

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 15 June 2016

The main news this month is that the information that emerged last month about the “white areas”, or “not-spots” that are likely to remain without a fast connection at the end of the Digital Scotland programme now seems to be contradicted by updates to the exchange and cabinet information I have been able to get. More confusion! The new cabinet in Crosshead Road/Square is now place, but not yet live – so progress there! In the Queen’s Speech we again heard of the desire to achieve a USO of 10Mbps and the possibility of better by 2025. Let’s hope it can be achieved! Appended to the end of the report is our response to the Scottish Government Consultation Paper above.

- The Scottish Government’s “DSSB Rest of Scotland Gainshare Public Consultation” (<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/05/3201> which lists postcodes that are expected to remain below a 30Mbps service invited a response and this has been provided (see end of report).;
- The comparison of the list of white postcodes above with the latest exchange info visible (see below) does not correlate anymore, with all the “planned” connections now showing as “Fibre not available”, so a just more confusion! A map of “white area” postcodes has been produced (thanks again Andrew) and is on the KCC website. See KBG webpage or www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=16AFROyJfz8LPoi6AFxLVM23_7ro;
- Work does not appear to have started yet on the Crosshead Rd cabinet although the road was closed for a while and something was done. The only thing visible is that the grass has been cut!;
- The proposed cabinet in Buchlyvie has its approved planning permission, but work has not yet started;
- To quote from a bulletin from INCA (Independent Networks Cooperative Association), “As anticipated, digital comms featured prominently in the Queen’s Speech with proposals for a new Digital Economy Bill. The centrepiece is the Government’s commitment to a broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) of 10Mbps. Ofcom is consulting on how this will be delivered. Mobile and other wireless operators are pleased that their need for better access to land to site masts is recognised, though landowners represented by the CLA have criticised the proposed reforms. At the Parliamentary Culture Media & Sport Committee inquiry into World-Class connectivity, minister Ed Vaizey spoke about the need to move towards ‘Gigabit Britain’ by 2025. Early in May BT announced an ambition to pass 2 million homes and businesses with FTTP as part of a commitment to invest £6bn in the Openreach and EE businesses in the period to 2020 ‘subject to regulatory certainty’. The bulk of BT’s fixed line investment will still be in FTTC and G.fast and commentators have pointed out that the investment announced does not represent any significant increase over existing capital expenditure levels”;
- There is a Broadband Supplier event at Kippen on 15 June (tonight) where alternative suppliers of broadband can present their solutions (as some did at our Broadband Open Day) and our various broadband access difficulties can be discussed. It is of a Dragon’s Den format. A report will be prepared for the next KCC meeting;
- As yet there has not been a follow-up to the last BDG meeting. An update report has come through from Douglas Baillie however the most aspects have been covered elsewhere except for an article in The Telegraph www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/23/i-know-bt-broadband-can-be-infuriating---and-im-the-boss-of-bt/ ;
- In light of the further lack of clarity about what parts of Killearn will be covered and those not, KBG may have to re-consider making enquiries to CBS about projects of our own, and to assist neighbouring villages to do likewise;
- We have not heard from Digital Scotland, about when, or if, they are proposing to bring their Roadshow to the village, nor have we seen any update on delivery information being published by DS;
- See further below for the latest cabinet information, and individual village maps, and a link to the “white postcodes” map;

- Cabinets in the local areas (reliability of dates shown unknown, and reliability of location reliant on rural postcodes): many extra cabinets have appeared prompting the creation of location maps for each of the villages (see following pages). Our plan is to make these more interactive and also combine them with the “white areas” / “not-spots” to give a fuller picture of what is emerging similar to the maps done for the Killearn Roadshow. See below for a link to the “white postcodes” map:

Balfron (Boquhan) – 1 cabinet being built (live by June 2016), 1 undergoing Field Survey (live by Oct 2016), and 2 **no longer** “planned” (G63 ONL & G63 OQU – see Note 1); **Balmaha** – 10 cabinets **no longer** “planned” – see Note 2; **Blanefield/Strathblane** – 1 cabinet (Netherblane) live; 1 undergoing Field Survey (live by Oct 2016), 1 in Design (live by Jan 2017) and 3 **no longer** “planned” (G63 9AH, G63 9EF & G63 9BU – see Note 3); **Buchlyvie** – 1 undergoing Field Survey, 1 with planning applied, both live by Oct 2016, 12 **no longer** “planned” – see Note 4; **Croftamie** - cabinet (between village and A811 jn to Balloch) now live; **Drymen** – cabinet being built on Old Gartmore Rd (just past jn with Old Balmaha Rd – live by June 2016), 2 cabinets undergoing Field Survey (live by Dec 2016) and 1 in Design (live by Jan 2017) and 5 **no longer** “planned” (G63 0BA, G63 0NG, G63 0AB, G63 0BG & G63 0BL – see Note 5); **Fintry** – 2 in Design (live by Jan 2017) and 13 **no longer** “planned” – see Note 6); **Killearn** – 2 live, 1 undergoing Field Survey (perhaps Crosshead Rd), and 7 **no longer** “planned” – see Note 7; **Milton of Buchanan** – see Balmaha above;
- Finally, if you are still not on the ADSL2+ service, detectable by a speed of above 8Mbps if you are fairly near the exchange or one of the 2 cabinets, it will be worthwhile speaking to your ISP. It may need starting a revised, or new, contract but you may also find you can get a better deal.

Doug Ashworth

Chair, Killearn Broadband Group

Note 1 (Balfron): Not surprising to be removed from previously visible “planned” list due to the list of “white” (ie not to be supported) postcodes, attached as part of the Scottish Government Consultation paper mentioned last month. Refer to this map of “white” postcodes, also available through the KBG page on the KCC website:

www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=16AFROyJfz8LPoi6AFxLVM23_7ro

Note 2 (Balmaha): Disappointing, but not altogether surprising due to the long line length (from Drymen). Broadly, these are all listed in the list of “white” (ie not to be supported) postcodes, attached as part of the Scottish Government Consultation paper mentioned last month. However a non-BT solution will now need to be identified. On the bright side, the number of premises affected should provide the catchment necessary to make an independent solution commercially viable.

Note 3 (Blanefield/Strathblane): Postcode G63 9AH not surprising to be removed, due to the long line length.

G63 9EF is not surprising to be removed due to its close proximity to the exchange.

G63 9BU, however, is surprising, unless Openreach’s surveys have suggested that premises served by that EO line are sufficiently close to the exchange to get a fibre-based service.

Note 4 (Buchlyvie): Very surprising given that only 2 postcodes are shown as “white” (ie not to be supported) postcodes, attached as part of the Scottish Government Consultation paper mentioned last month.

A possible explanation could be that Openreach’s surveys have suggested that premises served by all these EO lines are sufficiently close to the exchange (or Onesy with planning permission) to get a fibre-based service.

Refer to this map of “white” postcodes, also available through the KBG page on the KCC website:

www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=16AFROyJfz8LPoi6AFxLVM23_7ro

Note 5 (Drymen/Croftamie): Postcodes G63 0BA, G63 0BG and G63 7BL are not surprising to be removed due to their close proximity to the exchange.

G63 9AH not surprising to be removed, due to the long line length.

G63 0AB not all that surprising to be removed, due to the fairly long line length.

However, the large number of postcodes shown as “white” (ie not to be supported) attached as part of the Scottish Government Consultation paper mentioned last month. However a non-BT solution will now need to be identified. On the bright side, the number of premises affected should provide the catchment necessary to make an independent solution commercially viable.

Refer to this map of “white” postcodes, also available through the KBG page on the KCC website:

www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=16AFROyJfz8LPoi6AFxLVM23_7ro

Note 6 (Fintry): Disappointing, but not altogether surprising due to the long line lengths (from the exchange). Broadly, these correspond to those in the list of “white” (ie not to be supported) postcodes, attached as part of the Scottish Government Consultation paper mentioned last month. However a non-BT solution will now probably need to be identified. In contrast with the Balmaha situation (above), the number of premises affected may not provide the catchment necessary to make an independent solution commercially viable.

Refer to this map of “white” postcodes, also available through the KBG page on the KCC website:

www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=16AFROyJfz8LPoi6AFxLVM23_7ro

7 (Killearn): Situation appears confused as many of the “white” (ie not to be supported) postcodes, attached as part of the Scottish Government Consultation paper mentioned last month, are in the centre of the village. Others are, not surprisingly, on the periphery of the village.

However, the fibre connections that were “planned” last month, and that are now “Fibre not available”, are located on the periphery of the village and would have provided the landline “in-fill” fibre coverage that we have been trying to achieve for those premises, so this is very disappointing.

Refer to this map of “white” postcodes, also available through the KBG page on the KCC website:

www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=16AFROyJfz8LPoi6AFxLVM23_7ro

DSSB Rest of Scotland Gainshare Public Consultation



RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response.

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Killearn Broadband Group & Strathendrick Area Community Councils

Phone number

01360-550074

Address

33 Lampson Road
Killearn
Stirlingshire

Postcode

G63 9LT

Email

DRAshworth@aol.com

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (anonymous)
 Do not publish response

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
 No

Firstly, with currently available information, we believe that the number of “white postcodes” is far larger than that listed in the consultation paper.

Referring to just postcodes connected to the Killearn exchange.

The white postcodes shown in the linked spreadsheet do indeed indicate those premises on the outer reaches of the local exchange and on the longest lines.

However, some postcodes listed are located near the centre of the village, and near the exchange and so therefore appear anomalous.

More importantly, however, given the current knowledge of Openreach’s coverage, where only about 25% of our village as an example are linked by cabinets, the vast majority of premises will not be serviced by a fibre-based line. These premises are on EO lines, and whilst we recognise that Openreach has some intent to address these premises, it is unclear which ones, and even then many of these premises will still be on too long a line to gain any benefit.

Further, many of the premises, even connected by the current fibre-enabled cabinets, are also on too long a connection to gain any benefit.

With the currently available information, we believe that the number of “white postcodes” is therefore far larger than those listed in the consultation paper.

Moving on to the wider situation of the Strathendrick Area and having looked at the other local villages, whose views I have been asked to represent, a similar situation exists, i.e. that only the very longest lines are listed in the consultation paper and that there are many premises connected on an “intermediate length” EO line, or on a similar length to a fibre-enabled cabinet, and are not listed.

Again we believe, with currently available information, that the number of “white postcodes” covering the Strathendrick exchanges is far larger than those listed in the consultation paper.

For clarity, Stirling Council has set up a Stirling-wide Broadband Delivery Group (BDG) and a Strathendrick Area Community Council Group (ACC) for both of which I have been asked to represent the interests of the local communities.

Within the BDG, the communities are:

Balfron, Balmaha, Blanefield, Boquhan, Buchlyvie, Croftamie, Drymen, Fintry, Killearn, Milton of Buchanan and Strathblane.

The ACC represents Balfron, Blanefield, Killearn and Strathblane.

Example ranges of postcodes for these areas are listed below.

Best Regards

Douglas Ashworth

Chair, Killearn Broadband Group

Balfron (includes Boquhan): G63 0LE to G63 0UA

Balmaha (includes Milton of Buchanan): G63 0AD to G63 0JQ

Buchlyvie: FK8 3ES to FK8 3PD

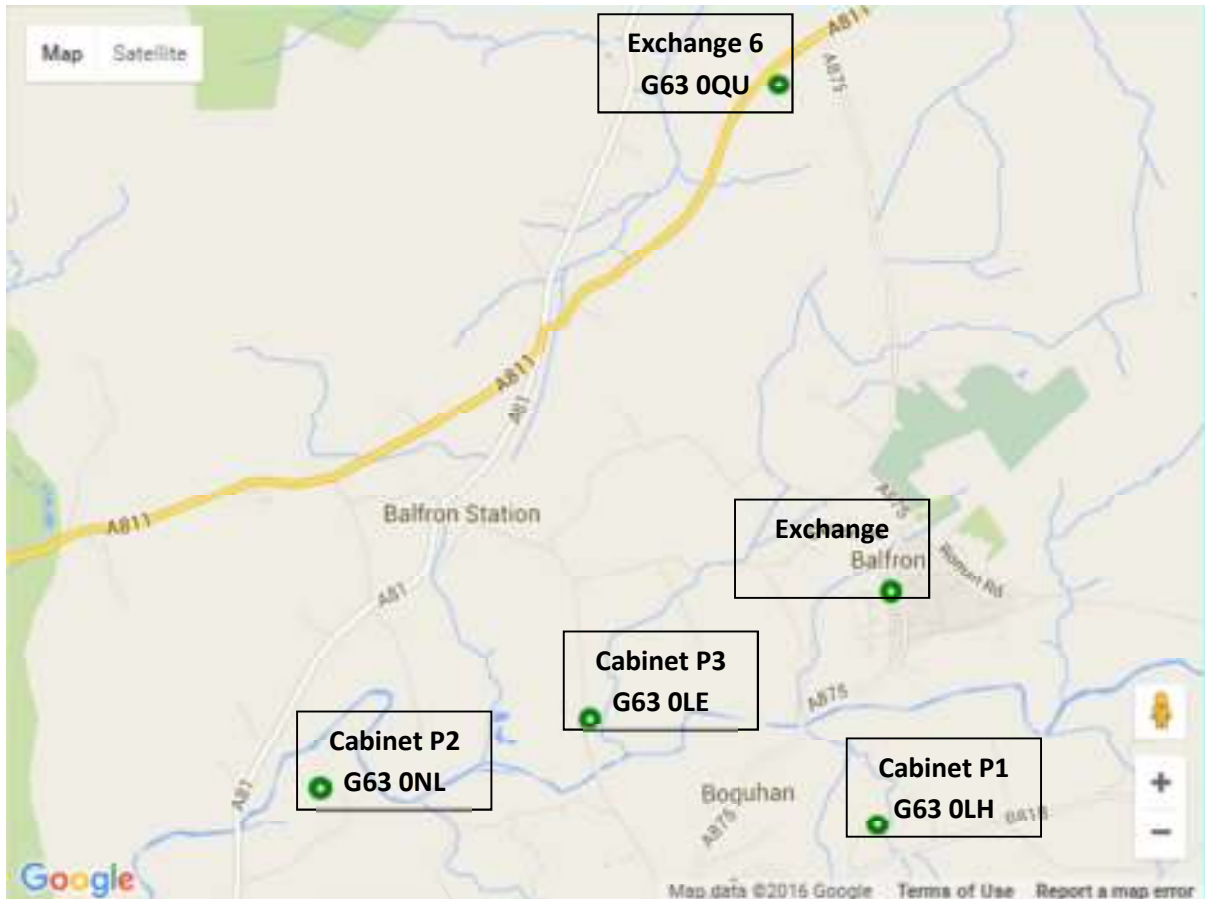
Drymen (includes Croftamie): G63 0AA to G63 0YU

Fintry: G63 0LN to G63 0YQ

Killearn: G63 9LA to G63 9YP

Strathblane/Blanefield: G63 9AB to G63 9WQ

Balfron Broadband Cabinets

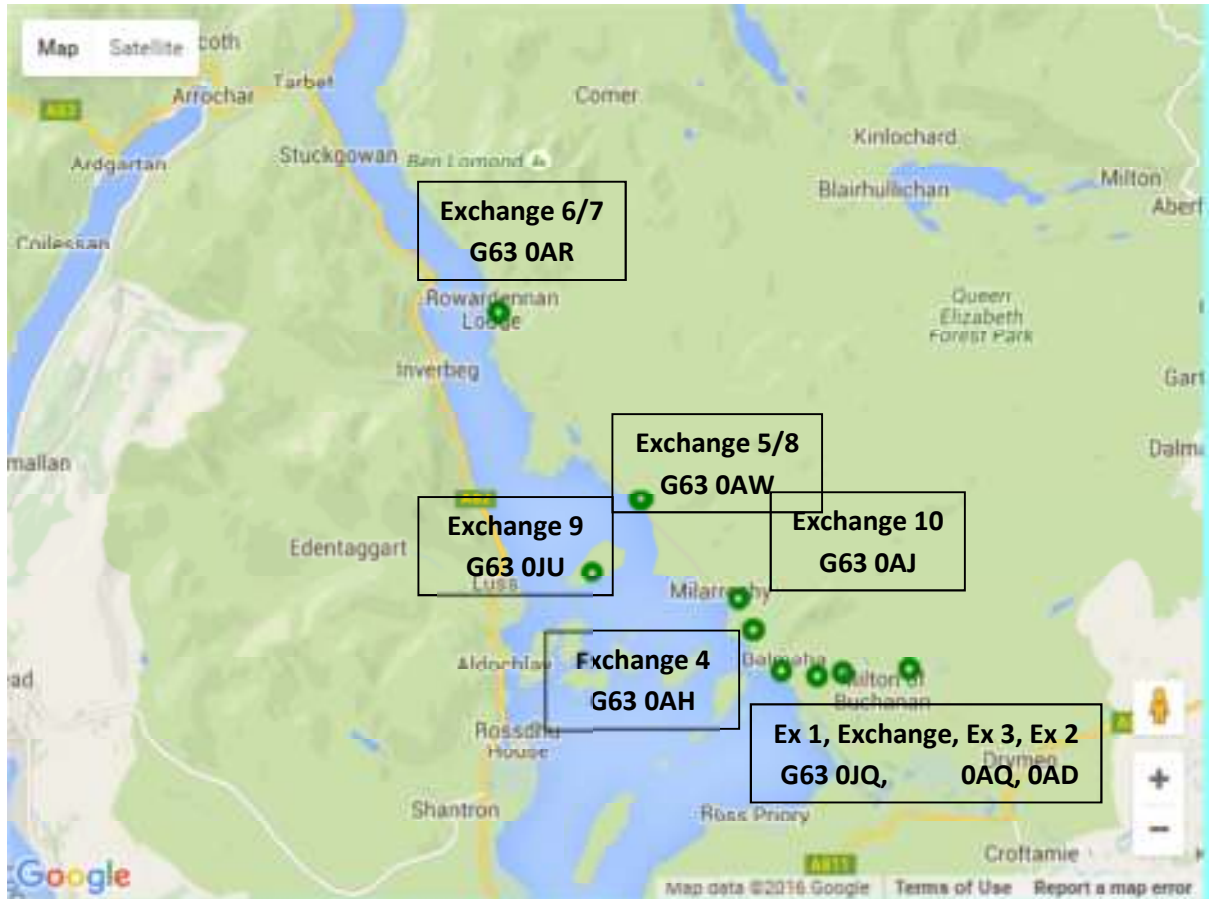


Fibre Cabinet	FTTC Status	Phase	FTTP Status	Properties Passed	Vendor	Approx Post Code
<u>Cabinet P1</u>	FTTC being Built, live due by June 2016	Phase BDUK Scot Government 14b			Huawei	<u>G63 0LH</u>
<u>Cabinet P2</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0NL</u>
<u>Cabinet P3</u>	FTTC doing Field Survey, live due by October 2016	Phase BDUK Scot Government 14b			Huawei	<u>G63 0LE</u>
<u>Exchange 6</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0QU</u>

Note: Postcodes given are not precise locations and may only be indicative of an area that is proposed to be covered.

All information presented is current for the date shown and given in good faith but with no guarantee as to accuracy.

Balmaha & Milton of Buchanan Broadband Cabinets



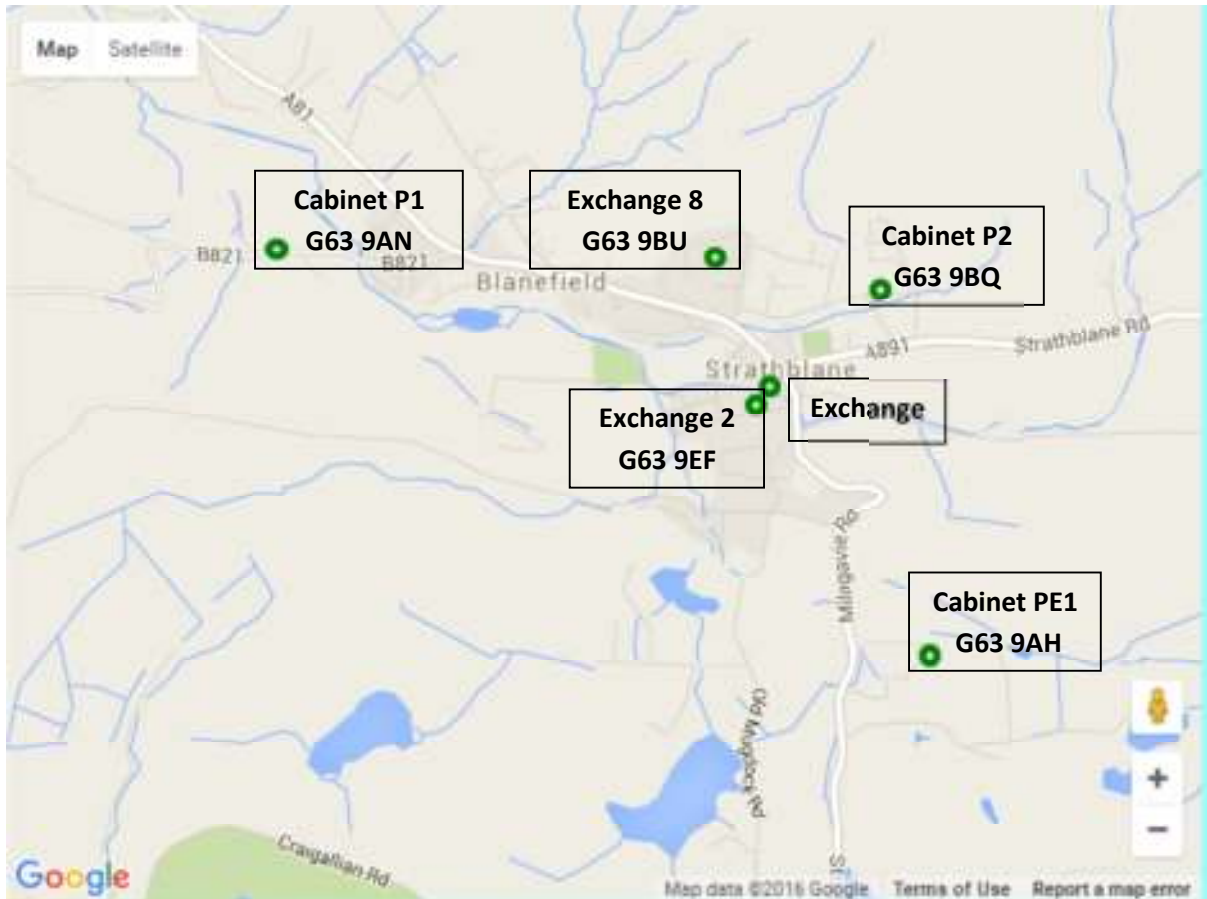
Fibre Cabinet	FTTC Status	Phase FTTP Status	Properties Passed	Vendor	Approx Post Code
<u>Exchange 1</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0JQ</u>
<u>Exchange 2</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0AD</u>
<u>Exchange 3</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0AQ</u>
<u>Exchange 4</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0AH</u>
<u>Exchange 5</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0AW</u>
<u>Exchange 6</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0AR</u>
<u>Exchange 7</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0AR</u>
<u>Exchange 8</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0AW</u>
<u>Exchange 9</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0JU</u>
<u>Exchange 10</u>	Fibre Not Available				<u>G63 0AJ</u>

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Duplicate cabinets at the same postcode seem an anomaly.

Blanefield/Strathblane Broadband Cabinets

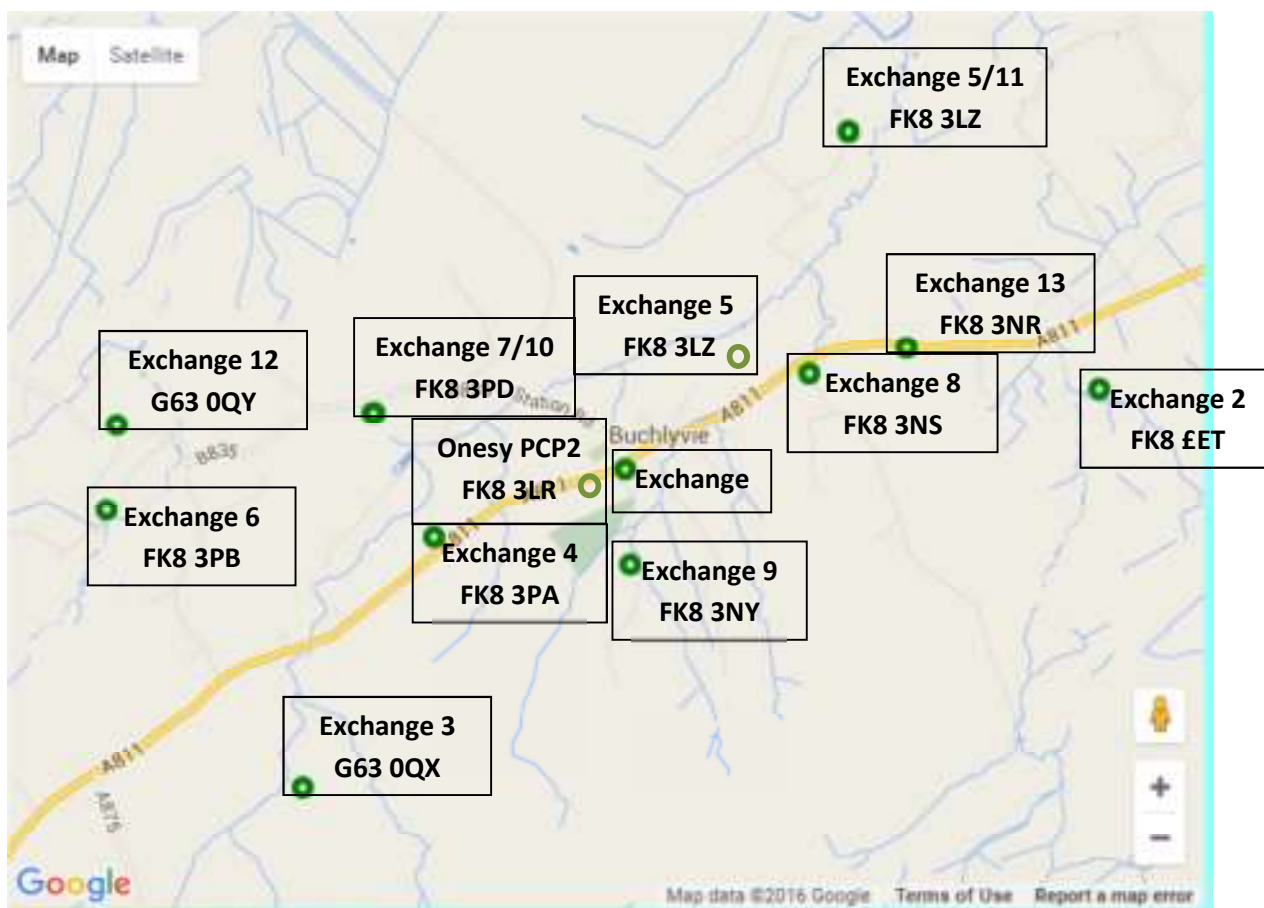


Fibre Cabinet	FTTC Status	Phase	FTTP Status	Properties Passed	Vendor	Approx Post Code
<u>Cabinet P1</u>	FTTC Available from 29th August 2015	Phase BDUK Scot Government 14b		348	Huawei	<u>G63 9AN</u>
<u>Cabinet PE1</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 9AH</u>
<u>Cabinet P2</u>	FTTC doing Field Survey, live due by October 2016	Phase BDUK Scot Government 14b			Huawei	<u>G63 9BQ</u>
<u>Cabinet E 3</u>	FTTC doing Design, live due by January 2017	Phase BDUK Scot Government 16a			Huawei	
<u>Exchange 2</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 9EF</u>
<u>Exchange 8</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 9BU</u>

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Buchlyvie Broadband Cabinets

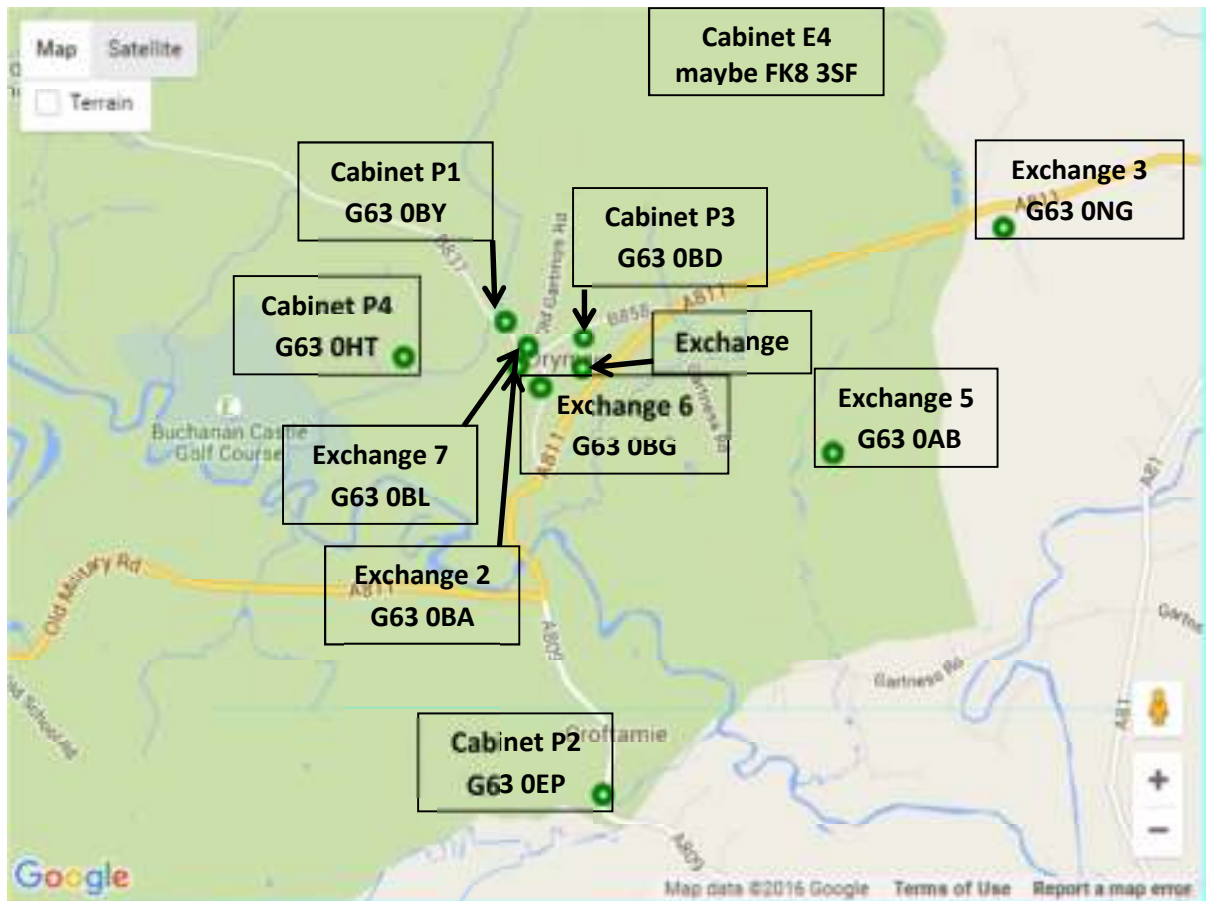


Fibre Cabinet	FTTC Status	Phase	FTTP Status	Properties Passed	Vendor	Approx Post Code
Onesy PCP 2	Planning Applied					FK8 3LR
Cabinet E1	FTTC doing Field Survey, live due by October 2016	Phase BDUK Scot Government 14b			Huawei	
Exchange 2	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3ET
Exchange 3	Fibre Not Available					G63 0QX
Exchange 4	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3PA
Exchange 5	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3LZ
Exchange 6	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3PB
Exchange 7	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3PD
Exchange 8	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3NS
Exchange 9	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3NY
Exchange 10	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3PD
Exchange 11	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3LZ
Exchange 12	Fibre Not Available					G63 0QY
Exchange 13	Fibre Not Available					FK8 3NR

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Croftamie & Drymen Broadband Cabinets



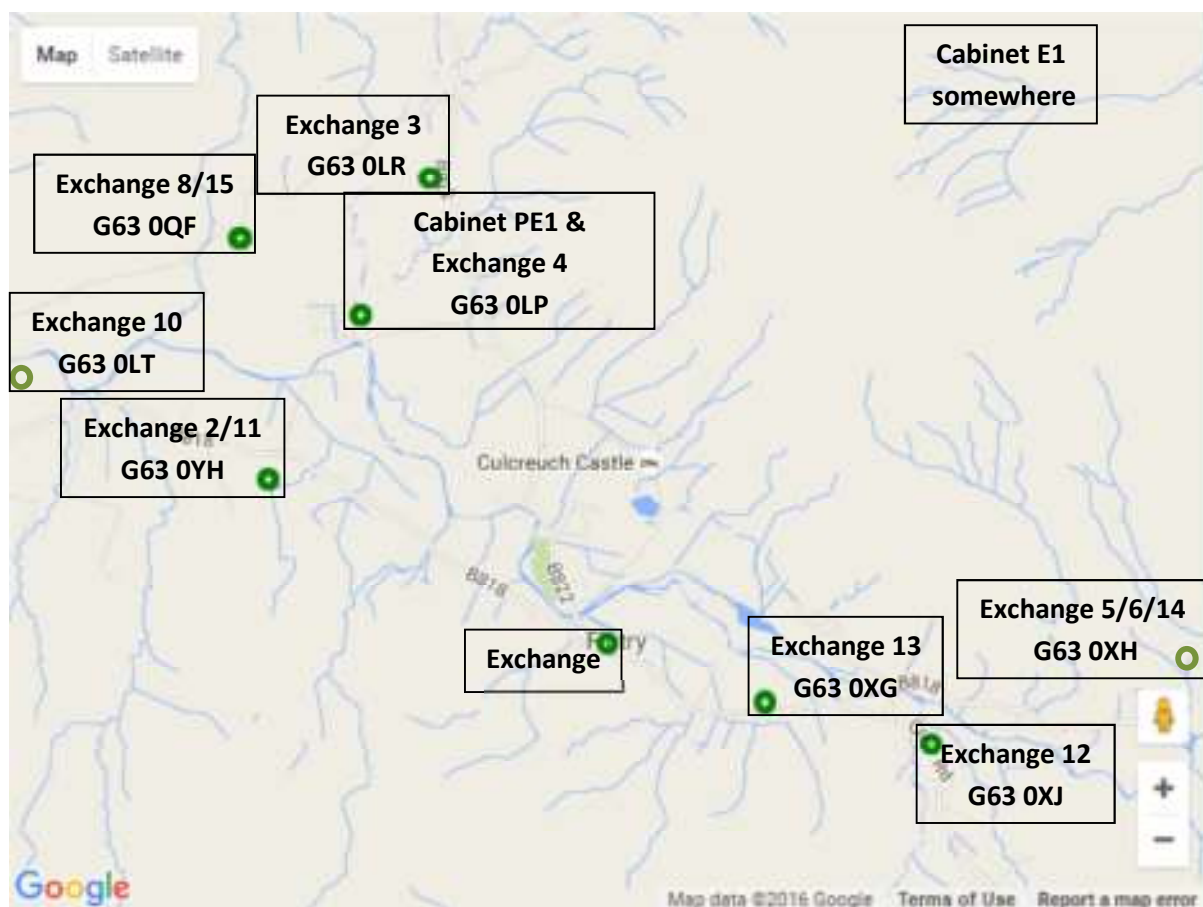
Fibre Cabinet	FTTC Status	Phase	FTTP Status	Properties Passed	Vendor	Approx Post Code
Cabinet P1	FTTC being Built, live due by June 2016	Phase BDUK Scot Government 14b			Huawei	G63 0BY
Cabinet P2	FTTC Available from 8th December 2015	Phase BDUK Scot Government 14b		155	Huawei	G63 0EP
Cabinet P3	FTTC doing Field Survey, live due by December 2016	Phase BDUK Scot Government 16b			Huawei	G63 0BD
Cabinet E4	FTTC doing Design, live due by January 2017	Phase BDUK Scot Government 17b			Huawei	
Cabinet P4	FTTC doing Field Survey, live due by December 2016	Phase BDUK Scot Government 16b			Huawei	G63 0HT
Exchange 2	Fibre Not Available					G63 0BA
Exchange 3	Fibre Not Available					G63 0NG
Exchange 5	Fibre Not Available					G63 0AB
Exchange 6	Fibre Not Available					G63 0BG
Exchange 7	Fibre Not Available					G63 0BL

Note: Locations FK8 3SF is just off the map at its current scaling.

Postcodes given are not precise locations and may only be indicative of an area that is proposed to be covered.

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Fintry Broadband Cabinets



Fibre Cabinet	FTTC Status	Phase	FTTP Status	Properties Passed	Vendor	Approx Post Code
<u>Cabinet E1</u>	FTTC doing Design, live due by January 2017	Phase BDUK Scot Government 14b			Huawei	
<u>Cabinet PE1</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0LP</u>
<u>Exchange 2</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0YH</u>
<u>Exchange 3</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0LR</u>
<u>Exchange 4</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0LP</u>
<u>Exchange 5</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0XH</u>
<u>Exchange 6</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0XH</u>
<u>Exchange 8</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0QF</u>
<u>Exchange 10</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0LT</u>
<u>Exchange 11</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0YH</u>
<u>Exchange 12</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0XJ</u>
<u>Exchange 13</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0XG</u>
<u>Exchange 14</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0XH</u>
<u>Exchange 15</u>	Fibre Not Available					<u>G63 0QF</u>

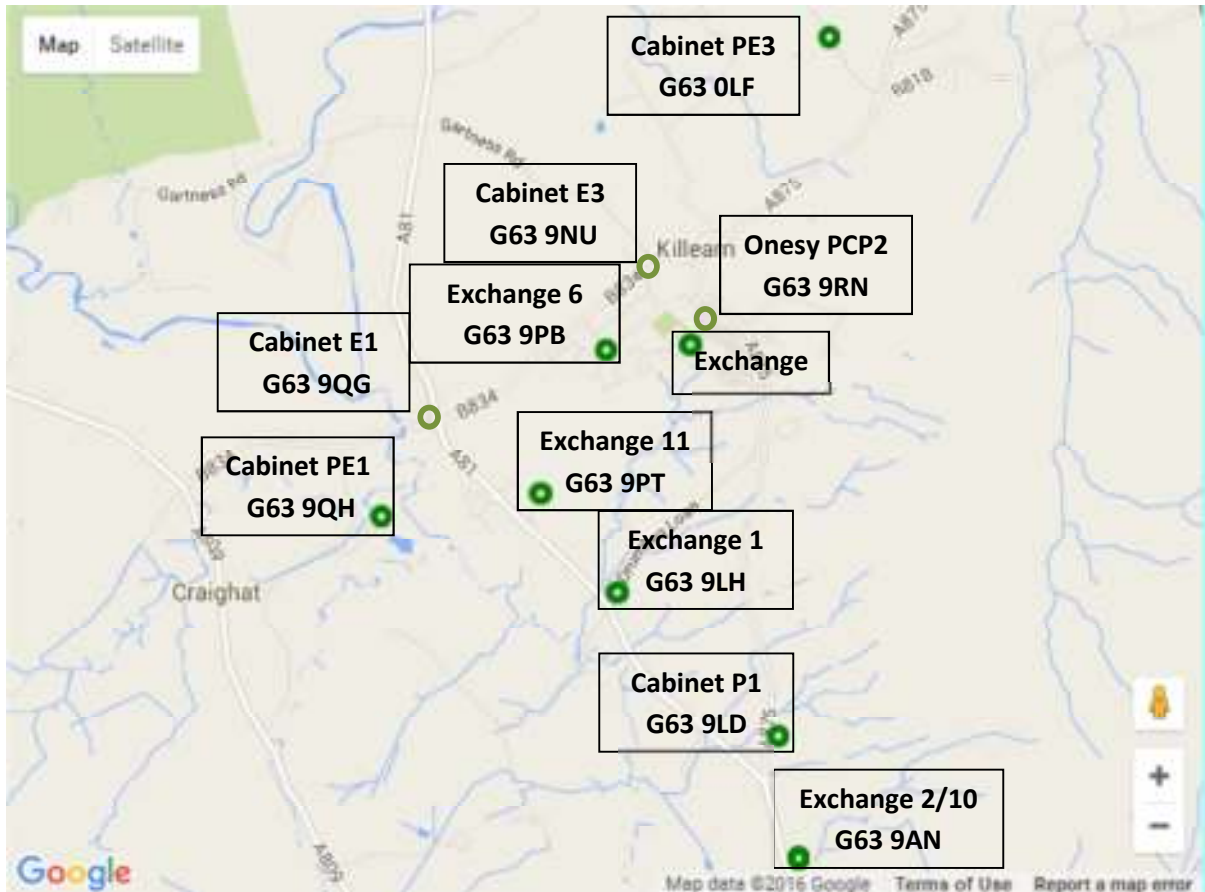
Note: Locations G63 0LT and G63 0XH are just off the map at its current scaling.

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Duplicate cabinets at the same postcode seem an anomaly.

Killearn Broadband Cabinets



Fibre Cabinet	FTTC Status	Phase	FTTP Status	Properties Passed	Vendor	Approx Post Code
Cabinet E1	Live Dec 2015			approx. 49		G63 9QG
Cabinet E3	Live Apr 2016			approx. 149		G63 9NU
Onesy PCP 2	Planning Applied					G63 9RN
Cabinet P1	FTTC doing Field Survey, live due by October 2016	Phase BDUK Scot Government 14b			Huawei	G63 9LD
Cabinet PE1	Fibre Not Available					G63 9QH
Cabinet PE3	Fibre Not Available					G63 0LF
Exchange 1	Fibre Not Available					G63 9LH
Exchange 2	Fibre Not Available					G63 9LB
Exchange 6	Fibre Not Available					G63 9PB
Exchange 10	Fibre Not Available					G63 9LB
Exchange 11	Fibre Not Available					G63 9PT

Note: Postcodes given are not precise locations and may only be indicative of an area that is proposed to be covered.
 All information presented is current for the date shown and given in good faith but with no guarantee as to accuracy.
 Duplicate cabinets at the same postcode seem an anomaly.