

Proposed Telecommunications Mast at Little Gaddesden

New Questions for Cornerstone – 23 March 2021

1. Please can you supply your coverage plot analysis based on an ordnance survey map? **The plots provided should be sufficient to show you the information.**
2. Why is a 25 metre mast required to provide smart meter access and some local coverage? **Mast height has been reduced to 20m – this still achieves the required coverage for this area and is above the tree lines and surrounding clutter. It is not just the trees in the immediate area but in the wider background that the mast has to over sail, this is achievable at 20m, but a lower mast would not achieve the same coverage.**
3. From document 86590 Plots 3G4G we see from page 4 that virtually all the populated areas of Little Gaddesden are already covered by LTE (4G calling) for “Suburban Indoor” use. What is the rationale for the proposed mast which extends indoor coverage to National Trust woodland there is already a “Good Outdoors” LTE calling service? **The mast is to improve 3G Indoor coverage for smart metering. The LTE part will only improve indoor coverage for O2 customers**
4. Why is this mast so much higher than other masts in the area. **This mast is lower than the existing Airwave at 32m and EE mast are at 23m see point 13 for site Ref’s**
5. Is the proposed mast to be used purely for receiving or as a base station for any other sites in the area via dishes shown in the design. **The dishes are required to integrate the site into the network.**
6. National Planning Policy requires the sites of existing masts, buildings or other structures to be used unless a new site is justified. Could you please provide evidence of any assessment of modifying the masts at existing nearby Telefonica sites that currently serve the area, or sharing the shorter mast at the junction of Little Gaddesden to Ringshall Road Grid ref 498509E, 214408N, or of using any other buildings, masts or structures? Please also see question 13 in that regard. **The EE is a streetworks and these are not shareable. There are no other masts within the coverage polygon**
7. The Ordnance Survey map shows the height adjacent to the Ashridge Golf club is at a higher altitude (190m to 180m) to the proposed site (180m) so why was it rejected? Please can we see the coverage map generated from that location which shows why this one was rejected in favour of the one proposed in Hudnall Lane. Please explain why the Golf Club site was not progressed? **Radio preferred the location at Holly Tree Farm as this reaches the targeted area for smart meters. The proposed mast at the Golf Club was at the minimum height (27.5m) available to achieve coverage to parts of the targeted area. The mast can only be located close to the club house due to power and BT requirements; this location is outside of the search area so would not reach the whole targeted area. Planning is unlikely due to the site being within the National Trust and Grade II* Registered Park and Garden.**
8. As new 3 phase meters can connect to any network, have you sought to enter into a sharing arrangement with EE whose masts are barely visible locally but do provide coverage to the village. They could provide a local signal connected to individual householder’s routers for smart meters. **This would not achieve the Radio Planners requirement. Sharing masts would also require height increases to the existing mast. Several lower height masts would not achieve the coverage required, the mast needs to be above the tree lines and surrounding**

clutter. it's not just the trees in the immediate area but in the wider background that the mast has to over sail.

9. What will be the level of noise, in decibels, produced by your proposal? I have asked the designer to confirm this.
10. National Planning Policy says mast equipment should be camouflaged where appropriate, particularly in an AONB. The Well Farm one, 069548 on your map, is hidden in the trees and effectively camouflaged, what do you propose to do for this mast? The site on Well Farm is camouflaged just below the tree line that has grown over the years but this will limit its coverage. This proposed site will be slightly camouflaged by the surrounding trees and we have reduced the height of the proposal to 20m.
11. Bearing in mind the National Planning Policy Framework, the protection afforded to an AONB, the restriction of development in a defined 'Rural Area' of Dacorum Local Plan and the sites proximity to the Conservation Area and Listed buildings within, what was your rationale for the siting of this mast at Holly Tree Farm? This is in the centre of SMIP polygon TEF want to cover. Little Gaddesden is covered by tall trees to the east which has a massive impact on radio coverage. The centre and west are much more suited for a mast
12. Why is the search area for this mast site, on the map that you sent to us, so small and almost wholly in the village Conservation Area with proximity to dwellings, protected buildings etc can you provide us with a wider search area that still provides you with acceptable coverage. If not, can you please be specific as to why this is the only search area that will provide the required coverage? There is a specific requirement for a radio base station at this location to address problem coverage areas, NOT SPOTS, for Smart Meter sites. New sites are required in areas where the existing network is not sufficient to allow smart meters to link to it.
13. To better our understanding of the masts at Studham (known as Bury Farm mast, edge of Ravensdell Wood Grid Ref 501276, 214395) and at Great Gaddesden, Marsh Farm, known as Marsh Mast L0370 1180G, Grid Ref 503740E, 211828N (both east of the Leighton Buzzard to Hemel Road, B440) please could you supply a coverage map. That will help us in understanding the gap that you wish to cover. Bury Farm is a EE (Ex TMobile) mast 23m and is outside of the search area. This is on lower ground and Hudnall Common would present a coverage problem to the south. Marsh Mast is an Airwave mast @ 30m with OLO beneath the Airwave antenna. TEF do have an existing mast 69547o2 which covers this area already.
14. One of your selection criterion is the distance from utilities and BT service. Have you considered more smaller masts near to BT cabinets and electricity supplies, or the use of small cells and mini antennae such as O2 uses elsewhere? Smaller masts would not provide the coverage provided.