

We're Connecting Cheshire

www.connectingcheshire.org.uk

July 2014

News from the fibre front line



As our roll-out continues we thought it was high time to introduce the Fibre Guy responsible for delivering our network, Dan Hague.

Hi Dan what's your role within the Connecting Cheshire project?

As the Senior Project Manager, I lead the BT Openreach deployment team, to deliver the fibre network for the Connecting Cheshire programme.

Where's the project up to now?

We have already delivered our fibre network to over 30,000 premises across Cheshire. Taking superfast fibre to the rural areas of Cheshire is a significant engineering challenge and we are making great progress.

Tell us about some of the challenges you face on a day to day basis?

We always attempt to use existing underground ducting for the installation of new fibre cables. However we frequently find that these ducts are blocked or damaged, particularly in the very rural areas of Cheshire, where these ducts may not have been accessed for decades. In some cases the blockages are caused by mud or silt, which can be extracted using a desilting machine; but to clear the worst blockages we have to dig into ducts from the roadside. To do this we have to gain permission from the highways authority, and in most cases arrange traffic management (e.g. traffic lights) to ensure the safety of the public, and our engineers. In some digs, we may also need to gain permission from other utilities e.g. if there is gas or electric near to the location of the dig, to enable us to dig safely. When we are unable to clear blockages in the existing duct, we may need to lay significant lengths of new duct. The engineering challenges are not just with taking fibre to the new areas, we are also installing over 450 new cabinets that contain the electronics that provide fibre broadband, and in some locations, we may need permission from landowners too. These new cabinets also require power for the electronics which often require significant digs to connect to the power network; which in turn requires coordination with the power companies and highways authority in order to complete the connections



Can you not just get more resources to help?

Resource is an important factor but civil engineering projects of this scale require certain procedures to be followed to ensure safety and quality. These procedures have a timeline associated with them, for example setting up traffic lights and gaining permissions to dig in the carriageway, so additional resource is not always the answer to these types of issues. The people required to deliver these programmes are highly skilled so it is important that we deploy the right resources to ensure safety and the optimum network performance.



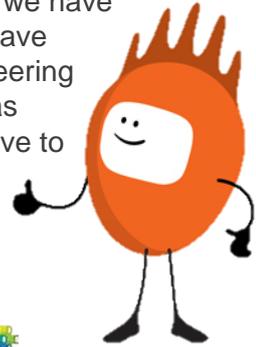


Did you not foresee these problems in your plan?

The plan we are working to accounts for the challenges of delivering the fibre network across these challenging rural areas of Cheshire, but we do regularly face unforeseen issues such as blocked ducts and problems with nearby power and gas supplies, all of which can add significant time to our roll-out.

Are you happy with your progress to deliver to 96% fibre coverage by summer 2015?

Yes, the Connecting Cheshire programme is making great progress, we have already overcome many significant engineering challenges and we have many more ahead, but we have a highly motivated and skilled engineering team that is working hard to deliver superfast broadband as quickly as possible. These challenges do mean that some communities may have to wait a little longer than others, although elsewhere we have been able to connect some areas quicker than we anticipated.



Thanks Dan, we look forward to your next update soon.



Now joining the fibre fast lane ...

Frodsham, Poynton, Runcorn, Tarporley, Tarvin, and Widnes

Upcoming Business Events

Promoting you and your business with LinkedIn

12 August – Crewe Hall

Office 365: collaboration without boundaries

20 August – Crowne Plaza Chester



Goal!



See how the Fibre Guys won the World Cup in our latest [video](#)

Cheshire Show

Over 300 people visited our stand at this year's Cheshire Show to find out more about our roll-out and to enjoy an action packed showground along with celebrity chefs, floral and craft displays, somersaulting motorbikes and thousands of horses, cattle and dogs.

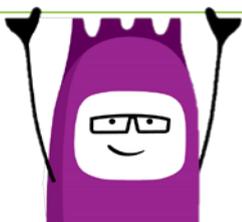
Over the two days as we shared the good news about our deployment of fibre reaching 30,000 homes and businesses across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington and were able to demonstrate the difference fibre can make using the BT fibre showcase. If you missed us don't worry we caught it on [camera](#) or you can see our [video](#).

Come and see us

Nantwich Show

On the Cheshire East stand

30th July 2014



Follow us! Like us!

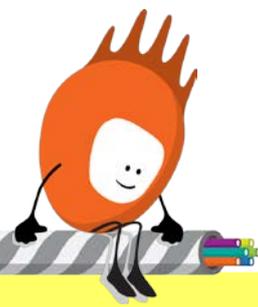


@SFB_Cheshire

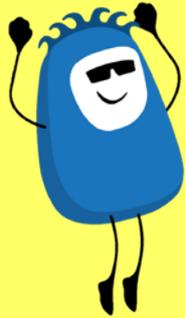


ConnectingCheshire

helping you do more



We're all going on our Summer Holidays...



The best thing about the school holidays is the freedom from routine. Deliciously slow starts in the morning and not having to rush off to swimming lessons straight from school. But the idea of filling six or seven weeks with "fun" can be a bit daunting. Whatever the weather, come rain or shine, you and your family can make the most of the summer and go online to find out what's on near you by using these links:

[Kids guide Cheshire](#)

[Holidays clubs and camps in Cheshire 2014](#)

[Summer Events at Tatton Park](#)



Shop

In 2001 only 6.2million adults in Britain banked online, but the figure had jumped to 17million by 2007. Today about 50 per cent of us carry out our financial transactions online.

Sell

Figures last year showed that 8million Britons run online businesses from home with the top five per cent of sellers on eBay recording an annual turnover of more than £18,000.

Play

Lego has blended the real and the virtual with bricks that can be built and then transferred to online games.

*Available
September 2014*

Connect

Twitter, an online social networking and blogging service, was launched in 2006 and now has over 645million users with about 58million "tweets" or messages sent every day. That's about 9,100 per second!

Watch

Over 6 billion hours of video are watched each month on YouTube - that's almost an hour for every person on Earth.

Superfast Business Case Study

[Find out](#) how Warrington-based Diagram Design have implemented Disaster Recovery planning and a CRM solution to maximise customer retention and profit, keeping them at the forefront of creative design and marketing solutions

Got an event coming up?

If you need leaflets, posters or even fibre guy fridge magnets or would like some information for an event please email us at: info@connectingcheshire.org.uk

For more information on Connecting Cheshire Superfast Business visit www.ccbusiness.co.uk or telephone 0300 123 1696

