



The countryside charity
Hampshire

VERSION 1 as at Sept 2021

Position Statement

Telecommunications and Utilities Infrastructure

CPRE Issue

Telecommunications infrastructure includes that related to the supply and management of mobile services, broadband and telephone land lines, including masts, poles, wires and cabinets. Utilities infrastructure includes that related to the supply of electricity, gas, water and waste water. This would include electricity transmission pylons, substations, battery storage, electricity poles and cables, gas processing plants, storage, distribution facilities and pipelines, water and wastewater pipelines and treatment plants.

The location of telecommunication masts and utilities infrastructure can have a negative impact on landscape character and views, particularly when poorly sited. Mobile phone providers will often want to increase coverage from new masts by siting on skylines, which will maximise their impact on the landscape. Lines of pylons will usually have to cross elevated ridges at some point, where they will often be exposed on the skyline.

Guidance

Utility providers are often statutory undertakers with statutory rights and obligations. These include the right to carry out certain smaller works without planning consent, such as installing small substations or connection boxes, or laying underground cables. Other works require prior approval of the Local Planning Authority. However most new overhead power lines will require full planning consent, as will telecommunications masts greater than 20 metres in height.

Ideally all cabling should be underground. Use should be made of existing telecommunication masts wherever possible. Siting telecommunication apparatus on a roof, or a new mast in close proximity to an existing building, will have less detrimental landscape impact than a new mast in open countryside.

Sample Policy



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1. Development proposals for new telecommunications and/ or utilities infrastructure will be permitted where :

- a) the identified need cannot be met using existing infrastructure or other appropriate structures;
- b) they make use of all available technologies, appropriate design, and suitable mitigation so as to minimise adverse impacts on the landscape and general amenity, and
- c) they remove, reduce in prominence , or move underground related existing infrastructure, where feasible

NB In considering the wording of individual policies in Local Plans, it is important to bear in mind that Local Plans must be looked at as a whole. This means, for example, that policies for the protection of landscape must be applied when considering each and every planning application; and accordingly, there is generally no need for other policies to refer specifically to landscape matters,