

Where are the UK fiber optic cables connected



Article Overview

The UK's fiber optic cables connect domestically across cities and data centers, and internationally via undersea cables to Europe, North America, Asia, and beyond.

Domestic Connections

The UK has an extensive core and distribution fiber network linking major cities, data centers, and local exchanges. High-capacity backhaul fiber connects telephone exchanges to data centers and internet gateways, forming the backbone of the UK internet infrastructure. Local fiber lines extend from distribution hubs and street cabinets to homes and businesses, providing full-fiber broadband access. Major cities like London and Manchester have dense metro fiber networks, while other urban areas are increasingly connected through both Openreach and independent providers (Altnets) .

International Connections

The UK is connected globally through submarine fiber optic cables, which link it to Europe, North America, Asia, and other regions. A notable example is the Fibre-optic Link Around the Globe (FLAG), a 28,000 km undersea cable connecting the UK with Japan, India, and other countries along the route. FLAG provides high-capacity, low-latency connections between Europe and Asia, supporting both voice and data traffic . Other undersea cables also connect the UK to continental Europe and transatlantic networks, forming part of the global internet backbone

Article Content

Nov 10, 2025

Internet Infrastructure Map (2026)

Explore the physical backbone of the internet with our interactive map of undersea fiber optic cables, peering exchange points, and

Dec 23, 2025

Everything you need to know about the undersea cables that power

Telephone cables later joined the telegraph cables and eventually the fibre-optic cables that the Internet relies on

Nov 02, 2025

Fibre broadband networks in the UK

Fibre broadband network operators in the UK, Openreach, Virgin Media, and CityFibre, are rolling out fibre to the

Dec 16, 2025

Full-fibre broadband reaches nearly 7 in 10 homes

A record 20.7 million UK homes can now access full-fibre broadband, according to Ofcom's latest annual report on the

Nov 22, 2025

Full Fibre Installation Guide: How Full Fibre Is Installed in the UK

Learn how full fibre installation works, what engineers do inside and outside your property, and how Openreach

Jul 06, 2026

What Is Fiber Optic Cable?

A fiber optic cable is a long-distance network telecommunications cable made from strands of glass fibers that uses

Feb 03, 2026

What is Full Fibre and How Does it Work?

Full Fibre is the UK's most reliable broadband technology. Unlike older copper-based networks, it uses fibre optic cables all the way

Apr 13, 2026

Full Fibre Broadband Installation Guide | GoFibre

We don't use other providers' cables, instead, we install new fibre cables to deliver the best possible service to your home. They will

Feb 24, 2026

The Tube-Style Map Of The Internet's Backbone

A London Underground-style map of the cables that form the backbone of the internet has been created by Oxford

Nov 04, 2025

FTTP Checker | Check Full Fibre Availability at Your Address

Use our FTTP checker to see if full fibre broadband is available at your address. Check speeds, providers and

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How is Full Fibre installed? | BT Help

This may include running new cables or disconnecting old extension wiring and powerline adapters. With a Full Fibre installation,

Feb 22, 2026

Full-fibre broadband: What is it and how does it work?

The government is planning to spend £5bn on rolling out superfast full-fibre broadband to the most remote parts of

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Fiber-optic cable

A fiber-optic cable, also known as an optical-fiber cable, is an assembly similar to an electrical cable but containing one or more

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European Union submarine internet cables

Europe's submarine cables network in May 2023 Submarine internet cables, also referred to as submarine communications cables or

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Full-fibre broadband: What is it and how does it work?

At the moment, the UK ranks well behind some other European nations including Latvia, Lithuania and Spain, where

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Fibre broadband | Openreach

Openreach engineers build and maintain the UK's communication network, and have done for many years. Our network is used by

Jan 14, 2026

Your guide to our lightning-fast broadband | Virgin Media Help

The connection zips along – sometimes underground, sometimes across aerial poles, and through our street cabinets. When it

Dec 20, 2025

Fibre to the premises (FTTP)

What is fibre to the premises (FTTP) broadband? Fibre to the premises (FTTP), also known as ultrafast full fibre

Oct 01, 2025

How is Full Fibre Installed? Openreach

Find out how Full Fibre is installed, what happens on the day, and how our engineers connect fibre to your property.

Sep 09, 2025

Will fibre broadband be obsolete by 2030

Fibre optic cables are made from glass or plastic and use pulses of light to transmit data, offering much faster internet

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Fiber-optic communication

Modern fiber-optic communication systems generally include optical transmitters that convert electrical signals into optical signals,

Sep 12, 2025

Inside the UK Broadband Infrastructure | Fibre, 5G & More

It comprises a vast network of fibre, copper, and co-axial cables, alongside wireless systems and satellite links, all supported by data

Mar 19, 2026

Mapping the global submarine fibre-optic cable network

Today, an entire network of fibre-optic cables connects almost every corner of the world, enabling the hyper-connected world that

Apr 23, 2026

Full Fibre broadband: Everything you need to know

However, many of the fibre broadband connections in the UK only use fibre optic cables up to the telephone wiring

May 02, 2026

Fibre to the premises (FTTP)

On your installation date, an engineer will run a fibre optic cable from a nearby telegraph pole or underground to a

Contact Us

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