

Proposed Microcell Installation
CTIL 149070/Telefonica 70836 – 133-135 Pancras Road, London NW1 1UN

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & HERITAGE STATEMENT

This further statement is submitted as an addition to the Design and Access Statement submitted as part of the Planning and Listed Building applications in relation to the above proposal.

In accordance with the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development, and published Government guidance, this proposal was drawn up having regard to the need for good design.

Background and Requirement

This particular scheme was originally as a result of a requirement for Telefonica UK Ltd (O2) to provide improved network coverage and capacity.

The advent of 'smart phones' and other similar devices has seen a substantial increase in traffic, and in locations where local coverage is poor or stretched, the existing base station network may not provide sufficient penetration and capacity.

In addition, in areas where the use of phones is particularly high, such as major towns or cities, many sites will reach the maximum number of calls they can process. When a customer attempts to make a call in an area where the network has reached its full capacity, the 'network busy' message is displayed on their mobile phone. In order to continue to meet customer demand and improve the quality of services in these areas, there is a need to increase the capacity of the network to allow more calls to be made.

Application Building (Heritage Asset)

133-135 Pancras Road is listed, Grade II, forming part of a section of former railway arches believed to have been originally constructed in the late 19th century. Although originally erected as offices and a coal trading store, significant changes and additions have taken place in more recent times, with the arches now used predominantly as retail units. In addition, there have been a number of changes to reflect their 20th/21st century use, including the installation of a number of alarm boxes, modernised shop fronts and fascias, signage, lighting and exposed cabling.

The scheme undertaken by Telefonica is intended to respect all elements of the building and have a very limited impact, such that it will have no discernible effect.

Impact on the Building (Heritage Asset)

We are conscious of the need to respect the historic environment of the building, given that it is Grade II listed, while at the same time, ensuring that the required coverage is provided.

The scheme seeks to install just 1 no. small microcell antennas, located on the first floor brick fascia of the building, just above the ground floor entrance and shop signage, facing on to Pancras Road. The scheme is designed to provide the required improved coverage and capacity from this modest deployment.

The antenna is a small and discreet element that is not dissimilar to an alarm box, of which there are already a number fixed at various points along the frontage to Pancras Road. The antenna will be finished to match the background of the fascia brickwork.

The antenna cable will run underneath the small parapet immediately above, and thereafter, will run north, before taking advantage of an existing opening into the interior of the building. The cabling will be black.

The detailed listing of the building reads as follows:

Pancras Road Arches GV II Section of St Pancras goods yard perimeter wall with integral shops. A substantial remnant of the former coal depot belonging to the Midland Railway Company. Erected as offices and coal trading stores 1895-1898, possibly to the designs of John Underwood, engineer to the Midland Railway Company. Red brick in English Bond with stone dressings; parapeted roof. Single-storey; pointed-arch arcade of 28 bays, most with shop fronts of authentic design, in the Gothic Revival style.

We do not believe that this scheme will harm the architectural or historic element of the building as:

- There will be no impact on the architectural features in relation to the parapet, arched windows or any of the shop front designs
- There will be no material impact on the arcade design of the arches
- The most notable part of the listing relates to its arcaded appearance, formed by the arched windows and single parapet below the roof. This scheme has no impact on this appearance, and indeed, is considered to be minimal in its impression. In addition, there is significant evidence of other, less sympathetic changes and additions being allowed, including large alarm boxes, extensive cabling, signage and lighting.

Resultant Design of Scheme

We believe that care has been taken to ensure that the subject proposal has the most minimal impact on 133-135 Pancras Road. In particular:

- The antenna has been positioned as discreetly as possible, respecting the listed status of the building
- A very small microcell antenna is being used to ensure minimal visual impact, and placed to ensure no impact on the important features of the building
- The antenna will be finished to ensure that it blends with its background and surrounding elements.