

WHAT'S ON

in

Oakridge Lynch; Far Oakridge; Waterlane;
Bournes Green & Tunley

NO MONSTER MAST
IN AN AONB AND ANCIENT WOODLAND



OBJECT NOW www.stroud.gov.uk
S.20/1627/TEL

Special Edition
August 2020

Two weeks ago the residents of Far Oakridge became aware that the network provider EE has submitted an application to Stroud District Council for the installation of a 20m telegraph pole communications mast, antennas and associated ground-based apparatus on agricultural land north of Far Oakridge.

In their application, EE state that "this has been brought forward as part of the Home Office program for the renewal of the emergency services network (ESN) – moving from the current Airwave service (which cannot provide data services), to a 4G service provided by EE. A commercial 4G service will also be provided by the proposal benefitting local residents, business and visitors to the area".

There are many people in the Far Oakridge community who oppose this installation on the grounds of the devastating impact this will have on the views and wildlife in this area of our AONB, and who call on the wider community to come together to protect our beautiful countryside. Their concerns are that "this is not an appropriate site for such a structure due to the proximity to registered ancient woodland and the protected wildlife within it: this is an unspoilt part of our rural AONB that we need to protect. The appearance of the proposed mast is also unacceptable due to its prominent height above the treeline and the extensive and unsightly ground equipment. Contrary to the application statement, it will be visible from much of the village and neighbouring villages, fatally changing the panoramic and unspoilt views".

If you feel moved to join the 40+ letters of objection to this unwelcome mast and associated equipment, there are suggestions for points to include in a letter to Stroud District Council on pages 4 and 5 of this special What's On. Objections should be sent to the Council by 7th September, quoting the reference S.20/1627/TEL.

<https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QEU90FPNJ3U00&activeTab=summary>

or email planning@stroud.gov.uk

NO MONSTER MAST!

In an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

66 feet of steel in an untouched rural landscape, with an associated plant area the size of a house.

- Devastating the views of Far Oakridge and neighbouring villages
- Radio waves harmful to wildlife
- 223 ft of new access road
- 840 sq ft of site equipment



Painswick got their mast planning denied with 400 objections!

- Object on Stroud council planning portal:
<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/search-planning-applications> and search S.20/1627/TEL
- And email our MP and local councillor:
 - siobhan.baillie.mp@parliament.uk
 - cllr.tim.williams@stroud.gov.uk

THE MAST: POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS

Objections should be made on policy grounds, and should focus mainly on the potential damage to the AONB.

It should be made clear that they are objections, not comments!

1. The Home Office has failed to have due regard to the special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB designation. The 1985 Countryside and rights of Way Act says that “In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB, a relevant authority should have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the areas of outstanding natural beauty.”

Our case is that the Home Office have failed in their duty, specifically because a) other less harmful sites have not been adequately considered, b) only one “willing owner” has been found, c) they have not considered other less intrusive technical solutions, d) they have not demonstrated that the chosen design solution is the best for the landscape setting.

2. From Cotswold AONB Management Plan, quote CC1 (“Stakeholders should take a more consistent approach to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB”), CC2 (“Relevant authorities must comply with Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act – the ‘Duty of Regard’”) and CE1 (“Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the Cotswolds AONB, should have regard to the scenic quality of the setting and the location and ensure that views are conserved and enhanced”).
3. From Stroud Local Plan, quote ES7 (“Priority will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the natural and scenic beauty of the landscape”).
4. National Planning Policy Framework says “Policies should prioritise full fibre connexions (as these connexions will in almost all cases provide the optimum solution)”. In the bad/no reception areas identified by EE most

if not all properties have Gigaclear full fibre connexion). Also from NPPF “The number of masts should be kept to a minimum”.

5. RE : claims to providing local benefits, Far Oakridge already has complete 4G coverage from Vodafone, O2, pretty good coverage from 3 and some already from EE. The claim that this proposal will benefit the community who does not currently have 4G is false.
6. EE have said in their application statement that the mast and apparatus are behind the treeline when in fact they are on the side that faces Far Oakridge, exposing the mast and ground equipment to roads, houses and popular footpaths. The proposal suggests that the mast will be hidden by trees. All photos are taken in summer with trees in full leaf, thus giving no indication of how much more visible the mast would be in autumn winter and spring. The actual site proposed is next to trees of average height 7m, therefore 13m of mast would be exposed to view at all times of year, and would be very intrusive.
7. Small cells on lower masts on lower sites and on existing poles might cover the Tunley and Daneway ‘not-spots’.
8. No detailed ecological assessment given, or information about mast lighting/noise/vibration.
9. Pre-application discussions with Stroud DC envisaged a 15 metre mast.
10. A recent application for a 15 metre mast in Painswick was appealed against and rejected by Stroud DC on AONB grounds.
11. As at 25 August, Stroud DC had not notified or consulted with anybody living in the area of the EE proposal.

500m RADIUS FROM PROPOSED SITE

A 500m radius from the proposed site clearly encompasses all of the village of Far Oakridge, excepting the few houses at Iles Green.

