

Hungarton Parish Council  
c/o Clerk

Sent via email to:  
[clerk@hungartonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hungartonparishcouncil.org.uk)

24 January 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Proposed base station installation at:**

**Cell Ref:** TEF086913 SMIP  
**Address:** Land at Village Farm, Baggrave Road, Hungarton, LE7 8JA  
**NGR:** 468553, 307586

**Pre-application consultation**

Telefónica UK Limited has entered into an agreement with Vodafone Limited pursuant to which the two companies plan to jointly operate and manage a single network grid across the UK. These arrangements will be overseen by Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (Cornerstone) which is a joint venture company owned by Telefónica UK Limited and Vodafone Limited.

This agreement allows both organisations to:

- Pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two, independent, nationwide networks
- Maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- Significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

As part of Telefónica's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for improved network coverage in the rural area around Leicestershire.

Cornerstone and Telefónica are in the process of identifying a number of new radio base station sites to address this issue. The purpose of this letter is to consult with you and seek your views on our proposal before any planning submission is made. We understand that you are not always able to provide site specific comments, however, Cornerstone and the operator are committed to consultation with communities on our mobile telecommunications proposals and as such would encourage you to respond.

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 technical network requirement is as follows:

- Cell Ref: TEF086913 Hungarton SMIP
- Justification:

The proposed infrastructure is part of a project being undertaken to enable the roll-out of smart energy metering access in problem coverage areas and 'Not Spots' (an Ofcom term that LPAs and councils will be familiar with), i.e. areas where mobile signal is too weak for meters to work.

As the reader may be aware, smart metering is a new kind of gas and electricity meter that can digitally send meter readings to customers' energy supplier for more accurate energy billing. Every home in the UK should have been offered a smart meter from their energy supplier by 2020. However, without adequate mobile coverage access to this facility will not be available resulting in customers defaulting onto the Standard Variable Rate of fuel price. This matter is particularly important in more remote and rural communities where mobile coverage may be limited.

The proposed base station infrastructure will also have the benefit of providing improved coverage for voice and data services to all Telefónica users within these Not Spots.

The proposed solution for this particular coverage area incorporates the following:

- 22.5m high lattice mast incorporating headframe and 3No. antennas;
- 2No. 600mm dish;
- 4No. ground-based cabinets (2No. 750x600x2100mm; 1No. 700x820x1800mm; 1No. 655x264x1015mm); and
- All ancillary development including new access/egress point onto public road, 3m wide access track and 1.8m high security fence.

A set of planning drawings have been attached to assist you in identifying the site and the proposed design solution. Please note that the development has been limited to an operational minimum in terms of size and amount of the proposed equipment in order to provide an optimum solution for addressing the subject coverage requirement.

Prior to identifying the nominated site and design solution a number of alternative site options have been considered but discounted as being less preferable. Please refer to the attached 'Discounted Options Information'. Any other site suggestions that any party wishes to put forward are welcomed and will be fully investigated.

All Telefónica 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.

In order to give you time to send your comments or request further information, the operators commit to allow at least 14 days from the date of this letter before an application is submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

We would also be grateful if you could please advise of any local stakeholders or groups that might like to make comments.

We look forward to receiving any comments you may have on the proposal.

Yours faithfully



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**For and on behalf of Cornerstone and Telefónica UK Ltd**