

Proposed Replacement of Telephone Line with Fibre Optic cable at Randalls House – application reference: PP-15074231

Introduction

I trust that the written description below, and related photographs, will be sufficient to explain my proposal to replace the existing telephone line that runs across the front of Randalls House. Given how thin the new cable is (6mm diameter) I am hoping that scale drawings and block plans are not necessary, and the marked-up photographs are sufficient.

The background details, photographs and plans in this document are as follows:

Pages 1 and 2	Description and details of the work
Page 3	A front elevation photograph overlaid with the existing and proposed routes shown in colours, and cable length dimensions.
Page 4	9 numbered photographs showing details
Page 5	Photographs of front elevation
Page 6	Location plan showing nearby properties

Description

The proposal is to fix 9.5m of 6.0mm diameter cable across the front elevation of Randalls House to replace the existing telephone line, which is also 6.0mm diameter. This new cable will provide a fibre Internet connection to the house for both a fixed telephone and internet access.

My telephone and broadband service provider, TalkTalk, tells me I must have this fibre cable to be able to continue to have a service after the UK telephone system goes digital, which is planned for January 2027. TalkTalk's broadband provider, City Fibre, has refused to install fibre to the house without what it calls "formal consent" because it is a Listed Building. Without a fixed telephone, and internet, the house would not be suitable for modern living.

City Fibre is the only fibre supplier in the area, and has already installed fibre to my neighbours in the hamlet of Sandford,.

Details of the Work

The new overhead optical fibre cable will arrive at the house on existing telegraph poles and will connect to it at the same point as the existing telephone line. It will then run to a junction box by the front door, inside the porch. From this junction box a short cable will run within the porch, to a terminal box inside the house, and will be next to the existing Openreach Master Socket.

The total run length is 9.5m, and the new cable will have a black plastic outer cover. It will look exactly like the existing telephone line. The existing line will be removed by Openreach at the end of the works. See page 3 to see the existing route in blue across the front of the house, and the new route in red. For clarity the width of the routing lines are shown as 35mm, which is six times wider than the new cable will be.

The new cable follows the same route as the existing cable for part of the way; however, it then takes a lower route across the front of the house. This is because the fibre cable needs an external termination junction box at ground level to enable testing and fault finding. This junction box is proposed to be partially hidden within the porch – see the pictures on page 4: picture number 7 shows the box's location; and 9 is a typical junction box. From the junction box, known as a CSP, the cable will run the last 2.0m within the porch up to its apex. From here it will pass, through an 8.0mm

diameter hole through the brick wall into an upstairs bedroom. It will then connect to the terminal box (the ONT) which will be next to Openreach's Master Socket – see pictures 2, and 3 on page 4. Also, picture 8 on page 4 shows a typical internal box, known as a ONT.

The work requires:

1. Drilling 8 holes in the black wood corner column to fix buckle cable ties (photo 5 on page 4) with 3mm x 25mm diameter screws. Buckle clips are neater than modern plastic ones.
2. Drilling twelve 5mm holes in brickwork for wall plugs to fix the cable ties.
3. Drilling an 8mm hole through the porch's brick side wall, and another, of the same diameter, through the wall at the apex of the porch, which will be alongside Openreach's existing cable.
4. Fitting a small junction box within the porch.
5. Fitting a terminal box inside the house and next to the master socket.

Cable Route with references to photographs on pages 3 and 4

1. The new cable, which will be installed by City Fibre, will come to the north-east corner of the house on the existing telegraph poles leading to the house. It will attach to the same anchor point as the existing telephone line, which is fixed just under the eaves. **(photo 1 on page 4)**
2. From the anchor point the cable will run 2.88m down to the bottom of the black timber column. **(See marked-up front elevation photograph on page 3)**
3. From here, it will continue down a further 400mm, over bricks, and then make a smooth 90-degree bend to rest on the existing horizontal ledge in the brickwork.
4. The cable will run along this ledge for 4.15m to the porch wall **(photo 6 on page 4)**. The ledge is 400mm above ground level and is 40mm wide. **(best shown on page 3)**
5. On reaching the brick side wall of the front porch it will pass through a new 8mm hole to terminate at a junction box just inside the porch **(photo 7 on page 4)**. This is known as the Customer Splice Point (CSP) and usually measures 150mm x 143mm x 33mm (H x W x D). This junction box **(see photo 9 on page 4)** will be partially hidden within the porch.
6. From this junction box a flexible copper cable, also of 6.0mm diameter, will run vertically to the apex of the porch. Being flexible it will be easy to hide on its route up the inside of the porch. **(photos 7 & 2 on page 4)**
7. A new 8mm hole will be drilled at the apex of the porch through the single brick wall, and into an upstairs bedroom. This hole will be next to the existing telephone cable. **(photo 2 on page 4)**
8. Once through the wall the cable will finish in a terminal box fixed to the inside wall. This box is known as an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) and typically measures 100mm x 90mm x 30mm. This will be fitted to the wall next to the existing telephone master socket. **(photo 3 on page 4, and 8 for an example)**

Impact Mitigation

The cable will be concealed by being black against the black column and painted white against the white brick. The existing ledge will also help conceal the longest run of cable, and buckle cable clips **(photo 5 on page 4)** will help to pin the cable neatly to the wall. The cable clips and the CSP box will also be painted to match. Also, please note that the porch wall dates from the early 1990s. It is not known if the single upstairs brick wall is original.

Once the fibre is installed, Openreach will remove the original telephone wire, clips, and its master socket. Then the whole area will be redecorated.

Front elevation of Randalls House



Notes:

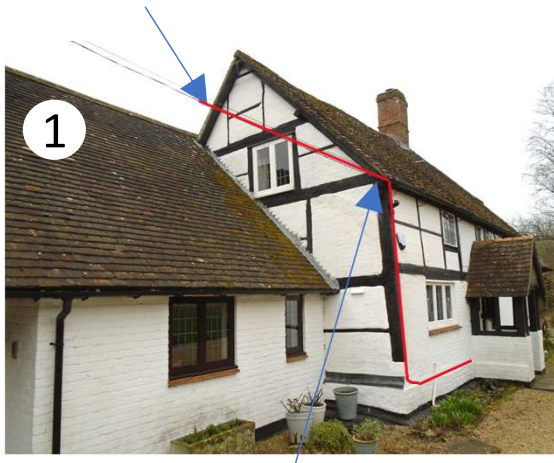
1. Red is new cable route, blue is route of existing telephone line
2. The new cable is 6.0mm diameter. The routing lines shown are 35mm wide for clarity (6 times cable width)
3. Dimensions in millimetres
4. The ledge runs the full width of the house, and is part of fortified foundations added since 1919 (see Heritage Statement).

8mm hole in porch side wall leading to a new junction box out of sight inside. Porch was built in early 1990s

Flexible copper wire will run from the junction box to the apex of the porch, and run through a new 8mm hole in the single brick wall, and end inside at a terminal box next to Openreach's existing Master Socket

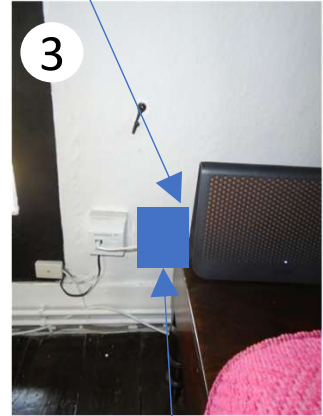
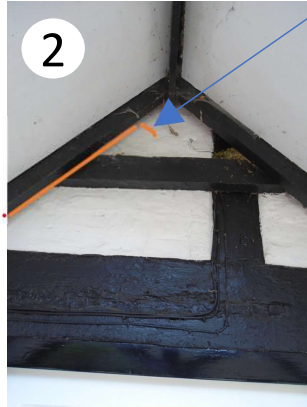
Proposed Fibre installation at Grade 2 listed Randalls House, Sandford, Reading RG5 4TD.

Fibre will arrive on existing telegraph poles



Fibre cable to be held on existing anchor point

8mm hole through the single skin brick wall, parallel to existing phone line, at the apex of the porch roof



An ONT box fixed to inside wall



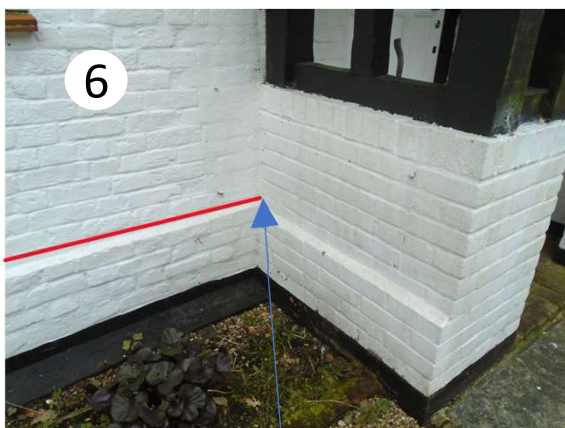
A City Fibre CSP junction box



An ONT terminal box

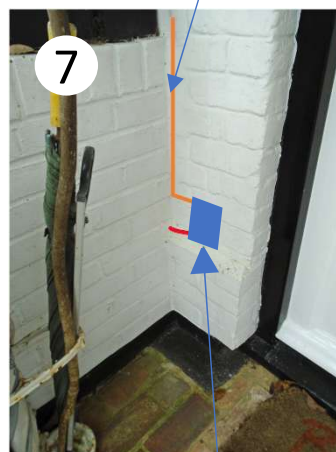


The 6.0mm dia. fibre cable will be fixed with buckle clips screwed directly to the wooden black column, and screwed to the brick ledge with 3mm x 25mm screws, in 5mm wall plugs. The buckle clips will be: a tight fit to the masonry; unobtrusive; and almost invisible when painted white or black to match the background.



8mm hole through porch wall

Flexible copper cored cable to vertex of porch roof



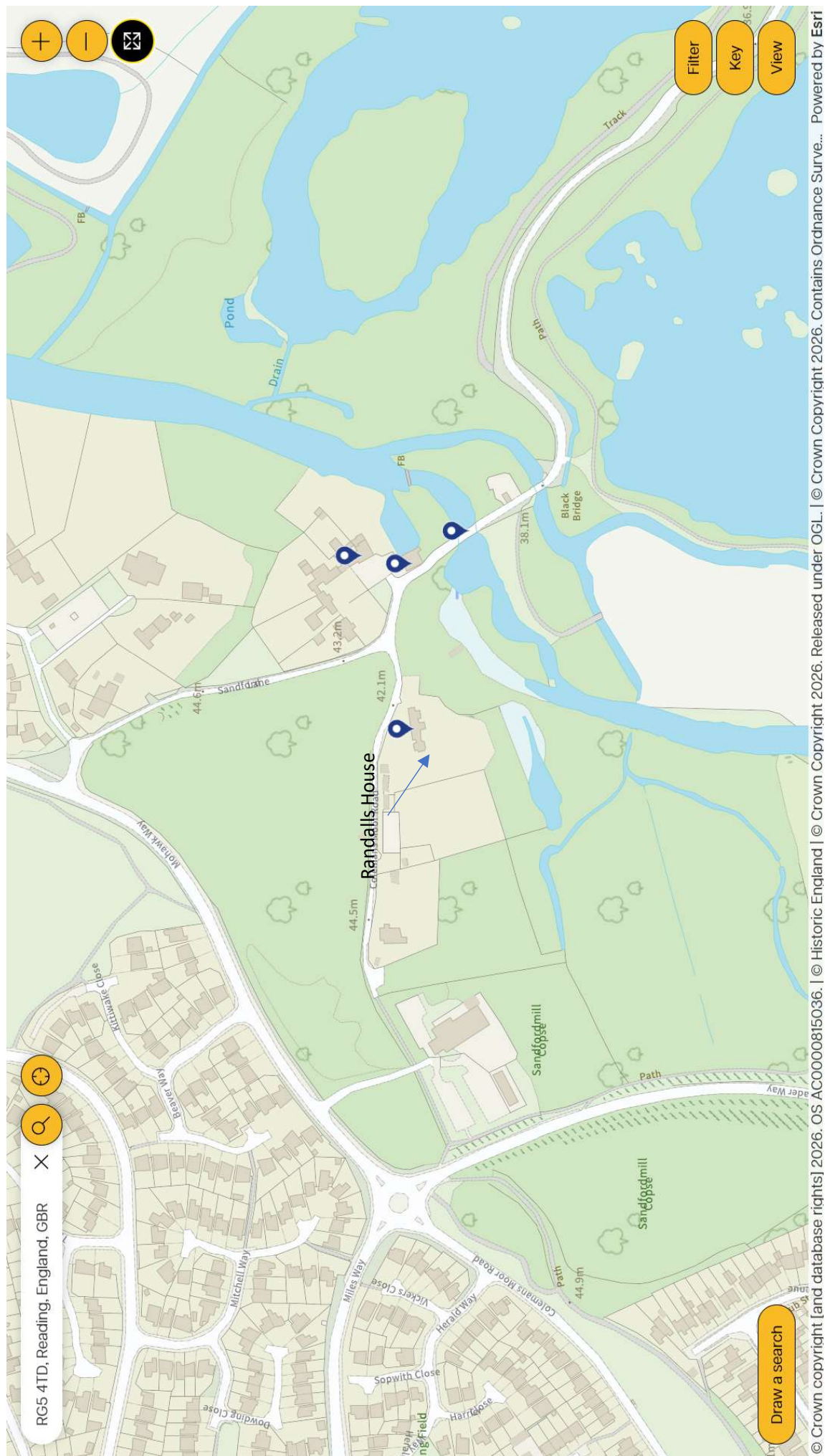
Site of fibre to copper junction box (CSP)



Buckle cable clips

Front elevation of Randalls House





Location of Randalls House, Sandford, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4TD