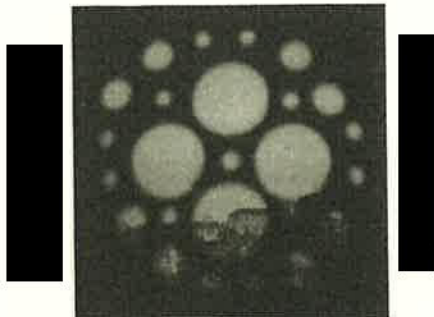


Stevens Venence
Planning Officer
Wiltshire Council
Trowbridge

Re: PL/2026/01852

"Land South of Cemetery Lane"



Dear Stevens Venence,

27th April 2026

I have been a member of Bradford-on-Avon Preservation Trust Planning Committee since 1993 (and of the West Wiltshire Campaign to protect Rural England Committee for over ten years); had I been at the meeting where this application was discussed the Trust's comment (of 16.4.26) might have been quite different.

It is true that when trees are in full foliage the site is screened by a "partial filter" in the immediate vicinity from Holt Road. However, the site is in Green Belt and the proposed array, which is ugly and incongruous, will be clearly visible from distant points across the valley - both to the South (which is an important amenity for the town's walkers) and West (including the historic hillside areas of Middle Rank and Tary), so there is an impact on heritage assets and the Conservation Area. Presumably, it was to obviate such impacts that the existing mast had conditions of Permission removing Permitted Development Rights imposed - By its nature, the proposal requires clear lines of sight and would be seen across the town and the surrounding landscape.

The 9-fold increase, from 3 to 27 items of equipment is clearly disproportionate and not as the applicants claim a "modest upgrade". It completely fails to "respond to its countryside setting" or "reinforce local distinctiveness" - it is entirely alien. In no way is it "sympathetic

to its setting" nor does it "maintain the quality of the local environment". Bristling with jagged and hard-edged boxlike excrescences, it constitutes "unacceptable harm" to landscape and visual amenity (not simply the admitted "perceptible change in outlook"). It is not "High Quality Design"; it is a banal assemblage of standardized elements.

Bradford-on-Avon has 14 species of protected bat, which are highly sensitive to airborne fields - in the case of the proposed transmission equipment, effectively filling the air with small electric shocks and disrupting the bats' ability to navigate. Bats depend on a plentiful supply of insects and the current collapse in insect numbers (and insectivorous species of birds and mammals) has correlated with the rollout of mobile technologies. For these reasons, the proposed intensification of transmitters seems very likely to have adverse impacts on bats that are unacceptable.

"5G" is a concern among quite a number of my colleagues and clients in the town. It is entirely disingenuous that the fact the proposed upgrade is "most notably in relation to 5G services" does not appear until page 36 of the supplementary information Document. The voluminous justifications of "significant public benefits" raise more questions than they answer and clearly the implications in planning terms are actually immense. The claims of "vibrant" and "resilient" economic activity seem completely at odds with the likely dystopian reality.

