

Clear horizon – looking northeast from Bream



## Base Station at Angus Buchanan Recreation Ground Grid Ref. 569 108

Vodafone site No. 4369; 21m galv. steel tapering lattice; 5 sector ant; 2 co-linear ant; 3 TV. relay ant; large grey equipment cabins; 3m green netting fence on galv. steel posts; incidental tree cover on three sides.

**Comments:** *Partially concealed mast mitigated by surrounding trees. The view from the west is of bulky grey cabins and tall mast with mish-mash of antennae, close to housing and dominating a public amenity. Visual impact is not the worst but could be greatly reduced.*

**Urgent Amelioration:** Paint mast, equipment cabins and fence posts matt BS 12B25.

**Ideal:** Demolish mast and replace with antennae on wooden poles within tree canopy away from housing.



Looking west. Note how much the two white sector antennae could be improved by painting a grey / green colour.

## Base Stations at Berry Hill Grid Ref. 575 121

Two base stations either side of the A4136 about 100m apart.

T-mobile site No. -; 15m steel monopole with cylindrical ant. of same radius as the top of the pole; small equipment cabin nearby. All painted pale green.

Orange site No. -; 15m galv. steel lattice mast; 6 sector ant; 3 co-linear ant; grey equipment cabin; no planting; aggressive galv. steel fencing.

**Comments:** Interesting comparison between the relatively minimal T-mobile green monopole which blends in well with street lighting and the standard visually aggressive, ugly Orange site, on the skyline from most surrounding view points which makes no concession whatever to the landscape. Whilst both are on the skyline, one is easy to overlook and the other impossible to miss!

**Urgent Amelioration:** Orange - Paint mast and equipment cabin olive green, plant shrubs and small trees around compound.  
**Ideal:** Demolish mast and relocate antennae in street lighting type mast. See p54



Looking northeast. Note the dramatic difference in impact of the two masts, T-mobile on the left, Orange on the right.

## Base Stations at Berry Hill Grid Ref. 575 121



Looking west



Looking westsouthwest



Looking NE

## Base Station at Bream Rugby Field Grid Ref. 601 058

Mercury site No.- tapering 17.5m galv. steel pole; 3 sector ant; grey equipment cabins; green netting on 2.5m green steel posts; no planting.

**Comments:** Relatively well sited – not visible from many parts of the village – but dominates rugby field, housing within 100m

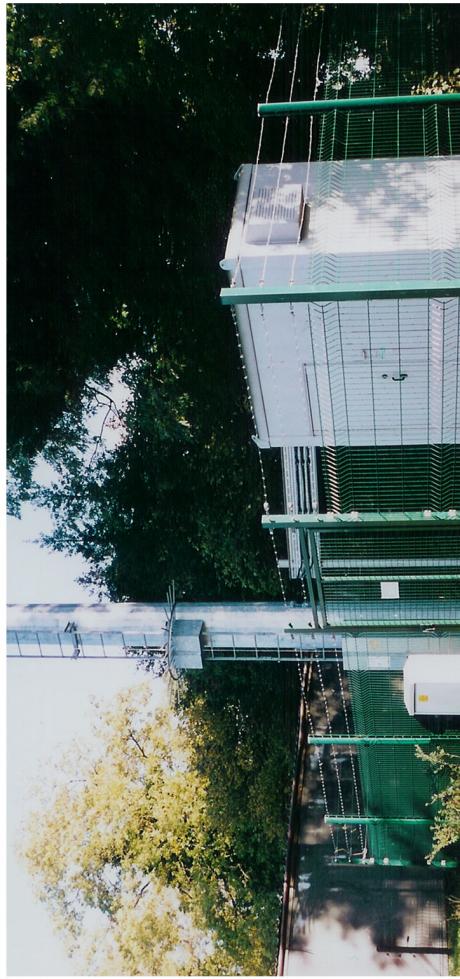
**Amelioration needed:** Ideal – demolish mast and re-site antennae in local trees, minimum - paint mast and cabins matt olive green and plant appropriate shrubs around compound.



Looking northeast. Interesting incidental (?) relationship with goalposts and flood lights!



Looking east



## Base Station in Centre of Lydney Grid Ref. 631 031

Vodafone site no.0902A; 18m 3 section multi-facet tapering galv. steel pole with 3 sector ant; olive green equipment cabin; 2m. galv. steel palisade fencing; no planting.

**Comments:** One of the more minimal installations (often Vodafone) which becomes lost into the urban fabric. Many would regard it to be too near housing.

**Improvements:** Paint mast and fencing buff stone colour. Plant hedging around compound.



## Base Station at Pillowell Grid Ref. 624 061;

### Case Study

Orange site No. – erected summer 2002 in the face of considerable local opposition. 15m steel pole mast painted green with gloss finish; 2 sector ant; 2m steel palisade fence, grey cabins; no planting.

**Comments:** A relatively benign siting from a visual point of view although local opinion believes it is too close to housing. The mast is concealed from many viewpoints and when it is visible, has a backdrop of trees. The benefit of the green finish of the mast and compound fence from a camouflage point of view is almost entirely dissipated by a) the paint is gloss finish and catches the sun and b) the pale grey antennae which ensure the high visibility of the whole against the wooded backdrop.

**Urgent amelioration needed:** Simple painting of the antennae the same colour as the mast would make a considerable difference.  
**Ideal:** Demolish and replace with wood pole or use tree attached antennae.

Painted mast with painted antennae support structure.



Mast with unpainted antennae attached

gloss finish - should be matt

Base Station at Pillowell Grid Ref. 624 061;  
Case Study - continued

PLACE lobbied the Countryside Agency (CA) and the FoDDC for a public meeting on telecoms issue for two years (see synopsis p97). A meeting was held in July 2003 at which CA, representatives of all the mobile operators, mast manufacturer Francis and Lewis International Ltd., Forest Enterprise, PLACE, Gloucestershire County Council, and four members of the public were present. A number of issues were discussed, including the poor treatment by the telecoms operators of the Lydbrook community. All the operators were at pains to indicate their regret at the way things had gone for Lydbrook and also to say that future contacts would be better and that they would be much more responsive to the community. The reps said "tell us what you want" in relation to mast design, choice of site, screening etc. Those present understood a clear intention to be more flexible and responsive to local people. In the autumn of that year PLACE contacted Orange asking for the antennae of the Pillowell mast to be painted a similar colour to the mast to help camouflage them against the tree backdrop. Orange replied that owing to the considerable feeling against this particular installation in the community, they did not wish to raise any further ill feeling by making changes and that they had already responded to the wishes of the planning department regarding visual matters. This, despite what PLACE proposed, would improve the situation visually! They also said that the paint could adversely affect the operation of the antennae. This is not true- Henry Dolan, the CA's technical expert told us there are no problems at all if the correct paint is used. When PLACE raised the issue at a TMWG meeting chief planner Sean Hammaby advised that it would be well to get the approval of the local parish council before lobbying Orange further. PLACE did a short presentation to the West Dean Parish Council in September 2004 it supported the painting proposals. In February 2005 PLACE re-contacted Orange regarding the painting of the antennae. Orange responded to this repeated request for painting of the antennae and other minor improvements at the site with the following: "I would like to clarify that Orange feels that every effort was made at the time of installation of our equipment to work with the local authority, the paint finish was agreed at that time as required by the planning consent. We do not therefore intend at this time to carry out additional painting or minor works to our equipment/installation."

At a TMWG meeting on 28/1/2005 a list of actions to be undertaken by the planning department included writing to Orange asking for the antennae to be painted. The letter was eventually written 29/7/2005.

## Base Station at Driffield Road, Grid Ref. 642 045

### Case Study

Orange site No. - ; original mast 15m tapering galv. steel lattice sited in 1995 with 6 sector ant;1 dish ant; 2 pale grey equipment cabins; 2m netting on concrete posts. A 5m vertical extension was added in 2002 with 3 more sector ant and 1 dish ant.

**Comments:** *Tall, ugly intrusive mast in open countryside, visible from A48, local footpaths and from afar.*

**Urgent Amelioration needed:** *Demolish mast and replace with wood pole(s), plant shrubs around compound.*



Looking SSE - extension added circa 2003. Note once again the importance of shrubbery / tree planting for screening - in this case already existing.

## Base Station at Driffield Road, Grid Ref. 642 045

### Case Study - continued

The ubiquitous standard Orange mast design makes no pretence whatever to elegance or responsiveness to rural surroundings, or any other surroundings (nor do many others). It is an engineer's answer to the need to hold the antennae aloft. It is ugly and has an unmistakably threatening, 'watchtower' presence which acts in a malign subliminal way on the consciousness of those unfortunate enough to have had such a structure dumped on their doorstep. It is astonishing that there is still so little awareness of the profound connection between bad design and mental ill health. It is unlikely that the health lobby concerned with mobile phone use would be so strong, were the infrastructure beautifully designed. *The crucial importance of good design for a healthy society cannot be overemphasised.*



Looking northwest circa 1996

A clear horizon – looking northeast from Yorkley Wood



## Base Station at Cecil's Haulage Yard, Blakeney Grid Ref. 676 086

Orange site No. - 15m tapering, triangular cross-section galv. steel mast; 3 sector ant; 1 dish ant; grey cabins; green wire mesh fencing on 3m galv. steel posts. Incidental planting to the northwest.

**Comments:** This mast is well camouflaged both by poplar trees, which were planted by the owner of the yard some years before the mast was sited, and by commercial buildings. One suspects this is a happy accident rather than good management. The owner, keen on wildlife, told me of a distinct decline in the number of birds in the immediate vicinity of the yard and mast since it was sited. The poplar screen saves a series of fine rural views looking northeast from the Blakeney to Cinderford road from intrusion by the mast.

**Amelioration:** Paint of an appropriate colour in relation to the poplars on the mast, fencing and cabin would improve the site further.



Looking NW

## Base Station at Old Hill, Nibley, Blakeney Grid Ref. 668 062

### Case Study

This mast which was, when first built, below the tree canopy in front of which it is sited, has with subsequent additions, become another highly intrusive mast rising above the tree canopy with a visual cacophony of antennae. These additions have been made with notifications to the planning dept. only? Once a mast is sited most planning authorities simply grant additions thus the intrusiveness is allowed to increase by increments. See sequential photographs – below 1998, and over.



Specially made track scars field



Looking southeast



Looking northeast



Looking northwest

## Base Station at Old Hill, Nibley, Blakeney Grid Ref. 668 062

### Case Study - continued

Crown Castle International multi-operator site No.1492238; Mmo2 Airwave site No. GL0 056; 3 site No-; T-mobile site no.92238; Vodafone site No. 40397; 20m parallel sided galv. Steel lattice mast; 10 sector ant.; 2 dishes; Tetra array; 3 green and 5 pale grey cabins, 2m netting on galv. Steel posts; new access track scars field; no planting, existing trees provide useful backdrop.

**Comments:** Tall intrusive mast with a confusion of antennae spoiling many views. Site has grown significantly over last 5 years.

**Urgent Amelioration Needed:** Ideally demolish mast and replace with wood pole masts and/or tree attached ant. Minimum paint mast, ant., cabins olive green and plant semi-mature shrubbery around compound.



Looking east, Aug. 2001.



Looking northeast, Jan. 2004 (no changes since)



Looking south. Note sun glinting on antennae - matt finish would reduce this.

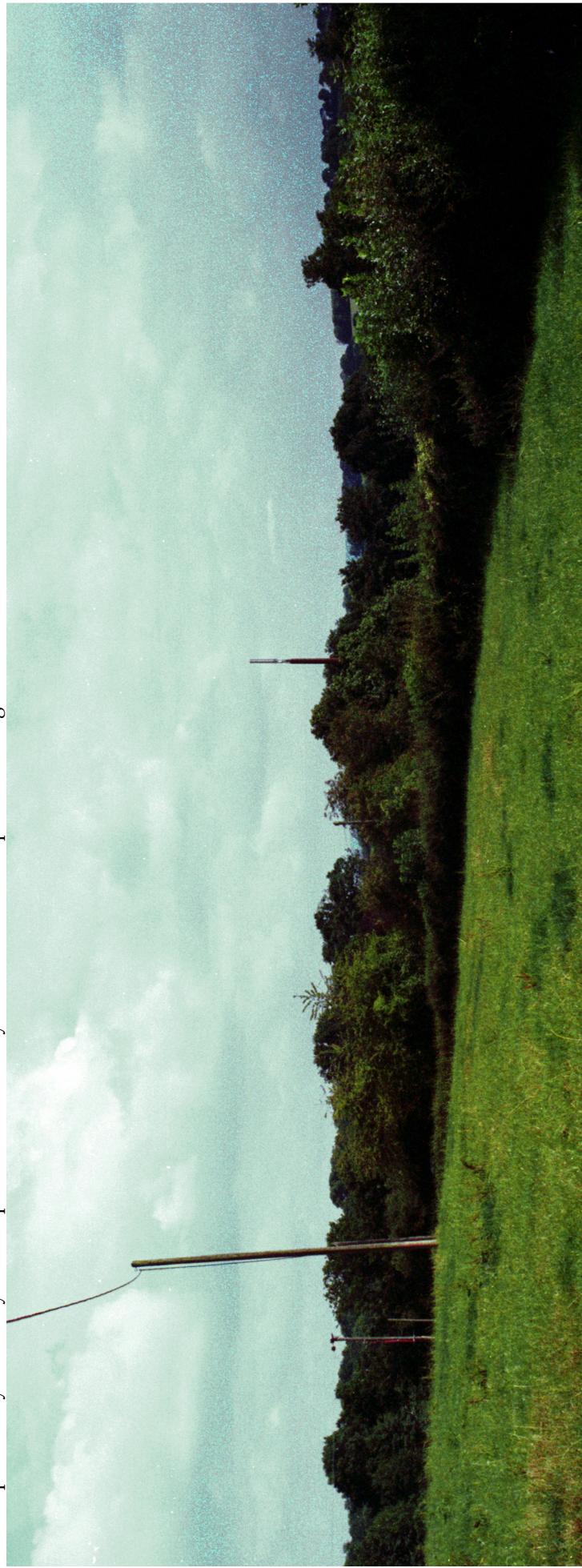
## Base Station at Bullo Telephone Exchange. Grid Ref. 688 098

Crown Castle International site No. 164741; Hutchinson 3G. 15m wood clad, 12 facet tapering steel pole; 2 sector antennae; green netting on 2m galv. posts; pale grey equipment cabins; 50% screening of compound by existing vegetation.

**Comments:** A relatively low impact siting for both community and environment. 2 or 3 houses within 100m, telephone exchange mostly unmanned. The wood finish on the mast is a major factor giving it a visual resonance with trees and wooden poles.\* The mast is semi-screened by trees from a number of view points.

**Further Amelioration:** Cylindrical GRP casing the same diameter as the top of the pole placed around the antennae and painted mid brown to match the pole would give a more acceptable and streamlined finish. Reduce the height of the mast so that it is within the tree canopy. Paint equipment cabins and fencing posts matt olive green BS 12B25. Grow ivy up walls of ugly telephone exchange.

\*These poles carry electricity and telephone lines – ideally the lines should be placed underground.



Looking south

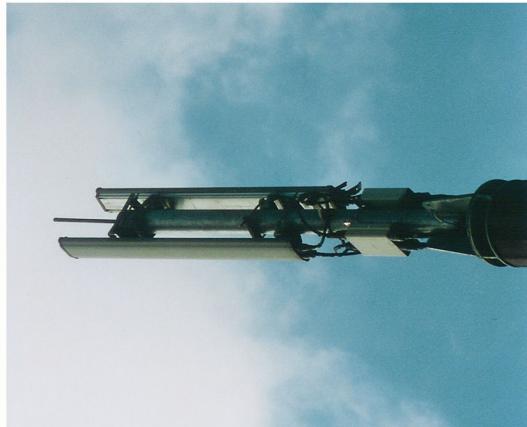
## Base Station at Bullo Telephone Exchange. Grid Ref. 688 098



Looking NE from the A48



Looking N from the A48



Looking NNE from the A48

## Base Station at Chaxhill, Westbury-on-Severn Grid Ref. 741 148

Crown Castle International site No. 1492243; 22m galv, steel lattice tower, 9 sector ant; 1 dish ant; 1 sector ant; green netting on galv. steel posts; incidental shrubbery and trees to west of compound, thorn hedge on north side, sorbus species planted on south side, (why not on east side?)

**Comments:** *The very worst type of site - ugly, highly intrusive mast, dominates surrounding open countryside, highly visible from miles around, from the A48 and other side roads.*

**Urgent Action needed:** Demolish mast and replace with 2 or more lower, single wood pole masts which should then be screened with planting to surround using 3-5m saplings.



Looking northeast from the A48



Looking S from Ley Court



Looking north

## Base Station at Nottswood, Blaisdon Grid Ref. 696 175

O2 site No. 3948; 18m three section tapering galv. monopole; 2 sector ant; 1 dish; pale grey equipment cabin; 2m grey fencing on concrete posts; no planting.

**Comments:** Although on a high site visible from Longhope, this is a relatively benign siting. The mast is concealed from many other view points, however it does intrude on local footpaths.  
**Amelioration:** Paint mast, cabins, fencing matt BS 12B25. Ideally, replace mast with wood pole.



Looking southeast

## Base Station at Birdwood Coppice, Huntley Grid Ref. 734 188

Orange site No.-; 22m 5 section galv. steel pole; 3 sector ant; 2 pale grey equipment cabins; green netting on green steel posts; no planting.

**Comments:** Large compound (why so large?) in mature woodland close to footpath and main road. Mast is surrounded by trees with only the antennae, very visible from the A40 and surrounding land, proud of the tree canopy.

**Amelioration needed:** Paint mast, cabins matt BS 12B25. Ideally use wood clad steel pole and reduce height so that ant. are within tree canopy. Plant shrubbery around compound.



Looking eastsoutheast

