



Howtown Hotel on Ullswater now has access to some of the fastest broadband speeds in Cumbria - after engineers found a low tech solution to link them up with fibre. Howtown's high speed connectivity is all down to the perseverance of locals, Connecting Cumbria and engineers from Openreach.

The tourist hotspot had previously proven beyond the reach of high speed fibre broadband. However, engineers from Openreach came up with a solution by hanging a fibre optic cable from specially built telephone poles. The challenge came to install the poles along the fell side with limited access due to the very off road terrain.

Broadband campaigner Graeme Connacher said " the engineers are the real unsung heroes of the upgrade in the area. they were up the fell side carrying poles on their shoulders...and eventually we did it!"

"And round the back of the little hotel here, which serves this little part of the community is a pole, with fibre direct to it."

The Howtown Hotel is famous for its 'very traditional' hospitality. Ironically, the hotel markets itself as a haven from the modern world with no TVs or telephones in any of its rooms. But it's famous tearooms are connected which has gone down very well with visitors.

In addition, staff at the hotel, many of whom have come from Eastern Europe, are thrilled with their high speed connection as it makes staying in touch with home so much easier. Michael, who works at the hotel, said "Now the internet is much better - at least 100 times better than when it ran on standard broadband. Now everybody can make video calls homes, I am also watching the weather in our home town."

To view the video of this case study, please visit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=22&v=RySO_dT6cTk&feature=emb_logo&fbclid=IwAR1pfba_dvkDPTbR8yI1ph_QvJ1TtrHrjGF8IzVzuo6Vuqcboe7byLwg584