

# THE BUILD BULLETIN

## Updates for Northumberland

*August 2023*

### ***DARRAS HALL***

As you know, our network is live in Darras Hall ([sector 4](#)). Building the network was not without its challenges, and we're so proud of the completed product! We've heard many great reviews from customers who are now connected to the network.

You may have seen our team onsite undertaking survey work. These engineers are helping to determine if our network expansion plans are feasible. It is vital we complete this thorough investigation prior to expanding the network. As soon as we have an update on our findings, we will be in touch to those who have registered interest outside of sector 4. Thank you for your patience.

### **ROTHBURY**

#### **August achievements**

- A lot was achieved in August! The biggest job was a major civils task that allowed us to subduct the feeder route from sector 2 into sector 4. The work, completed from 16 August to 25 August, was a success! With sub-ducting now installed into sector 4, all that's needed is to complete the cable blowing, and subsequent splicing of the primary node and then we'll be ready to start testing the distribution network in that area. We're aiming to have the testing completed by mid-September, which will enable us to connect more customers.

#### **Community information sessions**

- We ran a series of community advice forums in August for Rothbury residents. Thank you to everyone who attended! It was a great opportunity to meet and talk to you face to face. We hope we answered any questions you might've had. If you weren't able to attend, or have another question, please feel free to email us at [hello@factco.co.uk](mailto:hello@factco.co.uk).

#### **September planned activities**

- There will be more properties ready for a connection in September. If your property is listed on [this list](#), we expect the network to be ready for you very soon! If you've signed a contract, sit tight. Our installation team will be in touch to arrange an appointment time.
- The team are aiming to complete the fibre blowing needed to bring the feeder cable from sector 2 into sector 4, and the network splicing and testing in that area by mid-September.
- As we build, thorough testing is carried out by the team to ensure the network is working as it should be. This is the final step before making the network live!

The current estimated completion date of Rothbury's full fibre network is the end of October. However, there are a few dependencies that the estimated end date relies on that are out of our control. Defective poles (owned by Openreach) and [wayleaves](#) are two issues we're managing at this time.

### STOCKSFIELD

#### August achievements

- We have been busy building and testing the network in Sectors 1 and 4. This means that once the leased line is connected to the cabinet, we will be able to offer installation appointments in these areas.
- In August we installed sub-duct from our cabinet into sector 6. This milestone puts properties in this area one step closer to connection. We are aiming to have completed blowing the feeder cable into sector 6 by mid-September, with build, splicing and testing of the distribution network commencing thereafter.

#### Community event: Stocksfield Festival

- Gary Spooner, Stocksfield's Regional Sales Manager, attended the Stocksfield Festival in August! He had a great day chatting to residents, answering questions about the full fibre network upgrade, and explained what it meant for the community. Find out more [here!](#)

#### September planned activities

- Network build activity will be slowing down in sectors 1 and 4 as works in those areas draw closer to completion. In September, our build teams will be mobilising into Sector 6, as we work towards our goal of having a large portion of the network in that area built and tested by mid-October.
- This week a road closure was put in place on Apperly Road which will last up to eight weeks (7 November). This closure is so that we can conduct the necessary tree trimming, desilting and civils works that enable us to build your full fibre network. Residents in the affected area have been sent a letter regarding this. If you'd like another copy, please let us know.

#### Cabinet and leased line status

- We can confirm the specialist electrician visited in August, as mentioned in the last bulletin. He successfully completed the works which has enabled us to progress with the leased line installation.
- In other great news, we're pleased to announce Stocksfield's leased line is booked in for connection during this week. Following this, we only have one small step to complete before we can offer home installations! Once the cab is live and ready those with contracts in areas where the network is live, can expect a call. If you're yet to sign a contract, there's never been a better time to call our friendly team at 0333 305 7560.