

Our ref: CTIL 10859530

13th March 2025

Ouston Parish Council
clerk@oustonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

PROPOSED UPGRADE TO EXISTING RADIO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL 10859530, URPETH STEEL FABRICATIONS, WESTLINE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, OFF STATION LANE, BIRTLEY, CO DURHAM, DH2 1AU, NGR: E 426715 N 554960

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

Cornerstone has identified this site as suitable for an equipment upgrade in the Birtley area, it will improve service provision for Cornerstone. The purpose of this letter is to consult with you and seek your views on our proposal before any planning notification 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 Cornerstone's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for an upgrade to the existing installation at this location to provide enhanced coverage and capacity, and new 5G coverage ensuring that this area of Birtley has access to the latest technologies. This upgraded site will also ensure that we will be able to continue to utilise the same site and maintain, enhance and provide new 5G service provision in the area as well.

Mobiles 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: -

Our technical network requirement is as follows:

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

CTIL 10859530, URPETH STEEL FABRICATIONS

The site is needed to provide enhanced 2G and 4G coverage and capacity as well as new 5G service provision to ensure that customers experience access to the latest technologies 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 and 5G technologies.

The Government recognises that widespread coverage of mobile connectivity is essential for people and businesses. People expect to be connected where they live, work, visit and travel. That is why the Government is committed to extending mobile geographical coverage further across the UK, with continuous mobile connectivity provided to all major roads and to being a world leader in 5G. This will allow everyone in the country to benefit from the economic advantages of widespread mobile coverage. As well as improved mobile signal, 5G networks are also crucial to drive productivity and growth across the sectors that local areas are focusing on through their emerging Local Industrial Strategies. Enabling and planning for 5G implementation is central to achieving the Government's objective to deliver property at the local level and enable all places to share in the proceeds of growth.

The Government is determined to ensure the UK receives the coverage and connectivity it needs. To this end, the Government wants to be a world leader in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity, and for communities to benefit from the investments in the new technology.

The case for 5G is compelling as it will bring faster, more responsive and reliable connections than ever before. More than any previous generation of mobile networks, it has the potential to improve the way people live, work and travel, and to deliver significant benefits to the economy and industry through the ability to connect more devices to the Internet at the same time, creating the so-called "Internet of Things". This will enable communities to manage traffic flow and control energy usage, monitor patient health remotely, and increase productivity for business and farmers, all through the real-time management of data.

The demand for mobile data in the UK is increasing rapidly, and as households and businesses become increasingly reliant on mobile connectivity, the infrastructure must be in place to ensure supply does not become a constraint on future demand.

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

URPETH STEEL FABRICATIONS, WESTLINE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, OFF STATION LANE, BIRTLEY, CO DURHAM, DH2 1AU, NGR: E 426715 N 554960


The proposed works comprise the existing 3 no. antennas to be removed. Existing 3 no. RRUs to be removed. Proposed installation of 6 no. antennas. Proposed installation of 18 no. ERS units. Equipment in existing equipment cabin to be upgraded within. Ancillary development required thereto.

The operators are proposing to upgrade their existing installation to ensure the latest high quality, reliable, secure communications technology is able to be provided from this location. The amendments to the existing scheme are essential in order that customers' handheld devices continue to operate for the purposes in which they have become accustomed, accessible wherever they are whether that be indoors or outside.

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As this is an existing ground based installation and the amendments are relatively minor in nature, this is sequentially the most preferable site for the operators to upgrade their existing service provision to this cell area.

The Local Planning Authority mast 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.

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 Regulation 5 notification.

In order to give you time to send your comments or request further information, we commit to allow at least 14 days before proceeding with the works. 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 councillors for Pelton ward, Ouston Parish Council and local MP.

We look forward to receiving any comments you may have on the proposal within 14 days of the date of this letter.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me (quoting cell number CTIL 10859530)

Yours faithfully

Christian McElroy


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(for and on behalf of Cornerstone)

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