

**APPLICATION BY NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (FORMERLY HIGHWAYS
ENGLAND) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT
FOR THE A417 MISSING LINK**

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE: TR010056

WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS BY CELLNEX UK

UNIQUE REFERENCE NUMBER: 20029035

13 DECEMBER 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Statement is prepared on behalf of Cellnex UK in relation to the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (the Application) by National Highways for the A417 Missing Link (the project). Initial representations were made as part of the Registration of Interested Parties process on 2 September 2021.
- 1.2 The Project comprises the provision of a 5.5km section of dual carriageway to improve the current “Missing Link” section of single carriageway of the A417 between Cowley roundabout and Crickley Hill.
- 1.3 Cellnex Group is a significant pan-European tower operator with sites in the UK, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Poland, Italy, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands. It has 131,000 communication sites, 71,000 of them already in the portfolio and the rest in the process of closing or planned roll-outs up to 2030 and positions the company to develop new generation networks.
- 1.4 Cellnex UK is the largest supplier of sites available for sharing by other operators, for example, the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), Airwave and other emergency/breakdown service network operators, the RNLI, the Coastguard and Maritime Services, Mountain Rescue and a range of central and local government departments and agencies. It operates around 9000 active shared wireless infrastructure sites (neutral host) utilised by all the MNOs for the deployment of existing and future generations of mobile connectivity and particularly 5G. Additionally, Cellnex UK has access to other tall buildings and structures not yet developed for electronic communications use.

2. CELLNEX ASSETS

- 2.1 Cellnex has two assets located in proximity to the proposed highway works as follows:

(1) Existing mast site at Shab Hill, Birdlip, Gloucester, GL4 8JX (NGR: 393952E 215377N)

Cellnex UK operates a 67m high lattice mast and associated development from this site.

(2) Existing mast site, Land at Stockwell Farm, Birdlip, Cheltenham, GL53 9PF (NGR: 185492E 054007N)

Cellnex operates a 15m monopole mast and associated development from this site.

- 2.2 Both mast sites are located outside of the DCO area but in close proximity to its boundary where the major construction works are to take place.
- 2.3 Holding objections were initially lodged on the following matters:

- a) Operational/Technical Impacts – relating to impairment to antenna coverage and transmission dish line of sight linkage
- b) Access Arrangements – impact on access and egress being severed
- c) Power and Fixed Line Provision – impact of existing routing being severed
- d) Drainage Provision – risk of flooding
- e) Construction – temporary construction works impacting asset operations

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 On-going discussions have been held with representatives of ARUP for National Highways along with further assessments of the proposals following provision of additional information including plans by ARUP. This has resolved several of the issues and the current position in relation to each objection is summarised as follows:

Operational/Technical – Cellnex is satisfied that the completed highway works as currently proposed will not impact either of our two assets in terms of signal coverage and transmission dish line of sight linkage. This objection is therefore withdrawn.

Access Arrangements - Cellnex is satisfied that the proposed works will not impact either of our two assets in terms access. This objection is therefore withdrawn.

Drainage Provision – Cellnex is satisfied that the proposed works will not introduce a flooding risk to both our assets. This objection is therefore withdrawn.

Power and Fixed Line Provision – Cellnex is satisfied that the power supply and fixed line provision to both sites will not be impacted by the proposed works. This objection is therefore withdrawn.

Construction – National Highways has yet to appoint a build contactor and therefore it has not been possible to discuss the construction method and management. This objection therefore remains outstanding.

- 3.2 An appropriately worded condition will allow the single remaining outstanding objection (relating to construction) to be addressed before works in proximity to the Cellnex assets commence.

4. CONDITION REQUEST

- 4.1 If the Inspector is minded to approve the DCO, we request that the following condition is included to address the remaining objection and to protect Cellnex's interests as follows:

Construction

“Prior to the commencement of any groundworks relating to the highway and associated development/infrastructure within a 400m radius of the two Cellnex masts at Shab Hill and Stockwell Farm, a construction methodology and management plan be agreed with Cellnex. This should include the prevention of any plant, machinery or other equipment to extend above 10m in height within the radius around the masts unless first agreed with Cellnex.

Reason: To ensure that the continued operation of the mast sites are not affected by the proposed DCO works.”