SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. Site Details

Site Name:	The Beeches	Site Address:	The Beeches Bridge Road Long Sutton Lincolnshire PE12 9RW
National Grid Reference:	546068, 322203		
Site Ref Number:	112316	Site Type:[1]	Macro

1.1 Background

This application proposes to upgrade the existing telecommunications installation on the site. The existing installation consists of a 17.3 metre high monopole with 3 no. equipment cabinets at ground level, surrounded by a post and rail fence, and provides Telefónica UK Ltd (trading in the UK as O2) with 2G coverage to the surrounding area.

The application seeks consent to replace the monopole with a new monopole. The new monopole would be slightly taller (17.6 metres compared to 17.3 metres) and have a slightly more substantial headframe. Radio equipment is proposed within a replacement cabinet at ground level. The site upgrade will allow Telefónica to provide enhanced coverage to the surrounding area. 2G, 3G and 4G coverage would be provided from the site from the upgraded installation.

The existing installation was granted consent by application reference H18-1015-04 in September 2004.

2. Pre Application Check List

Site Selection (for New Sites only)
(Would not generally apply to upgrades/alterations to existing sites)

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: N/A – this is for the redevelopment of an existing installation.		
Were industry site databases checked for suitable sites by the operator:	Yes	**No**
If no explain why: N/A – this is for the redevelopment of an existing installation.		

[1] Macro or Micro

Annual Area Wide Information to local planning authority

Date of information submission to local planning authority:	7 October 2014
Name of Contact:	C Mycock
Summary of any issues raised:	No comments are noted as having been raised.

Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Date of written offer of pre-application consultation:	17/03/2015	
Was there pre-application contact:	Yes	**No**
Date of pre-application contact:	N/A	
Name of contact:	N/A	
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised: An email was received confirming receipt of the correspondence, however no specific comments have been received.		

Ten Commitments Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:	Red	Amber	**Green**
Outline of consultation carried out: Consultation was undertaken on 17 March 2015 with the Sutton Bridge Ward Councillors, Councillors Booth and Brewis, and with Sutton Bridge Parish Council.			
Summary of outcome/main issues raised: No comments have been received.			

School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college: There are a no schools located close to the application site. The closest is Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School which is approximately 0.9 miles from the site.
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college: No consultation has been undertaken due to the distance to the nearest school.
Summary of outcome/main issues raised: N/A

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:	8 April 2015	

3. Proposed Development

The proposed site:
This is an existing telecommunications installation located on the northern side of Bridge Road, between Sutton Bridge and Long Sutton. The installation currently comprises a 17.3 metre high monopole with equipment cabinets located at ground level, with all of the equipment surrounded by a post and rail fence. The site currently provides Telefónica with 2G coverage to the surrounding area. The area around the site is rural in character, and there are a number of buildings, and trees in the wider surrounding area, which provide a degree of screening to the existing installation. There is a further installation close to the site, to the west. The application proposes to replace the monopole with a new, slightly taller structure (17.6 metres high). The new monopole would support 3 no. antennas. New radio equipment is proposed within a replacement equipment cabinet.

Type of Structure *(e.g. tower, mast, etc):*	Proposed replacement monopole
Description: The replacement of the existing 17.3 metre high monopole with a new 17.6 metre high monopole supporting 3 no. antennas, the replacement of 3 no. cabinets with a new radio equipment cabinet and development works ancillary thereto.	
Overall Height:	17.6 metres to top of antennas
Height of existing building *(where applicable):*	N/A
Replacement Equipment Housing:	
Length:	1.898m
Width:	0.798m
Height:	1.645m
Materials:	
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:	Steel with a grey finish.
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:	Steel coloured green.

Reasons for choice of design:
Every effort has been made to minimise the visual impact of the proposed development. The equipment has been designed specifically for this location and incorporates a number of elements to minimise impact, including: 1) Utilising an existing telecommunications site to provide 2G, 3G and 4G coverage for Telefónica which is a significant increase in use of the site; 2) Keeping the scale of development to a minimum. Only a slightly taller monopole, and a replacement cabinet, is required to provide significantly enhanced coverage to the surrounding area; 3) The design of the development involves a minimal increase in its scale to ensure there would be no adverse impact on the surrounding area. It is acknowledged the scale of the development would be increased, however this is considered minimal and not sufficient to cause harm to the surrounding area.

It is considered the proposed equipment is appropriately located. It has been possible to devise a scheme which has a minimal visual impact, by utilising a single site to provide significantly enhanced coverage to the surrounding area.

The design would result 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.

4. Technical Information

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Declaration attached (see below)*	**Yes**	No
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. When determining compliance the emissions from all mobile phone network operators on or near to the site are taken into account. In order to minimise interference within its own network and with other radio networks, Telefónica 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 As part of Telefónica UK Ltd's network, the radio base station that is the subject of this application will be configured to operate in this way. 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.		

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.		

5. 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

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. They are made up of three main elements. The cabinets which contain the equipment used to generate the radio signal. The supporting structure such as a mast, which holds the antennas in the air and the antennas themselves. Only the antennas emit radio signals.

Many other everyday items also use radio signals to send and receive information, such as television and radio broadcasting equipment and two-way radio communications. Base stations are connected to each other and telephone exchanges by cables or wireless technology such as microwave dishes, to create a network. The area each base station covers is called a cell. Each cell overlaps with its neighbouring cells to create a continuous network. The size and shape of each cell is determined by the features of the surrounding area, such as buildings, trees and hills, which can block signals. When people travel between cells, the signal is transferred between base stations without a break in service. Each base station covers a certain area only and can only handle a limited number of calls at once. As mobile phones and devices become more popular more base stations are needed to ensure continuous coverage.

The upgraded site would provide 2G, 3G and 4G coverage for Telefónica. 4G (sometimes called LTE (Long Term Evolution)) is the next major enhancement to mobile radio communications networks. 4G technology will allow customers to use ultra-fast speeds when browsing the internet, streaming videos, or sending emails wherever they are. It also means faster downloads on the go.

To meet this demand and improve the quality of service, additional base stations or upgrades to the equipment at an existing base station may be needed (as in this case).

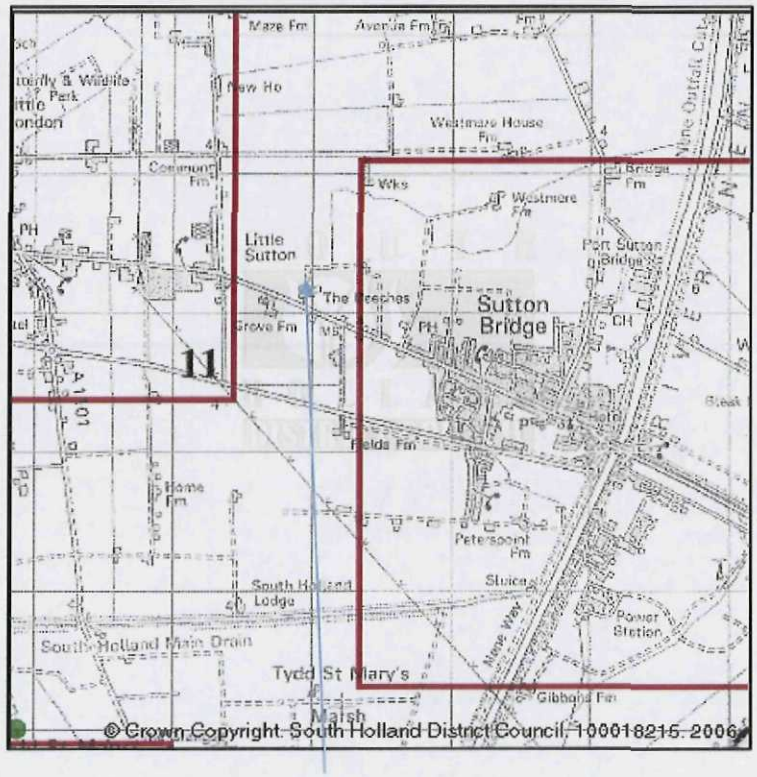
Further detail regarding the general operation of the network can be found in the accompanying document entitled 'General Background Information for Telecommunications Development'. This information is provided to assist the local planning authority in understanding any technical constraints on the location of the proposed development.

6. 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	Site Name and address	National Grid Reference	Reason for not choosing
			N/A

If no alternative site options have been investigated, please explain why:
As this application is for the upgrade of an existing base station site in order to provide enhanced coverage and capacity no alternative locations have been examined specifically for this application.

Land use planning designations:



Site location

The plan above is taken from the 2006 Local Plan and confirms the site is not covered by any specific designations.

Additional relevant information (planning policy and material considerations):

VISUAL IMPACT AND APPEARANCE

In line with national planning policy guidance and the relevant policies of the Development Plan, the impact of the development is minimised through siting and design initiatives.

The proposal has been designed with the aim of achieving a balance between minimising visual impact and achieving the technical requirements for Telefónica. It is considered that the proposal is the least visually intrusive site and design available. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide the enhanced coverage from the existing antennas. The existing pole cannot support the antennas required, hence the need for the proposed development.

It is considered that the proposal utilises the most suitable design available to meet coverage demands. It is considered any other solution to providing the required coverage would have a greater visual impact.

The benefits of the proposal also have to be considered. 2G, 3G and 4G coverage would be provided for Telefónica from the site. It is considered the benefits of the proposal outweigh the minimal additional impact on the surrounding area.

On balance this proposed location is considered to be the optimum location for providing coverage in terms of siting and design. As such, equilibrium will be achieved between technical requirements and environmental impact.

PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy Guidance

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. The main thrust of the guidance is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. In general terms in respect of telecommunications the guidance aims to promote sustainable transport (including the need to travel), build a strong and competitive economy, and seeks to secure high quality design.

Specifically, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) advises that advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth. The development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks also plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services. The numbers of radio and telecommunications masts should be kept to a minimum and, where new sites are required, equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate (paragraph 43).

In more general terms the NPPF confirms that proposals that accord with the provisions of the development plan should be approved without delay (paragraph 14). In addition a set of core planning principles are set out at paragraph 17. These principles set out (in part where relevant to this proposal) that the planning system should:

- proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs;
- seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity;
- support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate.

Significant weight is given to the need to support economic growth through the planning system (paragraph 19). The reduction in the need to travel is set out in section 4.

The National Planning Policy Framework advises specifically that local planning authorities should not seek to prevent competition between operators, and must determine applications on planning grounds (paragraph 46).

It is considered the proposed development complies with the broad aims of the NPPF. It assists in the aim to keep the number of installations to a minimum. The equipment has been sympathetically designed and it would enhance the provision of local community facilities and services.

Development Plan Policy

Section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 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 adopted development plan, relevant to the proposed development, comprises the Saved Policies of the 2006 Local Plan. Policy TC3 deals specifically with telecommunications development and is copied below:

Policy TC3 - Telecommunications

In determining whether approval of siting and appearance is required, or in considering planning applications for new masts or other apparatus for telecommunications development from licensed telecommunications operators, the District Council will need to be satisfied that:

1) *the siting and external appearance of apparatus, including any location, landscaping requirements, materials or colouring, have been designed to minimise the impact of such apparatus on amenity, while respecting operational efficiency;*

2) *antennae have, so far as is practicable, been sited so as to minimise their effect on the external appearance of the building on which they are installed;*

3) *applicants for new ground based masts have shown evidence that they have explored the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure; and*

4) *applicants have considered the need to include additional structural capacity to take account of the growing demand for network development, including that of other operators;*

5) *for proposals located in a conservation area, within the setting of a listed building, in the coastal conservation area, in national and local nature reserves, in sites of special scientific interest, or near to scheduled ancient monuments or historic parks and gardens, applicants have demonstrated that there are no suitable alternative sites available.*

It is considered the proposal conforms with the above policy for the following reasons:

- The impact of the development has been minimised. Only a minimal increase in height and size of antennas is required. The existing buildings, and trees in the wider surrounding area, ensures the impact of the upgrade is minimised and not sufficient to cause harm to the surrounding area.
- Although no formal search has been undertaken for potential alternative sites, it is considered this is a suitable location for telecommunications equipment. The monopole would remain substantially shorter than the installation to the west, giving it a subservient appearance.
- Only a minimal increase in scale of the development is required to provide for the increased range of services.
- The site is not located within a sensitive designated area.

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 installations and has a high quality of design. It would enhance the provision of local community facilities and services.

HEALTH & SAFETY

We would remind the Council that the Government has set out its clear view on the issue of health and perceived view of health risks in paragraph 46 of the NPPF:

"Local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds. They should not...determine health safeguards if the proposal meets International Commission guidelines for public exposure."

As above, and included within this application, Telefónica have confirmed this installation will be fully ICNIRP compliant.

CONCLUSION

There is a requirement for Telefónica to provide enhanced coverage and capacity to the surrounding area. Network planners have identified a need for an upgraded installation and the proposed development will address this identified need and continued requirement in line with their licence requirement and customer demands.

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 application demonstrates the technical need for the installation to provide improved customer service.

In terms of design, scale and layout, it is considered that the proposal responds positively to the character, appearance and variety of the local environment and will not have an adverse impact on the application site or the surrounding area. The design is of a high standard, maintaining the visual and environmental character of the area.

The telecommunications infrastructure proposed in this application has been designed using appropriate camouflage techniques and sited, having regard to technical, engineering and land use planning considerations, in order to minimise its impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding area. The proposal represents an appropriate siting and design solution for this locality, balancing environmental and planning considerations.

Contact Details

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Signed:	Chris Andrews	Date:	9 April 2015
Position:	Planner	Company: (on behalf of CTIL and above operator)	Waldon Telecom Ltd