

analogue television

SELF HELPS

Television coverage having been provided to 99.4% of the UK population, the DCMS stated that the ongoing programme of relay station planning and construction should be curtailed. Nevertheless, it also made it clear, that should communities, still unable to receive satisfactory analogue television, be interested in self-provision i.e. self-help schemes, the broadcasters should provide the necessary assistance.

There is a wide range of complexity in self-help schemes. At one end of the scale it may consist of a simple co-channel repeater (active deflector), possibly with a receiving antenna on one side of a hill and an amplifier and co-axial feeder to a transmitting antenna on the other side of the hill. Whereas at the other end of the scale co-sited receiving and transmitting antennas may be connected via a semi-professional four-channel frequency transposer.



Examples of some "self-help" solutions.



Irrespective of the complexity of a self-help scheme the station requires a transmitting licence issued by the Radiocommunications Agency. This is only forthcoming if it can be shown that the station will not cause interference to existing television viewers.

Spectrum Planning Group is currently engaged in discussions with several groups of people considering "self-help" solutions. Advice generally covers receiving and transmitting antennas, tried and tested amplifier or transposer architectures and of course the all-important transmitting licence.

REFLECTION OR SHADOWING BY BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES

In areas with good television reception, there is always the possibility that new developments of buildings or structures can impair the service. This may be caused by tall buildings, steel fabrications and, obtaining a certain degree of media exposure nowadays, wind turbines and wind farms.



At the design stage the developers may seek the opinion of the broadcasters for methods to alleviate disruption to television reception. Additionally, when planning permission is sought the relevant authorities generally take the advice of the broadcasters and may request the developers to make good any loss of television reception.

This can be extremely cost effective and beneficial to the licence payers, because as long as potential problems can be identified in time, the developers and not the broadcasters fund the remedial work.