



## Connecting Devon and Somerset

Briefing, September 17, 2021

# Joint Programme update

## Airband contracts in Devon

### Summary

- Broadband connections for 58,128 homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset in total have been delivered or are in plan including new full fibre contracts.
- Airband has delivered superfast access to 11,744 homes and businesses in rural areas of Devon via a wireless network under contract to CDS.
- Anticipated completion of all contracts between now and September 2024
- Construction gets underway in communities across Devon this month (see below).
- Survey work is underway in several communities (see below).
- Airband's [website](#) now includes a list of the community areas covered by the new contracts, the anticipated completion dates and a map\* of the coverage areas.
- Airband is developing an online premise level checker for communities covered by all CDS contracts, new and pre-existing, which will be published later this month (September).

*\* The map shows the CDS contract areas that Airband is working in. However, please note this does not mean all premises in these areas will be connected through these contracts. Although CDS seeks to connect as many homes and businesses without superfast\* broadband (minimum 30Mbps download) as possible not every premise can be included within the public funding available. Premises to be covered will be confirmed following survey.*

### Introduction

On December 23<sup>rd</sup> Connecting Devon and Somerset, with support from Government, signed new contracts with Worcester-based **Airband** to deliver full fibre broadband to **40,154 homes and businesses** in earmarked areas of Devon and Somerset and require the construction of an estimated **2,419 miles of fibre network**. Delivery will be in phases **between 2021 and 2024**.

Under pre-existing contracts with CDS, Airband has already provided a superfast wireless network for **11,744 homes and businesses** and is due to deliver full fibre superfast connectivity to a further **6,230 by September 2022** in **Central Devon, North Devon, Torridge and West Devon**. This involves the construction of **800 miles of fibre network**.

### Progress

Airband will be installing fibre broadband in communities in Devon in the coming weeks as part of the ongoing CDS broadband rollout.

Network design is in the latter stages for **Tavistock** and also progressing well in **Kings Nympton, Chumleigh, Dolton, Halwill Junction, Hatherleigh, Northlew, Jacobstowe, North Tawton, Taw Green** and **St Giles on the Heath**. Construction is currently on target to begin in these areas in **Spring/Summer 2022** subject to securing the necessary wayleaves.

Construction is underway in **Abbotsham, Bideford, Croyde, Braunton, Bishop's Tawton, Barnstaple, Bratton Fleming, Goodleigh, Molland, East Anstey, Meshaw, South Molton, Great Torrington, Langtree, Crapstone, Lewtrenchard, Lifton** and **Weare Gifford**.

Construction is due to get underway this month (September) in **Ashley, Calverleigh, Frogwell, Hensleigh, Loxbeare, Lurley, Nomansland, Pennymoor, Puddington, Tiverton**, and **Withleigh**. This construction was due to start in August and has been rescheduled due to the time required to secure critical wayleaves.

Construction is also due to start in **Instow** this month (September).

Elsewhere, work that was expected to start in **Abbotskerswell** and in the **Dainton-Combe Fishacre-Marldon area** in August has been rescheduled to October due to findings at the survey stage. Work has also been delayed in **Kenton** and **Starcross**.

Airband anticipates these delays will not affect the overall completion of contracts. CDS and Airband will keep stakeholders updated on progress.

Survey work is continuing in areas across Devon earmarked for coverage. This work will enable Airband to confirm the best build route and timescales for the installation of Gigabit capable fibre broadband.

Survey work is currently ongoing in **Bridgetown, Buckfastleigh, Crabbers Cross, Dartington Hall, Diptford, Harbertonford, Mill Cross, Rattery, South Brent**, and **Staverton**.

Surveys are also scheduled to be undertaken in **Berry Pomeroy, Blagdon, Littlehempston** and **Totnes** in the next few weeks.

On the ground activity is also continuing in areas across Central Devon, North Devon, Torrington, and West Devon earmarked for coverage. These investigations will enable Airband to confirm the best build route and timescales for the installation of Gigabit capable fibre broadband.

#### **Further information:**

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