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Blown fibre

Why blown fibre is quicker, more cost effective – and future proof

At a time when the speed and scope of data communications continues to escalate, ‘blown’ fibre optic cabling represents a reassuringly cost-effective, future-proof solution.

Blown fibre is a system of laying fibre optic cabling that means organisations will never be left behind by the pace of change.

As the blown fibre industry leader, Networkx3 works with sectors including utilities, renewable energy, transport, new infrastructure, and public sector.

While the range of their activities is diverse, they share a common, overriding need for reliability, adaptability and price-efficiency.

The major cost and operational benefit of the process is that fibres can be blown through existing pipework. Where ground works are required, they are carried out only once. Any additional bandwidth can be quickly and efficiently delivered by ‘blowing’ extra fibres through the existing ducting.

Another key advantage is that blown fibre works equally well externally and internally. This means the same method can be used for major public works as for businesses and homes.

How the process works

The fibres are protected by waterproof ducting that is laid underground as part of the preparatory ground work.

Next, state-of-the-art equipment is used to produce an air-cushion inside the ducting and the fibres are simply ‘blown’ along the length.

Finally, the fibres are terminated, tested and connected to network infrastructure, resulting in an intelligent energy supply for every conceivable use.

Need-to-know facts about blown fibre

As many as 288 fibres can be blown in a single operation through one duct - with each fibre capable of transmitting up to 10 gigabytes of data every second.

This means the competition between fibre optics and copper wire is a non-contest: fibre optics transfer far more data, at higher throughput, over longer distances.

The statistical evidence is compelling: a local area network using modern copper lines can deal with 3,000 phone calls at once. A similar system using fibre optics can carry over 31,000 calls.

Working with all major brands of fibre (including Brand-Rex’s ‘Microblo’ and ‘Blolite’ fibres) means Networkx3 has the crucial advantage of being able to select exactly the right type of product for each project.

The reliability of Blolite is second-to-none, with a zero failure rate since the first installations in 1988. This has been the system of choice for blue chip users such as the Scottish Parliament, Tower42 London, Edinburgh University, British Ministry of Defence, Greater Manchester Police and the US Navy.

The importance of experience and expertise

Positioned at the forefront of the blown fibre industry, Networkx3 continues to invest heavily in the sophisticated equipment needed to blow fibre in any situation. Our equipment includes advanced CBS Airstream technology that can blow 288 fibres up to 1000 metres at a time.

Our people are seasoned, professionally qualified specialists who carry out 100 per cent of our work - we don’t subcontract any cabling activity.

We work productively with contracting partners, maintaining high professional standards in all our commercial relationships. We have the highest level of security clearance in the country and are one of the few cabling businesses with ISO:9001 accreditation.

A reputation for delivery and efficiency

Our track record speaks for itself: we have delivered blown fibre cabling for major government agencies, large organisations and blue chip businesses including:

- Greater Manchester Police
- Geoamey
- BSkyB
- Manchester City Football Club
- Scottish Power

We offer the full spectrum of cabling services, ranging from blowing the fibres and terminating ready-for-network connection, all the way to delivering fully supported intelligent energy solutions.

