Where the Openreach duct crosses a carriageway, adjoining kerbs must be temporarily marked to note positions. Openreach duct needs to be laid on an outer edge of the service trench to enable box building. You'll need to insert a draw rope through the duct and secure it to the marker posts at both ends of the crossing. The appropriate Plug Duct 4B socket end and 4C Spigot needs to be fitted.

Duct beneath a carriageway crossing must be laid at a depth of 600mm from the cover of the final surface levels. And for engineering reasons (National Joint Utilities Group NJUG) it must be separated from other services laid in parallel by 600mm (to permit us to install underground joint boxes without the need for bends).

Cable marker no.2 is needed at the site entrance/boundary, to ensure link up identification for our contractors.

The latest information on the positioning of utilities, mains and plants can be obtained from the National Joint Utilities Group: www.njug.org.uk
Ducting to the building

Must be laid as straight as possible and at a minimum depth of 350mm.

Ducting general principles

- All runs must be laid as straight as possible
- If needed, you can carefully bend the ducts or use pre-formed bends supplied by Openreach
- There can be no more than one pre-formed 90° bend in any single run of duct
- Pre-formed 90° bends can’t be installed in any duct linking two joint boxes
- Footpath or service strip ducting must be laid at 350mm depth of cover
- All space alongside the duct must be backfilled with granular fill to a minimum thickness of 75mm
- For all Single Dwelling Units (SDU) duct must be terminated on the external surface of the property
- The duct termination point shall be in a location that will allow unrestricted access for any future maintenance activity
- All ducts must be provided with a draw rope after installation, unless it’s agreed locally to substitute the draw rope with a cable
- Please notify your field based coordinator (FBC) when the duct has been laid and is ready for inspection.

Typical issues with carriageway road crossings

- Insufficient depth.
- Proximity to other services.

Impact of issues

- You will have to renew duct and this may delay any first occupation date or subsequent occupation dates.
Avoiding damage to the Openreach underground network

Openreach has an extensive underground network that can be located inside/on the perimeter of a site. This network is vulnerable to excavation related damage unless appropriate measures are taken. The precautions for avoiding damage to an underground utility plant are contained within the Health & Safety Guide no. 47: avoiding danger from underground services. This document stresses the need for available utility plans on site and the use of safe digging practices. Access the guide here: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm

Third-party damage to the Openreach network can be expensive for that party to repair. By working together, we want to make sure you avoid the repair and associated cost which can consist of one or more of the following:

- Direct cost – the cost of repair
- Operational cost – delays associated with repair
- Social cost – loss of service to emergency services/centres or the vulnerable in society.

To obtain a more precise location of Openreach infrastructure (either within your site or the adjoining land) and to avoid costly damage, contact us at: cbyd@openreach.co.uk

Using the Openreach “Click Before You Dig” service has a proven record of minimising the potential for damage and cost.