

Our ref: CS 10895003

27 October 2026

West Mersea Town Council
10 Melrose Road
West Mersea
Colchester CO5 8JD

Avison Young
6th Floor
11 York Street
Manchester
M2 2AW

By Email: carol.fountain@westmerseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

PROPOSED BASE STATION UPGRADE AT WEST MERSEA BUSINESS CENTRE, UNIT 6 RUSHMERE CLOSE, COLCHESTER, ESSEX CO5 8AH (NGRs: E 601580 / N 212731).

Cornerstone is the UK's leading mobile infrastructure services company. We acquire, manage, and own over 20,000 sites and are committed to enabling best in class mobile connectivity for over half of all the country's mobile customers. We oversee works on behalf of telecommunications providers and wherever possible aim to:

- promote shared infrastructure
- maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

Cornerstone are in the process of progressing suitable sites in the Essex area for radio base stations that will improve service provision for VMO2 UK Limited. The purpose of this letter is to consult with you and seek your views on our proposal before proceeding with the works. We understand that you are not always able to provide site specific comments, however, Cornerstone and VMO2 UK Limited are committed to consultation with communities for mobile telecommunications proposals and as such would encourage you to respond.

As part of the operator's network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a radio base station upgrade at this location to replace existing equipment with the latest technologies, which will improve existing coverage provisions for better signal strength, capacity and speed.

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.

In the first instance, all correspondence should be directed to the agent.

Cornerstone Planning Consultation Letter to Councillors - Reg 5 V.3 – 15/04/2021

Registered Address:

Cornerstone Telecommunications, Infrastructure Limited,
Hive 2, 1530 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA.
Registered in England & Wales No. 08087551.
VAT No. GB142 8555 06

 Cornerstone, Hive 2,
1530 Arlington Business Park,
Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA

Please find below the details of the proposed site and the alternative site options considered and discounted in our site selection process: -

A number of options have been assessed in respect of the site search process and we consider the best solution is as follows:

CS 10895003 (Cornerstone, VMO2 UK Limited) - West Mersea Business Centre

Description of Development: Removal of the existing 20m monopole, 6 no. antennas, 3 no. equipment cabinets and installation of a new 20m monopole, 9 no. antennas, 3 no. equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto

This option has been selected following the operator's sequential approach to site selection whereby existing base stations have been reviewed in the first instance to explore upgrade opportunities that can improve coverage provisions to cater for current and future demands, prior to the exploration of alternative locations for new installations. As the proposed works involve the upgrade of an existing base station, it was therefore not necessary to identify alternative site options in accordance with the Code of Practice for telecommunications development as well as national and local planning policy.

As a licensed code operator, a minimalistic approach to design is adopted in every instance to ensure that the least impactful scheme is pursued to ensure the site's overall visual appearance is kept to a technical minimum whilst ensuring the technical objectives of the works remain achievable. Within the technical parameters of each site's requirements, the operator seeks to maintain the minimum level of equipment and scale of works as far as practicable.

The proposed works are minor and will be capable of assimilating into the surrounding environment. In this instance a replacement mast is required to provide sufficient support for the required upgrade technologies. This proposed mast height and equipment have been kept to a technical minimum to preserve existing visual amenity whilst also ensuring the necessary upgrade objectives remain achievable. It is essential for the site's functionality that the antennas can be positioned at an adequate height above surrounding natural and built form to ensure correct signal propagation and intervening features such as trees and buildings can block signals. Both the replacement pole and cabinets will be painted grey to match the same colour finish as the equipment currently in situ. Taken as a whole the works are capable of assimilating into the surrounding environment.

The proposed cabinets are positioned together within a consolidated footprint which demonstrates an efficient use of land space that enhances the site's simplicity and tidiness to minimise the overall visual impact.

Within the context of the immediate surroundings the extent of proposed changes would be nominally felt, thus preserving the existing character and setting of the surrounding area.

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In accordance with planning legislation, the proposed scheme constitutes permitted development and does not require a prior approval/planning application to be submitted to the local planning authority however, a notification letter has been issued to inform them of the operator's intention to utilise permitted development rights for these works.

The Local Planning Authority must register and our records of other potential sites have already been reviewed, the policies in the Development Plan have been taken into account and the planning history of the site has been examined.

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 has been included with the formal notification to the local planning authority.

We look forward to receiving any comments you may have on the proposal within 14 days of the date of this letter.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me (quoting cell number CS 10895003).

Yours faithfully,



Michal Laskowski MRTPI
Planner, Technology

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(for and on behalf of Cornerstone)

Enc. Drawings

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