

PROJECT UPDATE

December 2013

First communities to benefit from Connecting Cheshire's multi-million pound fibre broadband roll-out are announced

We are delighted to announce that more than 15,000 premises are set to benefit from the first phase of investment in brand new fibre broadband networks across Cheshire.



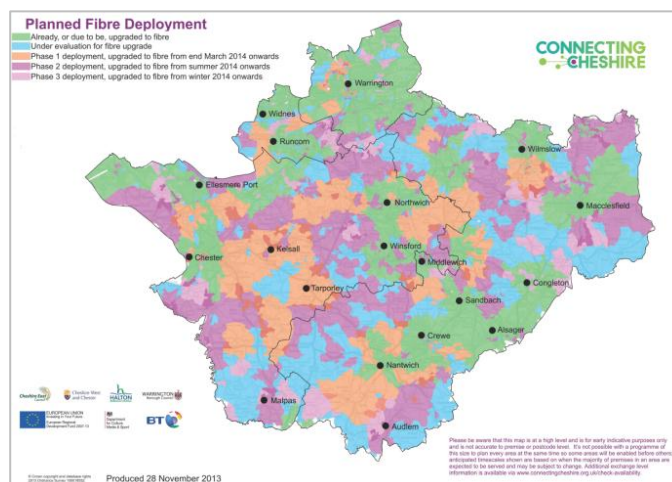
From the end of March 2014 onwards high-speed broadband will become available in over 30 mainly outlying and rural communities across Cheshire including Alderley Edge, Hale Bank, Kelsall, Peover, Tarporley, Weaverham and Westwood near Warrington. For the full list of communities please see overleaf.

Connecting Cheshire is a £31m council led programme to bring fibre broadband to 96% of premises in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington. This will bring superfast fibre to over 80,000 additional premises mainly in our outlying and rural areas by summer 2015.

The Connecting Cheshire broadband programme will be delivered by Openreach - BT's local network business; this will build on the existing fibre networks already provided by BT's commercial investment in high speed broadband in the more urban areas of Cheshire.

Additional information is now also available showing the proposed timescales for areas in the second and third phases of the programme, which are expected to see fibre availability from summer 2014 onwards for phase two, and from winter 2014 onwards for phase three.

You can check the coverage by visiting www.connectingcheshire.org.uk/check-availability to find out more and download a high resolution PDF map.¹



¹ The information shown on the maps is subject to survey and may change; all information, including forecast dates, is indicative only. Forecast dates may move forwards as well as backwards; it is not necessarily the case that all premises within an area due to receive fibre broadband will receive it at the same time – different premises within that area may be served by different supporting infrastructure.

Bringing fibre to Cheshire is a huge engineering challenge, with a team of over 100 planners and engineers working to upgrade exchanges and networks including laying more than 875 miles of fibre-optic cable – more than the distance between Lands End and John O' Groats – by spring 2015. Over 400 new roadside cabinets will also be installed as a new root and branch fibre-optic network is rolled-out.

Principal Communities within Phase 1

During the first phase, faster fibre broadband will be available for the first time in the following communities, where the majority of homes and businesses will be able to contact their Internet Service Provider and order a switch to a fibre broadband service:

Cheshire East Council

Acton	Cranage	Peover
Alderley Edge	East of Crewe*	Plumley
Allostock	Holmes Chapel*	Twemlow Green
Aston	Hough	Warmingham
Brereton Green	Nantwich*	Wrenbury
		Wybunbury

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Acton Bridge	Davenham	Tarporley
Barton	Great Mollington	Tarvin
Central Chester*	Guilden Sutton	Tattenhall
Christleton	Kelsall	Weaverham
Clutton	Lach Dennis	Wincham
	Norley	

Halton Council

Central Runcorn*
Hale Bank
Weston*

Warrington Council

Central Warrington*
Dallam
Great Sankey*

Penketh*
Westwood
Winwick

* These areas will also see additional fibre roll-out in phase one, building on the commercial coverage.

Over the coming months as we roll-out fibre to more than 30 telephone exchanges you will see many new green roadside cabinets appearing. These are a crucial part of the infrastructure and will house the additional equipment needed. Although the government has removed much of the 'red tape' related to the commissioning of these cabinets, any local delays will hamper our ambitious roll-out plans for Cheshire and could delay the programme.

We will be working closely with local communities to ensure the whole community and local businesses can benefit from the arrival of fibre broadband. If you would like to help us in this process please register and join our growing database of over 100 Digital Champions and receive ongoing project updates. Contact us at info@connectingcheshire.org.uk

