openreach

ISIS directive
For Openreach and Partners

NWK/LNK/C517

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JUP - Joint User Poles - Policy

Network Policy

About this document ...

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Content approval

This is the Issue 15 of this document.
The information contained in this document was approved on 03-Mar-2023 by Stan Edwards, Head of Network Policy, Quality & Accreditation

Version History

Version No.	Date	Author	Comments
Issue 15	03-Mar-2023	Sam Small	Addition of section 4.1.1 Changes to Licensing agreements with Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN).
Issue 14	10-Feb-2023	Sam Small	Addition to Overhead Fibre Caution Labels to section 4.2
Issue 13	01-Feb-2023	Sam Small	Updated License agreements with ENW, table 2 amended to reflect this. Addition of Section 4.5 Network Rearrangement.
Issue 12	20-Sep-2022	Sam Small	Updated Table of Contents with further guidance. Addition of Overhead caution labels. Addition of Section 6 Recovery of Ex DNO J/U Poles.
Issue 11	28-Oct-2021	Sam Small	Updated table of contents and clarification to Electricity Northwest not permitting existing copper d/w to be replaced with fibre sharing the similar characteristics. Table diagrams updated.
Issue 10	24-Feb-2020	Ada Hilton	Autor/Approver update
Issue 9	27-Mar-2017	Stan Edwards	Title change
Issue 8	22-Jun-2016	Stan Edwards	New agreement details on Fibre attachments to JUP Sec 2.2 Table amended giving to reflect new agreement on fibre attachments Sec 3.1 New paragraph added on fibre restrictions in some DNO area's Sec 3.2 & 3.3 New section on GeoHUB online added - Sec 4
Issue 7	01-Jun-2016	Stan Edwards	Additional information on license agreements Sec 2.2.
Issue 6	13-Mar-2016	Stan Edwards	Additional information on fibre attachments added to Sec 2.2 & 3.1
Issue 5	04-Mar-2016	Stan Edwards	Change of author
Issue 4	03-Mar-2015	Document Manager T	Document migrated onto new platform with no

			content change
Issue 4	15-Jan-2015	Graham Newell	Reformatting of document and addition of table in sect 3.1
Issue 3	10-Jan-2013	Graham Newell	Clarification of Joint User Poles owned by DNOs IN SEC 1.1 , 2, 3 & 4
Issue 2	5-Dec-2012	Graham Newell	Sec 4.1 updated
Issue 1	27-Jun-2012	Graham Newell	Document issued

Table of Content

1 Openreach Network Policy

Openreach network policy defines a set of requirements to guide the decisions taken when planning and building a telecommunications network.

These requirements ensure we achieve the required outcomes in terms of meeting the strategic direction, architectural design, financial targets, and quality standards for the respective network.

This document forms a part of the authorised portfolio of Openreach network planning policy documentation. Adherence to these standards and policy is mandatory. Any deviation presents a risk to the required outcomes and will be subject to future compliance checking. Network deployments which do not meet network policy will fail any build audit and ultimately jeopardise our ability to provide service to our customers.

Caution: Policies are liable to change. Therefore, you must ensure that this copy/material is from a controlled source e.g. The Bookstore Libraries, where you can register for email alerts when updates are made, from within the documents you reference.

2 Introduction

Warning: Please note the current Joint User agreement is under review with all UK DNO's and arrangements are likely to change soon. Until this happens the contents of this document apply.

Conditions where poles which belonging to DNOs or BT allow the attaching of equipment are detailed in ISIS: EPT/PPS/B037 - Principles of Joint Use of Poles.

Caution: Openreach has no automatic right of attachment to a DNO pole and the content of this document must be viewed in conjunction with ISIS: EPT/PPS/B038 – Technical requirements for Attachments on Joint User Poles

3 Scope

This document sets out the policies for those delivering services using DNO owned Joint User Poles (JUP) to provide a possible route or distribution opportunity.

3.1 Roles and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the teams delivering service to ensure the policies in this document are followed when plans to extend or provide new network results in using poles owned by the DNO.

4 *Network Planning Policies*

The following section provides a breakdown of the key policies for the deployment of Openreach fibre network on Joint User Poles.

For many years BT and the DNOs have been party to an understanding allowing joint use for attaching plant to poles belonging to DNOs or BT.

The Principles of the joint use of poles agreement can be viewed in ISIS: EPT/PPS/B037.

4.1 Fibre attachments on DNO poles

The following DNO's have an understanding which will allow fibre attachments.

- National Grid formerly Western Power Distribution
- SP Energy Networks
- UK Power Networks
- Northern PowerGrid
- Electricity Northwest

See section 4.3 for further guidance.

4.1.1 Changes to Licensing agreements with Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)

Caution: With immediate effect Openreach must cease all Fibre build on SSEN owned joint user poles until further notice.

SSEN poles with existing CBTs/Block Terminals can still be accessed for provision and repair activities.

Where customer provision activities to manage pole loading are concerned, Openreach must use Hybrid Dropwire if the existing Copper feed needs to remain in place.

- We must not exceed the maximum loading of the JU pole (10 Dropwires).
- We must not leave redundant Copper Dropwires in-situ where we have erected Fibre.

SSEN are the only DNO within Great Britain that now do not allow new Fibre build where there is an existing copper licence. SSEN operate across central southern England and the north of Scotland

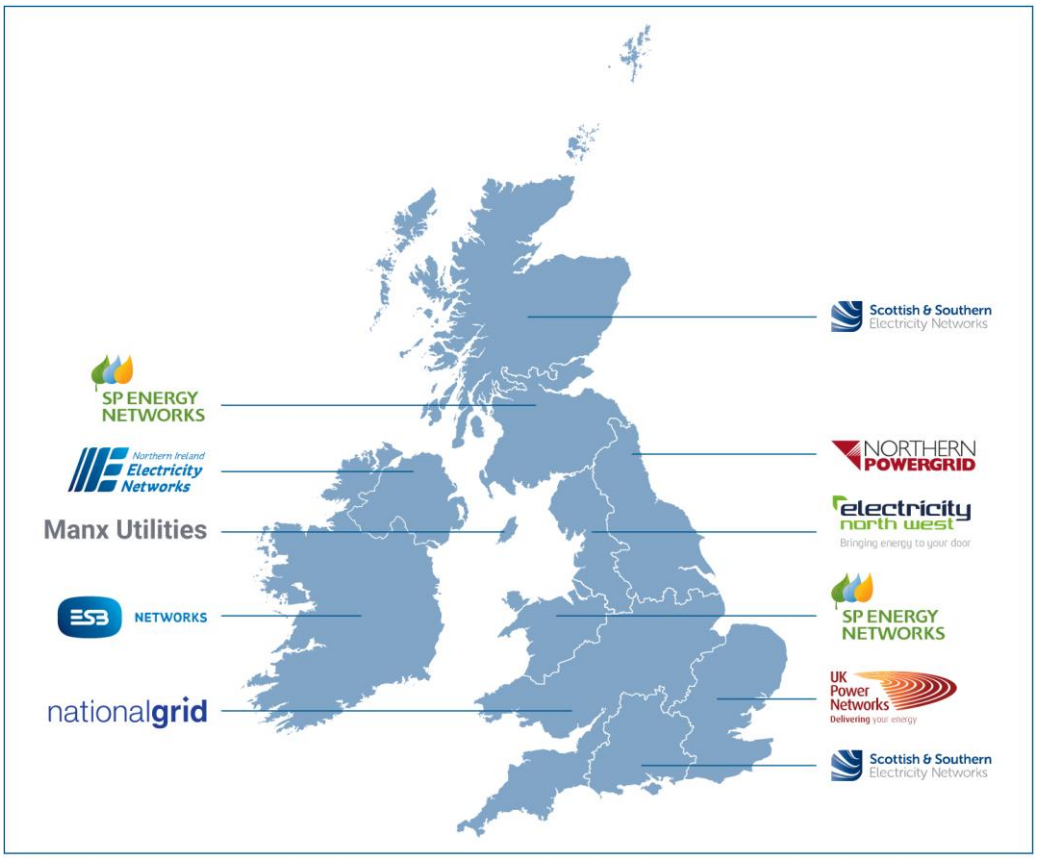

Fig.1 Map of DNO covered areas in the UK.

In order to identify the correct Distribution Network Operator for an area, you can use the Energy Networks Association (ENA) website to complete a post code checker.

By Dialling 105 from a mobile phone, you will be routed to the DNO for the area you are dialling from.

Current Agreement

The agreement extends existing licences granted for copper plant and allows Openreach to attach **fibre cables** to the same joint user poles. Fibre cables can be provided for any programme; BDUK, SEP, Rural, R100 or Ethernet provision.

> **Warning:** You must ensure you do everything required to fully comply with the standard practice and working arrangements to ensure nothing compromises this agreement.

Please familiarise yourself with the current rules and regulations around Joint User Poles. These can be found in the following documents,

ISIS: EPT/PPS/B038 - Technical Requirements for Attachment on Joint User Poles.

ISIS: EPT/PPS/B037 - Principles of Joint Use of Poles.

This agreement covers various fibre dropwires.

Please see the table below for more details:

Fibre cables with similar breaking strain characteristics to copper dropwires	
48F ULW OH (COF 215)	48 Fibre Ultra Lightweight Overhead Cable
36F ULW OH (COF 215)	36 Fibre Ultra Lightweight Overhead Cable
12 FDC	Fibre Drop Cable (12 fibre)
4 FDC	Fibre Drop Cable (4 fibre)
Dual Drop Hybrid Cable	FTTP Connectorised Hybrid Drop Cable Overhead
Blown Fibre Drop-tube	FTTP Blown Fibre Drop-tube Overhead
Blown Fibre Drop-tube Hybrid	FTTP Overhead Copper/ Blown Fibre Drop-tube (Hybrid)
SST (COF250)	Standard Single Tube COF250
FODW	Fibre Only Dropwire
Hybrid is a cable type that has two capabilities – Fibre and Copper delivery	

Table 1 - Table showing Fibre cables with similar breaking strain characteristics as copper dropwire.

In addition to the equipment detailed above, Manifolds, Connectorised Block Terminals (CBT's) and small pole mounted fibre joints are also allowed on JUPs.

Note: The use of coiling brackets is **not** permitted for attachment to JUP.

When possible, take full advantage of the Hybrid Cable by utilising the copper element to reduce the number of cables emanating from that JUP. It is important to remember we **must not** exceed 10 dropwires or the maximum stated amount of dropwires.

Mandatory checks

- Does the pole have a 'J' marking indicating this pole is licenced as a joint user pole?

Note: The 'J' marking indicates this is licensed for joint use

- The number following the 'J' indicates the permitted number of attachments.

Note: i.e., 'J10' means the pole is licensed for 10 dropwire attachments.

- If an additional 'C' label is present on the pole this will indicate the JUP is licensed for heavier figure of eight type aerial cables.
- If no labelling is present, you will need to check we have a licence in place with the wayleave team.
- If no licence exists or a new license is required, the license application site can be found via the ORWFMT system under Wayfinder (wayleave access is required). Wayleave Wise - Home contains full guides, templates and background for wayleaves and EL licences, including how to get access to ORWFMT.

> **Warning:** Failure to follow this policy could jeopardise the current copper network agreement.

4.2 Overhead Fibre Caution Labels

Under the terms of our licensing agreement, we must continue to label DNO Joint User Poles. When attaching fibre equipment to DNO poles the new labels (shown below) **must** be used.

Diagram 2. Caution Overhead Fibre label.

Stores items

The labels can be ordered with immediate effect using the item codes below:

Name	Item Code
OVERHEAD FIBRE DROP LABEL 10pk. Caution Overhead Fibre label for DNO wooden poles only	112099
OVERHEAD FIBRE DROP STICKER 10pk. Caution Overhead Fibre label for hollow poles and galvanised capping only	112100

PIN STEEL 2 7/8IN. Box of 100	070864

For further guidance on Overhead Fibre Caution Labels please visit the Network Policy Briefings & Planning Communications site and look for Network Policy Briefing 828 – Overhead Fibre Caution Labels.

4.3 No existing network

When there is not an existing BT infrastructure to deliver overhead service, the use of DNO owned poles is the preferred method to provide a possible route or distribution opportunity.

There are 6 DNO's in England, Wales & Scotland. There is no joint use in Northern Ireland. This ENA website shows the relevant areas:-

The different DNO's have varied policy toward joint use, both new & existing connections. The table below gives the necessary detail.

DNO	Permits new Fibre build where an existing licence is in place	Provision and Repair (Copper and Fibre) wires permitted where there is existing network in place	Licence applications (Copp and Fibre) for new Poles accepted
National Grid	Y	Y	Y
UK Power Networks	Y	Y	Y
Scottish Power Energy Networks	Y	Y	N
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks	N	Y	N
Northern Powergrid	Y	Y	Y
Electricity North West	Y	Y	N

Table 2 - Table showing DNO and their licencing agreement.

Technical standards and further information are detailed in the following documents,

ISIS: EPT/PPS/B038 -Technical Requirements for Attachment on Joint User Poles.

ISIS: EPT/PPS/B037 - Principles of Joint Use of Poles.

4.4 Assessment Process

This section is applicable to instances whereby the DNO is not in agreement to extend existing licenses or allow new attachments.

When encountering a joint user pole the planner should look to the following alternative methods of delivery.

1. **Delivery via an alternative existing infrastructure / network.**

— Can the property be reached by a nearby pole?

— Can the property be accessed from another direction?

2. **Delivery via new overhead network.**

— Can new poles be safely erected to provide access to the required property?

— Can a new route be provided to provide access from another direction?

3. **Final drop delivered by small scale build.**

— Can a new underground network be provided in the footpath?

4. **Delivery to the area requires large scale network investment.**

— Provision of a new duct route and boxes in the carriage way, requiring road closures etc.

- When planning a solution to avoid a DNO owned JUP, planners should also look at all premises which could be potentially served and look for a solution which enables service to these properties. The planner must then execute the minimum amount of work within that plan to service the driver.
- The correct solution may include elements from any or all of the above but must consider L2C and T2R to provide the solution with the best whole life costs.
- When completing the assessment process, consideration should be given to how many of the existing copper served customers off the DNO owned JUP can be served by each alternative solution, and how many cannot.
- E.g., a copper DP on a JUP may currently serve 20 homes, 10 can be served via a new pole, 5 via a simple UG solution, and 5 would require significant levels of duct laying.
- All solution surveys must include allowance and costings for wayleaves and network alterations and clearly identify local issues which prevent other solutions.

- Where a DNO owned Joint User Pole is encountered and the alternative delivery method(s) means a dramatic increase in costs, the new method must be assessed within the capital authorisation governance or relevant Change Forum prior to action.
- If the change is rejected, we will not serve this end user affected by the issue.
- If an end user cannot be served due to the high cost of the alternative solution, the planner must identify the Network Address Database (NAD) Key/Address on the splitter as unavailable by using appropriate survey flags. If the NADs are placed on the splitter only, eMLC will say FTTP=N which will stop any L2C orders being placed on the splitter.
- Any overhead solution must meet all standard safety requirements e.g., foot path restrictions, carriage way or entrance clearance.

  For advice on any scheme please contact the author or approver of this document with all the relevant information.

4.5 Network Rearrangement

Please be aware that following amendment 1 to EREC EB/TP issue 3, 2012 the 15-day transfer window has changed to:

- **30** working days for a standard wire transfer.
- **45** working days for a wire transfer where civils work is required.
- For notice to quit works the **6-month** SLA still applies.

Along with the ENA this amendment has been reviewed and agreed by all DNOs. Full details can be found on the ENA website www.ena-eng.org

Alternatively DNOs can use this webform Distribution network operators (openreach.com) to submit their requests to Openreach.

4.6 Co-Funded Contracts

This section is applicable to instances whereby the DNO is not in agreement to extend existing licenses or allow new attachments.

This is relevant for the following DNO's (below) and shown in table 2 of this document.

- Electricity Northwest,
- SP Energy Networks,
- Scottish & Southern Energy Networks.

If a Co-Funded contract allows, it may be acceptable to agree a change of solution when the alternative route is not cost effective (i.e., a flip from FTTP to FTTC will be acceptable if FTTP is costly).

If the solution is cost effective, it should not be changed on the sole basis that it is complex to plan.

If working with Co-Funded contracts with specific delivery solutions (e.g., the FTTP priority in Cornwall), importance should be given to meeting the FTTP contractual numbers regardless of the complexity and cost effectiveness.

5 GeoHUB online

To view Joint User Poles and equipment in your area of work use GeoHUB online and utilise the 3-pane Google Street and Satellite view to help identify JUPs on the route.

- Log into GeoHUB via GeoHUB Online
- Move across to the top left and select the icon with 3 x bars
- Select Search
- Once OS map is presented move back across to the top left icon with 3 bars
- Select Layout – 3 Pane View
- You now have Google Street and Satellite view of the location you are working. All pages are interlinked and will move as you pan across the OS Map
- Users can take a photo of the Google Street view (bottom right) using the shutter icon in the top right-hand corner of the image
- Help Guide can be found here: GeoHUB Online User Guide

6 Recovery of Ex DNO J/U Poles

Under the terms of the Joint Agreement between Openreach and the DNO's (full details can be found on the ENA website www.ena-eng.org), when a DNO wishes to replace one of their poles, which also has Openreach attachments, there is a period of time afforded for Openreach to move its attachments onto the new DNO Pole.

- **30** working days for a standard wire transfer.
- **45** working days for a wire transfer where civils work is required.
- For notice to quit works the **6-month** SLA still applies.

  After this time, the old pole comes under the de facto ownership of BT/ Openreach and with it, the responsibility to recover the Pole.

  Recovery of ex DNO Poles (compared to Openreach Poles) can present different issues.

The ISIS EPT/OHP/B076 - Recovery of Ex DNO J/U Poles describes a Risk Assessment based process and safe working practice for the recovery of DNO Poles which have fallen under the ownership of BT / Openreach.

The procedures shown in the above document should be used in conjunction with existing pole work practices described in ISIS Documents.

- EPT/OHP/B034 - Mechanised Poling Operations
- EPT/OHP/B038 - Poling Handbook
- SFY/HSH/D043 - Working in Vicinity of O/H Power (LV & HV) and Joint User Poles.

7 Stakeholders

Stakeholders are consulted during the development of new, and updates to existing, Network Policy ISIS.

The following people have been identified as key stakeholders of this document (at version 15) and have agreed to sign-off as Network Policy.

Ongoing stakeholder engagement in relation to incremental ISIS versions is captured within our team's Stakeholder Engagement Log - located within our Stakeholders intranet page.

Name	Role
Wesley Grantham	Electrical Protection & Overhead Professional
Anthony Stewart	Overhead policy and standards engineer
Stan Edwards	Head of Network Policy, Quality & Accreditation
Ada Hilton	Network Policy and Communications Specialist
Ian Campbell	DNO Programme Manager

8 Further Guidance

8.1 References

ISIS: EPT/PPS/B037	Principles of Joint Use of Poles
ISIS: EPT/PPS/B038	Technical Requirements for Attachment on Joint User Poles
ISIS: NWK/LNK/C319	Copper – Access Network – Infrastructure - Policy
ISIS: NWK/LNK/C488	Ethernet - Point to Point – Reactive Build - Policy

ISIS: EPT/OHP/C031	EPT/OHP/C031 - Working on D Poles, Including Joint User Poles

8.2 Wayleaves

Wayleaves Wise Homepage

9 *Further Network Policy Guidance*

9.1 Network Policy, Quality & Accreditation Website

Network Policy, Quality & Accreditation Website

This is the front door to all things policy, with links to all our policy documentation and guidance.

9.2 Network Policy Briefings & Planning Communications

Network Policy Briefings & Planning Communications

Network policy briefings provide an interim method to communicate key network policy/planning policy, pending inclusion of the briefing content into the relevant Policy ISIS document.

Registration for Network Policy Briefings & Planning Communications ensures that you will be notified once a policy briefing is either published or updated.

To register for notifications, please go to:

Registration for Policy Briefings and Planning Communications

9.3 Policy & Build App.

The Policy and Build app has been launched and is available to all iPhone (automatically uploaded) and Android users who can view this 'How to guide' for assistance when trying to download the app.

It includes essential network policy and build ISIS documents covering engineering topics from the exchange to our customers' premises.

Feedback functionality will allow you to suggest more content by texting the word POLICY to 81192 followed by your suggestion.

For more information on the Policy & Build App please contact:
mark.a.fletcher@openreach.co.uk

ada.hilton@openeach.co.uk

9.4 Policy team Workplace Groups

Workplace - how to join

9.4.1 Network Policy: Workplace Group

Network Policy: Workplace Group

Here you can view our recent posts and access our regular videos.

9.4.2 Network Policy Academy: Workplace Group

Network Policy Academy: Workplace Group

Providing you with a series of short network policy modules as a visual guide to aid your understanding and test you if you're feeling confident!

9.4.3 Network Myths & Legends: Workplace Group

Network Myths & Legends: Workplace Group

This site hosts Network Myths & Legends as they are dispelled by Openreach Chief Engineer Andy Whale.

10 *Glossary*

For a comprehensive list of abbreviations follow this Glossary of Terms link.

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