

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

FOR PROPOSED UPGRADE TO AIRWAVE SOLUTIONS LIMITED SITE (REF: NHU028), LOCATED AT LAND AT OTTERBURN TRAINING CAMP, TOWNHEAD, OTTERBURN, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE19 1HG

This Design and Access Statement is provided in conjunction with the Supplementary Information Template, drawings and supporting material that is submitted as part of this planning application.

This statement is submitted pursuant to Article 4C of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (as amended) ABD Regulation 3A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990 (as amended).

In accordance with the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development, and published Government guidance, this proposal has been developed having regard to the need for good design.

In particular:

- Considerations of design and layout are informed by the context, having regard not just to any immediate neighbouring buildings but the townscape and landscape of the wider locality. The local pattern of streets and spaces, building traditions, materials and ecology all help to determine the character and identity of the development.
- The scale, massing and height of proposed development have been considered in relation to that of adjoining buildings; the topography, the general pattern of heights in the area; and views, vistas and landmarks.

The following general design principles have been taken into account in respect of this proposed telecommunications development:

- A proper assessment of the character of the area concerned.
- That the design shows an appreciation of context.

SITE CONDITIONS, TECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS, LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS

Introduction

Airwave Solutions Limited has operated a secure telecommunications digital radio network on behalf of the UK Government since 2005. The network covers England, Wales and Scotland and is a dedicated communications network for the exclusive use of the UK's emergency and public safety organisations including the Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance Service. The network is designed to ensure that during major incidents, when conventional networks may overload or fail, the emergency services are still able to communicate with one another.

The Airwave network already meets the stringent reliability criteria required by the UK Government. However, the existing transmission network provided by BT is set to be decommissioned in 2016. As a result Airwave will have to replace the existing ground based kilostream network with "line of sight" dish antenna.

The proposed development comprises of an additional dish to an existing structure. There are no material changes to the existing structure. Without the dish, the site will not provide adequate service for emergency services in the event of a network failure.

Pre Application Discussions and Negotiations

No pre-application discussions were conducted

Documentation Submitted with Application

- Location Plans
- Layout Plans and existing/proposed elevations
- Supplementary Information Template
- Relevant application forms, ownership notice and application fees
- ICNIRP certificate

Design Component

The site is an established telecommunications radio base station location. The proposed upgrade is to install a single 300mm diameter microwave dish amongst the existing antennas on site. This is the smallest dish available that will meet Airwave's operational requirements. The proposal is minimalist in nature but is essential in order to maintain the integrity of the Airwave emergency services network. The proposed dish will blend in with other apparatus on site and will not have any detrimental effect or impact on visual amenity to the surrounding area.

- Use proposed – the 300mm transmission dish will replace the existing BT kilostream transmission equipment which is due to be decommissioned. There will no change of use to the site as a telecommunications radio base station.
- Amount – A single 300mm diameter transmission dish in addition to the existing equipment. There will be changes to the internal equipment located within the existing equipment cabin. This will not be visible.

- Layout – The layout of the existing site would remain the same. There are no new compound designs included.
- Scale – The proposed 300mm diameter dish is the smallest available size to meet the operational requirements for the upgrade. In context of the existing apparatus on site the proposed development will have minimal impact.
- Landscaping – No additional landscaping is proposed around the existing site.
- Appearance – The scheme is considered to be minimal in its context and appearance. The scheme is part of an established telecommunications site housing existing apparatus. The planning authority has already accepted the concept of telecommunications development in this location.

Access

There will be no change to the existing access routes. It needs to be borne in mind that the proposed development is for a secure telecommunications network installation. Works access to the development by definition is limited to the operator and their authorised agents. This is strictly monitored within the relevant businesses. The equipment cabinets are extremely secure and incorporate the highest standard of locking and security systems