

LEWFA Hyperfast

Information sheet for landowners – building the B4RN network

LEWFA Hyperfast is looking to extend the already successful network of Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN) into Lawkland, Eldroth, Wharfe, Feizor and Austwick.

B4RN plan to install the network buried induct laid across farmland, typically on “the other side of the wall”, rather than under roads or on poles. This approach is considerably less expensive than trenching along the highway. The work can be done by agricultural workers and the farmers themselves; it’s similar to laying a water or drainage pipe. This approach when combined with volunteer labour, paid in shares, leads to a great reduction in the installation cost per metre.

Where necessary B4RN will use the highways, but this will only be for a small proportion of the duct length, e.g. road crossings and short sections where the farmland is not available to us or unsuitable.

For this community approach to work the land owners have to be prepared to grant free wayleaves to allow duct across their land. Clearly they would refuse to do this if the applicant were a traditional telecommunications company out to make a profit. However, B4RN is a community owned cooperative, run for the benefit of the community as a whole, so we hope that local landowners will support this initiative.

Each landowner with a proposed route crossing their land will be approached by local volunteers to see if they are willing to let the ducting be installed. If a landowner accepts the proposed route then an “agreement in principle” will be recorded, along with any specific details or notes about the route that might be raised. Any changes to the route can also be agreed and recorded. Once all the details are finalised they will be recorded on a signed Wayleave document.

If a landowner doesn’t want to give their consent, then it will be noted and an alternative route worked out.