

North Northamptonshire Council

State Aid Public Consultation Outcome

Superfast Northamptonshire

working on behalf of North and West Northamptonshire Councils



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1. Introduction

Superfast Northamptonshire launched an OMR during Summer 2019, requesting suppliers to provide their broadband plans for the area. Following the OMR, Superfast Northamptonshire launched a State-Aid Public Consultation (SAPC) on the 30th of October 2020. The consultation was initially open for 1 month, closing on the 30th of November 2020. This provided an opportunity for stakeholders and suppliers to review the OMR mapping to ensure that it accurately represented the County. One indicated a desire to respond during the consultation period, but did not submit a response before the consultation closure. In liaison with the supplier (Glide), the council agreed to accept a late response, following which the consultation was concluded.

At the launch of the consultation process, all suppliers engaged during the OMR process were notified, and all responses were assessed.

2. SAPC Responses

2.1. Openreach

A response was received on the 30th of November 2020 superseding their previous OMR submission. However, in the light of new gigabit coverage being announced after their submission, the council requested an updated response identifying premises served with Fibre to the premise (FTTP). This response was received on the 29th of January. For each property (UPRN) Openreach indicated:

- If it can achieve 30 Mbps (yes/no flag)
- If it can achieve 24 Mbps (yes/no flag)
- If it can achieve 15 Mbps (yes/no flag)
- If a speed reading had been obtained for that premise (yes/no flag).
- If it was part of an Exchange Level Plan – This field indicates if the plans for this property are only available at exchange area level, and no structure/premise level planning has been completed. This implies that the declared plans may change and all premises in these exchanges are not likely to be served.
- If a premise was Under Review – this field indicates that the data across OR's systems are not currently synchronised, and therefore the data upon which the response is based may change.
- If a premise was part of a Phase 3 deployment – these premises relate to cross-border deployments.

Where Openreach have declared a premise to be ≥ 30 Mbps, this has been considered NGA Grey, except where this contradicts the available C3 data, or has been flagged by Openreach as being Under Review or in a Phase 3 deployment, in which case this has been categorised Under Review.

Where Openreach has declared a premise to be FTTP, this has been considered Gigabit Grey, similarly except where it has been flagged as Under Review, in an Exchange Level Plan, or in a Phase 3 deployment, in which case this has been categorised Under Review.

2.2. Gigaclear

A response was received on the 30th of November 2020 from Gigaclear, replacing their previous OMR submission. In that file, the targeted investment strategy was outlined, as well as the network design, technical solution and community boundary maps. All properties connected to Gigaclear's network are served with FTTP and are able to receive symmetric speeds of 1Gbps.

In addition to the response document, a premise level coverage spreadsheet was embedded. Gigaclear responded in their own template, which consisted of the following for each property:

- List of UPRNs and communities associated.
- Community name and status – Live/Committed Pipeline
- Aggregated number of premises contained in each community

Therefore, by linking the UPRN and their communities with the community list and status, the UPRN status (Live/Planned) can be derived.

All of Gigaclear's declared coverage has been considered Gigabit capable, with current coverage categorised Grey and planned coverage considered Under Review pending completion of build.

2.3. Glide

Glide submitted a response to the consultation on the 23rd of February 2021, after the SAPC had officially closed, which was followed up by further clarifications on the services offered.

Glide deliver a range of connectivity services to different markets, including:

- Student accommodation & Build to Rent properties
- Businesses and services offices
- Utilities and bill sharing for shared houses & flats

Glide's SAPC response provided information on infrastructure and services offered to a number of business parks and industrial estates in Northamptonshire. These services are delivered from a structure/cabinet on the business park, where Sub-loop unbundled FTTC is offered over existing Openreach copper lines. In addition, FTTP and Leased Line services are also offered to business premises in the vicinity.

The services offered from these locations are:

Technology	Download / Upload Speed
FTTC	100 / 40Mbps 80 / 20Mbps 40 / 10Mbps
FTTP	1 / 1 Gbps 500 / 500Mbps 300 / 300Mbps 100 / 100Mbps
Leased Line	Up to 10Gbps symmetrical

For the purpose of this analysis, only the FTTC and FTTP products have been considered.

The coverage information submitted detailed the existing copper lines from each of the 76 cabinets, which is supplied by Openreach. Glide state that this is also an appropriate proxy for the footprint of their current FTTP services (although as their FTTP footprint increases, they will need to review this). For each copper line, a BT Gold address key (GAK) was provided, plus UPRNs for approximately 60% of the total addresses.

Given the range of services offered, Glide's infrastructure on these business parks has been considered Gigabit-capable. However, since services are available to businesses only, their coverage has only been accepted for non-residential properties as identified from the AddressBase classification codes. The best available data has been matched, utilising UPRN data where available (all these matches relate to non-residential properties), otherwise matching at postcode level.

All Glide coverage has been considered Under Review for NGA and Gigabit services, given the uncertainty in the coverage information submitted.

2.4. Previous OMR responses

The following suppliers were contacted but did not provide an update during the SAPC process. As a result, their OMR responses were considered to be still valid and factored into the analysis:

- Virgin Media
- OFNL
- CityFibre
- AbThorpe / Tove Valley Broadband

3. Methodology

3.1. Premise Classification

Supplier responses to the OMR and SAPC have been used to classify premises into the following categories for NGA (≥ 30 Mbps) and Gigabit capable (1 Gbps) services:

- **Black** premises are those where at least two qualifying broadband infrastructures from different operators exist or will be deployed in the coming 3 years.
- **Grey** premises are those where only one qualifying broadband infrastructure is present or is to be deployed within the coming 3 years;
- **White** premises are those where there is no qualifying broadband infrastructure, and none is likely to be developed within 3 years;
- **Under Review** premises are those where qualifying broadband infrastructure provider plans are not confirmed. This includes planned coverage that is at risk of not being delivered, or where there is uncertainty in the specific coverage and premises to be served. These areas will be subject to continued monitoring and verification of supplier plans, and in the event that these plans are not delivered, these premises will be re-mapped as White.

3.2. Postcode Classification

Postcodes have been used to summarise the premise classifications and map the proposed eligible areas for NGA and Gigabit Capable services. For this purpose, postcodes have been classified as follows:

- A postcode is classified **White** if any **White** premises are present; else
- A postcode is classified **Under Review** if any **Under Review** premises are present; else
- A postcode is classified **Black** if two qualifying broadband infrastructure networks serve all premises in the postcode; else
- A postcode is classified **Grey** if at least one qualifying broadband infrastructure network serves all premises (i.e. all premises are **Grey** or a mixture of **Grey** and **Black**)

4. NGA Outputs

4.1. NGA Supplier Treatment

Combining the data from all seven qualified responses, the total number of 360,602 premises have been classified according to the following rules.

For each premise, the number of Approved and Under Review suppliers is calculated where they meet the criteria in Table 1 for each supplier. Premises are then classified into Black, Grey, White and Under Review based on the number of suppliers present.

Supplier	NGA Approved (Black/Grey)	NGA Under Review
Openreach	≥30 Mbps and C3 report does not contradict	<30Mbps, but C3 report ≥30 Mbps <i>OR</i> ≥30Mbps flagged as Under Review and not in an exchange area plan <i>OR</i> ≥30Mbps in Phase 3 deployment
Gigaclear	Community deemed “Live” or premise in C3 report shown as “available”	“Committed pipeline” community or premise in scope of Superfast Northamptonshire project (C3 report shows the NGA status as “White”)
CityFibre	Current Coverage	Planned Coverage
OFNL	Postcode served	-
ABThorpe	Current Coverage	Planned Coverage
Virgin Media	-	Serviceable postcode
Glide	-	1. In UPRN list <i>OR</i> 2. In postcode list, where premise is non-residential

Table 1 - NGA Classification rules

4.2. NGA Classification Outputs

The following table provides the summary of the outputs by local geographies:

Local geography	Total Premises	NGA Black	NGA Grey	NGA Under Review	NGA White
Corby	32,570	1,076	28,146	2,936	412
Daventry	40,231	4,863	33,619	613	1,136
East Northamptonshire	44,836	3,126	40,053	866	791
Kettering	49,760	1,747	41,393	5,834	786
Northampton	109,018	3,548	101,928	3,542	0
South Northamptonshire	45,067	6,070	36,035	1,764	1,198
Wellingborough	39,120	682	35,475	2,251	712
Total	360,602 (100%)	21,112 (5.9%)	316,649 (87.8%)	17,806 (4.9%)	5,035 (1.4%)

Table 2 – Summary of NGA premises by local geography

And a summary at a postcode level:

Postcode NGA Classification	Total number of postcodes	NGA Black premises	NGA Grey premises	NGA Under Review premises	NGA White premises
White	1,195	1,907	14,002	1,050	5,035
Under Review	1,895	641	35,318	16,756	-
Grey	12,737	7,976	267,329	-	-
Black	836	10,588	-	-	-
Total	16,663	21,112	316,649	17,806	5,035

Table 3 - Postcode NGA classification summary

4.3. NGA Classification Maps

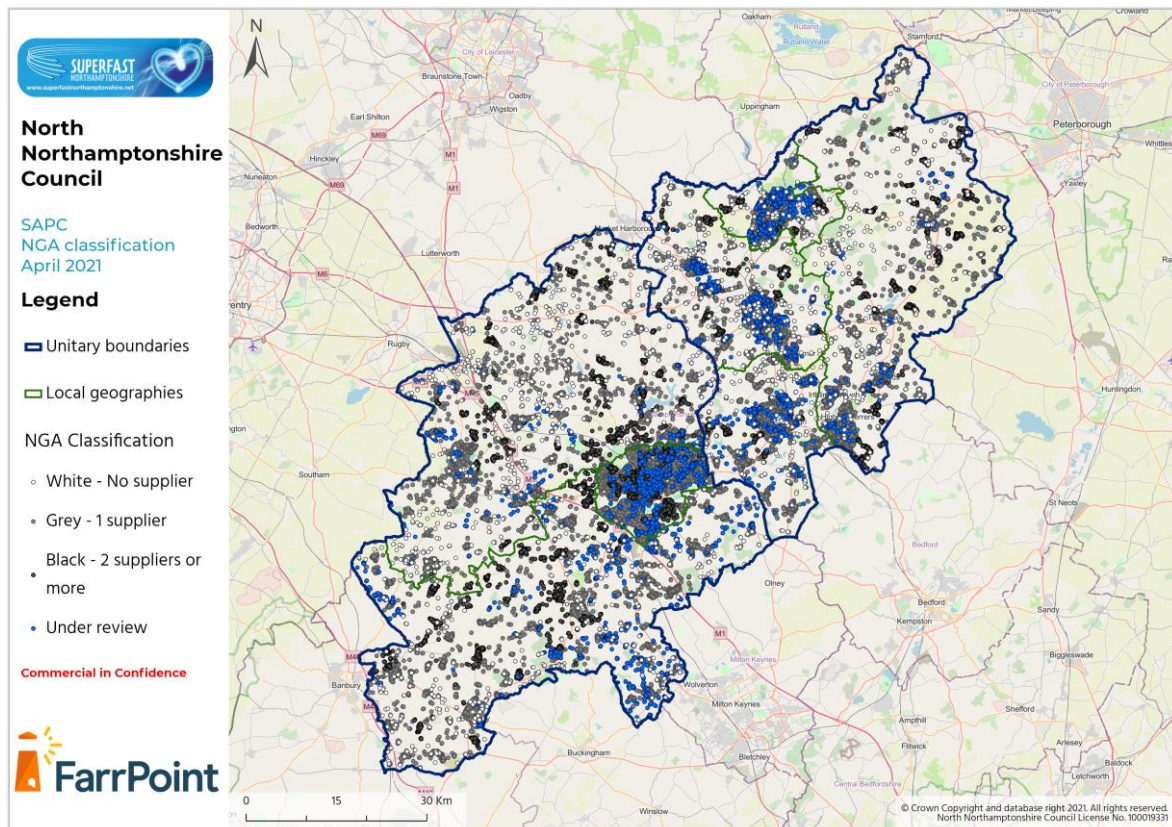


Figure 1 – Premise level NGA classification

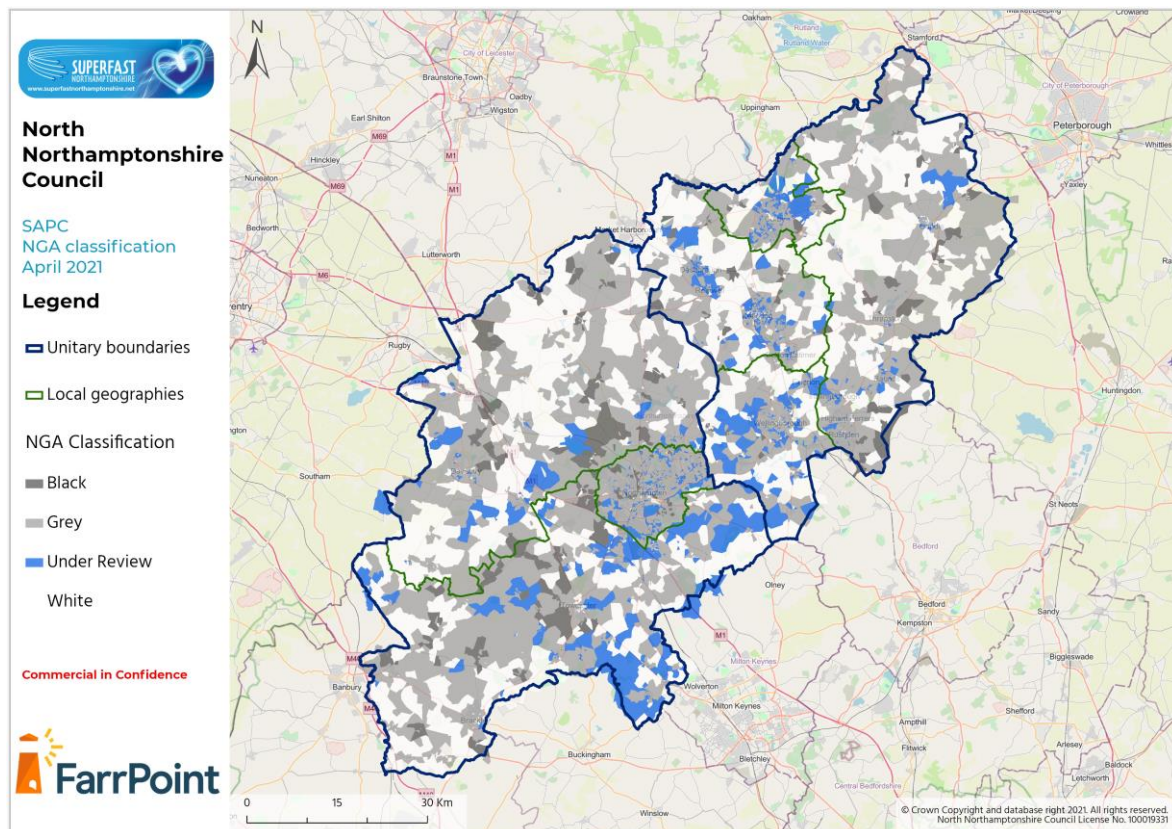


Figure 2 - Postcode level NGA classification

5. Gigabit Outputs

5.1. Gigabit Supplier Treatment

Combining the data from all seven qualified responses, the total number of 360,602 premises was classified according to the rules on Table 6

For each premise, the number of Approved and Under Review suppliers is calculated where they meet the criteria for each supplier. Premises are then classified into Black, Grey, White and Under Review based on the number of suppliers present.

Operator	Gigabit Approved (Black/Grey)	Gigabit Under Review
Openreach	Premise is FTTP	Premise is FTTP and either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicated as < 30 Mbps Marked as "Under Review" Premise in Phase 3 deployment Premise in an "Exchange level" modelled deployment
Gigaclear	Community deemed "Live" or premise in C3 report shown as "available"	"Committed pipeline" community or premise in scope of Superfast Northamptonshire project (C3 report shows the NGA status as "White")
CityFibre	Current Coverage	Planned Coverage
OFNL	Postcode served	-
ABThorpe	-	Current or Planned Coverage
Virgin Media	-	Serviceable postcodes
Glide	-	1. In UPRN list <i>OR</i> 2. In postcode list, where premise is non-residential

Table 4 - Gigabit Classification rules

5.2. Gigabit Classification Outputs

Local geography	Total Premises	Gigabit Black	Gigabit Grey	Gigabit Under Review	Gigabit White
Corby	32,570	200	7,413	20,406	4,551
Daventry	40,231	69	9,303	22,013	8,846
East Northamptonshire	44,836	398	25,372	10,826	8,240
Kettering	49,760	145	8,844	35,026	5,745
Northampton	109,018	230	21,271	87,517	0
South Northamptonshire	45,067	24	11,064	19,744	14,235
Wellingborough	39,120	10	5609	26,292	7,209
Total	360,602 (100%)	1,076 (0.3%)	88,876 (24.6%)	221,824 (61.5%)	48,826 (13.5%)

Table 5 - Summary of Gigabit premises by local geography

And a summary at a postcode level:

Postcode Gigabit Classification	Total number of postcodes	Gigabit Black premises	Gigabit Grey premises	Gigabit Under Review premises	Gigabit White premises
White	3,704	128	10,009	7,912	48,826
Under Review	9,349	72	12,443	213,912	-
Grey	3,580	580	66,424	-	-
Black	30	296	-	-	-
Total	16,663	1,076	88,876	221,824	48,826

Table 6 - Postcode Gigabit classification summary

5.3. Gigabit Classification Maps

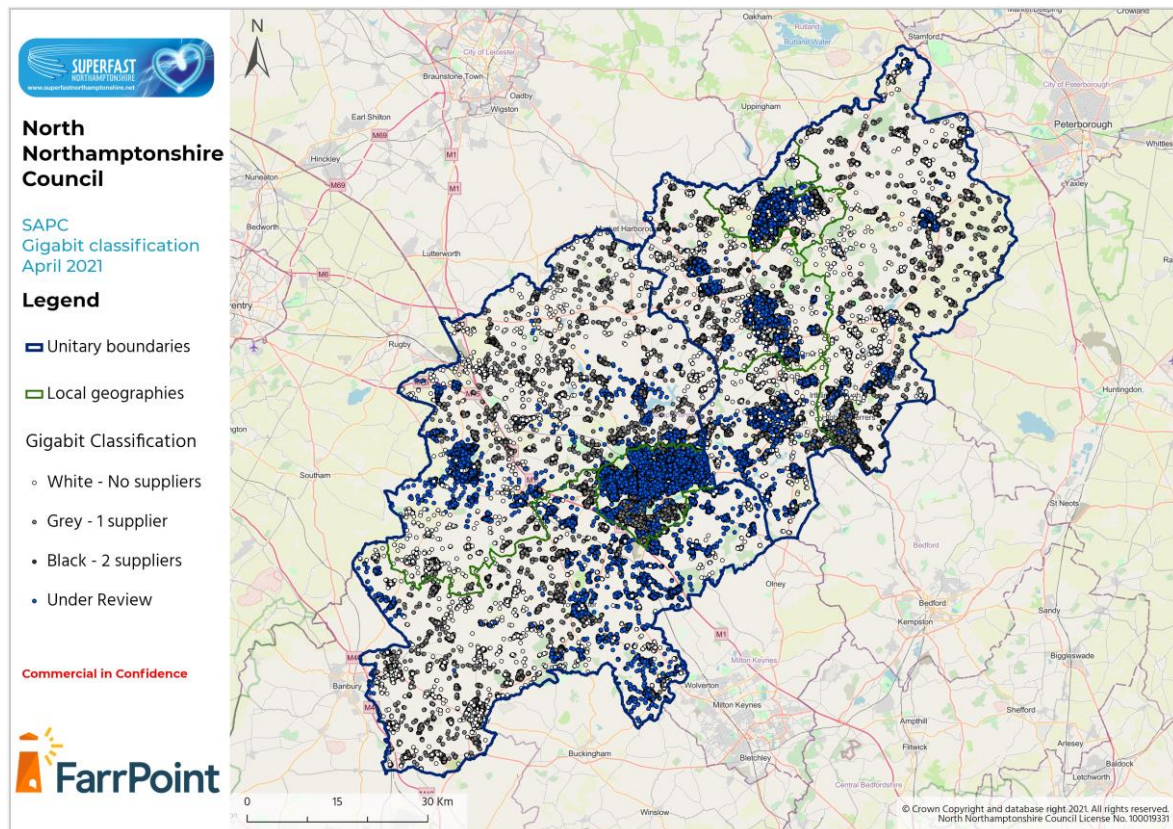


Figure 3 - Premise level Gigabit classification

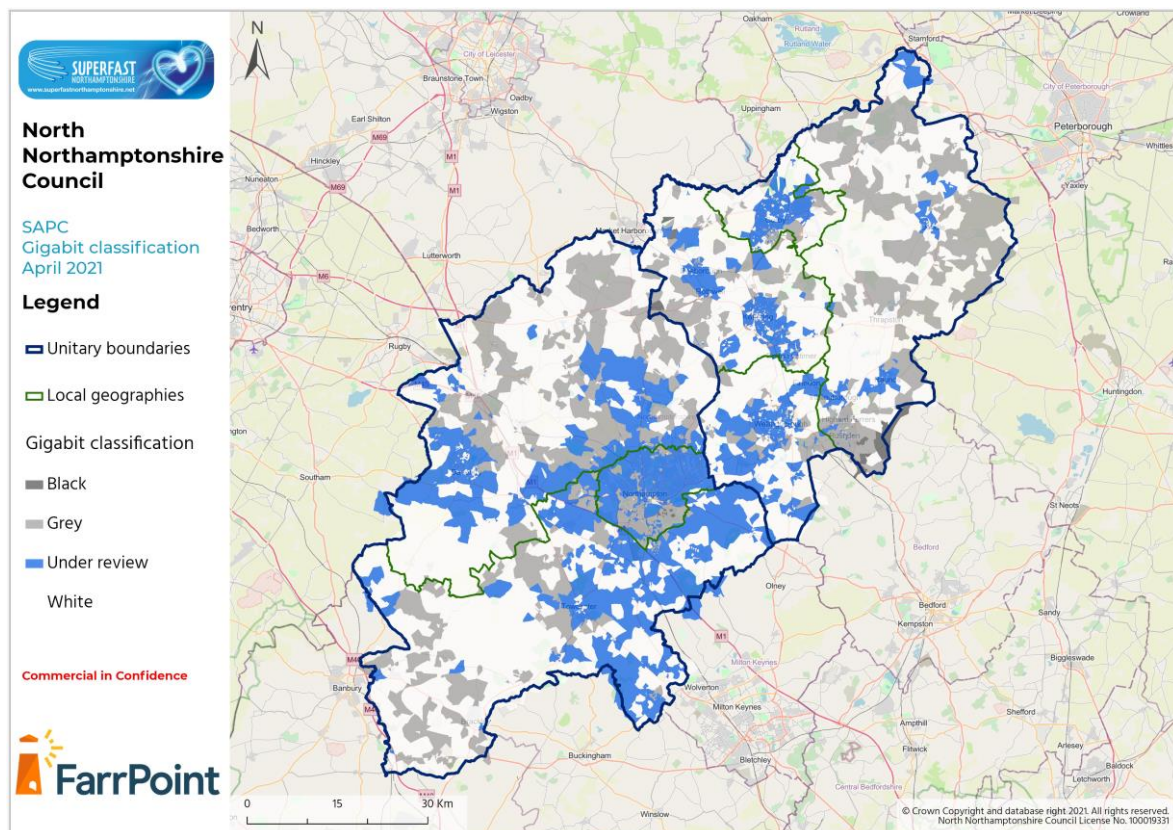


Figure 4 - Postcode level Gigabit classification

Version Control

Owner **Jordi Estrada**

Classification **Client Confidential**

Revision	Description	Author	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
1.0	Initial Version	JE	CB	CB	CB	22/04/2021
2.0	Amended Version	JE	CB	CB	CB	27/04/2021

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