

**NOTES FROM BROADBAND TALK 20 JUN 2016  
GIVEN TO ANTROBUS PARISH COUNCIL OPEN FORUM  
Antrobus Village Hall, 20 June 2016 at 7:15pm.**

These notes have been approved by the speakers.

Speakers

Andrew Arditti, Digital Engagement Manager, Skills & Growth Company. Tony Morgan, Contract Director, BT Group. 19 people attended.

The programme

The program for Cheshire is 85,000 premises. 500 cabinets already switched on. Including government and BT funding, it is costing in the region of £4Bn nationally. Investment without this funding would not be commercially viable in this area. Depending on difficulties such as power cost, geography, ducting and cabling, cabinet costs can reach £50k+ in the intervention area, well above the average commercial deployment.

Things to be aware of

It is not possible to state a delivery time since it is not known before a phase begins what legacy line complexity or blockages exist. Wayleaves from landowners property is also a delay for BT to gain access to land to place a cabinet or equipment. It can be 12 months from first survey to delivery.

To replace the whole of the UK's copper network, it is likely that costs would be up to 10 times more expensive due to the vast amount of work required to change out the whole network, hence it is far more economical and best value to reuse the copper network whenever possible, taking the fibre only from the exchange to the 'cabinets' usually. However the centre of the village will get fibre all the way to the home.

Once delivered, the maximum technical line speed is 330 Meg for fibre and 80 meg for copper (with degradation due to line length). The UK definition of superfast broadband is  $\geq 24$ Meg.

But villagers should note that ISPs sell broadband services in packages, (e.g. 20Meg) so your speed will be limited to your package. Purchasing fibre all the way to the premises (FTTP) would improve continuity and contention as well as speed, as will having a fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) connection.

The technology is changing all the time so on the horizon is GFast bolt on from BT (500MB) and VDSL. Fibre on demand can be privately obtained.

While you wait there is a subsidy to provide satellite broadband. Wireless or community funding can also be used.

Links

To ask a query of Connecting Cheshire please see their FAQs online at [www.connectingcheshire.org.uk](http://www.connectingcheshire.org.uk) or use [info@connectingcheshire.org.uk](mailto:info@connectingcheshire.org.uk). Exchange level information on [www.connectingcheshire.org.uk/check-availability](http://www.connectingcheshire.org.uk/check-availability) then click through to relevant maps.

When will my home go live? Villagers can go and check on the Openreach website with an indication of maximum speed.

### Status.

An indication of implementation status was given by postcode and by a coloured map (the map can be seen at the shop or from the clerk). Note that as the actual lines are laid out independently, this is not accurate for every home.

For the 44 postcodes in this parish, the summary status is as follows:-  
Norcott Brook (2 postcodes) – live now, varying speeds.  
Comberbach exchange #4 (3 postcodes) – live now  
Comberbach exchange #3 (22 postcodes) – service Sept 2016 (Phase 1 Green)  
Arley (8 postcodes) – In rollout expected by Summer 2017 (Phase 2 Orange)  
Arley (8 postcodes) – likely to be outside of current programme, but further clarification expected from BT.  
Some blue areas on the map require Phase 3 work, details will be announced in the winter.  
Some other areas are beyond Phase 3 and out of scope without going out for more funding.

### What if I am not included in Phase 3?

Connecting Cheshire are continuing to look for alternative sources of funding to help support further roll-out of fibre broadband to reach the remaining 2% of Cheshire as part of Phase 4. An application for additional funds via a Digital 2020 project is in the process of being submitted to Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership. If approved they will inform all parishes.

### Are there any other options?

The government has made a commitment to provide every home and business in the UK with access to a basic broadband service. As part of the Better Broadband Scheme, a subsidised satellite or wireless broadband installation is now available if you cannot access an affordable broadband service with a speed of less than 2 Mb per second. See <http://www.connectingcheshire.org.uk/Betterbroadbandscheme/>

Alternatively you can look into exploring a community funded fibre solution. BT has a dedicated team focused on helping communities understand how BT can help bring fibre to their local area, as well as to support groups to bring faster broadband to parts of the UK not covered by existing rollout plans. See more:

<http://www.communityfibre.bt.com/>

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