



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

The Town and Country Planning Scotland Act 1997 – Section 36(1)

Town and Country Planning General Development Procedure Order 2013 Regulation 16

Planning Register - Part 1

Application Details

Reference Number	24/00500/FULTEL
Date registered as valid	07/11/24
Description of Development	Installation of new 300mm dish mounted on new steelwork at a height of 17.5m.
Address or description of location to which the development relates	Gormal Radio Mast, Maraig, Isle of Harris
Co-ordinates	E 118 709 N 906 989
Applicant Name	Airwave Solutions Ltd
Applicant Address	Nova House, 160 Victoria St, London, SW1E 5LB
Agent name (if applicable)	Galloway Estates Ltd Per Peter Hickson
Agent address (if applicable)	PO Box 17086, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3QG

The above application summary is accompanied by plans and drawings sufficient to describe the development and where relevant any design statement.

Important Note: on Tuesday 07 November 2023, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar experienced a criminal cyber incident and is working with Police Scotland, the Scottish Government and the National Cyber Security Centre to investigate the matter.

The Online Planning Portal remains unavailable as does our suite of integrated software and hardware systems. In order to enable access by the wider public to application documents and consult upon planning applications, interim systems have been put in place on the temporary website of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, including a rudimentary facility to display a limited number of documents per application.

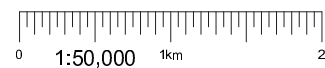
Any party wishing to view the application file in full may do so at the offices of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar at Sandwich Road, Stornoway Isle of Lewis, HS1 2BW or Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula. HS7 5LA, ordinarily between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public and local holidays). It is recommended that in advance of visiting an office to view an application that you make an appointment by sending an email to planning@cne-siar.gov.uk

SITE LOCATION



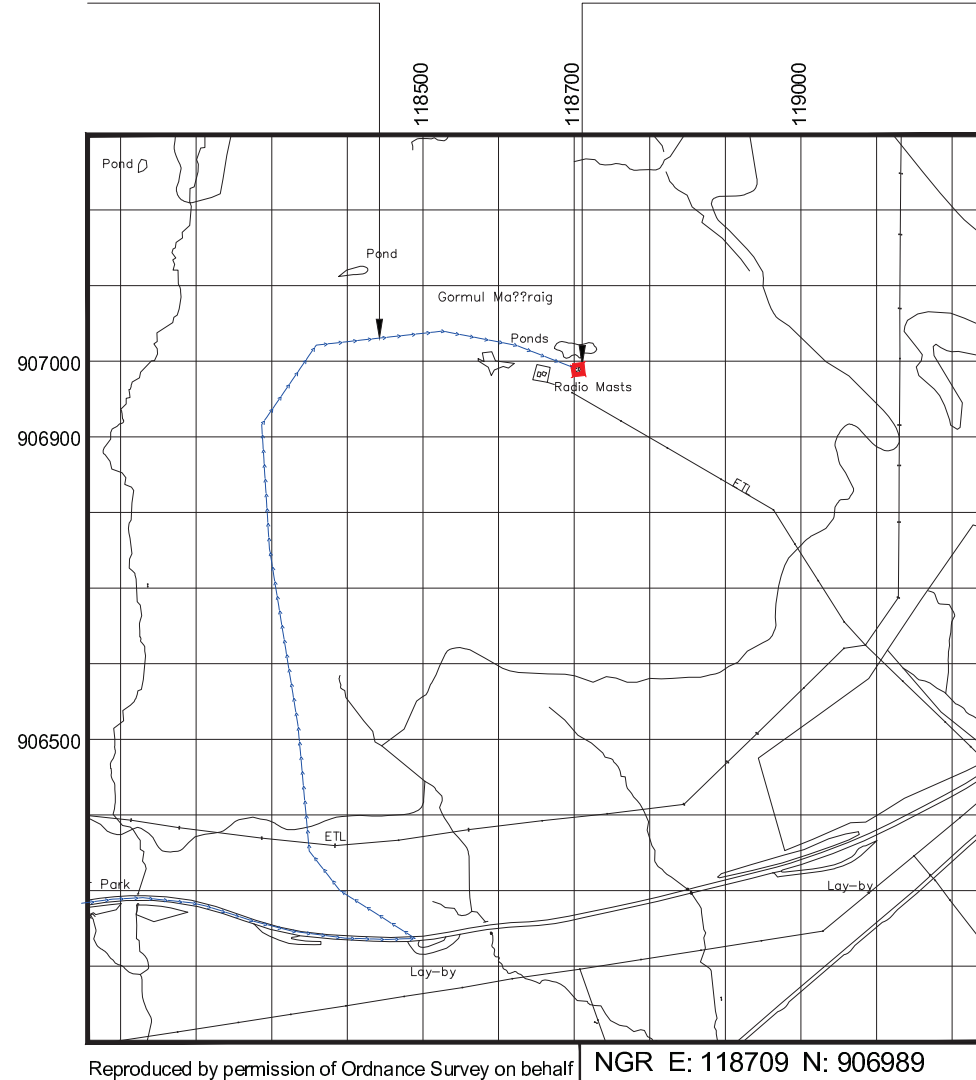
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SITE AREA PLAN



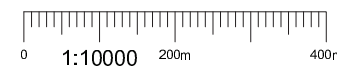
SITE PHOTOGRAPH

SITE ACCESS ROUTE



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SITE LOCATION PLAN



NORTH

Notes

1. Do not scale.
2. All dimensions are in mm unless otherwise specified.
3. All dimensions shown are to be confirmed on site.
4. This drawing to be read in conjunction with P2ML drawing No. CCM/003/918/002 and 003.

Directions to site:

From Stornoway head South on the A859 for approximately 28 miles following signs for Tarbert. Continue to a bus stop on the right hand side and a left hand turn signposted Reinigeadal/Maraig. Continue on the A859 to the 2nd parking area. Access to site by ATV ONLY.

Site Provider's Property Boundary:



Access Route To Site:



REV	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	BY	CH	DATE
A	ISSUE FOR APPROVAL	AD	SKYE	19/09/2024

Client



Site ID: **NOR246**

SITE NAME AND ADDRESS
NORTHERN CONSTABULARY
RADIO STATION MAARUIG
MAARUIG
ISLE OF HARRIS
HS3 3AQ

DRAWING TITLE: **SITE LOCATION MAPS**
SHEET 1 OF 3

PURPOSE OF ISSUE:
PLANNING

DRAWING NUMBER:
CCM/003/918/001

SCALE:	DRAWN:	DATE:	REV:
AS SHOWN @ A3	SKYE	19/09/2024	A
CHECKED:	DATE:	APPROVED:	DATE:
JH	19/09/2024	JH	19/09/2024

50mm
10mm



GROUND LEVEL
0.0m

GROUND LEVEL
0.0m

GROUND LEVEL
0.0m

ELEVATION

EXISTING VODAFONE /TEF OVERHEAD
CABLE TRAY AND SUPPORT POLES

EXISTING 24.500m HIGH (F&L TT30) TRIANGULAR
LATTICE TOWER ON SUPPORT GRILLAGE C/W
ROCK BOLTING

EXISTING AIRWAVE OVERHEAD CABLE
TRAY AND SUPPORT POLES

PROPOSED AIRWAVE CNT400 FEEDERS TO UTILISE
EXISTING CABLE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

EXISTING SPA OVERHEAD CABLE
TRAY AND SUPPORT POLES

EXISTING FUEL STORAGE TANK

EXISTING VODAFONE EQUIPMENT
CABIN ON CONCRETE FOUNDATION

EXISTING AIRWAVE ELECTRICAL METER
CABINET ON CONCRETE FOUNDATION

EXISTING AIRWAVE EQUIPMENT CABIN
ON CONCRETE STRIP FOUNDATIONS

REPLACEMENT IDU's TO BE INSTALLED
IN INTERNAL EQUIPMENT RACKS

EXISTING SPA EQUIPMENT CABIN

EXISTING 1200mm HIGH POST AND WIRE
BOUNDARY FENCE AND 3800mm WIDE
ACCESS GATE

- Notes**
1. Do not scale.
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 3. All dimensions shown are to be confirmed on site.
 4. This drawing to be read in conjunction with P2ML drawing No. CCM/003/918/001 and 003.

A	ISSUE FOR APPROVAL	AD	SKYE	19/09/2024
REV	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	BY	CH	DATE

Client



Site ID: **NOR246**

SITE NAME AND ADDRESS
**NORTHERN CONSTABULARY
 RADIO STATION MAARUIG
 MAARUIG
 ISLE OF HARRIS
 HS3 3AQ**

DRAWING TITLE: **PROPOSED SITE PLAN
SHEET 2 OF 3**

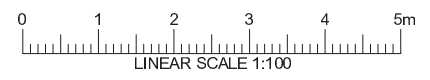
PURPOSE OF ISSUE: **PLANNING**

DRAWING NUMBER: **CCM/003/918/002**

SCALE: AS SHOWN @ A3	DRAWN: SKYE	DATE: 19/09/2024	REV:
CHECKED: JH	DATE: 19/09/2024	APPROVED: JH	DATE: 19/09/2024

A

PROPOSED SITE PLAN - GROUND LEVEL



100mm

50mm

10mm

A3

EXISTING DISH SCHEDULE

REF	SIZE (mm)	ORIENTATION	HEIGHT (m) (MID)	MAIN FEEDER TYPE / FEEDER (APPROX.)	COMMENTS
D1	600mm	23°	17.50m	1xNT400 (29.0m)	-
D2	600mm	34°	18.00m	1xNT400 (29.0m)	-

PROPOSED DISH SCHEDULE

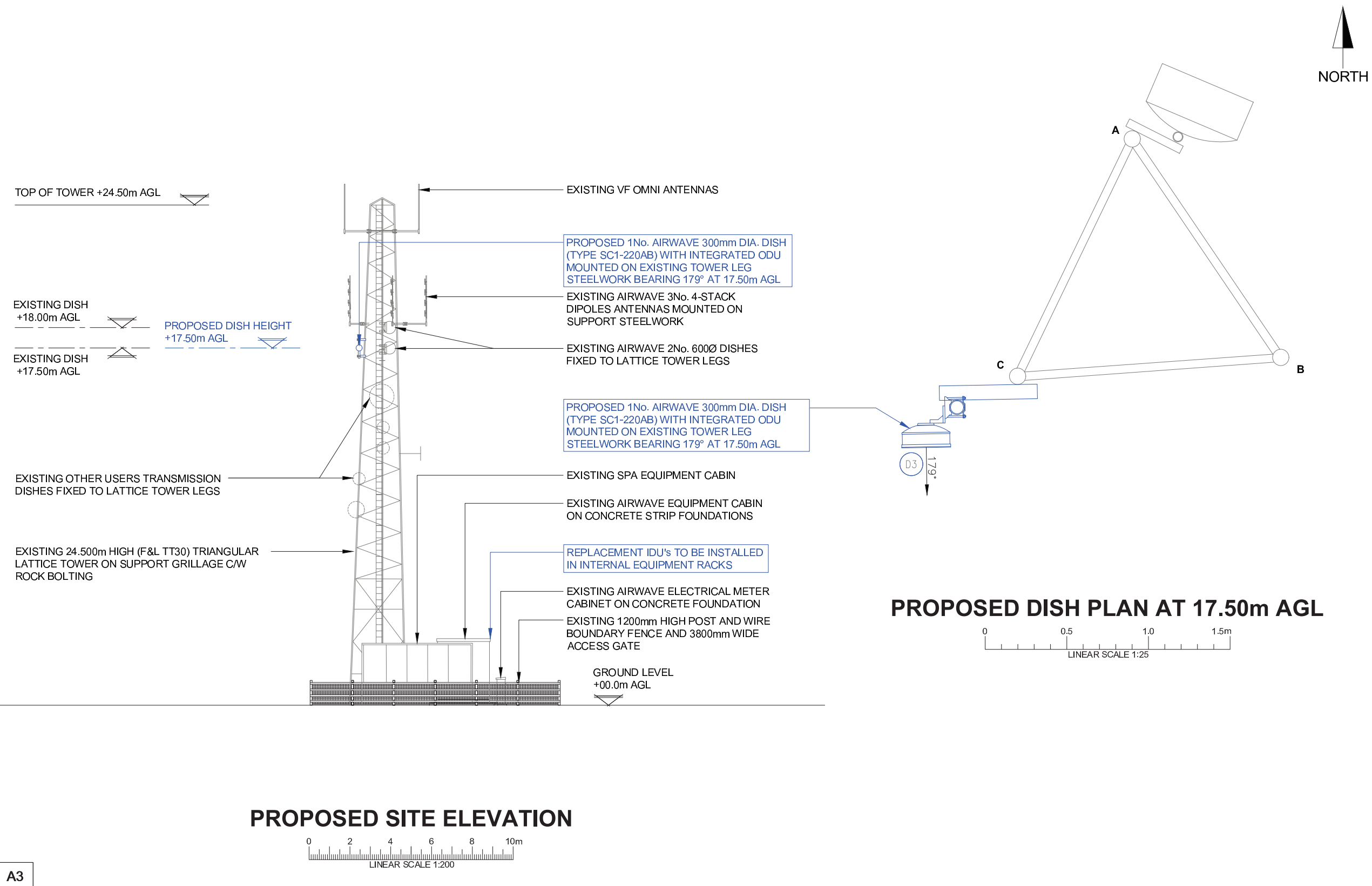
REF	SIZE (mm)	ORIENTATION	HEIGHT (m) (MID)	MAIN FEEDER TYPE / FEEDER (APPROX.)	COMMENTS
D3	300 DIA. DISH	179°	17.50m	1xNT400 (29.0m)	-

EXISTING ANTENNA SCHEDULE

REF	ANTENNA TYPE	ORIENTATION	HEIGHT (m) (MID)	MAIN FEEDER TYPE / FEEDER (APPROX.)	COMMENTS
A1	4-STACK DIPOLE	-	18.90m	1xLDF4-50 (30.0m)	-
A2	4-STACK DIPOLE	-	18.90m	1xLDF4-50 (30.0m)	-
A3	4-STACK DIPOLE	-	18.90m	1xLDF4-50 (30.0m)	-
A4	GPS ANTENNA	-	3.50m	1x10mm CABLE (9.0m)	-

Notes

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3. All dimensions shown are to be confirmed on site.
4. This drawing to be read in conjunction with P2ML drawing No. CCM/003/918/002 and 002.



REV	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	BY	CH	DATE
A	ISSUE FOR APPROVAL	AD	SKYE	19/09/2024

Client

Site ID: **NOR246**

SITE NAME AND ADDRESS
NORTHERN CONSTABULARY
RADIO STATION MAARUIG
MAARUIG
ISLE OF HARRIS
HS3 3AQ

DRAWING TITLE:
PROPOSED SITE ELEVATION
SHEET 3 OF 3

PURPOSE OF ISSUE:
PLANNING

DRAWING NUMBER:
CCM/003/918/003

SCALE:	DRAWN:	DATE:	REV:
AS SHOWN @ A3	SKYE	19/09/2024	A
CHECKED:	DATE:	APPROVED:	DATE:
JH	19/09/2024	JH	19/09/2024

100mm
50mm
10mm



Installation at:

**AIRWAVE AT GORMAL RADIO TOWER, MARAIG, ISLE OF HARRIS
HS3 3AQ**

For – Airwave Solutions Ltd (LIN050)

NGR: 118709, 906989

Radio System ICNIRP Statement

International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection Statement

The microwave frequency radio transmitting equipment conforms to the International Telecommunications Union safety recommendation EN60215.

The microwave radio installation to be deployed Airwave on the above named radio site complies with standard safety guidelines, which includes RF hazard warning signs being posted on the entry to the site compound, and the equipment radiating in a direction away from any other existing antenna's on the tower which personnel would be working on. All personnel who work on the tower will be RF- aware workers and the ICNIRP occupational standard will be applied.

Heyrod Communications, on behalf of its client, certifies that the installation is designed so that its operation, by virtue of its controlled access location will not result in RF power densities for public areas exceeding the requirements of the Radio Frequency (RF) public exposure guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) as expressed in the Guidelines For Limiting Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (100 kHz to 300GHz) as published in: HEALTH PHYS 118(5): 483-524; 2020.

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT:
SITE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION INCORPORATING DESIGN &
ACCESS STATEMENT**

1. Site Details

Site Name:	GORMAL RADIO TOWER	Site Address:	Maraig, Isle of Harris, HS3 3AQ
National Grid Reference:	118709, 906989		
Site Ref Number:	NOR246	Site Type: ¹	MACRO - GREENFIELD

2. Pre-Application Check List

Site Selection (for New Sites only)

(Would not generally apply to upgrades/alterations to existing site including redevelopment or replacement of an existing site to facilitate an upgrade or sharing with another operator)

Was a local planning authority mast register available to check for suitable sites by the operator or the local planning authority?		No
If no explain why: The proposal makes use of an existing and established telecommunications site		
Were industry site databases checked for suitable sites by the operator:		No
If no explain why: N/A		

Site Specific Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Was there pre-application contact:	No
Date of pre-application contact:	N/A
Name of contact:	
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised: Application considered non-contentious.	

Community Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:	Red	Amber	Green

School/College

¹ Macro or Micro

Location of site in relation to school/college (include name of school/college): <i>The following schools are all within 300m of the site: NONE</i>
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college (include evidence of consultation): N/A
Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of main correspondence): N/A

Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator consultation (only required for an application for prior approval)

Will the structure be within 3km of an aerodrome or airfield?		No
Has the Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator been notified?		No
Details of response: N/A –		

Developer's Notice

Copy of Developer's Notice enclosed?	Yes	
Date served:	05/11/2024	

3. Proposed Development

<p>The proposed site:</p> <p>Background: Galloway Estates Ltd act on behalf of Airwave Solutions Ltd (Airwave), the company that is responsible for delivering the Airwave service, throughout the UK including Scotland's Highlands & Islands regions. The Airwave service is an integrated, state-of-the-art, public safety mobile radio communications service for amongst others the emergency services including police forces in Great Britain.</p> <p>Airwave operates a state of the art communications service that is being utilised by organisations including Police Scotland, Fire & Ambulance services. It is important to emphasise that the Airwave service is not a commercial mobile phone network available to the general public. Its use is restricted solely to the approved public safety organisations and the emergency services.</p> <p>The Airwave network in the Western isles area was commissioned in 2004-2005 and includes a number of existing sites in the surrounding areas. Airwave has a requirement to install a new 300mm dish mounted at a height of 17.5m AGL that is integral to the resilience for Airwaves transmission system which is a vital function of the emergency services network.</p> <p>Airwave recognises that some people may have concerns over health and safety issues. However, the installation will be ICNIRP compliant, as required by PPG8 and would operate at very low power levels. An 'ICNIRP Certificate' confirming this has been included as part of this application.</p> <p>Description of the Site: The application site is for a single new 300mm diameter dish on the existing Gormal Radio Tower at Maraig NGR: 118709, 906989</p>

Proposed Development:

For further detail see the following attachments to the application:

Drawing Nos. CCM/003/918/001 / 002 / 003

Enclose map showing the cell centre and adjoining cells if appropriate:

N/A

Type of Structure (e.g. tower, mast, etc):

Existing 24.5m tall tower

Description: The proposed Development is as shown on attached drawings **CCM/003/918/001 / 002 / 003**. This will comprise the installation of a single new 300mm diameter dish located on new steelwork attached to the tower at a height of 17.5m AGL

Overall Height:

17.5m

Height of existing mast (where applicable):

24.5m

Equipment Housings : N/A

Cabin

N/A

Meter (Elec) cabinets x 2

N/A

Dish

300mm dish at 17.5m

Materials (as applicable):

Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:

Galvanised steel finish

Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:

No changes – As existing

Site Access:

Access to the site is as shown on the drawing **CCM/003/918/001** and is as existing from the minor roads and tracks off the A859

Technical Information

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Declaration attached (see below)	Yes	
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International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection public compliance is determined by mathematical calculation and implemented by careful location of antennas, access restrictions and/or barriers and signage as necessary. Members of the public cannot unknowingly enter areas close to the antennas where exposure may exceed the relevant guidelines.

When determining compliance, the emissions from all mobile phone network operators on or near to the site are taken into account.

In order to minimise interference within their own networks and others, they are optimised and operate in such a way that the radio frequency power outputs are kept to the lowest levels commensurate with effective service provision. The radio base station equipment that is the subject of this application will be configured to operate in this way.

All operators of radio transmitters are under a legal obligation to operate those transmitters in accordance with the conditions of their licence. Operation of the transmitter in accordance with the conditions of the licence fulfils the legal obligations in respect of interference to other radio systems, other electrical equipment, instrumentation or air traffic systems. The conditions of the licence are mandated by Ofcom, an agency of national government, who are responsible for the regulation of the civilian radio spectrum. The remit of Ofcom also includes investigation and remedy of any reported significant interference.

The telecommunications infrastructure which is the subject of this application accords with all relevant legislation and as such will not cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest.

4. Technical Justification

The Applicant considers it to be important to explain the technical justification for the site, given its intended use for the Emergency Services. A radio base station transmitter is designed to cover a specific area and links its coverage to the next site in the network, creating a patchwork of overlapping coverage 'cells' across the country. The proposed dish is required as part of Airwaves national transmission update resulting from the Governments reallocation of frequencies and the further need to provide a resilient transmission network for the emergency services network provider.

5. Reason for Choice of Design

BACKGROUND:

The dish is required as part of a national update of the dish transmission network for Airwave. Dishes are a relatively standard form of equipment. They are functional and of a defined design, generally being round. In this instance the need for a new 300mm dish is dictated by the transmission frequency and distance to the site to which it links in to forming a 'Ring' within a resilient path of links serving the network in the Isle of Harris.

DESIGN COMPONENT:

The site is an established telecommunications radio base station location, housing the Airwave installation and various other licenced operator (OLO) installations on site. All the Airwave and OLO antennas and dish antennas are located in an individual aperture on the telecommunications mast.

The proposed equipment is to install 1 no. 300mm diameter radio link dish amongst the existing antennas / dish antennas on site. This dish will meet Airwave's operational requirements and is minimalist in nature but is essential in order to maintain the integrity of

the Airwave emergency services network. The proposed dish will blend in with other apparatus on site and will not have any detrimental effect or impact on visual amenity to the existing structure or the surrounding area.

- **Use proposed** – the 1 no. 300mm transmission dish. There will no change of use to the site as a telecommunications radio base station.
- **Amount** – 1 no. 300mm diameter transmission dish attached to the radio equipment located in the existing equipment cabin which will not be visible.
- **Layout** – The layout of the existing site would remain the same. There are no new compound designs included.
- **Scale** – The proposed 1 no. 300mm diameter dish is the smallest available size to now meet the operational requirements for the upgrade. In context of the existing apparatus on site the proposed development will have minimal impact.
- **Landscaping** – No additional landscaping is proposed around the existing site.
- **Appearance** – The scheme is considered to be minimal in its context and appearance. The scheme is part of an established telecommunications site housing multiple operator apparatus. The planning authority has already accepted the concept of telecommunications development in this location. It is considered that the proposal being only a minor addition to an existing telecommunications mast will not result in any adverse impact on the visual amenity or landscape character of the **NSA of Harris & North Uist**.

Site Selection Process

Alternative sites considered and not chosen (not generally required for **upgrades/alterations to existing sites** including redevelopment of an existing site to facilitate an upgrade or sharing with another operator)

Site search area:
N/A

SITE	Name	NGR:	Reason for discounting

Additional relevant information (include planning policy and material considerations):

Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development

The Code of Best Practice provides guidance primarily to mobile network operators, their agents and contractors and to local planning authorities.

The principal aim of this Code is to ensure that the Government’s objective of supporting high quality communications infrastructure is achieved in a timely manner, but in a way that also minimises the potential impact that can be associated with such development. It provides clear and practical advice to ensure the delivery of significantly better and more effective communication and consultation between operators, local authorities and residents.

The Code highlights that the mobile telecommunications network is a key element of national infrastructure in both economic and social terms and a crucial component of everyday life. It states that “coverage in rural area is recognised as a vital component for maintaining economic activity and social inclusion”. It acknowledges that the pressure on networks to upgrade and improve networks through changes to existing sites and the development of new sites is constant. With the ever-increasing demand and the Government’s ambitious aspirations it is becoming more important to improve connectivity and capacity.

Concerning the erection of new ground-based masts; The Code provides examples of where the environmental and visual impact of the mast can be greatly reduced.

- *Placing the mast near similar structures. For example, industrial and commercial premises, road signs and lamp posts;*
- *Placing a mast within or adjacent to an existing group of trees*
- *Using simple and unfussy designs. Masts which have complex designs are more likely to dominate and be in discord with the landscape and have adverse visual impacts; and*
- *Appropriate colouring. Masts seen against the sky, for example, are best left in their galvanised state or painted pale grey. Against a wooded backdrop a matt green or brown colour scheme would be more applicable.*

It acknowledges that Operators should bear in mind that there are certain locations where sensitive siting and design are of increased importance. These include National Parks; AONBs and Sites of Special Scientific Interest but we note that no such land status applies to or in the vicinity of the site.

Relevant Planning Policies:

There is a presumption in favour of proposals for telecommunications development provided that the stated criteria are met. This has been fully considered in addition to the relevant National Scottish Planning Policies 2014 and National Planning Framework, including Supporting Digital Connectivity NPF Context 292.

Compliance with National Planning Policy

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY REVIEW - Scottish Planning Policy 2014:

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Purpose

i. The purpose of the SPP is to set out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers’ priorities for operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. The SPP promotes consistency in the application of policy across Scotland whilst allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect local circumstances. It directly relates to:

- the preparation of development plans;
- the design of development, from initial concept through to delivery; and
- the determination of planning applications and appeals.

The SPP sits alongside the following Scottish Government planning policy documents:

- the National Planning Framework (NPF)2 , which provides a statutory framework for Scotland’s long-term spatial development. The NPF sets out the Scottish Government’s spatial development priorities for the next 20 to 30 years. The SPP sets out policy that will help to deliver the objectives of the NPF;

Supporting Digital Connectivity NPF Context 292.

NPF3 highlights the importance of our digital infrastructure, across towns and cities, and in particular our more remote rural and island areas. Our economy and social networks depend heavily on high-quality digital infrastructure. To facilitate investment across Scotland,

planning has an important role to play in strengthening digital communications capacity and coverage across Scotland. Policy Principles 293. The planning system should support:

- development which helps deliver the Scottish Government's commitment to world-class digital connectivity;
- the need for networks to evolve and respond to technology improvements and new services;
- inclusion of digital infrastructure in new homes and business premises; and
- infrastructure provision which is sited and designed to keep environmental impacts to a minimum.

Summary:

In summary, the application is in respect of electronic communications apparatus vital to maintain existing emergency services infrastructure network.

Given its relatively modest addition, it is considered that this proposal will not unduly harm the external appearance of the existing telecommunications structure, nor will it adversely affect the surrounding area including the NSA of Harris & North Uist.

Name: (Agent)	<u>Peter Hickson</u>	Telephone:	<u>07970 679998</u>
Operator:	<u>Airwave Solutions Ltd</u>		
Address:	<u>Galloway Estates PO Box 17086, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 9UG</u>	Email Address:	<u>phickson@gallowayestates.co.uk</u>
		Date:	<u>05/11/2024</u>
Signed:		Company:	<u>Galloway Estates Ltd</u>
Position:	<u>Director</u>		<u>Airwave Solutions Ltd</u>
		(on behalf of the above Operator(s))	<u></u>