



Identifying our equipment



If you're planning or building a new development, working on a regeneration project or undertaking roadworks it's likely that you'll come across some of our network infrastructure.

This guide includes images and descriptions of the most common types of equipment (past and present) to help you identify what's on your site so we can best advise you if you need anything moved or removed.

If you're not sure, please contact us – ideally sending a photo of the plant on your site – before you start work.

Poles and attachments

There are currently three materials used for poles: wood, steel and fibreglass.

Wooden poles vary in length from 7 to 15m depending on the span the lines need to cover.

There are two types of pole in use:

- **Radial Distribution Poles:** typically to serve a number of properties in a street
- **Carrier Poles:** typically found in more rural locations, these are often used to provide an overhead route from A to B.



Pole markings



Owner of the pole – In this case BT. Older poles may also be marked as GPO or PO

Pole length and class (light, medium or stout)
– 10L = 10m light

Year of preservation – 97

Supplier marker and type of wood – 2I
= supplier 2 and Imported (I)



The punch hole sign is a testing cycle sign.
This label is for internal Openreach use.

The pole reference number:

Distribution Pole – The letters DP, plus a number, in this case 19.

Carrier Pole – No letters, just a number will be shown.

You may also see square metal labels with a letter on a pole, i.e. C, D, H, SD and Z. These indicate the status of the pole to a visiting engineer.

Street covers and cabinets

Street covers and cabinets (PCP) have changed over the years, from cast iron to fibreglass to pressed steel. Sizes vary and all are made in single door versions. The most common examples are:



Cast iron cabinet



Fibreglass cabinet



Single door cabinet (with replacement steel door)



Steel cabinet



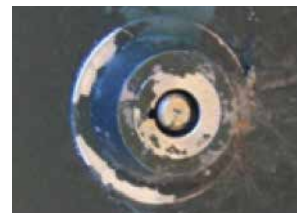
All-in-one cabinet

How to spot one of our cabinets: keys and markings

Openreach and Virgin Media both have street cabinets and they look quite similar. Often the only difference is the type of key needed to open them. Openreach cabinets have a triangular or star shaped insert, while Virgin Media use conventional keys (see below).



Openreach keys



Virgin Media key

All Openreach cabinets, frames and covers, are marked to show who owns them. Examples of these markings and the materials cabinets are made of are shown below.



Cast iron GPO marking



Fibreglass Telecom marking



Steel BT marking

Carriageway covers

These boxes generally contain small customer connections. The old type of covers were made of concrete with a concrete lid while current covers are made of fibreglass and have a steel lid.

There are generally two types of carriageway covers. Those with a T-shaped key, the Silent Night, and those with a D-shaped key, the Elkington. Both types were supplied in all sizes and while the design varied slightly all have ownership markings on them.

All sizes are approximate.

Carriageway covers with two triangular lids



CW No.1
Silent Night
680mm x 680mm



CW No.1
old type (Elkington)
inserts vary



Very old round
CW no.1

Carriageway covers with four triangular lids



CW No.2 Silent Night
1220mm x 680mm



CW No.2 old type
(Elkington)

Carriageway covers with six triangular lids



CW No.3 current type



CW No.3 Silent Night type



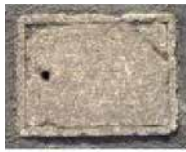
CW No.3 Elkington type

Footway covers

Footway covers come in six basic sizes: small, medium, large, square, twin and triple, although there are size variants within some types. All sizes are approximate.

Small covers

These lids cover boxes which generally contain small customer connections. Previously the boxes and lids were made of concrete, but the current footway boxes are made of fibreglass and have steel lids.



JB21 31x41cm



JB22 41x61cm



JB23 28x50cm

Medium covers

There is only one size of cover in this category. This lid can be found on a fibreglass preformed box, JB26, as well as a concrete/brick chamber, JF2. As with the JB 23 small footway box above the JB26 will have a thin white edge around the cover while the JF2 has a fillet.



Old style cast iron and
concrete 38x80cm



JF2/JB26
34x80cm

Large covers

Along with the twin, this is probably the most common footway type in the network. Originally the covers were made of cast iron and concrete but now they're just made of concrete.



JF4 current type 55x100cm



JF4 old type 55x100cm

Square covers

These covers are placed over manholes and are found in the footways and verges.



JF5 70x70cm



JF5 old type 70x70cm

Twin covers

This cover shown in the section is probably the most common footway type in our network. Originally the cover was made of cast iron and concrete but now they're just made of concrete. You can see variations to the inserts and markings below.



JF6
70x140cm



JF6 old cast and concrete
type 70x140cm

Triple covers

The two sizes of triple lid covers are shown here.



JF10 80x240cm



JF11 80x140cm

Inserts and markings

In this section you can see examples of the markings that you would expect to find on our equipment.

Footway

Examples of the current JF4 and JF5 inserts are shown below. The number '4' or '5' shown on the right hand side of the insert identifies the type. The letters 'DW' shown on the top right hand corner of the JF5 box indicate that this is a drive way lid built to stand further loading.



JF4



JF5

The following examples show the changes undertaken from GPO to BT.



Carriageway

The current marking is shown below, with some of the older versions beneath.

Current marking



Older markings



Non-standard plant

Some locations have used bespoke cover infills which improve the aesthetics of the area, enhance paving designs or accommodate high tactile surfacing. The scope of these type of covers is endless.

Maintenance for these covers may not reside with Openreach as often the responsibility remains with the Authority.

A small selection of non-standard footway and carriageway covers are shown below.



FW No.4



CW No.3 insert type



FW No.6



Detail of legend built into frame



National Telephone
Company Limited

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