployment of digital networks.

Proud to be delivering sites for the
future of UK mobile connectivity.



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