

The MOA logo consists of the lowercase letters 'moa' in a white, sans-serif font, positioned inside a dark blue, teardrop-shaped graphic that points towards the top right.

mobile  
operators  
association

responsible  
network  
development

# Annual Rollout Plans – Transparency for Local Communities

Since 2001 the UK's mobile network operators – Everything Everywhere (Orange and T-Mobile), O2, Three and Vodafone – have annually provided every local planning and national park authority in the UK with planned proposals for new base station sites for the following year along with details of their existing sites in the authority's area. With over 81 million mobile connections in the UK<sup>1</sup>, there is continuing demand for network upgrades and expansion so that customers can use their mobile phones when and where they want. All mobile phone services require a network of base stations to transmit and receive the radio signals which enable them to work. Mobile devices are increasingly being used to access a wide range of data services by mobile broadband.

## The right balance

The operators understand the importance of achieving the right balance between addressing environmental and other public concerns with the need to meet the ever-increasing customer demand for their services, including mobile broadband services. Engaging in dialogue and working closely with local and national park authorities and their communities before submitting planning applications is a key priority for the operators and their agents.

## Sharing rollout plans

The distribution of the annual rollout plans provides an excellent opportunity for the operators to share information with local and national park authorities for the forthcoming year and for the authorities to give feedback and general advice to the operators to help guide their thinking and future plans. Ideally the parties can work together to find an optimum solution.

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**Mobile phones cannot work without a network of base stations in places where people want to use them.**

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**Over 30 scientific reviews worldwide in the past eight years have not found adverse health effects caused by mobile phone base stations operating within the international health and safety guidelines used in the UK.**



The rollout plans are sent each autumn with an offer of a meeting to discuss the details in them. Such meetings allow for early dialogue with the operators as well as a valuable forward look for the authorities. Operators are happy to meet jointly or singly with authorities depending on the preference of the authority concerned. The data provided on existing sites also enables authorities to regularly update their mast register if they have one. We would strongly encourage all authorities to maintain a mast register. Since 2005 the rollout plans for all operators have been sent out electronically from one source – the MOA – which makes it much easier for authorities to see the 'big picture' for anticipated mobile network development in their area during the next year. Feedback from authorities in 2011 was very positive with 97% of authorities responding saying they were pleased the plans were provided electronically from one source and that the operators were prepared to meet. The sharing of annual rollout plans has been advocated as best practice and is encouraged by all UK governments. Local and national park authorities are encouraged to take a full and active part in the annual rollout plan process.

## In the public domain

Once the rollout plans are sent out they are in the public domain and local people can request access to them from their local or national park authority. They can ask questions of the authority and provide useful advice or feedback which the authority can then pass on to the operators. It is especially helpful if this happens in advance of any application for planning permission being submitted, enabling the operators to take account of local views which can then assist them in determining the final location and design of a site.

## Further information

For further information on the annual rollout plans process or for planners to be added to the mailing list please contact [info@ukmoa.org](mailto:info@ukmoa.org)



The Mobile Operators Association represents the interests of the UK's four mobile phone network operators - Everything Everywhere (Orange and T-Mobile) O2, Three, and Vodafone - on radiofrequency health and related town planning issues.

For individual operator contact details see [www.mobilemastinfo.com](http://www.mobilemastinfo.com)

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