

B4RN for Casterton Newsletter

November 05, 2017

Final Spur

A spell of fine weather was forecast for this last week, making it possible for Steve Wilman to dig a trench, from the chamber serving the group of properties at Chapelgarth to the boundary wall of one of the converted farm buildings on his land.

How times have changed. Owned by the Wilman family for several generations, Chapel House Farm, once one of the largest dairy farms in the area and, even further back in time, the watering and stabling facility for the Royal Hotel in Kirkby Lonsdale, is now a mixed beef and sheep farm and its original stone buildings have been converted into lovely contemporary houses with all modern facilities. One could say a fusion of the traditional with the best of the new technology!

The building of this final spur will enable three properties to take B4RN hyperfast broadband now or in the future.

The route was over rocky ground and couldn't be mole ploughed but had to be carefully trenched. After two days digging the trench was ready to have the ducting placed within it, done carefully to ensure that it was protected from compression by heavy boulders and rocks that might be present in the backfill.



Steve Wilman using a bucket attachment on his tractor to dig the 160 metre long trench

The ground was so uneven that the bottom of the trench had to be cleared of rubble before the ducting was placed there. The duct was then covered with soft turf to protect it from any heavy stones which might be in the earth when it was back filled.



William Mawdsley, on half term holiday, smoothing the bottom of the trench before the ducting was laid

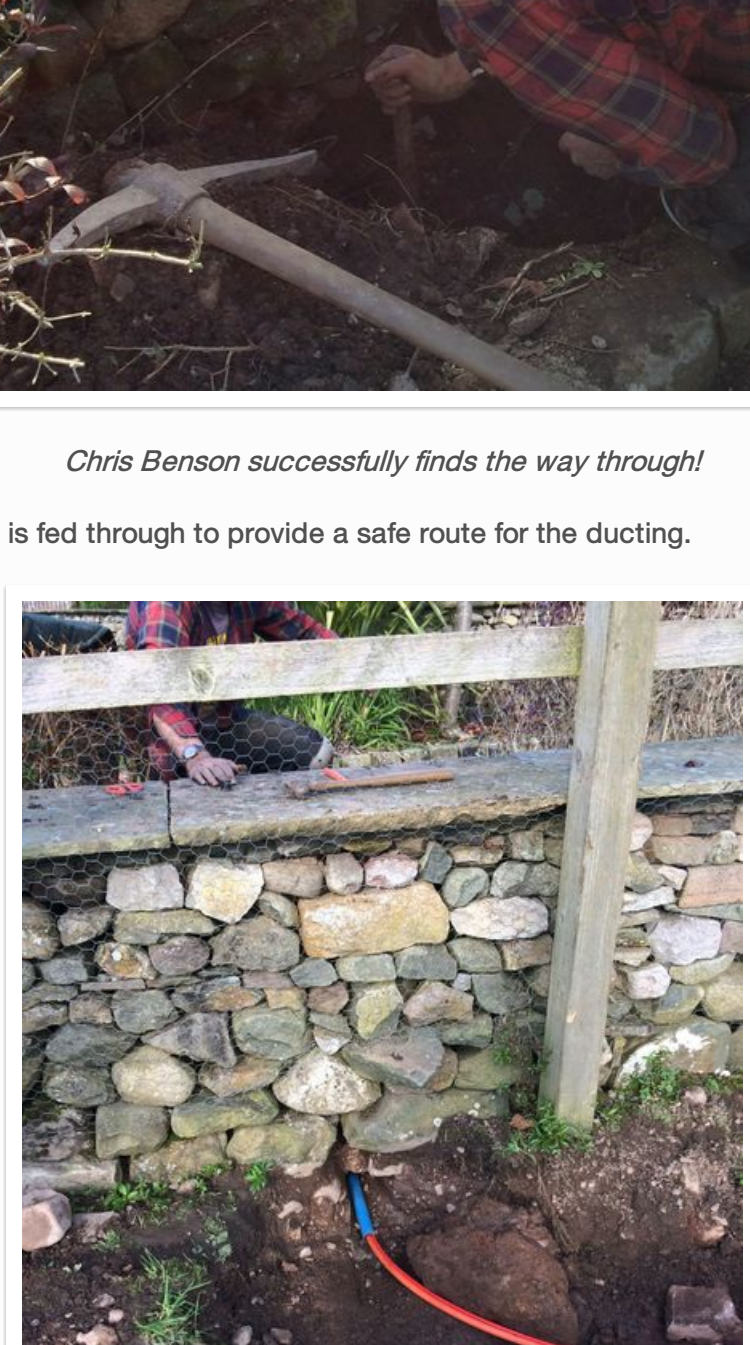


Rosie Jones, Cath and Steve Wilman and Richard Murray placing turf on top of the ducting

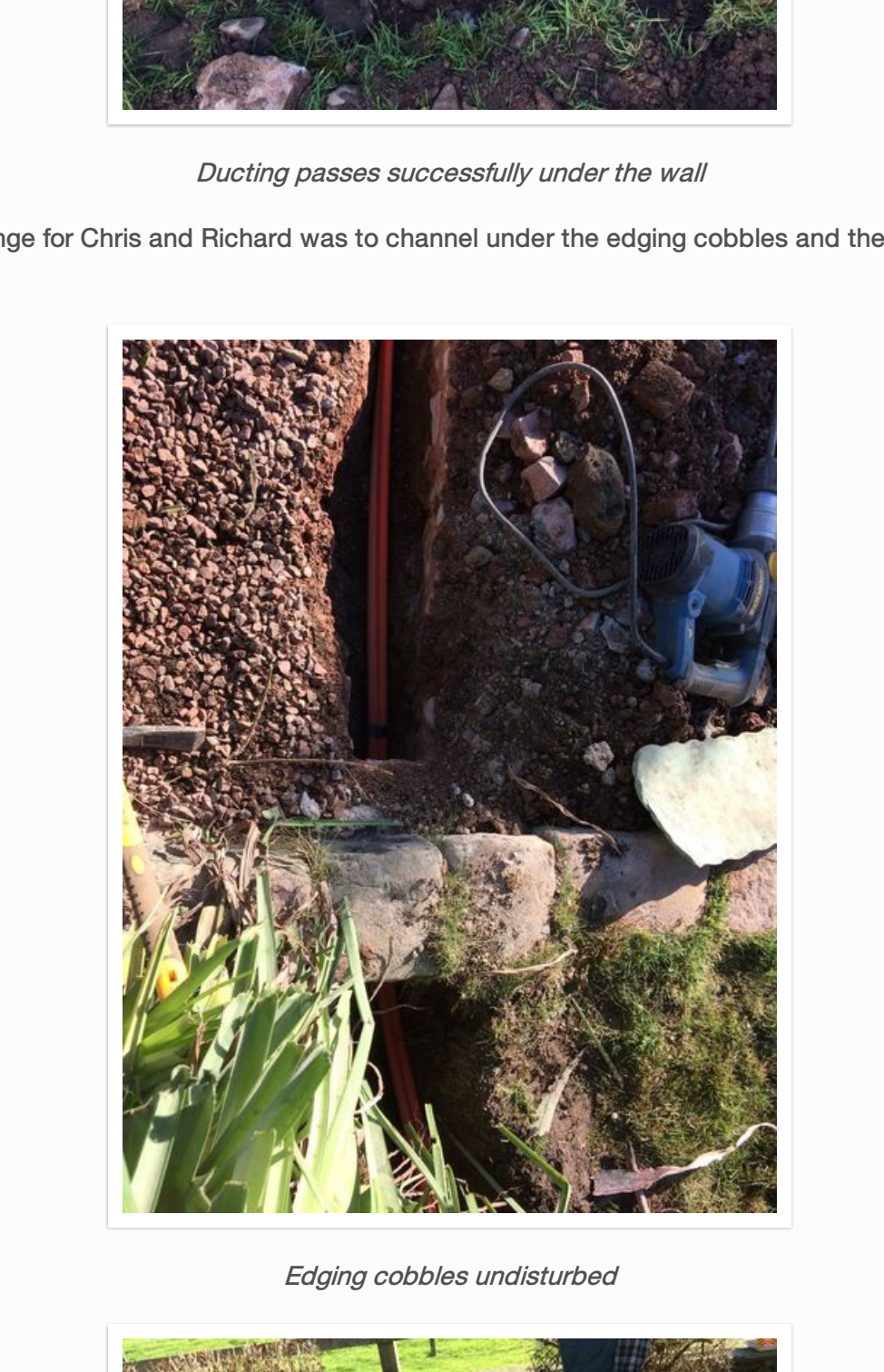


Stones carefully placed, by hand, to reduce the risk of damage to the ducting

The boundary wall is eventually reached and now the challenge for Richard Murray and Chris Benson is to mine under the wall.



Richard Murray beginning the excavation



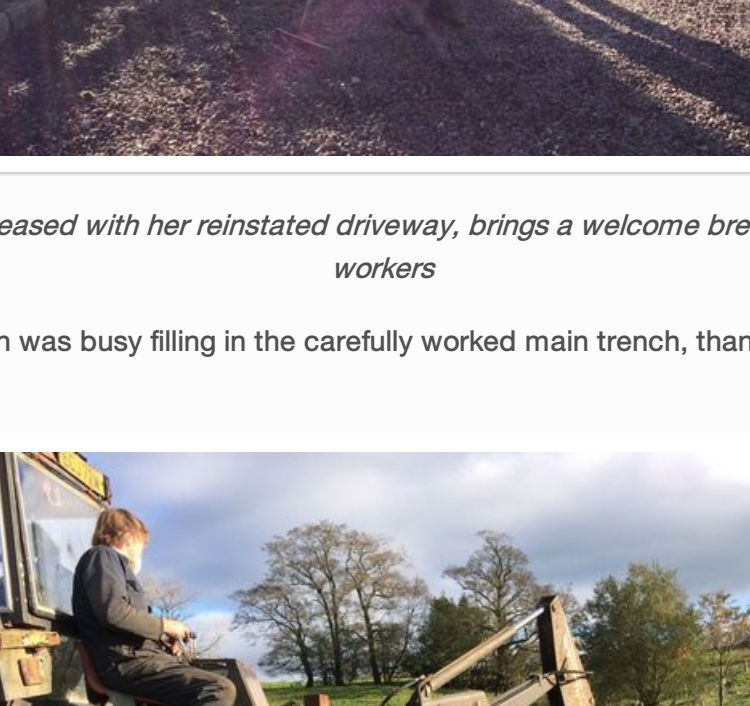
Chris Benson successfully finds the way through!

A blue protective sheath is fed through to provide a safe route for the ducting.

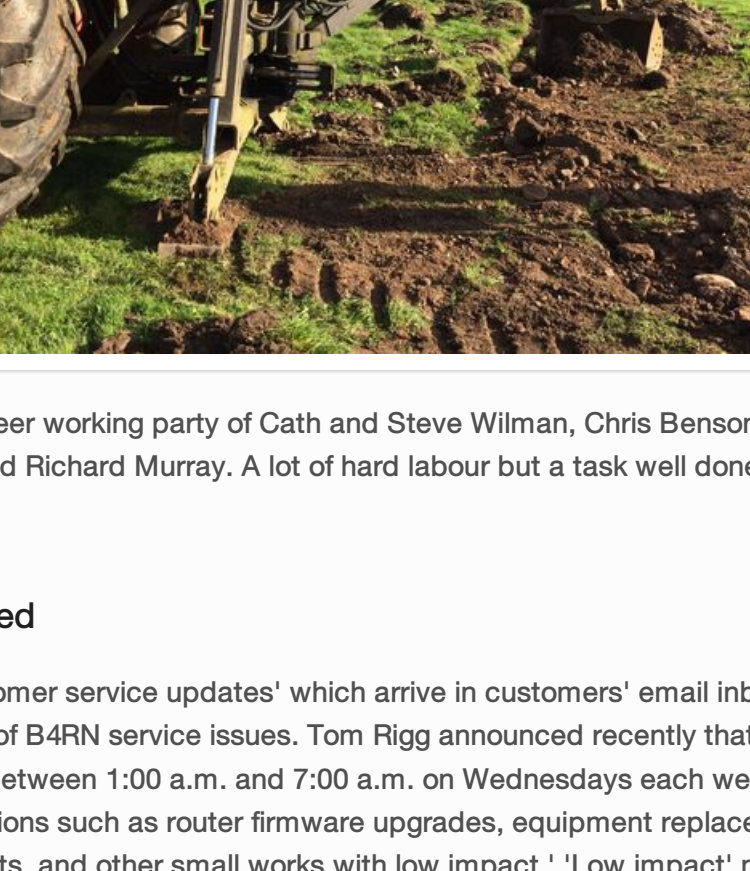


Ducting passes successfully under the wall

The next challenge for Chris and Richard was to channel under the edging cobbles and then across the driveway.



Edging cobbles undisturbed



A neat channel across the driveway

It's remarkable how easy it is to reinstate this kind of drive with the simplest of tools!



Rosie Jones, very pleased with her reinstated driveway, brings a welcome brew and biscuits for the workers

Meanwhile Steve Wilman was busy filling in the carefully worked main trench, thankful that the sun was still shining!



Our thanks to the volunteer working party of Cath and Steve Wilman, Chris Benson, William Mawdsley, Rosie Jones, Marjorie and Richard Murray. A lot of hard labour but a task well done.

Marjorie Murray

We Hope You Noticed

The B4RN Melling 'Customer service updates' which arrive in customers' email inboxes contain useful information on a variety of B4RN service issues. Tom Rigg announced recently that there is now a regular 'maintenance window' between 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays each week when B4RN will 'perform network operations such as router firmware upgrades, equipment replacement, security updates, minor cable replacements, and other small works with low impact.' 'Low impact' means that most users are unlikely to be affected unduly, but it's probably best to avoid that window if you have important and intensive internet-related jobs which shouldn't be interrupted.

You Might Not Have Noticed

Following a submission by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority about technological innovation within its borders, B4RN picked up the 'Place Making' category award at the NextGen Digital Challenge Awards in London on October 23rd, for its work in bringing hyperfast broadband to rural communities. Everyone involved with the Casterton project, especially landowners and volunteers, can take pleasure from their part in this success. B4RN's first shareholder and most devoted fan Walter Willcox went along to the ceremony to accept the award on B4RN's behalf. Full details of the awards event can be found [here](#).

Walter Willcox (left) receiving B4RN's award at the NextGen ceremony

Main story and photos: Marjorie Murray; Awards photo: NG Events Ltd.; Newsletter Editor: Michael Bryant.