openreach

ISIS Practice
For Openreach people & our partners

AEI/AEC/B353

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Use until 30-Jun-2022

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Privacy- None

Openreach/CP Pole & wire separation

Best practice agreement

About this document ...

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Content approval

This is the Issue 1 of this document.
The information contained in this document was approved on 30-Jun-2021 by Glen Barford, Overhead Network Policy and Standards Specialist

Version History

Version No.	Date	Author	Comments
Issue 1	30-Jun-2021	Anthony Stewart	New Document

Table of Content

1 *Introduction*

This document is to show a range of issues which may arise due to co-location of BT/CP poles & Overhead Wires.

It also explains the “Good Practice” approach to separation, which has been agreed between CP’s, Openreach and the Office of Telecommunications Adjudicator (OTA).

2 *Status*

- Safety
- Working Practice

3 *Scope*

The target audience for this document is Openreach people and Partners.

4 *Detail*

4.1 Background

BT are no longer the only party with code powers to erect Poles and Overhead Telecommunications Equipment in the public domain. Increasingly, other Communication Providers (CP’s) are providing their own Poles and overhead wires, which may or may not, directly interface with that of BT under the Openreach PIA product offering.

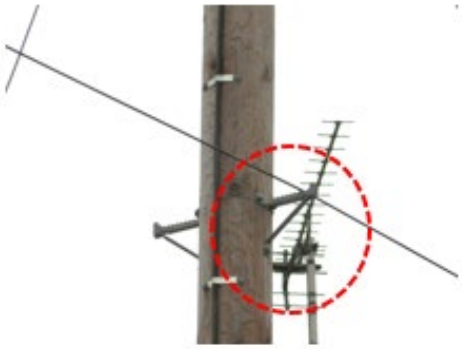
Some newly provided Network has been installed very close to that which is already existing, creating new issues for the industry in the shape of an increased safety risk for Engineers and increased network fault liabilities.

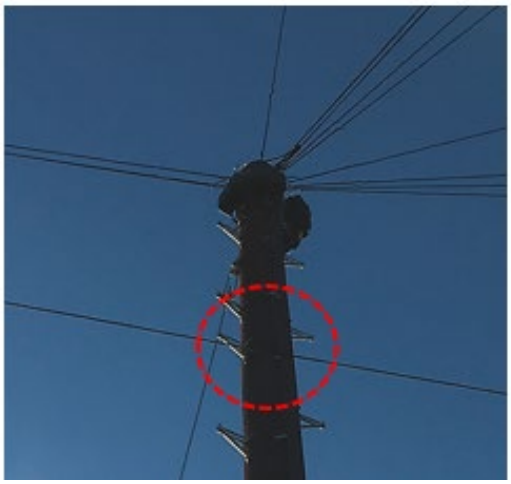
4.2 Examples of issues

Below are some examples of issues that have arisen in the absence of any clear guidance on suitable Pole and Plant separation.

4.2.1 New CP wires erected close to BT pole and it's climbing steps. This has created a potential:

- Safety issue for any climber of the pole.
- Network reliability issue for the CP due to wire rubbing on the step/pole.
- Obsturction to other CP's who may want to attach FTTP kit on the pole.



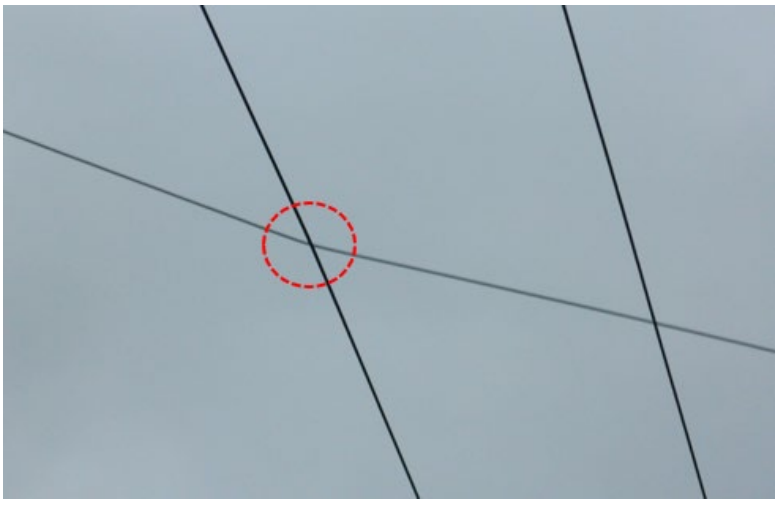


4.2.2 New CP pole erected against existing Aerial Cable, which has created:

- A safety risk to the Pole climber.
- A likelihood of the Aerial Cable sheathing rubbing through to conductors causing multiple faults/ unnecessary disruption to customers.

4.2.3 Mid Span contact between newly erected CP wire and BT Dropwire.

This introduces an increased network fault issue for both CP's involved, due to rubbing.



4.2.4 New CP pole erected within 850mm of an existing pole, with the following negative outcomes:

- Wire fan from poles likely to intermesh, with the likelihood of network faults due to rubbing as a result.
- Potential climbing hazard if poles are different lengths, as Pole climber may have to climb through wire canopy of the adjacent pole.
- Foundational strength of both poles reduced.

4.3 Agreement on “Good Engineering Practice” for new Pole & Wire installations

At an initial meeting between CP’s, Openreach and the OTA, Openreach put forward some suggested Pole and Plant separation distances, which it felt would help in mitigating some of the co-location issues.

These were generally well received and CP’s were invited to consider them further and to share any issues that they may have with Openreach.

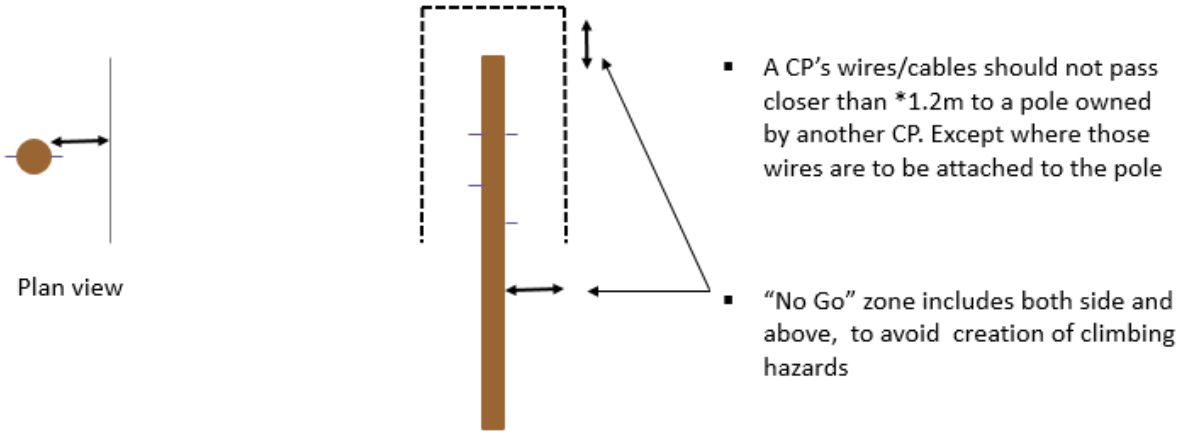
A further meeting was held on 23/04/21 and with no issues / objections received, it was decided to formalise the new separation distances into “Good Engineering Practice” for all CP’s (Inc Openreach) to follow.

It was recognised that some adjustment to the distances etc may be required in light of actual operational issues that may experieced. However, all parties felt happy to introduce them as a best practice standard and to reconvene at some agreed point in time (3 months), to review again and amend (if necessary).

4.4 Good Practice details

The following standard clearances form the basis of the agreed Good Engineering Practice for Overhead Networks owned by different CP's. It's important that these policies are followed by Openreach and its Partners, when deploying new Poles & Wires into the Network.

4.4.1 Wire to pole separation



4.4.2 Wire to wire separation

Where wires cross in span, then the minimum clearance between existing wires and another CP's wires should be 300mm, either above or below. This to prevent risk of rubbing/abrasion between wires, leading to network faults.

Tree Guard wire wrap is recommended to provide protection where a contact is inevitable.

4.4.3 Pole to pole separation

Minimum distance between new and existing poles = 2.5m

5 *Training*

Training has been considered and changes may be required

6 *Quality Standards*

Quality standards have been considered and changes may be required

7 *Accreditation*

Accreditation has been considered and changes may be required

8 *Quality Checks and Independent Audit*

QPW checking and IA checks have been considered and changes may be required

9 *Contract Impact*

The information in this document is issued to Contractors on the following basis:

- **Mandatory**

10 *Reference Documentation*

10.1 ISIS

EPT/OPH/B011

EPT/ANS/A011

EPT/ANS/A010

10.2 Manufacturer's Instructions

Considered and no changes are required

10.3 Quality

Considered and changes may be required

10.4 Accreditation Documents

Considered and changes may be required

10.5 FPQ

Considered and changes may be required

10.6 Supply Chain

Considered and changes are not required

10.7 Communications

- The Loop
- Workplace
- CANDID

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