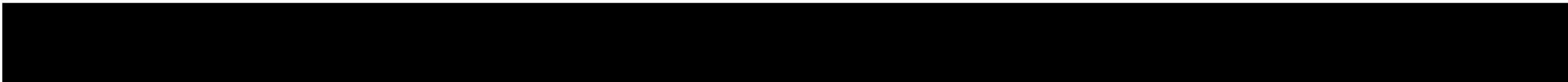


OBJECTION to DM/26/0568

The installation of an 8.1m pole supporting four antennas, with one equipment cabinet on steel mesh grillage with a handrail and screw pile foundations
Network Rail London To Brighton Railway - Copyhold Junction To Haywards Heath Station Clair Road
Haywards Heath West Sussex



Note: **anyone can comment on a planning application** - see the Planning Practice Guidance on Consultation.

SITING and APPEARANCE

This is an inappropriate and insensitive siting being far too close to ancient woodland, which would carry serious implications for biodiversity, flora and fauna. See “PLANTS and WILDLIFE” section.

SITING as part of a wider network

NOTE: The proposed development forms part of an operational electronic communications network which is intended to provide mobile telecommunications services beyond the immediate site. As such, the development is not limited to its physical footprint. It is not self-contained or purely site-specific; it is an element within a wider networked system designed to operate continuously over its operational lifetime.

The impact of this mast is therefore not limited to its immediate footprint (as seen on the site plans) but would be far-reaching.

With this in mind, is there an Environmental Impact Assessment? Under Environmental Law and the ruling against Surrey County Council (**Finch v Surrey County Council** [2024] EWCA Civ 187) that emphasised the importance of public participation in environmental decision making, which is an objective not only of the EIA Directive but also central to the Aarhus Convention; the Court identified two issues in relation to public participation, namely: increasing the democratic legitimacy of environmental decision, and serving an educational function. **An EIA should include the effects of the radiation emitted from all the antennae on the proposed mast (which can be regarded as effluvia or as a pollutant) on public health.**

PLANTS and WILDLIFE

The ICNIRP guidelines make NO provision for flora and fauna.

NPPF (2024) Paras 187 and 192 refer to planning policies and decisions contributing to and enhancing the natural and local environment and protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity. The proposed installation would in no way enhances the natural environment, and nor would it protect biodiversity. Quite the opposite.

Each new installation and upgrade compounds the already-severe threat facing our wildlife and plant kingdoms and, as a result, there could be dire consequences for humans too. Our food chain relies on insects for pollination. It appears that we are on a suicidal mission as we pursue “economic growth” and play with our digital toys. How sensible is that?

The 2025 study “Flora and fauna: How nonhuman species interact with natural and man-made EMF at ecosystem levels, and public policy recommendations” (see sources) looks in depth at how flora and fauna experience negative impacts from electromagnetic interference. This is stark, sit-up-and-pay-attention reading. An overwhelming amount of evidence in all five animal kingdoms and taxa studied, already warrant concern, but the obsessive and unchecked drive towards a digital world could have catastrophic consequences.

All living things evolved alongside the Earth’s natural extremely low frequency (ELF) direct current (DC) static magnetic fields and the Schumann Resonances. Compared to humans, other species have exceptionally sensitive electro/magneto-receptors with which to perceive environmental EMF.

Anthropogenic ELF/RF-EMF (i.e. artificial) exposures are changing too rapidly for species to adapt.

Today’s exposures are capable, even at very low intensities, of disrupting critical fauna/flora functions such as migration, mating, and finding food. This is seen in all taxa from microbiota to mammals.

It has been demonstrated that trees are sensitive to their electrical environment, and “progressive defoliation has been documented in Europe in slow tree dieback after cell towers/antennae were installed nearby”. In a nutshell, plants, trees, and seeds all respond positively to natural static and ELF-EMF, but react adversely to RFR with failure to germinate or thrive, and with increased dieback.

One area which should concern ANYONE reading this is the effect on pollinators. The paper states that extinction rates have already accelerated and warns that: “Insects in particular showed dramatic declines that could lead to a 40% extinction rate over the next several decades”. It goes on to say that “the human food supply is potentially endangered from just this one new technology” (5G).

These findings echo many earlier studies.

The loss of biodiversity and wildlife on both the island of Samos and Mt Nardi in Australia (see below sources) occurred in areas where 4G masts had been erected. Both recorded DRAMATIC declines in both volume and species type. Of particular concern is the detrimental effect of EMFs on pollinators.

Cell Towers Cause Massive Insect Decline on the Greek island of Samos (Kordas Feb-2022)

Diana Kordas lives in a rural area on the Greek Island of Samos. Her paper is “an effort to document what has happened in an area which has cell tower radiation but does not have pesticides or monoculture, which has a rich variety of plant life and is surrounded by wild land. It is based purely on observation”.

The paper opens with the alarming statistics “In 2017, a major German study found that flying insects had decreased over 75% in protected areas over the previous 27 years while ruling out climate change and pesticides. In 2021, the bumblebee was declared **extinct in nine** U.S. states.” Her paper includes tables of species observed.

It is Kordas’s opinion that “Cell tower radiation is causing insects to die. An ongoing decline in insect numbers occurred after the introduction of 4G/LTE, and the new 5G network on Samos has caused insect declines to reach a tipping point.”

Mount Nardi Wildlife Report to UNESCO FINAL (2000-2015)

This report was prepared by a naturalist/ethno-botanist, local to the area and detailed the dramatic decline in volume and species variety in the Mt. Nardi area of the Nightcap National Park World Heritage Area (home to ancient forest and endangered plants and wildlife) during a 15-year period (2000-2015) as a result of the introduction of digital technologies, 3G, 4G etc.

See also **Effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields on flora and fauna (2021, Levitt, Lai, Manville), parts 1,2,3** which found adverse biological effects to wildlife from even very low intensities of non-ionising

radiation, showing impacts to orientation, migration, reproduction, mating, nest, den building and survivorship.

TREES

The site is close to mature trees. Could any be damaged during groundwork? Any harm to the root structure would threaten the health and longevity of these trees over time. Once up and running, further harm could be done to the trees from radiation. Studies have shown harm to trees by EMFs, and this should also be taken into consideration. Please consider the following study.

Radiofrequency radiation injures trees around mobile phone base stations (2016)

A detailed long-term (2006-2015) field monitoring study of 120 trees was performed in the cities of Bamberg and Hallstadt (Germany) and demonstrated electromagnetic radiation from phone masts is harmful to trees. *“We selected 60 damaged trees, in addition to 30 randomly selected trees and 30 trees in low radiation areas The measurements of all trees revealed significant differences between the damaged side facing a phone mast and the opposite side, as well as differences between the exposed side of damaged trees and all other groups of trees in both sides.....The 30 selected trees in low radiation areas (no visual contact to any phone mast and power flux density under $50\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$) showed no damage. Statistical analysis demonstrated that electromagnetic radiation from mobile phone masts is harmful for trees. These results are consistent with the fact that damage afflicted on trees by mobile phone towers usually start on one side, extending to the whole tree over time.”*

Additional photos were published Mar-2022 – see sources.

Also worth considering is the paper “Modification of the landscape by adding artificial structures, habitat changes, fragmentation and alteration have harmful impacts on biodiversity” (Trombulak and Frissell, 2000).

In view of concerns over Biodiversity, the impact on plants and wildlife needs to be considered.

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. 15% of species in the UK are now threatened with extinction (UK State of Nature report 2019).

Can we really afford the risk of harming yet more species and negatively affecting biodiversity? We need to protect our wildlife, and all the green areas and trees that we have, especially in view of concerns over loss of biodiversity.

We can no longer afford to turn a blind eye to the obvious harm being done to our natural world. We need to consider the longer-term consequences of every single one of our actions including those which involve telecoms installations (new, upgrades etc).

Do YOU want to be responsible for facilitating the fulfilment of the very stark predictions of species extinction? Or the potential collapse of our food supply?

ANCIENT WOODLAND

Ancient woodland is a rich interconnected ecosystem which has developed over centuries, something which once disturbed, cannot be fully restored, and should be protected at all costs.

The inherent biodiversity of soil, ground flora, fungi, trees, and wildlife, all comprise a rich web of natural wisdom, which far surpasses human understanding. We need to tread carefully upon this fragile earth.

The proposed siting near ancient woodland, would lead to loss of trees (if not immediately then long term), loss of woodland habitat, and loss of biodiversity. We would be fools to replace the ancient wisdom of trees with a relatively young technology, whose harm is only just showing its ugly head. There are no century-long studies showing it safe to the health of trees and the environment (we do have growing evidence to the

contrary), whereas our ancient woodlands and countryside have provided a sacred space and haven for our beloved wildlife and flora, and a breathing space for us, in which to recharge our energy and sense of wellbeing.

We are custodians of this earth, which includes this ancient woodland. We should not seek to deliberately ruin it.

If approved, however, we would not just be ruining this corner of this beautiful county, but the resources needed to construct and operate it would leave devastation in other areas of the world too.

If we were genuinely committed to saving our planet and biodiversity we would not even contemplate trespassing upon our ancient woodlands in such a manner.

In summary

What we are seeing is a repeat of what happened with the Tobacco industry, when risks were ignored / denied, until a critical mass of data showing damage was no longer possible to brush under the carpet. The drive for constant connection is far worse because it will be ubiquitous. There is no escape or relief for anyone.

What is paramount and must override every other consideration must be (1) public safety and avoidance of risk and harm to an unsuspecting public that has given no informed consent and (2) protection of our precious wildlife, flora, and natural environment. The public is being kept in the dark, just as they were with tobacco and asbestos (covered in the book “Late Lessons from Early Warnings”).

Valid concerns of members of the public should be given a thorough and well considered hearing. I urge you to listen to those concerns.

This proposed installation is part of a network to provide “seamless connectivity” for passengers who pass through this landscape for mere seconds, not even seeing or appreciating it, as they scroll mindlessly through social media or watch a film on their phones. Our flora and fauna are paying the price for our digital addiction. Does that make any sense?

As a material planning consideration, this application is an incompatible and unacceptable use of land, since it is likely to cause harm to humans, flora, fauna and the environment.

I urge you to REFUSE THIS application (and all future ones) before irreversible damage is done.

SOURCES

TREES

**** Radiofrequency radiation injures trees around mobile phone base stations (2016)**

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/306435017> Radiofrequency radiation injures trees around mobile phone base stations

And <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27552133>

Additional photos here (published Mar-2022)

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359481325> Tree damage caused by mobile phone base stations An observation guide Photos and RF measurements by Cornelia Waldmann-Selsam Additional photos

WILDLIFE / INSECTS

“Flora and fauna: How nonhuman species interact with natural and man-made EMF at ecosystem levels, and public policy recommendations” by B. Blake Levitt, Dr. Albert M. Manville II, Dr. Henry C. Lai, Theodora Scarato, published in Frontiers in Public Health, 19 November 2025.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1693873/full>

5G Cell Towers Cause Massive Insect Decline on the Greek island of Samos (Kordas Feb-2022)

<https://cellphonetaskforce.org/the-work-of-diana-kordas/>

<https://cellphonetaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/5G-causes-massive-insect-declines-on-Samos.pdf>

Mount Nardi Wildlife Report to UNESCO FINAL (2000-2015)

<https://www.emrsa.co.za/report-for-the-united-nations-educational-scientific-and-cultural-organization/>

and <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Mt-Nardi-Wildlife-Report-to-UNESCO-FINAL.pdf>

Effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields on flora and fauna (2021, Levitt, Lai, Manville)

PART 1 = Rising ambient EMF levels in the environment <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34047144/>

PART 2 = Impacts: how species interact with natural and man-made EMF

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34243228/>

PART 3 = Exposure standards, public policy, laws, and future directions

<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/reveh-2021-0083/html>

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