

Williams Acquisition Ltd

Our Ref: CTIL_150625_VF_88730

Chief Planning Officer
Planning
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU

Email: plgadmin@reading.gov.uk

27 July 2020

Dear Sir,

**PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL_150625_VF_88730 NOVOTEL HOTEL,
25A FRIAR STREET, READING, BERKSHIRE, RG1 1DP E:471462 N:173612**

Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (Cornerstone) is a joint venture company owned by Telefónica UK Limited commonly known as O2, and Vodafone Limited, who manage a single grid network across the UK for these companies. This agreement allows both organisations to pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two, independent, nationwide networks. It maximises opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations and where possible can significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development.

Cornerstone and Vodafone are in the process of progressing a suitable replacement site in the Abbey area for a radio base station. We aim to work with you to progress a proposal that is both acceptable to your authority and meets Vodafone's technical network requirements. This approach accords with Vodafone's Best Practice Commitments to ensure consultation with Local Planning Authorities and other appropriate key stakeholders.

As part of Vodafone's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a replacement installation at this location to provide equivalent and improved 2G, 3G, 4G and new 5G coverage and capacity, ensuring that this area of Reading maintains access to the latest technologies. As such, the operator needs to find a replacement site to ensure the latest technologies including 5G can be provided in this area of Abbey.

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.

The Government recognises that widespread coverage of mobile connectivity is essential for people and businesses. 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.

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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 prosperity at the local level and enable all places to share in the proceeds of growth.

5G service provision 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, the '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.

We aim to work with you to progress a proposal that is both acceptable to your Council and meets the operators technical network requirements. This approach accords with Cornerstone's Best Practice Commitments to ensure consultation with Local Planning Authorities and other appropriate key stakeholders.

This letter therefore invites the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with planning policy guidance and Best Practice Commitments, to enter into pre-application discussions with regard to Cornerstone's preferred site option prior to a formal planning submission.

A number of options have been assessed in respect of the site search process and the preferred option for Cornerstone is as illustrated in the attached draft drawings.

Our technical network requirement is as follows:

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The site is needed to maintain and improve 2G, 3G and 4G and new 5G coverage and capacity for Vodafone to ensure that its customers continue to experience access to the latest service provision currently available. This is because the operator needs to find a replacement for its existing site, which must be removed from the network. The replacement installation will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as new technologies improve increasing the demand for 5G services.

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The proposed works comprise the installation of 6 no. antenna, 2 no. transmission dishes and ancillary development thereto.

The operator has chosen this building as it is close to the original building that provided high quality, advanced communications technology but is no longer available to be

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used. In order to provide equivalent replacement coverage, the replacement site needs to be as close as possible to the former site, so it can fill the specific hole in coverage in the operator's network.

The other site options that were considered and then discounted are as follows:

Site Name, Address, NGR, Site Type	Reason for not Choosing
Station Hill Development Zone Garrard Street RG1 NGR: 471379/173675 (Rooftop)	The site is part of the wider comprehensive redevelopment of the area.
4 Greyfriars RG1 1NP NGR: 471273/173594 (Rooftop)	The site is too close to a planned site to the west and is the reason why it has been discounted.
35-43 Greyfriars Road RG1 1NP NGR: 471258/173758 (Rooftop)	The rooftop is too low in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target coverage area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
Celador Apartments Projection West Market Place RG1 1ET NGR: 471438/173652 (Rooftop)	The rooftop is too low in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target coverage area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
30-31 Friar Street RG1 1DP NGR: 471417/173639 (Rooftop)	The rooftop is too low in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target coverage area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the preferred option identified, the alternatives discounted any alternatives options that you feel would be worth investigating.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to meet with you to discuss the proposal and undertake a tour of the options considered, should you consider this to be beneficial.

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 planning submission.

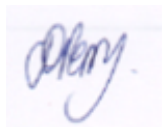
We enclose a copy of our Consultation Plan and welcome your suggestions over and above the local stakeholders and groups that you we have already identified.

We look forward to receiving your response within 14 days of the date of this letter.

Address: Ragsdale Street, Rothwell, Northants, NN14 6DE
Email: info@williamsacq.com

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Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Perry', on a light blue background.

Dianne Perry MRTPI AssocRICS

Consultant Planner: Williams Acquisition

Tel: +44 (0) 7535 932 374

Email: dianne@tweeddevelopmentplanning.com

(for and on behalf of CTIL and Vodafone Ltd)