

Cornerstone Community Information Sheet

Cabinets for mobile phone base stations

An introduction to cabinets that are used to house equipment and form part of a mobile phone base station.

Base stations use radio signals to connect mobile devices and phones to the network, enabling people to send and receive calls, texts, emails, pictures, TV and downloads. Without base stations, mobile devices will not work. Base stations are made up of three main elements:

- The cabinet contains the equipment used to generate the radio signal.
- The supporting structure such as a mast, which holds the antennas in the air and
- the antennas themselves.

Only the antennas emit radio signals.

Cabinets contain the equipment needed to generate radio signals. They can also contain underground power and data cables. The cabinet must be large enough to ensure a good airflow around the equipment to allow adequate cooling. In addition the cabinet must be weather proof – from rain, snow or freezing temperatures.

Where different technologies are required at a site, for example 4G as well as 3G, then a number of cabinets may be required for a single mast.

Cabinets need to be located close to the mast with access for maintenance by our engineers. Existing underground services may also dictate the positioning of a cabinet, particularly in a street environment.

Very often the smaller cabinets we use do not need specific planning permission as they are classed as Permitted Development under the planning regulations.

For further information please contact:

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