

Hi and welcome to the G3VFP Echolink RF Gateway. Located close to junction 9 of the M61 where the M65 motorway crosses. Running on 434.000Mhz. The gateway is not active 24/7 as 70Cms is a shared amateur band, and it is only up if I am around, and these are the times when it is online.

Mondays to Fridays every evening from 19:00 pm hours local, to 01:00 am hours local. (BST/GMT) . Saturday and Sundays from 10:00 am until 01:00 am. Occasionally the gateway may be open earlier during the weekends, but rarely will I leave it running after 01:00 am. If I am working from home I will put the gateway up during the week, but you will know as you will hear it's idents going out on the hour, and half hour. During holidays like Christmas it will be running every day.

The station uses a Maxon PM100U2 transceiver, and 5/8 co-linear antenna at 50 ft, with an output power of 10W erp. The controlling PC is dedicated to running the gateway, and runs MS Windows XP. The interfacing controller is an intelligent PIC processor type by G3VFP. See details on <http://www.pcinterfaces.co.uk>

Here is the approximate coverage map where a Q5 signal can be received from mobile or fixed radio inputs.



The southern end of the area has drop outs and effectively ceases at Charnock Richard Services on the M6. To the North the coverage fades between the Lancaster South and North junctions on the M6. Coverage is limited south on the M61 from junction 9, and is effectively lost just after junction 8 at Chorley. Eastwards along the M65 is varied depending upon location but has been worked as far as the Darwen junction. Some fixed stations may be able to access the gateway beyond that shown. To the West it is pretty constant and both Southport, and Blackpool are within its capture area. In some areas access is even gained from a handy talkie. Certainly Fulwood in Preston, and as far as Freckleton, or Kirkham, always dependent upon location. If you can hear it, then generally speaking you can work through it ☺.

Please note that the gateway transceiver is 12.5Khz bandwidth, and will clip high levels of input audio, so keep your mic gain / deviation within limits.

The gateway is a simplex one there is no tx/rx shift, so you tx , and then listen on 434.000 Mhz hi. It requires a CTCSS access tone of 82.5Hz. If you have difficulty with CTCSS then contact me, and I can turn it off for your qso.

The various user dtmf codes can be used to find out if the gateway is connected to another internet link. If it says “not connected” that means no one is using it, and you would have to use a dtmf sequence to connect to anyone. Occasionally the gateway is left connected to the “IRELAND” conference where a large number of other gateways, or repeaters are connected. In which case like all other connected scenarios please wait for a break in overs, or if quiet call cq. When calling through please make sure you pronounce your call sign clearly, and do not rush the cq call. There can be upto a two second delay for responses.

Please leave 2 seconds gap before you reply to EVERY over.

DTMF USER CODES

Gateway Information * (Star Key)

Gateway Status 08 keys

Disconnect after a qso # key

If you do know the node number of a particular Echolink gateway then you can key that into your dtmf keypad. You can find the active nodes list on <http://www.echolink.org>

ie gb3mi repeater (Manchester) node number is 197681 so you would type in 197681 and wait for a connection. Listen carefully to the commands coming back, and do not automatically assume you are connected.

The following commands give these functions:

00* Will give you the current time

99 Will give you the current sun spot activity

The following are dtmf shortcuts to particular gateways which you may use.

101 Will connect you to the K2FJ link in Montvale New Jersey USA

102 Will connect you to the K2RF Repeater in Roxbury New Jersey USA

103 Will connect you to the W2IP Repeater in Nutley New Jersey USA

104 Will connect you to the N2SDB Repeater in Clifton New Jersey USA (Do not use to just listen) as you will be disconnected.

105 Will connect you to the GB3CA Repeater in Carlisle UK

106 Will connect you to the TF3GW repeater in Iceland (Use to call CQ don't sit and listen for long)

107 Will connect you to the IRELAND conference which usually has many nodes connected around the UK and world.

108 Will connect you to GB3MI Manchester Repeater.

These shortcuts are generated by myself as I have a lot of contacts in those areas. If you intend To use the G3VFP gateway often, and wish to have a shortcut code for a particular node, then please email me, and if possible I will implement it, and give you the shortcut number.

Some commands may vary from time to time, or the software used to generate certain functions. I may not always get the opportunity to update this file as often as I would like, so if you have a Specific question never hesitate to email me at. g3vfp@blueyonder.co.uk. My web sites are of course g3vfp.org, and pcinterfaces.co.uk, plus usinterface.co.uk

Please use the Echolink gateway as you would your own stations, and never become embroiled in any arguments on the various nodes. Simply disconnect if someone else is being rude, or objectionable. In any very rare cases where you may feel aggrieved please do email me giving

me the details of the gateway connected, the call sign of the station, and time. This is important as system operators do police their gateways, and will take action if warranted.

Generally you may listen on 434.000 Mhz and hear nothing apart from the cw idents or information file. If I am using it you are most welcome to join in, but you may not actually hear my overs as I use a handy talkie on low power to talk through. If you want me in particular you can call through and ask me to goto a 2m frequency to chat.

Best 73es.

Dave G3VFP