

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### 1. Site Details

|                          |                            |                         |                                                                                                |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Site Name:               | Land at Noah's Ark Kennels | Site Address:           | Land at Noah's Ark Kennels,<br>41 Brierley Road,<br>Shafton, Barnsley,<br>S.Yorkshire, S72 8QW |
| National Grid Reference: | E: 439807 N: 411013        |                         |                                                                                                |
| Site Ref Number:         | CTIL_236135_TEF_80646      | Site Type: <sup>1</sup> | Macro                                                                                          |

### 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 |
| If no explain why:<br><br>The Ofcom database was used to search for existing sites in the area which is the most up to date source of information. |     |     |
| Was the industry site database checked for suitable sites by the operator:                                                                         | YES |     |
| If no explain why:<br><br>N/A                                                                                                                      |     |     |

#### Annual Area Wide consultation with local planning authority

|                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of information submission to local planning authority | 06/10/2014                                                                                                      |
| Name of Contact                                            | SteveKirkham@barnsley.gov.uk; DevelopmentControl@barnsley.gov.uk.                                               |
| Summary of any issues raised:                              | No issues raised following submission of rollout plan of the project, benefits and best practice going forward. |

#### Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

|                                                                             |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Date of written offer of pre-application consultation:                      | 28/3/2017 |
| Was there pre-application contact:                                          | No        |
| Date of pre-application contact:                                            | N/A       |
| Name of contact:                                                            | N/A       |
| Summary of outcome/Main issues raised:<br><br>No comments received to date. |           |

<sup>1</sup> Macro or Micro

## Ten Commitments Consultation

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |     |       |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:                                                                                                                                                                               | Red | Amber | Green |
| Outline Consultation carried out:<br><br>Pre-Application consultation letters were sent to Ward Councillors Dorothy Higginbottom, Jeff Ennis and Allan Hampson; Shafton Parish Council and the local MP Michael Dugher. |     |       |       |
| Summary of outcome/Main issues raised:<br><br>No feedback received to date.                                                                                                                                             |     |       |       |

## School/College

|                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location of site in relation to school/college:<br><br>No schools in close proximity. |
| Outline of consultation carried out with school/college:<br><br>N/A                   |
| Summary of outcome/Main issues raised:<br><br>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?                                     |  | No  |
| Has the Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator been notified? |  | N/A |
| Details of response:<br>N/A                                                                       |  |     |

## Developer's Notice

|                                      |           |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Copy of Developer's Notice enclosed? |           | YES |
| Date served:                         | 27/4/2017 |     |

### 3. Proposed Development

The proposed site:

#### Background

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

This application is submitted for and on behalf of CTIL and Telefonica UK Limited. As part of Telefonica's continued network improvement programme, there is a specific requirement for a new telecommunications base station at this location to provide new 2G, 3G and 4G coverage. The site will be capable of accommodating new, more advanced technologies when they come on stream in the future.

#### Site

The application site is located within the Noah's Ark Kennel site which is located to the north of Brierley Road. The site is surrounded by agricultural land and there is an industrial property to the south east. There are residential properties in the area.

There are several vertical features close to the site including an existing monopole and electricity pylons as well as trees.

#### Type of Structure: 17.5m Monopole Mast

##### Description:

The installation of a 17.5 metre slim-line Monopole supporting 3no antennas; and 2no 300mm transmission dishes; 2no Equipment Cabinets and 1no Electrical Meter Cabinet at ground level and ancillary development required thereto.

Overall Height: 17.5m

Height of existing building (*where applicable*):

N/a

Equipment Housing 1no RBS

Width x Depth x Height:

1300mm x 700mm x 1450mm

Equipment Housing 1no TSC

Width x Depth x Height:

600mm x 800mm x 1420mm

Meter Cabinet 1no.

Width x Depth x Height:

655mm x 260mm x 1015mm

Column/mast etc. – type of material and external colour:

Green

Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:

Green

#### Reasons for choice of design:

As part of Telefonica's continued network improvement programme, there is a specific requirement for a new telecommunications base station at this location to provide new 2G (voice), 3G (data) and 4G (high speed data) services, for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK to improve overall network coverage. The site following the proposed installation will be capable of accommodating new, more advanced technologies within the surrounding area.

Development of this site provides an opportunity to improve the existing local telecommunications network and it demonstrates compliance with national (NPPF) and local planning policies which both encourage the usage and sharing of telecommunications facilities. The proposed monopole column coloured green is appropriate to this rural location.

In light of the operators' efforts to design the best solution for this particular site so as to minimise the impact of the development on the environment, it is considered that the appearance of the proposed structure would not seriously impact upon the visual or residential amenity of the area, nor would it form an obtrusive feature within the surrounding area.

The overall height of the structure will be 17.5 metres in order to 'see' above the existing built environment and to provide sufficient space for both operators to share the same site. The existing environment would compromise the proposed 2G, 3G and 4G technologies, for the 2no. operators at this site if the proposal was any lower in height and would be deemed to be unacceptable for the operators' technical coverage requirements.

It is therefore considered that the proposal strikes a good balance between environmental impact and operational considerations. The proposed height, colour and design represent the best compromise between the visual impact of the proposal on the surrounding area and meeting the technical requirements for the site. Taking all matters into account, it is considered that this proposal which is to provide new 2G (voice), 3G (data) and 4G (high speed data) service, for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK would not be discordant within the local environment.

#### 4. Technical Information

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--|
| International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Declaration attached                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes |  |
| 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 the site are taken into account.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |     |  |
| In order to minimise interference within its own network and with other radio networks, Telefonica UK Limited 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 Telefonica Limited 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, which is 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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reason(s) why site required e.g. coverage, upgrade, capacity:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>A mobile phone transmitter is designed to cover a specific area and links its coverage to the next site in the network, creating a patchwork of overlapping coverage 'cells' across the county. So, if a person is on the move, the network will transfer their calls from one site to the next. However, in certain areas there will be gaps between these cells, resulting in a loss of coverage. This can be for a variety of reasons, the most common being topography or buildings which block the path of the signal. The operators' network rollout programme is designed to identify and address these gaps within their coverage and ensure that people can use their phones whenever and wherever they are. This application is to meet a gap in coverage the attached coverage plots shows the gap in coverage and the proposed improvements. It forms part of the operators' commitment to provide coverage to all rural areas by the end of 2017.</p> <p>The Government has expressed its commitment to the UK having the best superfast broadband network (i.e. those services with a headline speed of 30Mbit/s or more) by 2015. It also wants superfast broadband networks to be available to 90% of homes and businesses.</p> <p>According to Ofcom's Communication Marketing Report 2013 it found that the proportion of homes which accesses the internet or web-based services over a mobile network increased by 8% in the last year to 50% mainly due to the increasing smartphone take-up (i.e. phones which are specifically designed for the consumption of internet-enabled services such as websites and mobile applications). At the same time the use of email, social networking sites and instant messaging services all increased. Ofcom estimates that the number of subscribers who accessed the internet from mobile phones increased by nearly 9 million in 2012.</p> <p>According to Ofcom research conducted in April 2013, 30% of smartphone users intend to upgrade to 4G at the end of their current contract. The most commonly cited reason for wanting a 4G service is speed. 73% of smartphone owners said they wanted a 4G service for quicker download speeds and 59% said they wanted 4G to enable faster streaming. The second most commonly cited reason for a 4G service was the reliability of the data service to take advantage of 'improved data coverage' and a 'more reliable data connection'.</p> <p>The Ofcom Report found that it is likely that faster mobile data networks will contribute to further increases in average data consumption and 44% of smartphone users questioned by Ofcom in April 2013 said they would use their handset more if their mobile data connection was faster. The Report stated that data collected by BillMonitor, a company that aims to help subscribers to analyse their mobile bills and find suitable tariffs, showed that consumers' use of mobile data increased at an annual rate of 70%.</p> <p>The National Planning Policy Framework states at paragraph 46 that local planning authorities should not question the need for the telecommunications system, which the proposed development is to support. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the proposed installation is to provide new 2G (voice), 3G (data) and 4G (high speed data) services for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK to improve overall network coverage.</p> |

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 authority in understanding any technical constraints on the location of the proposed development.

## 6. Site Selection Process – alternative sites considered and not chosen

### Site Search Process and Discounted Options

The proposed siting of the mast was decided upon after firstly analysing the requirements to provide new and improved 2G, 3G and 4G radio coverage here for both operators. From this a number of potential options (listed below) were investigated with by a surveyor, radio engineer and site providers. To ensure the efficient operation of the network, alternative sites must to be within a short radius of the cell search area. Sites have to be at relatively high points to ensure the antennas can transmit and receive over the proposed cell area. Furthermore, placing sites on high points enabled the overall mast height to be minimised. Sites also had to have the following characteristics:

- They must be environmentally suitable i.e. where any inevitable and associated impacts are within acceptable parameters.
- They must be available on reasonable commercial terms
- They must be capable of being developed, e.g. without unstable ground conditions
- They must have safe and satisfactory vehicular access for construction and future maintenance and servicing;
- They must afford a reasonable degree of security;
- They must be supplied with power or capable of having an economic supply connected.

Furthermore, there is a statutory requirement imposed by General Condition 3 (4) of the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003, to share the use of electronic communications apparatus, where practicable. The statutory requirement to share existing electronic communications structures is extended through planning policy to include any other high structure.

The proposed mast needs to be sited in the cell search area in order to achieve the radio coverage (2G,3G & 4G) objectives for the local area. The proposed site must also be set within this setting to maintain the communication transmission links for the two mobile operators.

During the site search stage, 6 alternate options were investigated; these are listed below. Site providers (owners) of each site were asked for an expression of interest, in principle, to hosting the proposed development if considered technically feasible. Listed below is the physical address for each of these sites, a National Grid Reference set out co-ordinates in Easting and Northing (NGR) and it sets out reasons why the alternate sites were assessed as being unsuitable and/or available.

Paragraph 43 of the NPPF states that LPAs should aim to keep the number of radio and telecommunications masts sites to a minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network. The document states that existing masts, buildings and other structures should be used, unless the need for a new site has been justified. During the alternative sites assessment, there were no suitable

structures or masts identified which would can provide both the required transmission links and the level of 2G,3G and 4G coverage required in this instance.

The methodology employed in the site search process in accordance with the sequential approach outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is as follows:

- a) Mast and Site Sharing
- b) Existing Buildings/Structures
- c) Ground Based installations

In compliance with its license and the sequential approach outlined in the NPPF, all attempts to utilise any existing telecommunications structures where they represent the optimum environmental solution has been employed. The Ofcom Site Finder mast register was also used to search for existing sites in the area which is the most up to date source of information.

| Site Name & Address                                                                             | NGR:                 | Reason for Not Choosing:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Existing Mast, 41 Brierley Road, Shafton, Barnsley, S72 8QW                                     | E 439807<br>N 411013 | The operator investigated sharing this existing mast. For the operator to share this existing mast; obtain their coverage requirements; and maintain the required operating distances between both operators, the operator would need to replace the existing mast with a tower height in the region of 22-23m. It was deemed that a mast of this height and larger scale would have a much greater visual impact on the surrounding area than a second mast at a lower height would have. |
| Rooftop at Shafton Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Shafton, Sheffield, S72 8NS                 | E 439153<br>N 411077 | The operator investigated a 'stealth' design at the Church, unfortunately the Church does not have a Tower where the operator could install their antennas. The only other design option available to the operator would be to install a large mock effect flagpole on the end of the building and this would not be a suitable option on this historic structure.                                                                                                                         |
| Streetworks on Barnsley Road(A628), Shafton, Barnsley, S72 8QG                                  | E 439894<br>N 410857 | This location is a situated at a lower ground height than the proposed site consequently a 17.5 metre mast would be require to provide the operators coverage requirements. A site of the this height situated directly on the main A628 would have a much greater impact on the visual impact of the area and for vehicles passing the site, than the proposed site would have.                                                                                                           |
| Cudworth West End F.C., High Street, Shafton, Barnsley, S72 8QE                                 | E 439407<br>N 410899 | The Landlord could not commit the land to the operator for the siting of a new telecommunications installation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Greenfield at former Bus Depot, High Street, Shafton, Barnsley, S72 8PZ                         | E 439478<br>N 410585 | This location is situated within on the main high street into the Town. It was deemed that a proposal at this location was unsuitable as it would have a much greater impact on the visual amenity of the town / surrounding residential properties, than the subject site would have.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Streetworks on High Street (outside Shafton Academy Primary School), Shafton, Barnsley, S72 8NF | E 439415<br>N 410734 | This location is situated within on the main high street into the Town and outside of the local Primary School. It was deemed that a proposal at this location was unsuitable as it would have a much greater impact on the visual amenity of the town / surrounding residential properties, than the subject site would have.                                                                                                                                                             |

If no alternative sites have been investigated, please explain why:

Land use planning designations:

N/A

Additional relevant information (planning policy and material considerations):

N/A

### **Siting**

Consideration has been given to technical, engineering, environmental, health and safety and land use planning viability in the siting and design of the proposed telecommunications installation. The height of the structure has been driven by the requirement to achieve the desired level of coverage to the wider area and to providing the vital transmission links for the desired coverage. The proposed location, in our view, would provide the optimum location to site this equipment achieving the desired area and level of coverage, whilst minimising the number of mobile base stations and minimising visual impact.

The proposed design consists of a 17.5m monopole column (overall height), which will accommodate both Vodafone and Telefonica UK equipment. The proposed telecommunications base station will allow both operators to improve the delivery of service to their customers, such as delivering 2G, 3G and 4G services to a much larger percentage of the UK population. The proposed mast, at an overall height of 17.5 metres is the absolute minimum available to operators that will allow all these criteria to be met. This height is in order to 'see' above the existing environment in the immediate area, which would cause unacceptable interference if the structure was any lower in height.

This is a critical network site for coverage for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK. The site is designated as a 'Small Configuration', which means the following technologies will be deployed – GSM 900 (2G), UMTS 900 (3G), UMTS 2100 (3G) & LTE 800 (4G) and is essential to the successful rollout of 4G nationally.

There is a specific requirement for a new telecommunications base station at this location to provide new 2G (voice), 3G (data) and 4G (high speed data) services, for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK to improve overall coverage and capacity. The new site will be capable of accommodating new, more advanced technologies for this cell area so that customers will be able to continue to use their smartphones and tablet computers whenever and wherever they are to access services such as instant messaging, emailing, video calls, down streaming data to name just a few of the benefits of the latest technologies that 4G provides.

It is likely that once built, the site will be visited infrequently for maintenance purposes only. Access to the site will be by foot in which the applicant would gain access to the equipment cabinets. In the event of the antennas within the mast needing to be maintained this will be achieved by siting a cherry picker with a hydraulic platform alongside the base station.

### **Visual appearance**

The monopole column and cabinets have been kept to a minimum, in order to minimise the visual impacts upon the surrounding area. The mast is a green structure in order to assimilate the mast in accordance with existing vegetation. It is considered that the proposed development would not have any negative or detrimental impact upon the character of the area, general visual or residential amenity.

The proposal is the thinnest possible in order to house the 2G, 3G and 4G technologies on the same structure, thus allowing both operators to utilise the same apparatus.

### **Health and Safety**

The latest government research conducted by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phone Technology titled "Mobile Phones and Health" (also known as the Stewart Report) concluded that "the

balance of evidence indicates that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations on the basis that exposures are expected to be small fractions of the guidelines".

However, the report also recommended as a precautionary approach that the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure be adopted in the UK. In response to the report, the Government has stated that emissions from base stations should meet the ICNIRP guidelines and that if they do then local authorities need take no further action. As such, a new ICNIRP declaration is required and attached to this application for this proposal.

## **Noise**

There will be no noise issues related to this site.

## **Planning Policy Framework**

Planning policy is provided at national level by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It is a material consideration in planning decisions.

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) supports high quality communications infrastructure and recognises it as a strategic priority.

Paragraph 43 states that *'Local Planning Authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband'*. It goes on to acknowledge that the numbers of radio and telecommunications masts and the sites for such installations should be kept to the minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network. The NPPF supports the use of existing masts, buildings and other structures, unless the need for a new site has been justified. It goes on to state that where new sites are required, the equipment should be sympathetically designed.

NPPF paragraph 46 sets out a clear message to local planning authorities on health issues and the need for telecommunications systems. It states that *'local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for the telecommunications system, or determine health safeguards if the proposal meets International Commission guidelines for public exposure'*.

Throughout the NPPF there is strong support for sustainable development which is summed up in paragraph 14 which states *'At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan making and decision taking. For decision-taking this means:*

- Approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay; and
- Where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of-date, granting planning permission unless:
  - Any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or
  - Specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.

Section 7 of the NPPF sets out the requirement for good design and states in paragraph 56 that *'the Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people'*. Paragraph 65 goes on to state that *'local planning authorities should not refuse planning permission for buildings or infrastructure which promote high levels of sustainability because of concerns about incompatibility with an existing townscape, if those concerns have been mitigated by good design'*.

The NPPF sets out 12 core principles which should underpin plan-making and decision-making these principles include that every effort should be made objectively to identify and meet development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth (para 17).

### **Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development in England (November 2016)**

The Code of Best Practice provides guidance primarily to mobile network operators, their agents and contractors and to local planning authorities in England. It supersedes the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development (2013).

The principal aim of this Code is to ensure that the Government's objective of supporting high quality communications infrastructure which is seen as vital to continued economic prosperity and social inclusion for all is achieved in a timely manner, but in a way *"which balances connectivity imperatives and the economic, community and social benefits that this brings with the environmental considerations that can be associated with such development"*. It provides clear and practical advice to ensure the delivery of significantly better and more effective communication and consultation between operators, local authorities and local residents.

The Code highlights that the mobile telecommunications network is a key element of national infrastructure in both economic and social terms and a crucial component of everyday life. It states that *"coverage in rural area is recognised as a vital component for maintaining economic activity and social inclusion"*. It acknowledges that the pressure on networks to upgrade and improve networks through changes to existing sites and the development of new sites is constant. With the ever increasing demand and the Government's ambitious aspirations it is becoming more important to improve connectivity and capacity. With the ever increasing demand for data hungry applications available to a range of connected devices, such as smart phones and tablets, the requirement to upgrade and improve networks through changes to existing sites and the development of new sites is constant.

Mast and site sharing continues to be supported within both Government policy and the Code of Best Practice. The Code acknowledges that shared sites will tend to be slightly bigger, but fewer sites will be needed overall to improve coverage and capacity. The Code acknowledges that sharing of sites is now the norm, and network operators now share much of their network infrastructure via joint venture commercial arrangements.

Concerning the erection of new ground based masts; The Code provides examples of where the environmental and visual impact of the mast can be greatly reduced.

- *Placing the mast near similar structures. For example, industrial and commercial premises, road signs and lamp posts;*
- *Placing a mast within or adjacent to an existing group of trees*
- *Using simple and unfussy designs. Masts which have complex designs are more likely to dominate and be in discord with the landscape and have adverse visual impacts; and*
- *Appropriate colouring. Masts seen against the sky, for example, are best left in their galvanised state or painted pale grey. Against a wooded backdrop a matt green or brown colour scheme would be more applicable .*

Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that "If regard is to be had to the development plan for the purpose of any determination to be made under the planning Acts the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise".

## **Local Plan Policy**

The development plan as defined by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council comprises the Core Strategy, the Barnsley Education Sites Development Plan Document (DPD), the remaining saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan.

Barnsley MBC is currently producing a Local Plan. Its status is that it is currently at public consultation stage. This new local plan (once adopted) will replace the Core Strategy and Unitary Development Plan.

There is no current statutory policy pertaining specifically to telecommunications as 'Policy UTL5 Telecommunications' of the UDP is not a 'saved' policy.

### **Barnsley Core Strategy (2011)**

CSP 29 Design Principles:

High quality development will be expected, that respects, takes advantage of and enhances the distinctive features of Barnsley. It requires that development should:

- contribute to place making and be of a high quality, that contributes to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment
- contribute towards creating attractive, sustainable and successful neighbourhoods

### **Barnsley Local Plan Consultation Draft 2014**

Within the consultation draft of the emerging Local Plan paragraph 25 Utilities states:

*"The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to work with other authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of all types of infrastructure including utilities, and its ability to meet the forecast demands. The responsibility and resources to provide services rests with the utilities companies, however, we must make sure that we co-ordinate the development of an effective network of services with existing and proposed development. We will support new services development, and will work with operators to make sure that any proposed development is well positioned and designed."*

### **Evaluation in Light of National and Local Policy**

The NPPF clearly highlights the government's positive stance regarding telecommunications and broadband development and the support whilst noting the environmental and social benefits telecommunications can provide.

The proposed telecommunications installation at Noah's Ark nursery fully complies with the objectives of the NPPF and Barnsley Local Policy.

The application site is for a new telecommunications site whereby the proposed monopole column is being proposed for 2no. operators to utilise one single network grid point in accordance with the NPPF the Code of Best Practise.

The proposed column design will help to absorb and assimilate the proposal within the environment. The overall height of the structure is 17.5m in order to 'see' above the existing environment in the immediate area, which would cause unacceptable interference if the mast was any lower in height.

In accordance with the NPPF, care was taken with regards to the design of the proposed structure. The NPPF states at paragraph 43 that local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband. It

acknowledges that high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. The NPPF also highlights that the development of high speed broadband technology also plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.

The Government has expressed its commitment to the UK having the best superfast broadband network (i.e. those services with a headline speed of 30Mbit/s or more) by 2015. It also wants superfast broadband networks to be available to 90% of homes and businesses. Both companies pledge to close the digital divide between rural and urban areas targeting 98% indoor population coverage across 2G and 3G by 2015. The agreement will also lay the foundations for two competing 4G networks to deliver the capability for a nationwide 4G service faster than could be achieved independently.

Taking all these factors into consideration, it is our opinion that the proposal meets all local policy requirement and national policy as set out in the NPPF.

## Conclusion

Taking into consideration all the relevant factors set out herein this document, it is considered that this telecommunication base station at Noah's Ark Kennels is the optimum solution in terms of providing the required technology, minimising any adverse impacts on local amenity and the surrounding landscape.

To summarise the case in favour of the proposal the following points are of relevance:

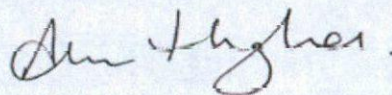
- With specific regard to telecommunications development, the proposal is fully compliant with the NPPF [par 14, 17, 43, 46, 56, 65], Code of Best Practise on Mobile Phone Development, and local policy.
- Site selection was progressed in accordance with the applicant's licence obligations, advice in NPPF and the Code of Best Practice and represents the least environmentally intrusive, technically suitable, available option;
- The significance of the proposal in the development of two competing companies to operate and manage a single network grid providing 2G, 3G and 4G technologies across the UK is a material consideration. By pooling the operators' basic network infrastructure, this will:
  - Automatically increase each operator's footprint by 40%, adding competition and choice for customers in areas that previously only had one operator's coverage available.
  - Close the digital divide between rural and urban areas targeting 98% indoor population coverage across 2G and 3G by 2015.
  - Lay the foundations for two competing 4G networks to deliver the capability for a nationwide 4G service faster than could be achieved independently.
- With the advent of smartphones and tablet computers the demand for indoor 3G coverage and high speed data capture is increasing rapidly and the operators are obliged to meet this demand and provide a high quality service in line with the NPPF guidance.
- The operators' site selection strategy is to keep the overall environmental impact to a minimum through utilising the same sites wherever possible. Where this is not possible the operator will choose a site with the least impact upon the character of the area whilst still being technically feasible in terms of providing signal coverage;
- In this instance this site is considered to have the least impact upon the character of the local area, bearing in mind the site restrictions the operator is working under and other possible locations.
- This is now the only site option open to my client and this restriction is a material consideration in the determination of the planning application.
- The proposals would not constitute a proliferation of telecommunications installations as advocated by NPPF;
- The height of the proposed mast (at 17.5 metres to the top) is considered to be the absolute operational minimum to clear the immediate environment and provide adequate, coverage and capacity for the operators.

## Contact Details

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Signed: Date: 12/5/2017

Position: Planning Consultant Company: Clarke Telecom Limited

(on behalf of CTIL  
and above operator)

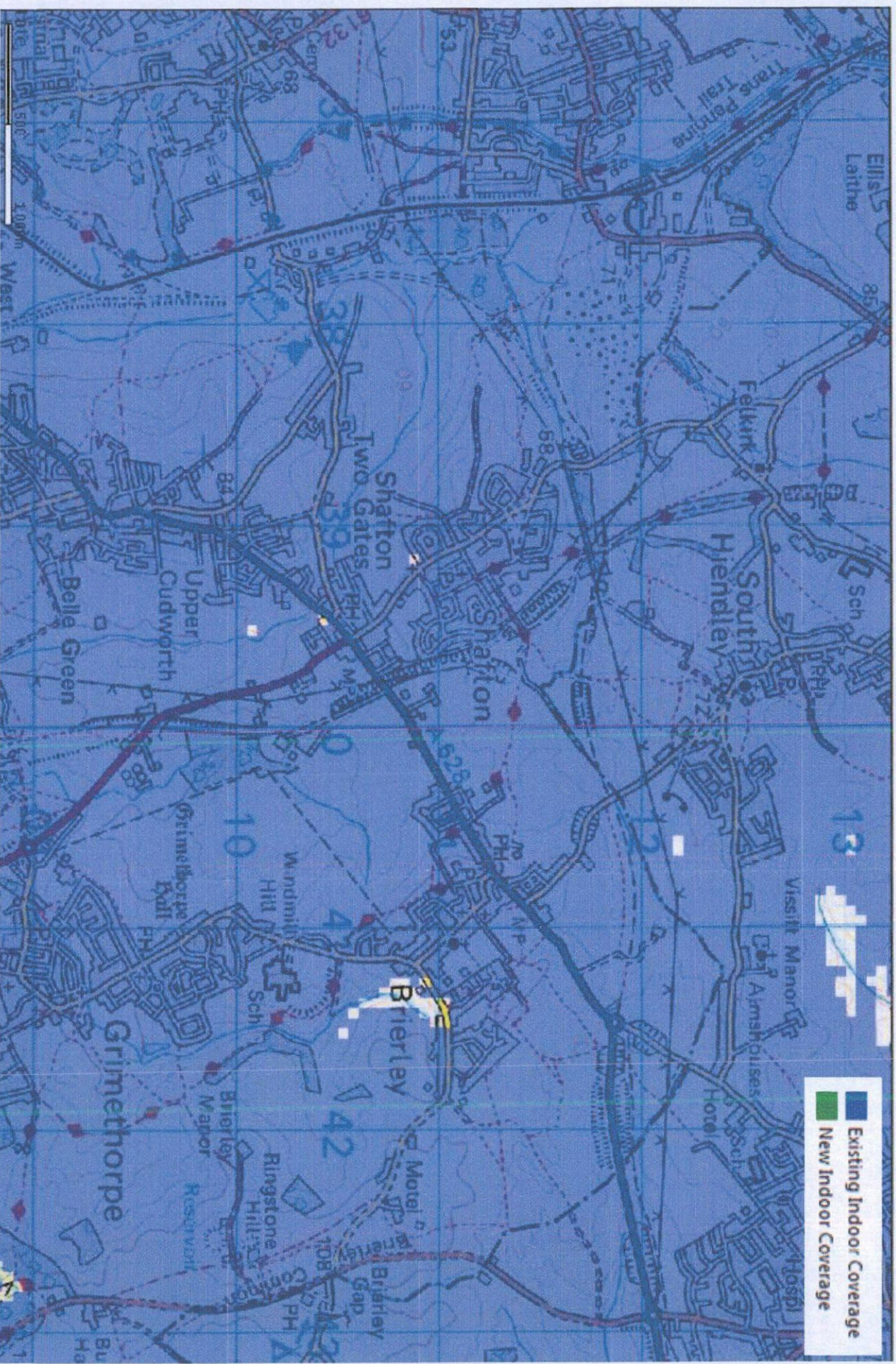
O<sub>2</sub>

# CSR 80646 – Land at Noah's Ark Kennels

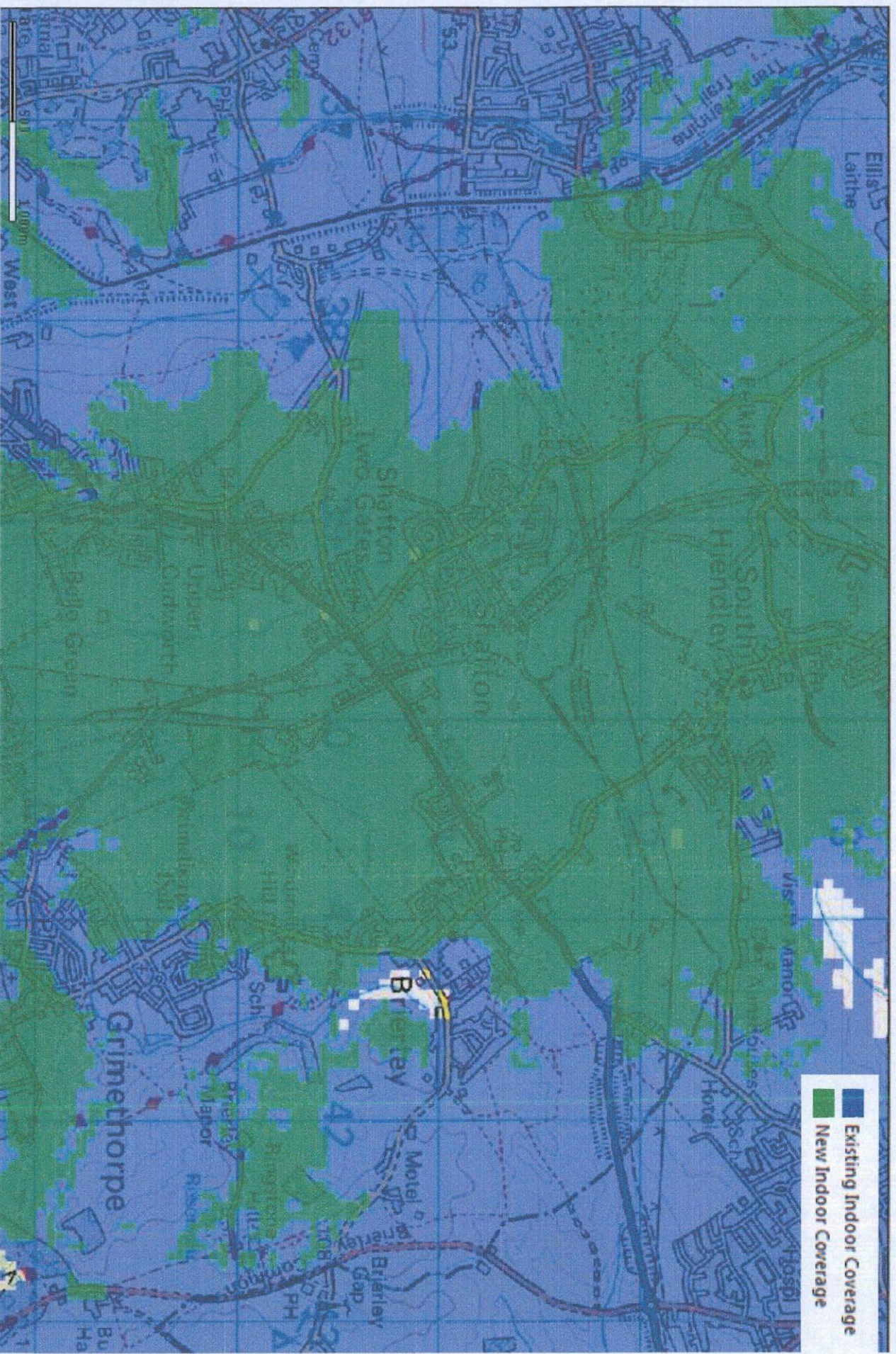
Coverage Plots for Planning Application use only

# Existing 2G Coverage

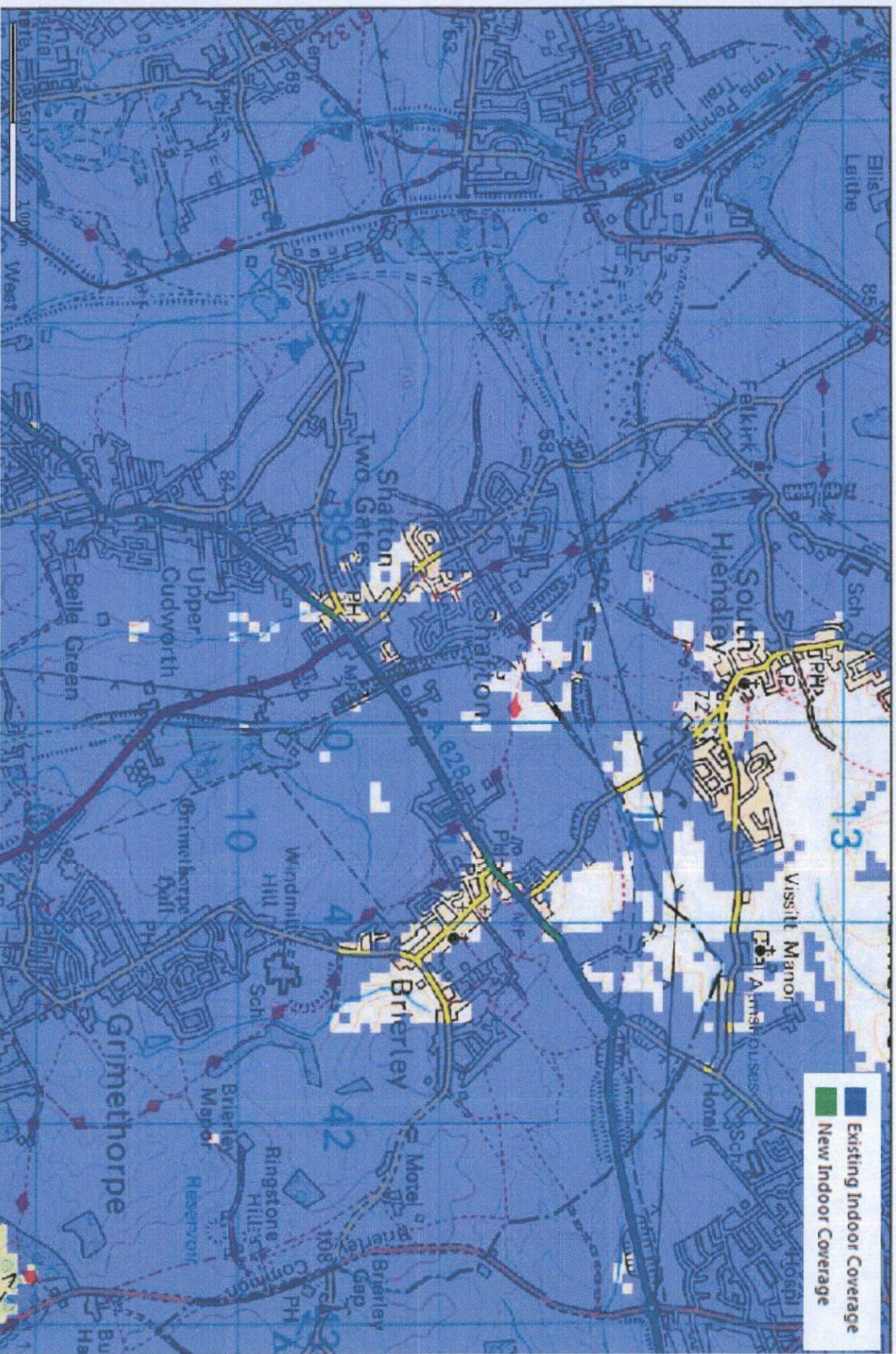
O<sub>2</sub>



## Planned 2G Coverage

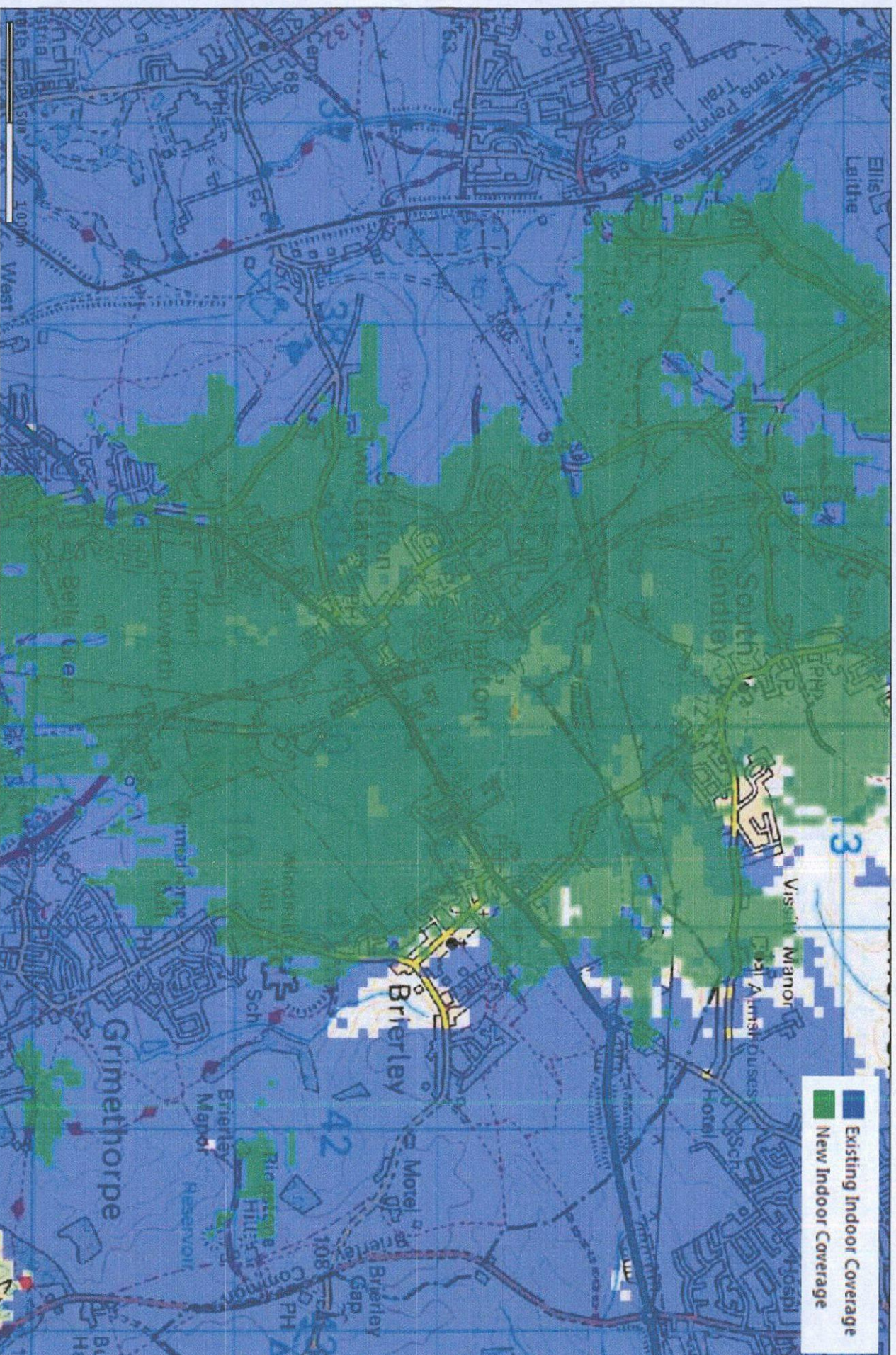


## Existing 3G Coverage



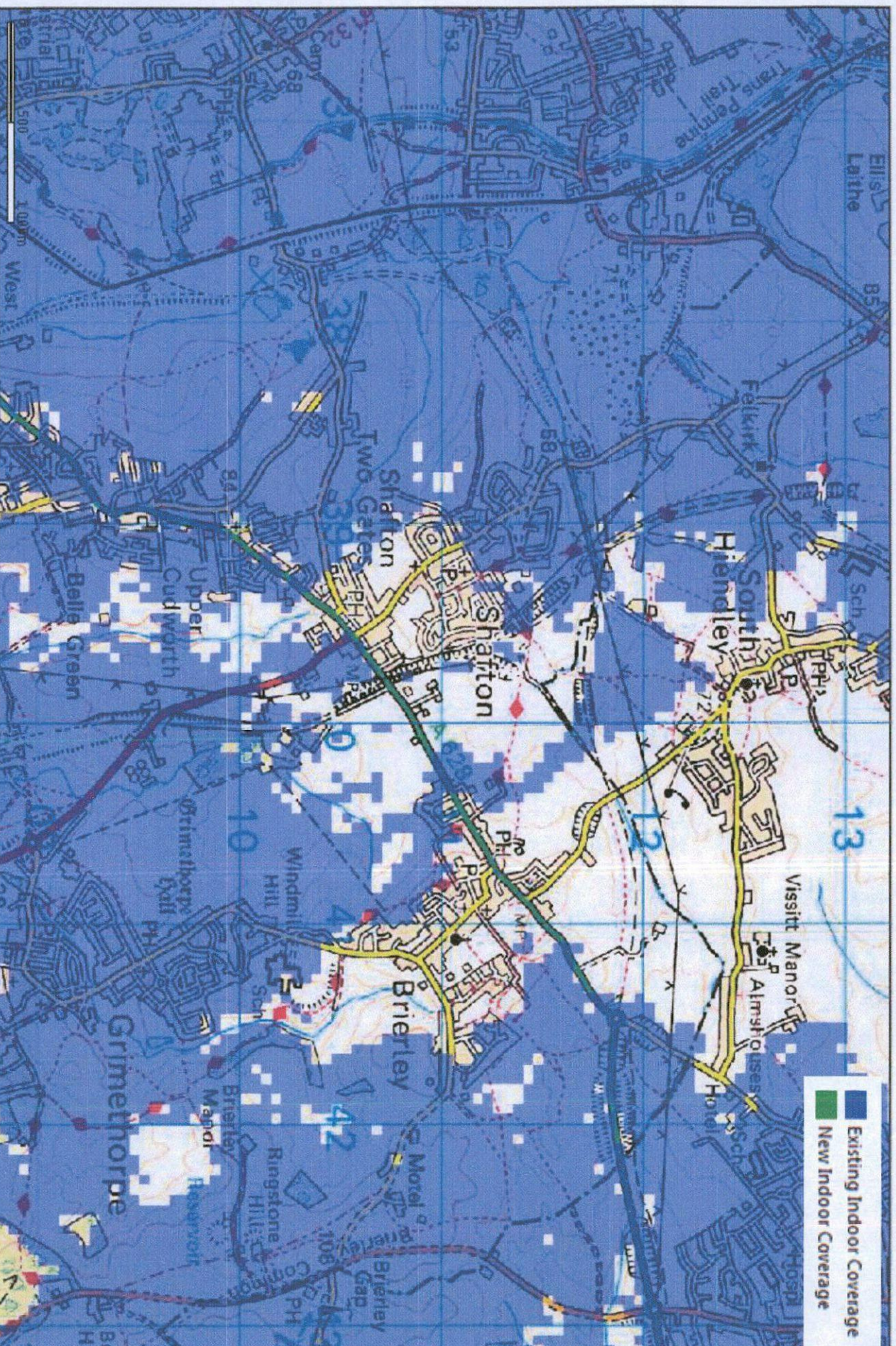
# Planned 3G Coverage

O<sub>2</sub>



# Existing 4G Coverage

O<sub>2</sub>



# Planned 4G Coverage

O<sub>2</sub>

