

Connecting Shropshire update, February 2020

Contract 3 (Airband) update:

Airband have completed phases 1-3 of their planned roll-out, which has put around 10,500 premises within reach of a superfast broadband connection from their 'fixed wireless' broadband network.



Phases 4 & 5 of the roll-out will provide access to an ultrafast fibre broadband connection for 2,200 premises in 40 clusters in the following parish and town council areas: Astley Abbots, Barrow, Bicton, Hodnet, Llanfair Waterdine, Market Drayton, Pimhill, Prees, Sheriffhales and Tong. All clusters are expected to be live by early 2021.

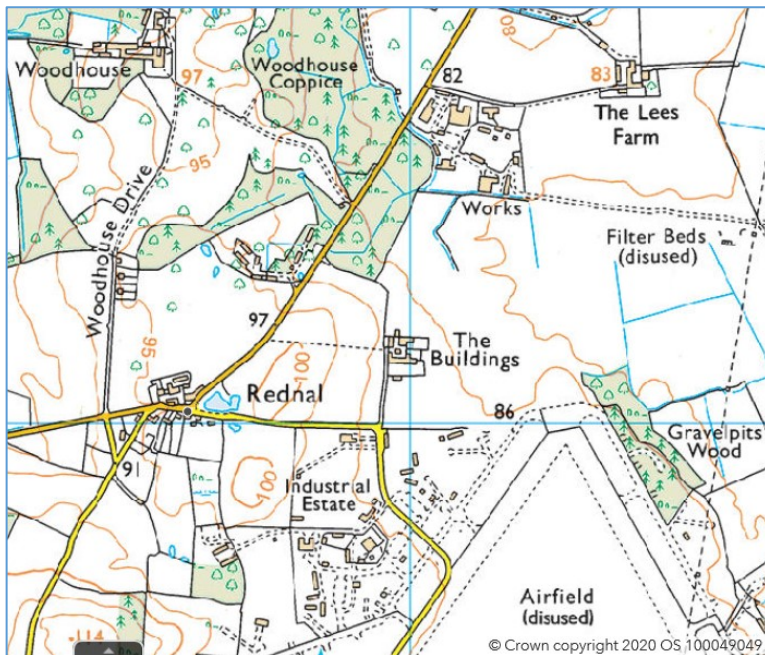
To read more about Neenton, the first community to benefit in phase 4, see:

<http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/2020/01/neenton-gets-ultrafast-broadband-boost/>

To check availability of superfast broadband on the Airband network, go to:

<https://www.airband.co.uk/coverage/>

Contract 2 (Openreach) update:



Contract 2 ended in December 2019 and provides around 4,300 premises with access to a superfast broadband connection off the Openreach 'fibre optic' broadband network.

One of the last areas to be completed was Rednal in the Queens Head telephone exchange area.

Fifty premises are now able to upgrade to a ultrafast broadband from Openreach's Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) network and a further thirty premises can access superfast broadband from Openreach's Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) network.

To check availability of faster broadband on the Openreach network, go to:

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/>

How do I check my broadband speed?

There are a number of broadband speed checkers available and we've provided links to a selection on the 'Useful links' page of our website: <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/related-external-links/>

One of the Connecting Shropshire team recently used the Ofcom broadband speed checker

(<https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/broadband-test>) to hold their Internet Service Provider (ISP) to account.

They were able to demonstrate that they weren't getting the minimum download speed quoted in their contract. Consequently, their ISP took steps to improve the connection speed, including sending out a new router (at no extra cost).

