

Cornerstone Community Information Sheet

Coverage and 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.

Individual base stations can only handle a certain number of calls or data downloads. If the number of calls or data requests exceeds the base stations capability then local network users will experience a reduction in data download speeds and reduced call quality. We call areas without good coverage 'blackspots' and all mobile phone networks suffer from them. You can experience them wherever you are, even in cities with lots of base stations. Mobile network operators monitor call quality so they are aware of any necessary improvements.

To keep up with growing demand we need to upgrade existing base stations or build new base stations. Upgrading a site will increase the capacity of a base station. Capacity is the maximum data or calls that can be processed by a base station. An upgrade can be done in a number of ways, often by redeveloping the site to enable an increase in the number of technologies, or increasing the number or height of the antennas.

However, even after these upgrades, in some busy areas the demand for services can still exceed the capacity of the local base station. In this situation we may need to look into developing a new base station, resulting in improved service for our customers.

For further information please contact:

Community, Cornerstone

The Hive 2, 1530 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berks, RG7 4SA

Tel. 01753 564306, community@ctil.co.uk

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

Registered Address:
Cornerstone Telecommunications
Infrastructure Limited, Hive 2, 1530 Arlington
Business Park, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA.
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