APPLICATION NO:
TL/2000/2426 ✓

LOCATION:
British Gas Compound Land Adjacent To Ambulance Service Headquarters Finchampstead Road, Wokingham.

APPLICANT:
BT Cellnet C/O SpectraSite-Transco Ltd

PROPOSAL:
Proposed erection of one 15 metre telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus, including transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and fenced compound

EARLIEST DATE FOR DECISION: **23/10/2000**

APPLICATION WILL HAVE EXPIRED ON:
10/11/2000

CASE OFFICER: **Natalie Brown**

RAILEX
Marbleboard

EASIFILE EP7

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS

REFUSAL/APPROVAL OF PRIOR APPROVAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS NOTIFICATION

Bill King
Spectra Site-Transco Ltd
3 The Quadrant
Coventry
CV1 2DY

Notification No: TL/2000/2426

Parish: WOKINGHAM

Proposal: PROPOSED ERECTION OF ONE 15 METRE TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST AND ANCILLARY APPARATUS, INCLUDING TRANSMISSION DISHES, EQUIPMENT CABINETS AND FENCED COMPOUND

Location: BRISTISH GAS COMPOUND LAND ADJACENT TO ABULANCE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD, WOKINGHAM

The Wokingham District Council in pursuance of their powers under Part 24 of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) Order 1998 **REFUSES** prior approval for the above stated telecommunications equipment, the reasons/conditions for which are specified hereunder.

Reason:

The proposed telecommunications mast is unacceptable due to its close proximity to residential properties

Date: 2 November 2000

Development Control Manager

Applicationo	Name & Address
TL/2000/2426	Malcom Leveson 38 Finchampstead Road Wokingham RG40 2NN
TL/2000/2426	Mrs Foster & Petition 7 Carey Road Finchampstead RG40
TL/2000/2426	K Nuttall Ambulance Headquarters 44 Finchampstead Road Wokingham RG40 2NN
TL/2000/2426	The Owner/loccupier 1 Carey Road Wokingham RG40 2NP
TL/2000/2426	S Hill The Beacon Hill Valier Lighting Distributing Co. 36-38 Finchampstead Road Wokingham RG40 2NN

App. refused
Letter sent 08/11/00

1811

Planning Application

Received by Wokingham District Council

Application No: TL/2000/2426

Proposal:
Proposed erection of one 15 metre telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus including transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and fenced compound

Location:
British Gas Compound, Land Adjacent To Ambulance Service Headquarters, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham.

The application is available for inspection at Wokingham District Council's offices during the following times:

PLANNING DEPARTMENT, SHUTE END, WOKINGHAM TEL (0118) 974 6428
8.30 - 5.00 Monday - Thursday & 8.30 - 4.00 Friday

WOODLEY LIBRARY HEADLEY ROAD WOODLEY (9.30am - 7.00pm Mon, Thurs & Fri. 9.30am - 5.00pm Tues, 9.30am - 1.00pm Saturday. closed all day Wednesday). *If you intend to view this application at Woodley Library (see details above) please allow 4 days from the date of this notice for delivery of plans.*

Comments should be sent in writing QUOTING THE APPLICATION NUMBER to the Case Officer Natalie Brown P.O. Box 157 Council Offices, Shute End, Wokingham Berkshire, RG40 1WR to arrive on or before 23/10/2000. Written comments submitted will become available for public inspection.

In view of the very large number of planning applications and letters of comment received, it will not normally be possible for an individual reply to observations made. However any comments will be taken into account when the application is determined and you will be notified of the decision.

Head Planning and Transportation

Displayed on fencing on front of gas compound facing Finchampstead Rd on 17/10/2000

MAB

WORK SHEET FOR : Natalie Brown

Application Number : TL/2000/2426

Applicant : BT Cellnet C/O SpectraSite-Transco Ltd.

Location : British Gas Compound Land Adjacent To Ambulance Service Headquarters, Finchampstead Road, , Wokingham.

Proposal : Proposed erection of one 15 metre telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus, including transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and fenced compound

Site Notice Displayed ? :

YES	NO	DATE
✓		17/10

By case officer

Date of Neighbour Notifications : .....

Date of Site Visit : .....17/10.....

Date Registered : 29/09/2000

Earliest Date for Decision : 23/10/2000

Latest Consultation Date/Site Notice Expiry Date : 23/10/2000

This application <u>will have expired on</u>: <u>10/11/2000.</u> You need to make a decision 1 day prior to this date for this application to count as determined in less than 8 weeks.

Consultation Responses :

see file for letters

SN/neighbours to site : 9/10 : Prestige cars - objections - height would blight the area, devalue new housing.
20/10 : Prestige cars - SN gives insufficient time to respond
17/10 : Petition from local residents objecting to app.
20/10 : 36-38 f'stead rd - concerns
18/10 : Ambulance station re/ interference of ~~radios etc~~ microwave link
23/10 : 1 Carey Rd - concerns
Env Health : 4/10 : no objections but comment from NRPB re/ health.
25/10 : no objections but comments re/

WOK TC : loc. refusal on grounds of close proximity to residential properties
(comments as previous re/ site plan)

Planning Issues :

Application Number: TL/2000/2426

Appraisal :

The site would be within 60m of residential dwellings & is therefore unacceptable (see site plan with 60m buffer zone of site added) - these are dwellings along Tenantry + Covey Close.

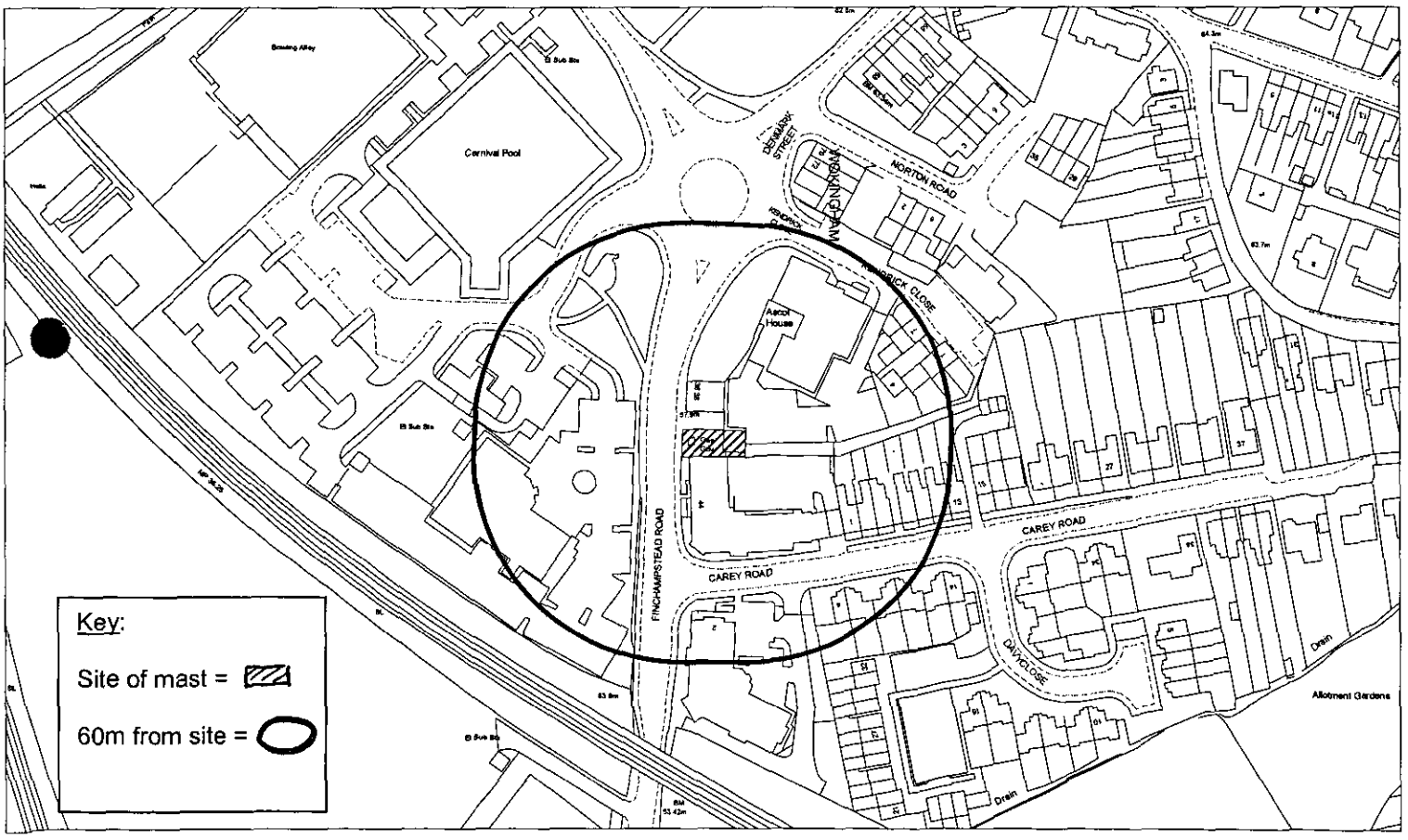
Recomendation : Approval: ☐ **Refusal:** ☐
(tick appropriate box)

Application Number: TL/2000/2426

Appraisal:
The application is for a one 15m telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus, including transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and fenced compound. As the site location plan below show, many residential properties fall within 60m of the proposed mast site. (See application file for a 1:1250 scale plan of the site and the 60m zone from the site) Wokingham Town Council objected to the application on the grounds of close proximity to residential properties.

There have been a number of letters of objection on the grounds of access/parking on adj. sites would be restricted, and that the red site notice was displayed not giving the public enough opportunity to write in. The red site notice was displayed (facing Finchampstead Road) on 17/10/00, and expired 23/10/00. Additionally, neighbouring have been notified of the Council's receipt of a site location plan – with the consultation expiring on 27/10/00. There were also concerns over the site being adj. to a gas compound along with concerns about the health effect of such equipment. A petition was received from local residents objecting the application – however no reasons as to the nature of the objections were stated on the petition. A letter was also received from the Ambulance station on the grounds that the mast would interfere with their existing radio network.

On 25/10/00 a letter was sent to the agents **REFUSING** prior approval, with 7 days to submit details revising the application. The 42 days for the application ends on 10/11/00.



Proposed location of telecommunications mast with 60m zone site location

RECORD OF SITE VISIT

SITE ADDRESS: British Gas Compound Land Adjacent To Ambulance Service Headquarters Finchampstead Road Wokingham.

APPLICATION NUMBER: TL/2000/2426

OFFICER: Natalie Brown

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 17/10

1 SITE/STATUTORY NOTICE DISPLAYED ? ✓

some residential / ID'd sett —

2. DESCRIPTION OF SURROUNDINGS

rear of site is car park for ascot house (Morgan lovell).
few shrubs alongside.
adj to ambulance HQ + lightning shop.

3. DESCRIPTION OF SITE/BUILDING

currently enclosed by ≈ 1m brick wall with 1.8m fencing on top at front + part side with wire mesh gate.
small structure housing gas equip?
garage building at rear of site

4. RELATIONSHIP TO ADJOINING PROPERTIES

would be within 60m of residential properties
see plan

5. SITE CONSTRAINTS

TREES

ACCESS/PARKING

LEVELS

BOUNDARY TREATMENT

OTHERS

Wokingham District Council Environmental Services Department, Berks, RG40 1WR PO Box 157, Shute End, Wokingham,

FAX

Date: 2/11/00

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2.

To:
Spectra site - Transco ltd

Phone:

Fax phone: 02476 243635

CC:

From:
Natalie Brown

Phone: 0118 9746480

Fax phone: 0118 9746484

REMARKS: ☑ Urgent ☐ For your review ☐ Reply ASAP ☐ Please comment

Please pass to the appropriate person, now responsable for this application.

Many thanks.

W.D.C.

* * * COMMUNICATION RESULT REPORT (2.NOV.2000 17:26) * * *

TTI WDC PLAN&TRANSPORT

FILE	MODE	OPTION	ADDRESS (GROUP)	RESULT	PAGE
996	MEMORY TX		902476243635	OK	P. 2/2

REASON FOR ERROR
E-1) HANG UP OR LINE FAIL
E-2) BUSY
E-3) NO ANSWER
E-4) NO FACSIMILE CONNECTION

Tel: (0118) 974 6492 (Direct Line)
E-Mail: Natalie.Brown@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 25 October 2000
My ref: NB/MLT/TL/2000/2426

Bill King
Spectra Site-Transco Ltd
3 The Quadrant
Coventry
CV1 2DY

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Fax: (0118) 974 6484
Minicom No: (0118) 974 6991
DX: 33506 – Wokingham

Dear Mr King,

PROPOSED ERECTION OF ONE 15 METRE TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST AND ANCILLARY APPARATUS, INCLUDING TRANSMISSION DISHES, EQUIPMENT CABINETS AND FENCED COMPOUND, AT BRISTISH GAS COMPOUND LAND ADJACENT TO ABULANCE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD, WOKINGHAM

TELECOMMICATIONS NOTIFICATION: TL/2000/2426

I refer to your notification for a 15m telecommunications mast with ancillary apparatus, transmission dishes and equipment cabinet, on the British Gas compound adjacent to the Ambulance service headquarters, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham.

I write to formally advise you that the Local Planning Authority requires Prior Approval of this scheme in view of the close proximity to of the proposed mast to residential properties.

I would be grateful if you would advise me in writing within 7 days of this letter, if you are able to revise the scheme and relocate it to an alternative location, which would be significantly further away from residential properties.

Yours sincerely

MLT

M L THORP
Principal Development Control Officer

PLANNING [illegible] 35765
POL
DC
AST
CS
26 OCT 2000
COPIES TO: ACK: FILE:

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL CONSULTATION SHEET

Case officer: Natalie Brown

Application Number: TL/2000/2426

Proposal: Proposed erection of one 15metre telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus, including transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and fenced compound.

Site Address: British Gas Compound land adjacent to Ambulance Service Headquarters, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham

Applicant: BT Cellnet C/O SpectraSite-Transco Ltd

Your observations are required in respect of this application by **27/10/2000**

Comment on new plans showing location of mast within British Gas compound site –

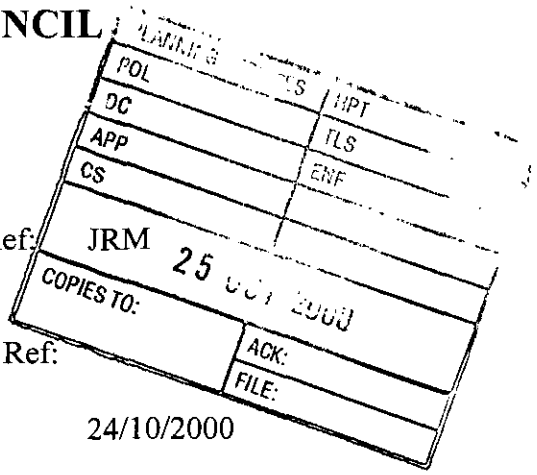
- **Previous recommendation of refusal on the grounds that it is sited too close to residential properties still stands.**

SIGNED: _____ **DATE:** 24/10/00

CLERK TO Wokingham Town Council

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM



From: John Mullaney

My Ref: JRM

To: Natalie Brown
Planning Department

Your Ref:

Date: 24/10/2000

BRITISH GAS COMPOUND, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD, WOKINGHAM. F/2000/2426- INSTALLATION OF TELECOM MAST AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

Having considered the Environmental Health implications of the above planning application, I have no objections to planning consent but have the following comments to make in relation to this proposal.

There have been questions raised as to the possibility of adverse health effects from electromagnetic radiation from telecommunication base stations and their positioning in relation to residential development and in particular schools.

The National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) was established by the Radiological Protection Act 1970 and is responsible for conducting research and providing advice and services for protection against ionising and non-ionising radiation in the U.K. They are continually reviewing the vast body of world-wide research on the subject.

The NRPBs` current advice is that there is no proven human health risk from these installations. This position is confirmed by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and pressure groups such as Powerwatch network. There are however countries and areas of the world where precautionary measures have been adopted, e.g. New Zealand Ministry of Education has issued a policy statement preventing cellular phone antennas from being sited at state schools in the future.

Further research is currently being undertaken into possible health implications although to date no definitive statement can be made.

The NRPB have set up an Advisory Group to look into this matter. This Group has concluded, in reference to buffer zones for sensitive developments, that there is neither a clear basis from which to derive a meaningful assessment of risk, nor is there any indication of how putative risk might vary with exposure. Thus there is no scientific justification for seeking to reduce exposure in these situations and that a decision to do so must be based on social and economic rather than scientific grounds.

continued.....

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's current policy is as follows:

"The CIEH with regard to overhead and buried high voltage power lines, electricity sub-stations, wind generators, microwave and radio transmitters mobile phone base stations and other similar installations emitting electro magnetic radiation (EMR) in close proximity to dwellings considers:

(a) That the effect on human health based on scientific evidence is insignificant and not proven.

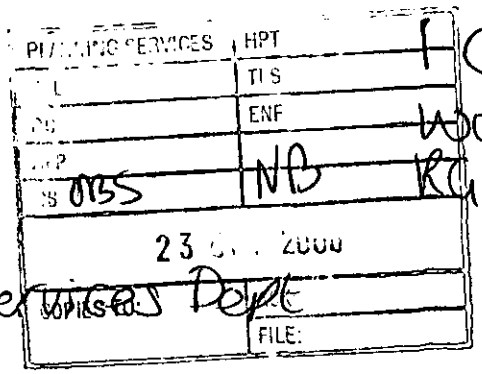
(b) That there is no convincing national or international scientific research linking Electromagnetic Radiation and deterioration in human health.

(c) That a precautionary approach to restricting building or access near such installations (apart from physical safety barriers) cannot be sustained on health grounds alone and if adopted must be based on access, amenity and public acceptability considerations.

(d) That Local Authorities should adopt a policy on how to address questions from the public on Electromagnetic radiation from such sources."

Please contact me if you require further information.

John Mullaney
Environmental Health Officer



1 Carey Rd
Wokingham
RG40 2NP

John Mitchell
Environmental Services Dept
Suite End
Wokingham RG40 1WR

19th October, 2000

Dear Mr Mitchell

Application No TL/2000/2426
Proposed BT Telecommunications development

I strongly object to this proposed development in a highly residential area, where many families have young children.

As I am sure you are aware, there is currently much Medical concern regarding the effect this type of equipment has on our health.

Surely, for all our sakes, such developments are better carried out in a more open and less populated area.

Yours Sincerely

S Forsyth

10 2/

The Beacon Hill
Valien Lighting Dist Co
36 38 Finchampstead Road
Wokingham
Berks
RG40 2NN

PLANNING SERVICES
DC
TLC
OBS INB
COPIES TO:
FILE:

18th October 2000

Attention of Natalie Brown
Wokingham District Council
Environmental Services Dept
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks

Dear Ms Brown

RE OBJECTION TO APPLICATION NO. TL/ *2000/2426*

We wish to object to the above application for the following reasons:-

1 The owners of site British Gas have stated they have not been advised of this application

2 We currently hold the lease from British Gas (Valien Lighting) and have not been advised Of this application.

3 No site plan was available showing where on the site this structure was to be erected.

4 As the main Gas Regulator for Wokingham is within the area This could be a serious hazard To public safety. Plus the site boundary which adjoins a busy public pedestrian thoroughfare.

5 As we lease the adjoining building form Wokingham District Council, our car parking facilities Would be taken away. Double yellow lines were recently installed outside the premises this With the above will have a serious effect on our retail trade.

6 The applicants have stated a 15 Metre Extendable mast. It is significant that 15 Metres is the *Maximum height that can be erected without planning consent. It is obvious that once this mast* Is erected future application will be made to extend the height. This would dominate this area Of the Finchampstead Road overshadowing neighbouring buildings, and will have detrimental Effect on the valve of the new housing that has just been completed.

Yours sincerely

Susan Hill

01344 455 755

PLANNING SERVICES | PT 35590
POL
D
NB
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FILE:

PRESTIGE CARS
OF BRACKNELL

Unit 12 - 13 Acorn House, Longshot Lane, Bracknell, RG12 1RL
TEL: - 01344 30 30 80 FAX: 01344 - 455 755

FAX MESSAGE

TO FAX NO 0118-974 6484 DATE 20-10-00
COMPANY WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL TOTAL NO PAGES 1.
ATTN CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER DEPT PLANNING
FROM MALCOLM LEVESON DEPT

IF TRANSMISSION IS UNCLEAR TEL (44) 1344-30 30 80 ; FAX (44) 1344-455 755

RE OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION
N° TL/2000/2426
38 ENGLEMERE STEAD ROAD WOKINGHAM

FURTHER TO MY LETTER OF OBJECTION DATED 6/10/00 WITH REGARD TO ITEM 6 I RAISED THE ISSUE THAT A PUBLIC NOTICE WAS NOT PLACED NEAR THE SITE.

TODAY FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER, AN ORANGE PLANNING APPLICATION WAS PINNED TO THE FENCE OF THE SITE IN QUESTION STATING THAT ANY OBJECTIONS HAD TO BE RECEIVED IN WRITING BY MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER

SN was displayed on Thursday 19th Oct

I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT ONE WORKING DAY IS SUFFICIENT NOTICE TO GIVE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. VIRTUALLY ~~UNLESS~~ THE WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL HAVE NOT ~~GIVEN~~ GIVEN THE PUBLIC ANY OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AN OBJECTION TO THIS MONSTROUS PLANNING APPLICATION

MALCOLM LEVESON

35597

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL CONSULTATION SHEET

CS

COPIES TO: ACK: FILE:

Case officer: Natalie Brown

Application Number: TL/2000/2426

Proposal: Proposed erection of one 15 metre telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus, including transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and fenced compound

Site Address: British Gas Compound Land adjacent to Ambulance Service Headquarters, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham

Applicant: BT Cellnet C/O SpectraSite-Transco Ltd

Your observations are required in respect of this application by **23/10/2000**

Recommend refusal on the grounds that it is sited too close to residential properties.

SIGNED: _____ **DATE:** 16/10/00

CLERK TO Wokingham Town Council

Date: 20 October 2000

To: Case Officer

We have received Additional Plans for the following planning application:

Application Number: TL/2000/2426

Location: British Gas Compound Land Adjacent To Ambulance Service Headquarters, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham.

Proposal: Proposed erection of one 15 metre telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus, including transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and fenced compound

Applicant: BT Cellnet C/O SpectraSite-Transco Ltd.

Case Officer: Natalie Brown

The new plans show the following: Location plan showing location of mast within British Gas compound site.

Comments are required by 27/10/2000.

Should you have any queries regarding this application please contact the case officer Natalie Brown on (0118) 974 6492.

SpectraSite
Transco

PLANNING SERVICES 35190
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DC NAB
APP
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COPIES TO: ACK:

2426

10 October 2000

ADDITIONAL PLAN

Miss N Brown
Planning Services
Environmental Services Department
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR

Our Ref: BGP540
Your Ref:TL/2000/2426

Dear Miss Brown

Proposed Telecommunications at British Gas Compound Finchampstead Road Wokingham

Further to our telephone conversation, please find enclosed a more detailed location plan with the proposed site marked in red. If you require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Tim Parker BSc (Hons)
On behalf of SpectraSite Transco Communications Ltd

3 The Quadrant Coventry CV1 2DY
tel +44 (0) 2476 243634 fax 44 (0) 2476 243635 email Tim.Parker@ssttuk.com
SpectraSite Transco Communications Limited www.spectrasite-transco.co.uk
Harrier House, St.Albans Road East, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 0HE • Telephone: +44 (0)1707 266144 • Fax: +44 (0)1707 266677
Registered in England No. 3922958 • Registered office: Harrier House, St.Albans Road East, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 0HE

Royal Berkshire Ambulance NHS
NHS Trust

Ambulance Headquarters
44 Finchampstead Road
Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 2NN

Tel: +44 (0)118 936 5500
Headquarters Fax: +44 (0)118 977 3923
Chief Executive Fax: +44 (0)118 977 4872
Communications Centre Fax: +44 (0)118 977 1261
http://www.rbat.com

PLANNING SERVICES | HPT
POL | TLS
DC NB | ENF
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CS |
19 OCT 2000
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FILE:

Direct Dial 0118 936 5559

Ms Natalie Brown
Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
PO BOX 157
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

Date: 16 Ocotober 2000

Dear Ms Brown,

Ref : Application Number TL/2000/2426

I am writing further to your telephone conversation today with my Principal Control Officer, Mr. A. Peters. This was with reference to the above planning application by BT Cellnet to erect a 15 metre telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus, to include transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and a fenced compound. The intended location of this mast and equipment is in the British Gas Compound, land adjacent to Royal Berkshire Ambulance Headquarters, Finchampstead rd, Wokingham.

As was explained, we have now had the opportunity to discuss the implications of the planning application with our radio engineers, NTL. They have advised us that it would not be in the best interest of the Trust to allow the application to go ahead, as there would be serious implications to our existing radio network.

We presently use a microwave link from our Headquarters building across to our aerial mast located at Wokingham Hospital. This is then used to communicate to all our Emergency Paramedic Ambulances and Rapid Response vehicles throughout Berkshire, South Oxfordshire, South Buckinghamshire, North Hampshire and parts of Surrey. Any interference to our established communications network could seriously jeopardise our response to emergency 999, and G.P. Urgent calls. I am also informed that there is already an established grid square with restrictions on the 38 GHz wave band in force around our Headquarters to ensure there is no interference or disruption to our systems.

FS 27353

Chairman
Mr. Keith Kerr
Chief Executive
Mr. Keith Nuttall

Our I.T. Manager has also advised me that he has very serious concerns about the effect that a mast with the associated equipment so close to our Headquarters building would have on all of the various I.T. pieces of equipment in our building.

For these reasons, I have to raise an official objection against allowing the proposed work to go ahead. I would appreciate it if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter and our objections.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Nuttall.

K. Nuttall
Chief Executive

PLANNING SERVICES	HPT
PO:	FLS
DC 0835	ENF
APP	
CS	NB
17 OCT 2000	
COPIES TO:	TCK:
	FILE:

Proposed erection of one 15m telecommunciations mast and ancilliary apparatus at British Gas Compound, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham - Application Number TL/2000/2426

We, the undersigned, wish to register our objection to the development propsed above.

Signed	Name	Address
[signature]	MRS. FOSTER	7, CAREY RD.
	SOPHIE FOSTER	" "
	AMIE FOSTER	" "
[signature]	GARY FOSTER.	" "
[signature]	Kathy Phillipps	5 Carey Rd.
[signature]	Mr R PHILLIPPS	5 CAREY ROAD
[signature]	Mr A Phillipps	5 Carey Road
S Davies	S DAVIES	21 CAREY Rd.
B. Mitchell	B. MITCHELL	"
V.G. ROW	V. ROW	13, Carey RD
Rule	R. Rule.	THE ANNEXE, ROSERY COTTAGE.
	E Forrest	10 Carey Rd.
J.L. Row	J. Row	13, Carey Rd
S. Davies	S DAVIES	11 Carey Rd.
V. Davies	DAVIES.	" "
M Morgan	MORAG MORGAN	19 CAREY Road.
Thomas Morgan	THOMAS MORGAN	19 CAREY Road.
P Morgan	PETER MORGAN	19, CAREY ROAD.
R R Row	RONALD R ROW	13 CAREY RD
A.M. Beaumont	A.M. BEAUMONT	17 CAREY RD.
K.E. Atkinson	K.E ATKINSON	15 CAREY RD
[signature]	S. FORSYTH	1, CAREY RD
[signature]	P COLLINS	1 CAREY RD.
[signature]	J HOPKINS	8 CAREY RD.

Signed	Name	Address
	D. DUNMOW	9 Carey Rd
	J. COLLINS	"
	B. Jenkins Phillips	83 Montague Road Keephatch Park } GRANDPARENTS LIVE AT 5 CAREY ROAD
	J JENKINS-PHILLIPS	" " "
	J B WALLACE	23 Woosehill Lane, Wokingham
	MRS E M WALLACE	"
	M. BERNEY	3 CAREY RD.
	A BERNEY	" " "
	[illegible]	1 DANBY CLOSE
	MICHAEL LARITZ	1 DANBY CLOSE

HALSEY MEYER HIGGINS SOLICITORS

56 BUCKINGHAM GATE * WESTMINSTER LONDON SWIE 6AE TELEPHONE: 0171 828 8772 DX2381 VICTORIA 1 FAX: 0171 828 8714

MOBILE PHONES - MOBILE NETWORKS - SAFETY

1. More than a year ago at Dublin Castle on 6th March 1998, the Irish Minister of Public Enterprise, Mrs Mary ORourke, stated this is an issue which will grow and grow and will not go away. Subsequent events have proved her correct in that Public concern worldwide is growing and not diminishing as the Public grows more conversant with possible effects from mobile phone usage.

2. The issue breaks down into two different parts, firstly the safety of using mobiles themselves and secondly and perhaps long-term more importantly, the question of living close to a ground based Telecommunications Mast and Base Station.

3. On the issue of mobiles themselves, it is of course the users choice as to whether they have a mobile in the first place and then secondly how much they choose to use it. However that choice or consent is entitled to be a properly informed choice or consent. Recent disclosures seem to show that prolonged use of a mobile may not be that safe despite assurances made by the Industry over the last ten years to that effect. On 24th May, Dr George Carlo of the Industrys established WTR in America stated that the Industrys continuing statements that there was no conclusive evidence against mobiles was not a realistic position to take.

4. The main public concern however does not relate to the use of the mobile phones themselves where there is that choice. The problem as perceived by large sections of the public and particularly communities whose privacy has been invaded by the erection of a Mast and Ground Base Station is whether long-term chronic exposure to the low intensity radiation from such facilities is indeed now safe. Bearing in mind that the assurances about the safety of the mobiles themselves when used close to the brain seem now to be somewhat suspect, the question arises as to whether similar assurances relating to the safety of living close to a Ground Based Station and Mast are also realistic. The problem is that such research as has been carried out relates to the mobiles themselves. Little or no published research has been carried out relating to chronic long-term exposure month after month, year after year to living close to a Telecoms Mast.

5. The only indicators, which might tend to provide some evidence relate to other types of masts, i.e. TV Masts, short-wave radio Masts and radar installations. There the North Sydney Australia study showed a significant statistical increase in cancer cases within the triangle of those three Masts in North Sydney. Here the Sutton Coldfield BBC Mast study showed increased radiation levels around the Mast and its near vicinity. In Switzerland, the Schwarzenberg short-wave Mast was thought to be having adverse health effects on the local community for years. When a study was carried out in the mid 1990s by the University of Beme, it was found that the emissions from that mast did have an effect on the people in the vicinity.

This was discovered because during the period of the study there was a significant drop in the symptoms in many people over a three day period within that prolonged study. It was then discovered, which was not known at the time, that the transmitter had failed for those three days and there were no short-wave transmissions. The Swiss government has now closed the Mast down. Incidentally, the Swiss health and environmental officials have proposed strict rules for public exposures from new sources of radio frequency and microwave radiation. If the ordinance is adopted, which appears likely, Switzerland will have the most stringent exposure levels in the world -- based on the precautionary principle -- guideline levels much lower than those recommended by the NRPB.

There is also the evidence of the Soviets irradiation of the US Embassy in Moscow, which produced serious adverse health effects.

There is the Skrunda study in Finland with regard to populations living many kilometres behind the radar installation and those living a similar distance in front of the radar installation. There the health conditions of those living in front of that installation were found to be markedly different, and this has been put down to the effect of the radar transmissions.

Finally there was recently a study funded by the Bavarian State Government in Germany following reported adverse health effects in dairy cattle only after a Telecoms Mast had been erected. It was discovered after a period that the cause of the significant drop in the yield of that herd of cattle and Extraordinary Behaviour Disorders in some of the cows related to the microwave transmissions from that Mast. When the cattle was moved away from its vicinity after a period the milk yield and the behaviour of that herd was totally restored to normal.

However when the cattle were returned to the mast environs their symptoms returned. This was not an isolated incident -- see Loscher and Kas of Universities of Hannover Veterinary School and University of the German Army in Munich 1998.

6. None of these situations appears to relate to thermal heating of any kind. These effects could not be ascribed to thermal heating because the distances involved are far too great. However, they may relate to biological effects from low intensity microwave radiation over prolonged periods. However, the research has not been carried out into cumulative effects. It is necessary to ask why? Perhaps in the light of the Industrys approach over the years to the mobiles themselves, the answer may be fairly obvious?

In the absence of conclusive evidence that mobiles themselves and mobile networks are safe -- something the scientists agreed they can not prove without substantial additional properly structured research -- it is necessary now to use common sense and prudent avoidance. The European Treaties relating to the Environment described common sense as the Precautionary Principle and preventative action -- see Article 130r.

7. What does prudent avoidance, preventative action, precautionary approach mean in practice? No-one wants to prevent the advance of telecommunications. It is a great new boon to living when used sensibly. However, common sense needs to prevail over the economics of the Industrys proliferation. There is no need these days to place Telecommunications Masts and Base Stations too close to permanently occupied residences and childrens schools. The only reason that Masts are placed too close, i.e. the near side rather than the far side of a farmers field is because it is cheaper. Cheaper because it is nearer the electricity supply, cheaper because it is easier for maintenance and access from an adjoining road or track.

However, the requirements are not that spot specific and there is absolutely no reason why a properly erected and located Mast should be closer than a minimum of 200 to 250 metres from any inhabited property, using a ground based Mast and Ground Based Station. Unfortunately the Industry ignores the obvious because it is easier and cheaper, and usually regrettably there is no-one to take them on or to challenge their planning application with the Planning Authorities.

8 Recently groups all over the United Kingdom, including Scotland and Northern Ireland have been successful in showing planning authorities that there is a better way to interpret the outmoded Telecommunications Legislation (1984) the outmoded planning circulars and the general ignorance of the fact that European Union Treaties advocated the Precautionary Principle (1993 Maastricht) to safeguard the public's health. Governments are there to be wise and knowledgeable. Governments are not there to be led by the Industry in pursuit of progress and financial gain at the expense of the public at large. Governments are there to be able to interpret properly scientific guidance or advice.

This proliferation of Network Masts may turn out to be the next BSE for ignoring the warnings and acting without any common sense or prudent avoidance.

9 Reverting to the mobiles themselves, it is not common sense to put a mobile against your head for four or five hours a day at the incidence of your employer. In law, almost certainly that Employer is not providing a safe system of work. Equally, under the Consumer Protection Act it seems probable now that the manufacturers ought to display some form of health warning on their products to protect themselves from product liability claims -- and of course the users to whom then sell the huge number of phones from internal danger to enable such consumers to make an informed choice or consent. Possibly, in due course, it will be shown scientifically that living in too close proximity to a Mast is damaging to health, and possibly then there will under provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 be legal remedies available, which allow people to seek compensation from the mobile phone network providers, and also against those who allow the Masts to be on their land.

This may include eventually even some Local Education Authorities who seem to be prepared to allow Masts to be erected regardless of possible risks to the children on school property for whom they are in loco parentis in return for an annual rental. This aspect is currently now under investigation by the Secretary of the State for Education following the meeting of the House of Commons Select Committee in June 1999 with Representatives of NRPB as mentioned below.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Scotland

10 Currently parallel with the separate establishment of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh which now has responsibility for the majority of issues affecting people living in Scotland over one third of all Scottish Local

Group and its observers, At that meeting many members of the public gave typical accounts of symptoms they had experienced following the coming into operation of a Mobile Phone mast or masts.

At the closed meeting in Belfast the opportunity was given not only to submit additional written evidence but also to make representations and to answer questions from the Experts,

It is understood that the Expert Group Will be submitting its Independent Report to the current Minister for Public Health some time in April 2000.

18. On 2nd February 2000 the European Commission in Brussels issued its statement IP/00. 96 "Commission adopts Communication on Precautionary Principle".

The preamble states as follows;

"The European Commission has today adopted a Communication on the use of the precautionary principle. The objective of the Communication is to inform an interested parties how the Commission intends to apply the principle and to establish guidelines for its application. The aim is also to provide input to the on-going debate m this Issue both at EU and international level. The Communication underlines that the precautionary principle forms part of a structured approach to the analysis of risk, as well as being relevant to risk management. It covers cases where scientific evidence Is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain and preliminary scientific evaluation indicates that there are reasonable grounds for concern that the potentially dangerous effects on the environment, human, animal or plant health may be consistent with the high level of protection chosen by the EU. Today's Communication complements the recently adopted White Paper on Food Safety and the agreement reached in Montreal this weekend on the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety."

The Communication goes on to include the following paragraphs:

"The Communication recalls that a number of recent events have undermined the confidence of public opinion and consumers because decisions or absence of decisions were not supposed by full scientific evidence and the legitimacy of such decision was questionable".

"The Communication makes it clear that the precautionary principle is neither a Politicisation of science or the acceptance of zero-risk but that it provides a basis for action when science is unable to give a clear answer. The Communication also makes it clear that determining what is an acceptable level of risk for the EU is a political responsibility. It provides a reasoned and structured framework for action in the face of scientific uncertainty and shows that the precautionary principle is not a justification for ignoring scientific evidence and taking protectionist decisions. "

Annexed to the Communication Is a three page summary setting out the Communications aims concerning the use of the Precautionary Principle. On the third page on the back annexed to the summary, a definition is provided as follows;

"Subject to review in the light of new scientific data, means measures based on the Precautionary Principle should be maintained so long as scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive ....."

Conclusion

The Answer for the time being is Prudent Avoidance and Common Sense, at least until properly structured research has been concluded, and then independently assessed. The answer is not to listen only to the Industry, who have tended to ensure that the industry Commissioned research proves their point on safety. Currently prudence advocates that reliance on the NRPB Guidelines is no longer sufficient.

Many independent University Researchers who have produced adverse results have had their research funds curtailed, or taken away which stifles further investigation of adverse effects shown by earlier research, Governments are elected to be aware of what is going on, and to protect the public at large when uncertainties exist, and prudent avoidance should currently prevail over commercial interests until the further essential research his been completed and 'independently" assessed.

Revised 17th February 2000

maximum emission levels at stations on other council-owned sites should be lower than those set by the NRPB because of claims by scientists that the NRPB guidelines do not taken into account the low level non-thermal emissions which may cause illness in children.

On 6th October 1999 Restormel Borough Council in Cornwall refused a full Planning Application for a 20 metre high Telecommunications Mast at Fowey for the following reasons:-

"The Proposal by reason of its proximity to the primary school, residential property mid employment uses and radiation/microwave emissions from the mast and associated equipment cabins could result in health risks to local people particularly as there is no proven evidence to the contrary and therefore the Authority considers a precautionary approach should be taken".

15. By letter dated 7th October 1999 Doctor George Carlo the Chairman of the Industries established Wireless Technology Research Company (WTR) in Washington, USA reported to the Chief Executive Officer of AT&T - one of the largest Global Telecommunication Companies - that following the establishment through AT&T of the industry's 27 million US Dollar 5 year research programme, it was now necessary to call attention "to some surprising findings of our work". Doctor George Carlo indicated:- 'that the well-conducted scientific studies that WTR was overseeing indicated that the question of wireless (mobile) phone safety had become confused" Doctor Carlo further stated.- "Today I sit here extremely frustrated and concerned that appropriate steps have not been taken by the wireless (mobile phone) industry to protect consumers during this time of uncertainty about safety".

He went on to point out that there are now 80 million consumers/mobile phones users in the United States and 200 million worldwide - here the House of Commons Select Committee Report stated on 22nd September 1999 that there are now 17 million users in the United Kingdom - and he then stated:- "I am concerned that the wireless industry is missing a valuable opportunity by dealing with the these public health concern through politics, creating illusions that more research over the next several years helps consumers today, and false claims that regulatory compliance means safety".

"Alarmingly, indications are that some segments of the industry have ignored the scientific findings suggesting potential health effects, have repeatedly and falsely claimed that wireless phones are safe for all consumers including children, and have created an illusion of responsible follow up by calling for and supporting more research. The most important measures of consumer protection are missing: complete and honest factual information to allow informed judgement by consumers about assumption of risk, the direct tracking and monitoring of what happens to consumers who use wireless (mobile) phones; and, the monitoring of changes in the technology that could impact health."

16. At the recent Fourth International Conference 'Mobile Phones - is there a health risk' held in London on 91 10 November 1999 Professor Gyorgy Thuroczy of the National Institute for Radiobiology and Radio Hygiene Department of Non-Ionizing Radiation in Budapest Hungary stated that in Hungary and other former Eastern Block countries the safety guideline levels based upon Soviet scientific knowledge were set 10 times lower than the 1998 ICNIRP (The International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection) Guidelines which were 5 times lower than the current NRPB Guidelines set in 1993 based upon thermal heating. A speaker from Switzerland confirmed that Switzerland required tougher Guidelines as well although most countries were now operating on the basis of the 1998 ICNIRP Standards.

17. In July 1999 the then Minister for Public Health at the Department of Health, The Rt. Mon. Tessa Jowell, announced the establishment of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (IEGMP) and its term of reference:

"to consider present concerns about the possible health effects from the on of Mobile Phones, base stations and transmitters, to conduct a rigorous assessment of existing research, and to give advice on the present state of knowledge. To make recommendations on further work that should be carried out to improve the basis for sound advice."

In January/February 2000 the Independent Expert Group, Chaired by Sir William Stewart FRS FRSE conducted a series of open meetings in Liverpool, Cardiff, London and Belfast together with some closed meetings when an opportunity was given to submit additional evidence to the Group. The final meetings in Belfast took place on 3rd/4th February 2000. The open meeting was well attended by approximately 80 people, together with virtually the full membership of the Independent Expert

adopting Precautionary Policies as a direct result of what they perceive to be inadequate official advice from Government Departments.

11. Local Authorities in Scotland have decided that there are too many unanswered questions to risk exposing the Public needlessly to levels of microwave radiation which could or may in time* prove to be harmful to their health. By choosing to keep transmitter masts away from schools and residential areas local authorities are not doing anything radical, but merely following the Precautionary Approach advocated in the European Treaties, accepted by the UK Government in 1993 at Maastricht. The EU Community Policy on the Environment which sets out "The Precautionary Principle" and the taking of "Preventative Act " are now contained in Article 174 (formerly Article 130r) of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

England and Wales

12. Similarly the influential Local Government Association (LGA) has now advised its member local Authorities to adopt the Precautionary Approach on the basis that the decision making Process of the Governments Advisory Body the NRPB, based upon waiting for 'conclusive scientific evidence' before acting, is potentially flawed. On 12th August 1999 the Local Government Association accused the Government of 'dithering' over the potential danger of cancer and radiation from mobile phone masts.

The LGA Planning Executive Chairman Stated:

"The Government must stop dithering and give Councils some clear guidance to the threat posed by Radiation and the planning powers to keep the Public Safe - especially vulnerable, children and the elderly rather than wait two or three years until the research is finished".

Those statements were made in August 1999 after the Government issued on 23rd July 1999 letters to the LGA and Members of Parliament which failed to help authorities make the right planning decisions or offer them guidance on where masts can be safely erected.

13. All this has come about after the senior representatives of the NRPB gave their evidence to the House Of Commons Select Committee in June 1999 explaining firstly that the NRPB under its statutory legislation could only base its guidance and advice on 'conclusive scientific evidence' as required by its Act of Parliament, and that accordingly until essential research had been carried out in their opinion the only "conclusive scientific proof" related to the properties of thermal beating on which their 1993 Safety Guidelines remained solely based.

Secondly however the representatives of the NRPB made it clear that until the freshly commissioned research produced some 'conclusive' scientific proof that there were other effects apart from thermal heating, it was up to Politicians and Planners to exercise their 'own' judgement.

14. On 1st September 1999 Belfast City Council ratified the 18th August 1999 Decision of its Development Committee that 'no Transmitter Masts should be permitted on any Council property'. due firstly to the, unknown risks from such masts and secondly because of 'substantial public concern'.

Similarly Wyre Borough Council in Lancashire recently decided that the proposed site for a mast and base station was unsuitable "given its proximity to a nearby primary school and houses which were 190 metres and 40 metres away respectively". This refusal was based on public fears about possible health risks posed by microwave radiation. This follows the 1998 Court of Appeal decision finding that 'genuine public fear and concern is a material planning consideration, even if the fear is irrational and not based upon evidence - see Newport BC v Secretary of Slate for Wales (I 998) JPL 3 77

On 23rd September 1999 it is understood that Hampshire County Council decided to place a moratorium on permitting the erection of mobile phone masts and base stations on any council property or land.

It was announced in the October issue of Planning Magazine that 'Oxfordshire County Council had decided not to allow mobile phone base stations at school or council-owned sites within 200 metres of school boundaries pending further research into their safety.' The Council also decided that

Mobile Phones and Mobile Phone Networks Potential Litigation or Law Suits

extracts from a document by Mr. Alan Meyer, Gothenburg, September, 1999.

At this juncture the legal position is akin to a minefield and therefore it is wise to tread extremely carefully.

The current Guidelines are set by ICNIRP (the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection) and NRPB (National Radiological Protection Board) in the United Kingdom.

Generally such guidelines are based on Thermal Heating because it is argued that there is no conclusive evidence currently scientifically that there are any other effects beyond the known Thermal Heating Factors. ...

In the United Kingdom those NRPB Guidelines were issued as long ago as 1993. In the development of Mobile phones and Networks that is a very long time ago - to my thinking as lawyer in 1999 and approaching the new Millennium that is too long ago.

My current understanding is that many eminent scientists and scientific researchers believe that low intensity radiation does have scientifically provable biological effects. This contradicts the long stated position of the Industry that Mobiles have no effect at all.

That, however, does not mean either that necessarily mobiles or mobile networks have proven health hazard effects. All it shows is that there is now a situation of some uncertainty, which calls for properly structured and properly independent research. There is some evidence that until very recently the research has not been firstly properly structured, and secondly that possible adverse results have not then been either followed up, or followed up in a proper manner designed to ascertain whether that research might have found something unexpected and contrary to the industrys own research and expectations.

Looking from a possible litigation viewpoint there are now parallel situations in both Tobacco and BSE/CJD from which some conclusions or inferences may be drawn now - without awaiting the necessary long time scale for this further research to come through with its results one way or another.

For decades the Tobacco Industry has fought off claims that smoking and nicotine have adverse health effects. Now that stance is crumbling both politically and legally with attendant huge costs. ...

Mobile Phone Telecommunication Masts and Base Stations.

From a thermal heating viewpoint they will only affect someone exposed directly close to the antennae and dishes - a matter of a few metres probably. However these guidelines only cover the adverse effect of thermal heating. Presently it is not known whether it is safe to expose people to long term cumulative biological Effects at distances within 200/250 metres of transmission Masts.

There is no direct proof yet that the low intensity radiation from the antennae and dishes or masts can have a biological effect. Yet is the operative word here. Why? Because no one so far has carried out prolonged tests over a matter of years to ascertain whether masts can produce biological effects in human beings, who are exposed to chronically to such radiation for months and years.

There are however some studies which now suggest that prolonged exposure may well be a factor in inducing ill health in people.

The 1996 University of Bern Schwarzenberg study on short wave masts is a possible example of what may be a problem for people living close to a transmission mast.

The 1998 Loscher & Kas study into the Extraordinary Behaviour Disorders in Cows in proximity to transmission Stations ought to be sounding warning bells throughout this enormous industry.

Why? Because if it is subsequently found that these warnings - coupled with the European Treaties Environmental Advisory Article 130r - are or have been completely ignored when notice should have been taken, the legal dangers will become far more substantial and costly to the Industry.

Consequences - who will be at risk from legal claims?

The mobile phone network operators who usually own and erect their own, or share masts for the antennae and dishes.

The landowner, private or public, who leases or sells the land to enable the masts and base stations to be erected by the network operator in exchange for an annual rental or sometimes a sale price.

The Authority, who perhaps sanctioned the Landowner to allow the Mast to be erected on its land or buildings i.e., Schools, Police and Fire Brigade Authorities together with Health Authorities responsible for Hospital Land and Buildings.

The Insurers of all such people and bodies.

Why Masts could be found to have adverse health consequences with legal implications?

(1) Because of network operators insistence for economic and access reasons to place them too close to permanently inhabited buildings such as Homes, Childrens Schools and Hospitals.

(2) Because no long term research has been carried out to ascertain whether low intensity radiation for this new source may have biological effects on some people and

(3) If it is so found that radiation from Masts can indeed change cell structures and the production of Nocturnal Melatonin (an Inhibitor) and the enzyme ODC (a Promoter) often found in cancer tumours

Then Mobile phone network operators, manufacturers and Landowners may all find themselves, or their Insurers, at substantial risk of health effect claims.

It is as yet a minefield - but the existence of this minefield and the possible consequences are now known. The warning voices have expressed concern. The scientific proof has yet to come through one way or another. It may take many more years before the health outcome is known.

Conclusion

What needs to be done now to cover the period of yeas during which the fresh, independent, properly directed research is carried out to ascertain whether the biological effects of low intensity radiation do indeed lead to establishing adverse health effects in some people?

Governments should require their Planning Authorities to ensure that these are located well away from permanently occupied buildings such as childrens schools in particular, peoples homes, hospitals and old peoples homes.

In Europe the Precautionary Principle and Preventative Action as advised in Article 130r of the European Treaties should be both followed and adopted into National Law, and then enforced. In many countries this is already happening, and minimum distances away from permanently inhabited buildings are being required.

No one currently knows what may be the correct minimum distance due to lack of the essential research on cumulative biological effects. However in many instances distances between minimum of 250 metres to 500 metres are being required.

An important practical side issue which concerns the public at large is that when masts are placed too close to permanently inhabited buildings it causes prolonged stress and anxiety, which can medically bring about adverse health conditions.

That too may lead to expensive litigation against Network Operators, who continue to choose to ignore the EU Precautionary Principle - which probably is only common sense anyway?

In addition, the European Convention on Human Rights, when introduced next year into English Law, may also produce new causes of action for Communities of people who find Masts being erected unnecessarily too close to their homes where their privacy is invaded, without their consent, and too often, without any prior notification or warning.

PRESTIGE CARS
of Wokingham

38 Finchampstead Road - Wokingham - Berks. RG40 2NN
Telephone: (0118) 9890890 - Fax: (0118) 9893030

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Attention of Natalie Brown
Wokingham District Council
Environmental Services Dept
Planning Services
P.O.BOX 157
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks

6th October 2000

Dear Ms Brown,

Re: OBJECTION TO APPLICATION No. TL/2000/2426

We Wish to object to the above application for the following reasons:-

1. The owners of the site, British Gas, have stated that they have not been advised of this application.

2. The site is currently on lease from British Gas to Valien Lighting, who have not been advised of this application.

3. We as occupiers of part of the site would have access to our premises totally withdrawn.

4. No site plan was available showing where on the site this structure was to be erected.

5. This structure would be within a few feet of one of the main Gas Regulators for Wokingham. No mention of this is made on the application nor shown within the fenced area. THIS COULD BE A SERIOUS HAZARD TO PUBLIC SAFETY in view of the large Electrical Installations that would be placed in the vicinity of a Gas Installation.

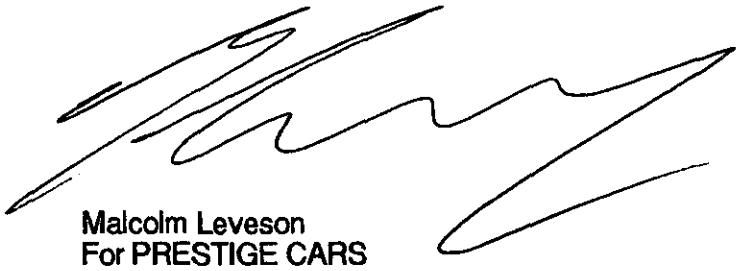
6. The Public Notice has been placed in a dead-end side road where members of the public do not go and would therefore be unaware of this application. No notice has been placed on or near the site boundary which adjoins a busy public pedestrian throughfare.

7. The applicants have stated that this is to be a 15 metre EXTENDABLE mast. It is Significant that 15 metres is the maximum height of mast that can be erected without Planning Consent. It is obvious that once this mast is erected a future application will be made to extend it, whereas should this applicant request consent now for the height of mast that they finally intend erecting, that Planning Consent may well be refused.

Re: OBJECTION TO APPLICATION No. TL/2000/2426

8. A 15 metre (49 feet) mast would dominate this area of the Finchampstead Road overshadowing neighbouring buildings and an eyesore at the edge of the town area which the District Council, Town Council and T.C.M.I. is currently trying to enhance. The proposed height and any subsequent increase in height would blight this area and have a detrimental effect on the value of the new housing that has just been completed within 100 yards of this site. These householders have not been advised of these plans.

Yours sincerely,

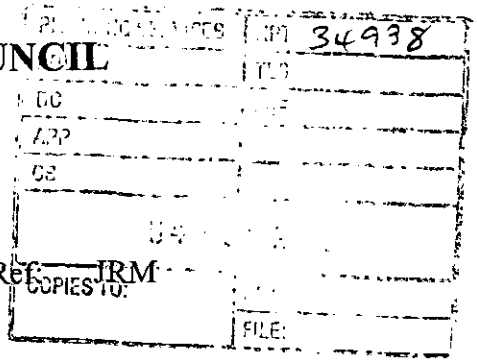


Malcolm Leveson
For PRESTIGE CARS

c.c. CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM



From: John Mullaney

My Ref: JRM

To: Natalie Brown
Planning Department

Your Ref:

Date: 02/10/2000

BRITISH GAS COMPOUND, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD. TL/2000/2426. ERECTION OF TELECOMUNICATIONS MAST

Having considered the Environmental Health implications of the above planning application, I have no objections to planning consent but have the following comments to make in relation to this proposal.

There have been questions raised as to the possibility of adverse health effects from electromagnetic radiation from telecommunication base stations and their positioning in relation to residential development and in particular schools.

The National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) was established by the Radiological Protection Act 1970 and is responsible for conducting research and providing advice and services for protection against ionising and non-ionising radiation in the U.K. They are continually reviewing the vast body of world-wide research on the subject.

The NRPBs' current advice is that there is no proven human health risk from these installations. This position is confirmed by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and pressure groups such as Powerwatch network. There are however countries and areas of the world where precautionary measures have been adopted, e.g. New Zealand Ministry of Education has issued a policy statement preventing cellular phone antennas from being sited at state schools in the future.

Further research is currently being undertaken into possible health implications although to date no definitive statement can be made.

The NRPB have set up an Advisory Group to look into this matter. This Group has concluded, in reference to buffer zones for sensitive developments, that there is neither a clear basis from which to derive a meaningful assessment of risk, nor is there any indication of how putative risk might vary with exposure. Thus there is no scientific justification for seeking to reduce exposure in these situations and that a decision to do so must be based on social and economic rather than scientific grounds.

continued.....

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's current policy is as follows:

"The CIEH with regard to overhead and buried high voltage power lines, electricity sub-stations, wind generators, microwave and radio transmitters mobile phone base stations and other similar installations emitting electro magnetic radiation (EMR) in close proximity to dwellings considers:

(a) That the effect on human health based on scientific evidence is insignificant and not proven.

(b) That there is no convincing national or international scientific research linking Electromagnetic Radiation and deterioration in human health.

(c) That a precautionary approach to restricting building or access near such installations (apart from physical safety barriers) cannot be sustained on health grounds alone and if adopted must be based on access, amenity and public acceptability considerations.

(d) That Local Authorities should adopt a policy on how to address questions from the public on Electromagnetic radiation from such sources."

Please contact me if you require further information.

John Mullaney

John Mullaney
Environmental Health Officer

42 DAYS FROM 29/9/00.

SpectraSite
Transco

Our Ref: BGP540

The Chief Planning Officer

Wokingham Borough Council
Planning Department
Council Offices
Wokingham
RG40 1NR

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

TL/2000/2426

Dear Sir or Madam,

By Recorded Delivery

RE: 15m Extendable and Shareable telecommunications tower:

British Gas Compound, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD, WOKINGHAM

We act on behalf of BT Cellnet I write to give formal notice of their intention to install telecommunications equipment at the above location.

BT Cellnet are a licensed telecommunications code operator under the Telecommunications Act 1984. In accordance with part 24 A.2 (4) (b) (ii) of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 I request a determination as to whether the prior approval of your authority will be required for the proposal.

The equipment proposed can be described as: A 15m extendable and shareable telecommunications tower complete with antennae, transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and a fenced compound. Please find enclosed drawings showing the scheme and a location plan.

In order to assist you in considering this proposal I would comment as follows:

Whilst this tower is initially being installed for BT Cellnet it can be extend by 5 - 10m to accommodate the sharing of up to four operators depending on the amount of equipment required by each operator.

The new 3rd generation telecommunications networks for which licences have just been granted will require upwards of 100,000 sites to satisfy the needs of all five networks. This compares with the 30,000 currently in existence.

SpectraSite-Transco Limited 3 The Quadrant, Coventry, CV1 2DY
tel +44 (0) 1203 243634 fax +44 (0) 1203 243635 email mcg@ample.co.uk

101860

The reduction of the number of new installations by promoting the sharing of masts is clearly important in reducing the overall environmental impact of the new networks.

Although this notice is given so as to serve the needs of BT Cellnet , the business of Spectrasite Transco is the ownership and development of shared telecommunication structures. We are not only willing to provide space on any of our structures, but if clearance is granted for this particular site, will actively promote its availability to other operators.

Please find enclosed the relevant fee for this notification £35.

I look forward to hearing from you with your determination. In the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or wish to discuss matters.

Yours sincerely



Bill King

For Spectrasite Transco Communications.

SpectraSite-Transco Limited 3 The Quadrant, Coventry, CV1 2DY
tel +44 (0) 1203 243634 fax +44 (0) 1203 243635 email mcg@ample.co.uk

024 76243634
NEW code.

SpectraSite
Transco

Site Notice

Proposed Telecommunications Mast and Equipment Development at :

British Gas Compound **FINCHAMPSTEAD WOKINGHAM**

Grid Ref 480974 , 168177

I give notice that SpectraSite-Transco Communications Limited on behalf of BT Cellnet

is applying to Wokingham Borough Counci Under paragraph A.2 (4A) of Part 24 of Schedule

2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 for its determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required to the siting and appearance of a 15m Telecommunications Mast and all necessary apparatus.

Under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, Council are allowed 42 days from the date of application to consider whether prior approval will be required to siting and appearance of the development proposed and if so to grant or refuse such approval and to serve that decision upon the applicant.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application and accompanying plans at

Wokingham Borough Council

Individuals and organisations wishing to make representation about the siting and appearance of the proposed development are invited to forward their views in writing no later than 21days after posting to:

Council, Department of Planning

Wokingham Borough Council

Planning Department

Council Offices

RG40 1NR

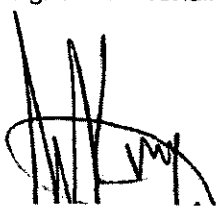
Clearly stating that the comments are being forwarded in relation to the proposed development of a ground based mast at :

FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD

BERKSHIRE

Bill King

Signed On behalf of SpectraSite Transco



Dated: Tuesday, September 26, 2000

NB For enquires relating to any issues regarding this site please call 02476 243 634

N Fiddbury Consulted

Tel. (0118) 974 6492

Date: 29/9/2000

My Ref: Natalie Brown TL/2000/2426

Burger King Ltd, Wellington Road
1 – 7 (all) Kendrick Close
36, 38 and Ascot House, Finchampstead Road
RBAS, 44 Finchampstead Road
1 – 19 (all) Carey Road
Wokingham
RG40 2NP

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Fax: (0118) 974 6484
Minicom No: (0118) 974 6991
DX: 33506 – Wokingham

FILE COPY

Dear Sir/Madam

Application Number: TL/2000/2426	
Site Address:	British Gas Compound, Land Adjacent To Ambulance Service Headquarters, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham.
Proposal:	Proposed erection of one 15 metre telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus, including transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and fenced compound

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Yours faithfully,

John Mitchell

Development Control Manager

Tel. (0118) 974 6492

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1 Carey Road

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Yours faithfully,

John Mitchell

Development Control Manager

Tel. (0118) 974 6492

Date: 29 September 2000

My Ref: Natalie Brown TL/2000/2426

The Owner/Occupier
17 Carey Road
Wokingham
RG40 2NP

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Fax: (0118) 974 6484
Minicom No: (0118) 974 6991
DX: 33506 – Wokingham

Dear Sir/Madam

Application Number: TL/2000/2426

Site Address: British Gas Compound, Land Adjacent To Ambulance Service Headquarters, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham.

Proposal: Proposed erection of one 15 metre telecommunications mast and ancillary apparatus, including transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and fenced compound

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Development Control Manager

Tel. (0118) 974 6492

Date: 29 September 2000

My Ref: Natalie Brown TL/2000/2426

The Royal Berks Ambulance Service
44 Finchampstead Road
Wokingham
RG40 2NP

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Tel: (0118) 974 6000
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The Owner/Occupier
36 Finchampstead Road
Wokingham
RG40 2NP

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
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Date: 29 September 2000

My Ref: Natalie Brown TL/2000/2426

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Ascot House
Finchampstead Road
Wokingham
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Environmental Services Department
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Tel. (0118) 974 6492

Date: 29 September 2000

My Ref: Natalie Brown TL/2000/2426

Burger King Ltd
Wellington Road
Wokingham
RG40 2NP

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
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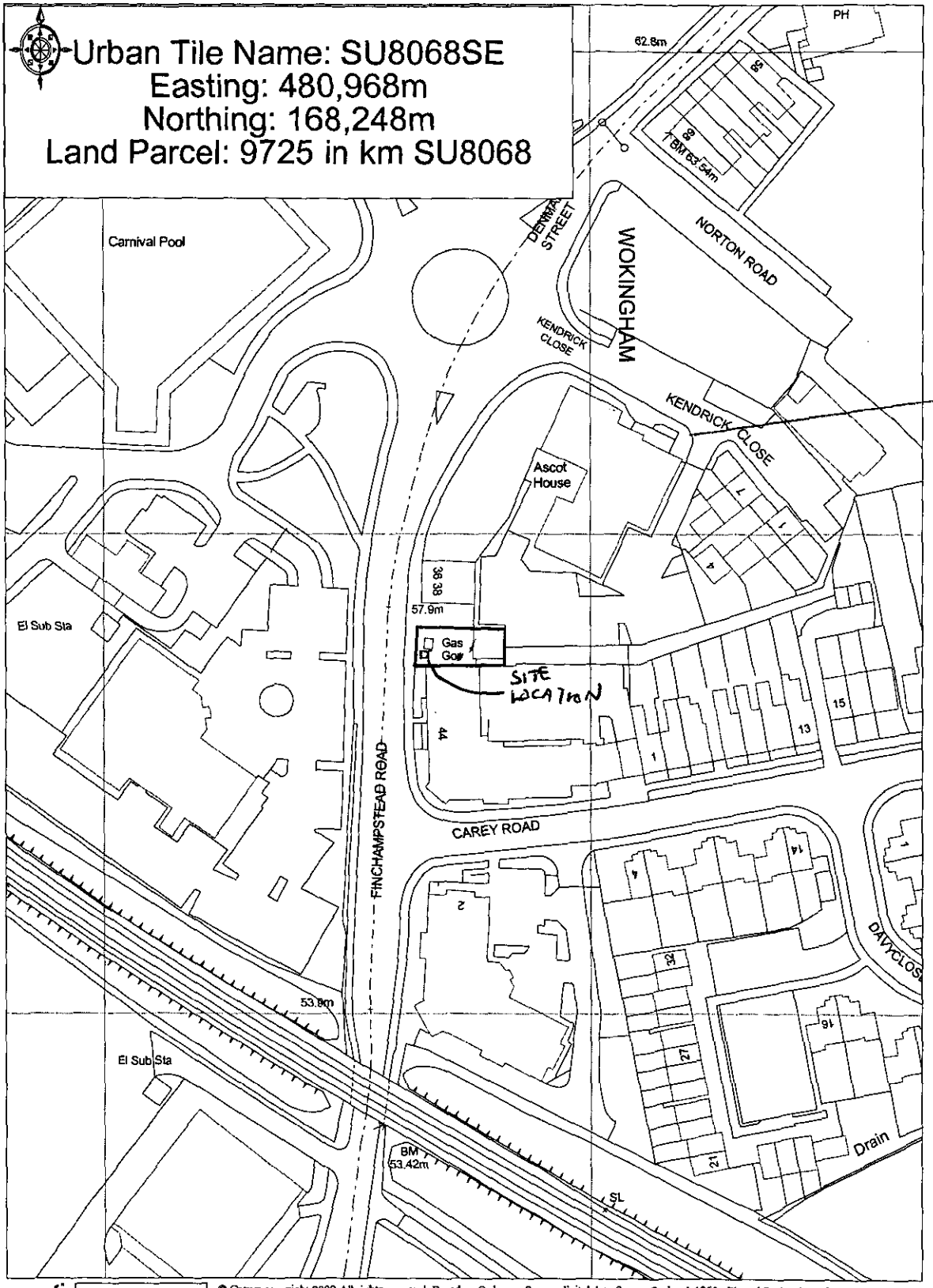
Development Control Manager

2426

ADDITIONAL PLAN



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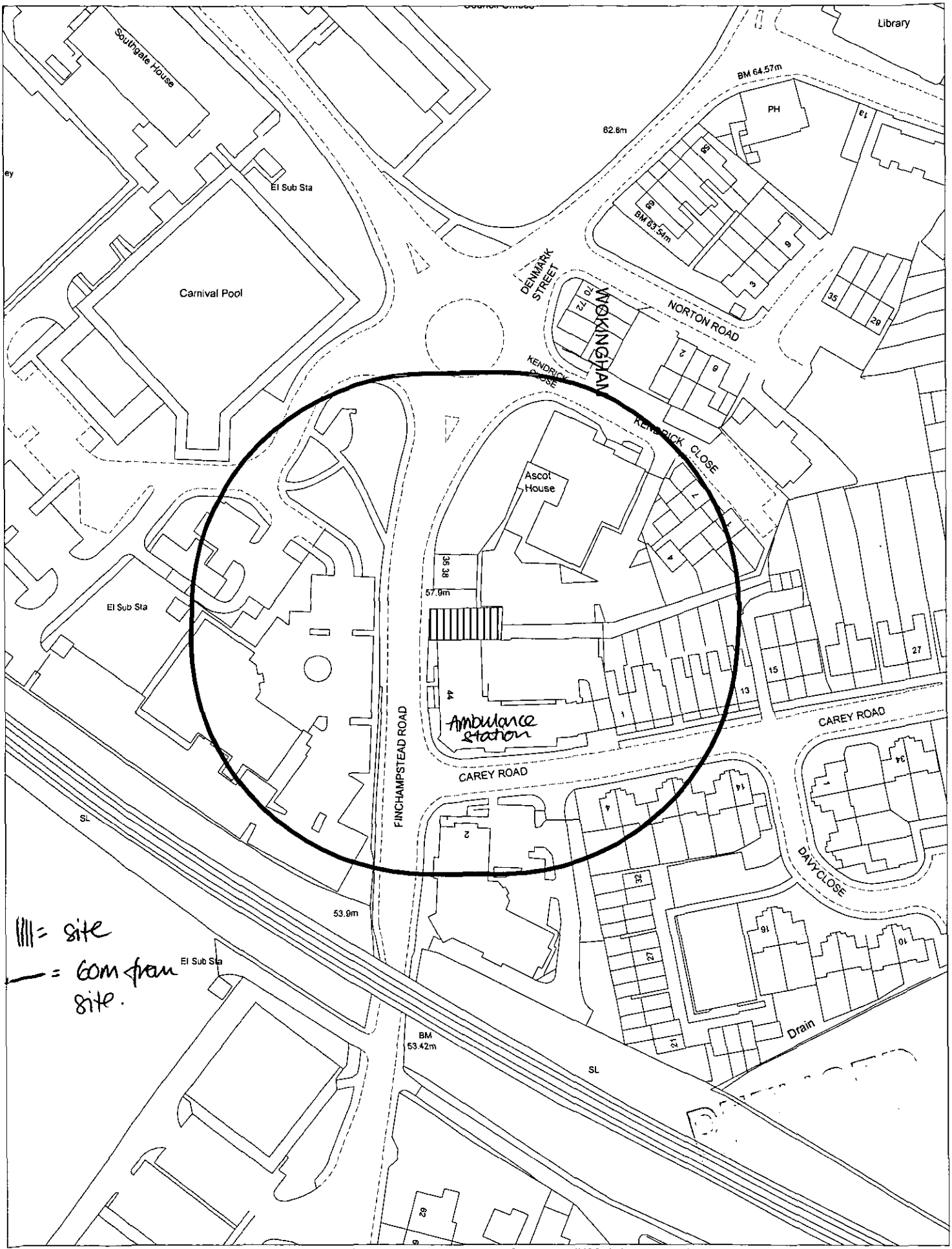
BGP 0540, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, Berkshire



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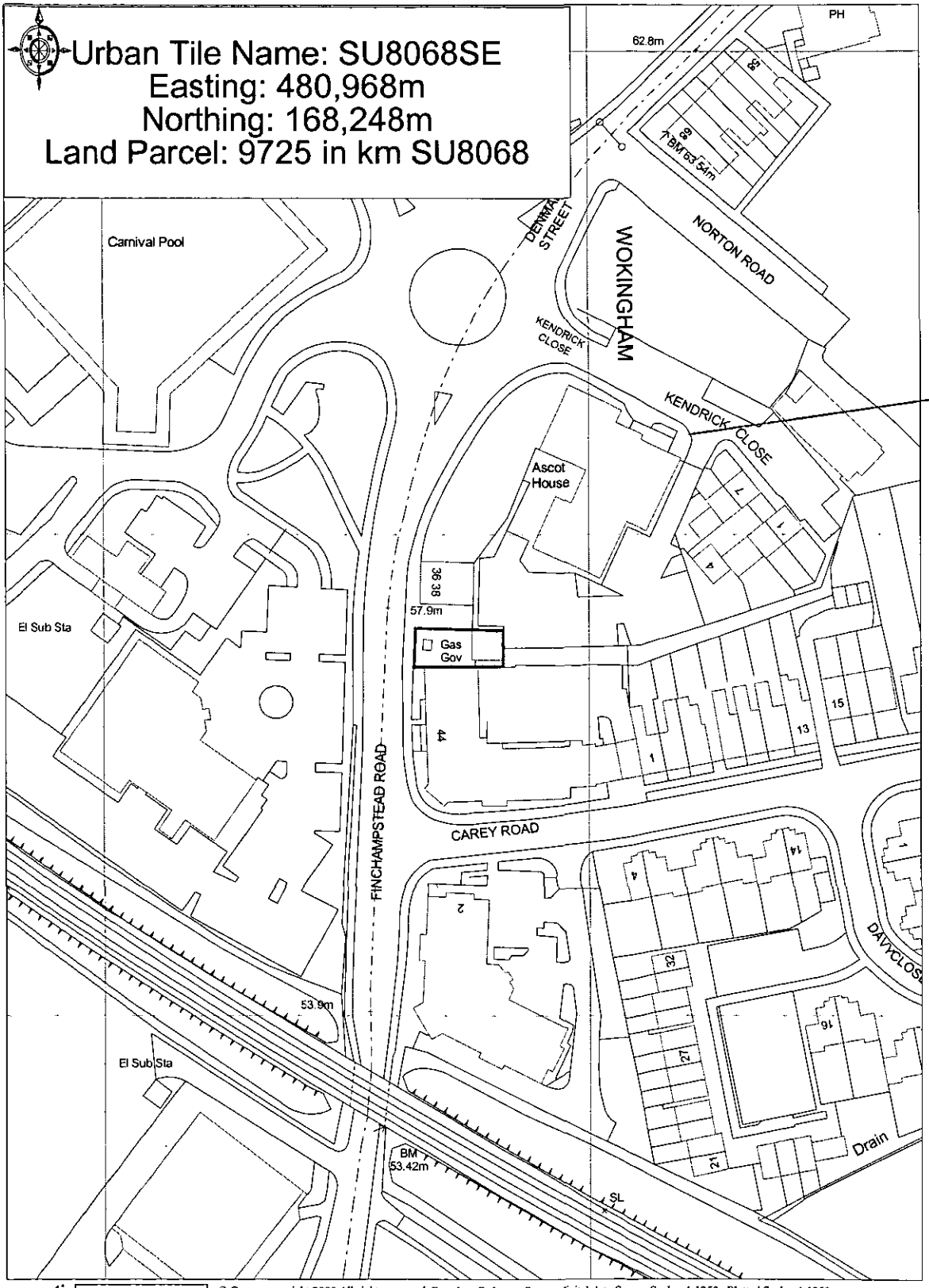
Development Control Section, Environmental Services, Wokingham District Council.

17 October 2000

Scale: 1 : 1250

TL/2000/2426.



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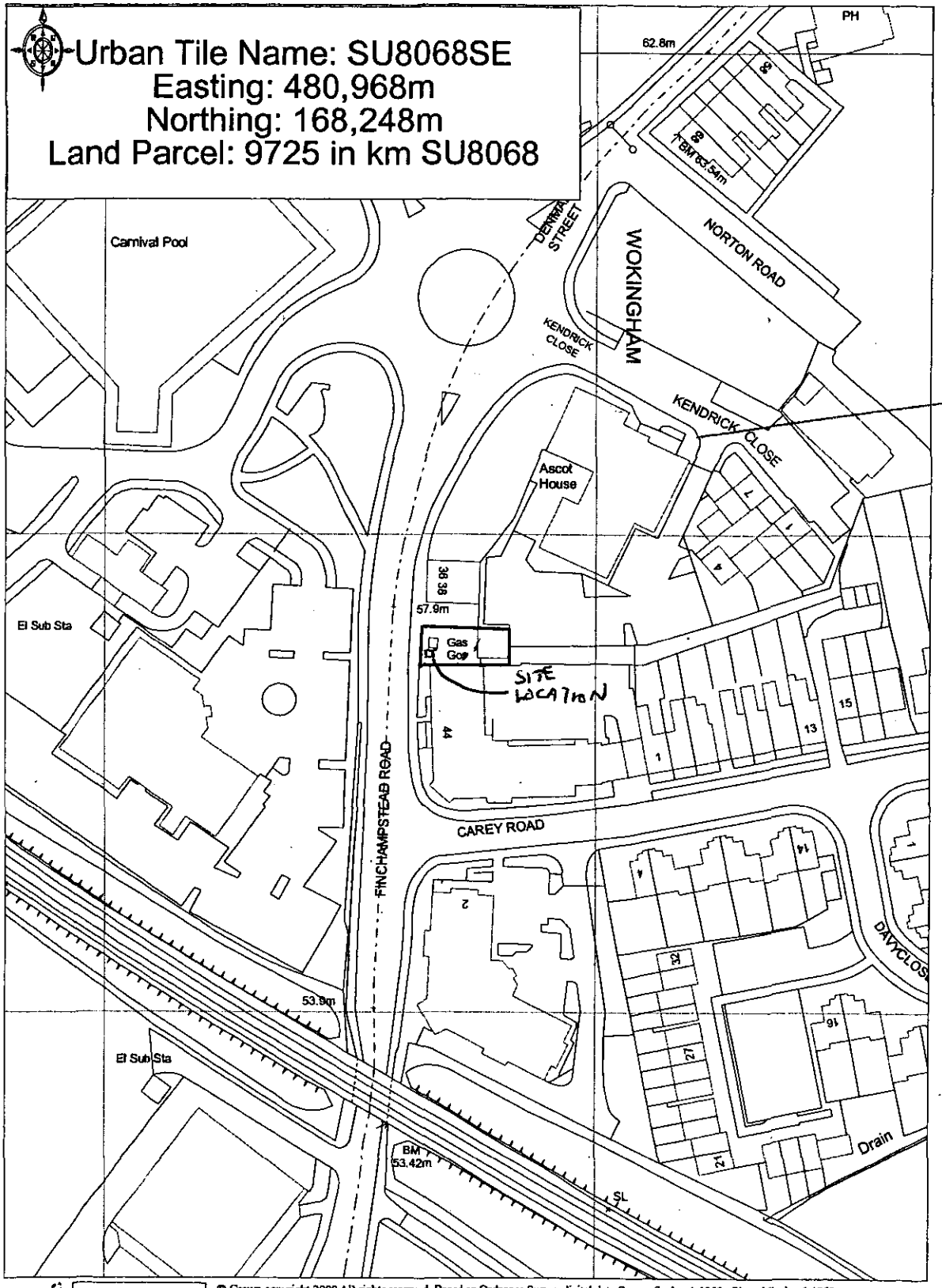
BGP 0540, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, Berkshire



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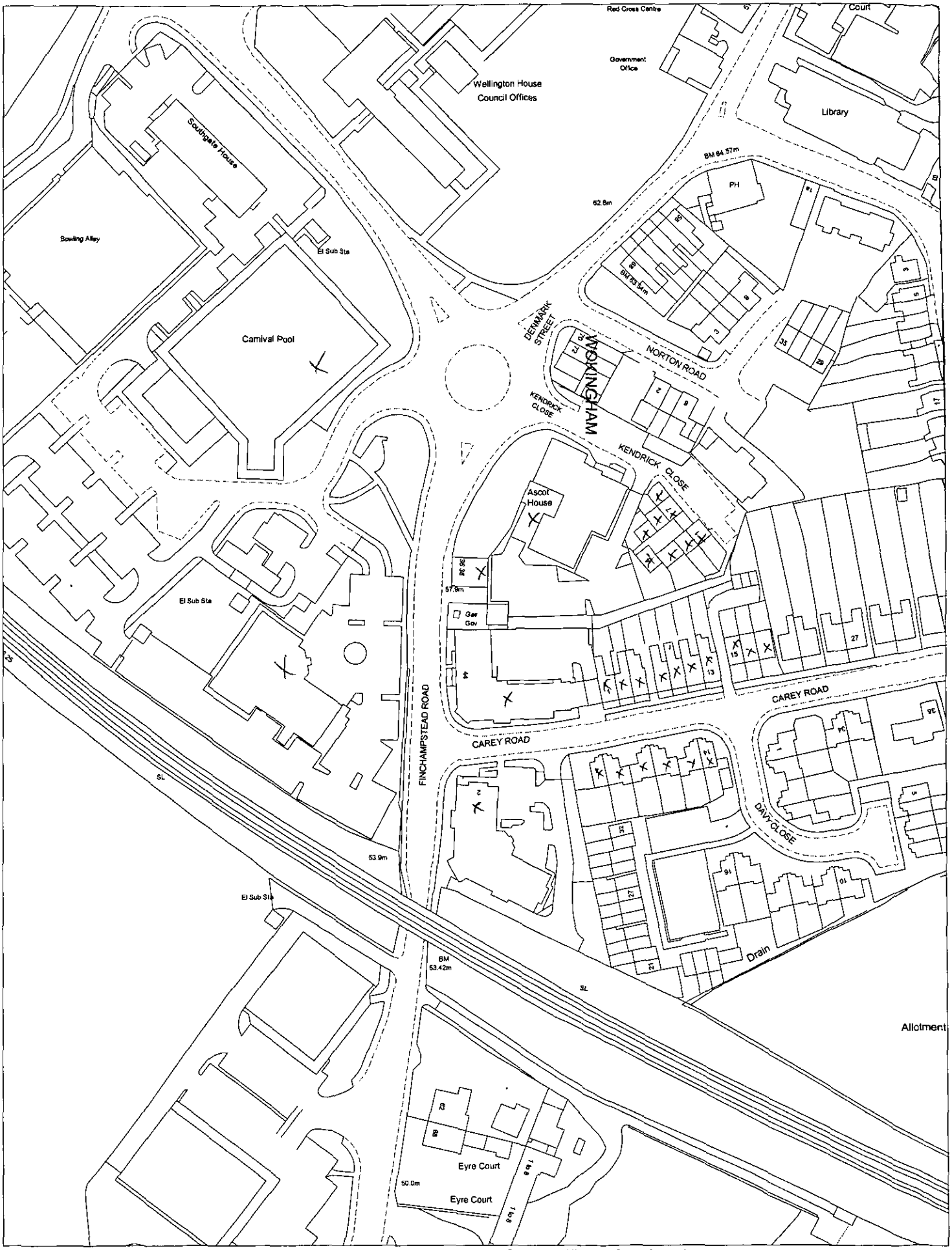

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Central Support Section, Environmental Services, Wokingham District Council.

29 September 2000

Scale: 1 : 1500

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