



● UK FULL-FIBRE GUIDE · JUNE 2026

AVAILABILITY EXPLAINER

Monday, 8 June 2026

Why Can't I Get Full Fibre? *When next door can.*

Few things are as maddening as a neighbour streaming on gigabit fibre while you are stuck on copper. Full fibre is built street by street, and sometimes house by house. Here are the real reasons, and exactly what to do about it.

82%

UK HOMES FULL-FIBRE READY

24.9m premises, Ofcom Spring 2026

89%

GIGABIT-CAPABLE

27.1m premises, Ofcom Spring 2026

7

REASONS EXPLAINED

With a fix for each one

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Next review within 90 days

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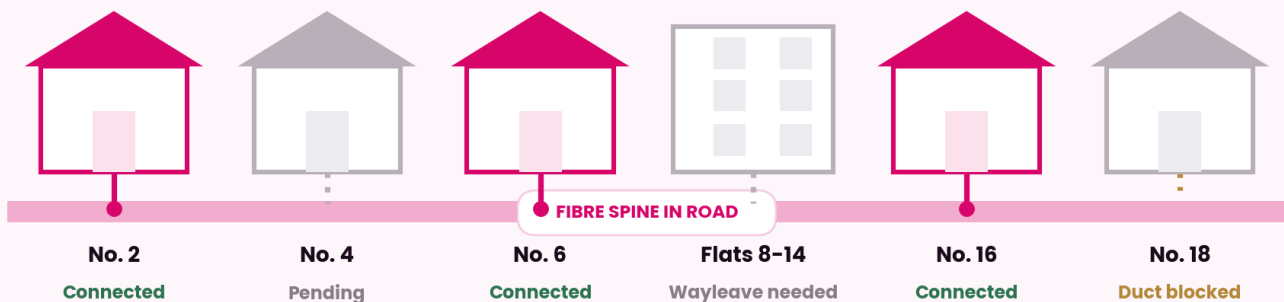
THE SHORT ANSWER

Same street, different fibre dates

QUICK ANSWER

Full fibre is built street by street, and even house by house, so neighbours are often connected in different phases. The usual reasons are a phased build, a blocked or missing underground duct, an overhead versus underground line, a flat needing landlord permission, or simply a records system that has not caught up yet. Most of these clear with time or a single phone call.

If your neighbour can order gigabit full fibre and you cannot, it almost never means you have been forgotten. It usually means the build reached their side of the road, or their property type, a little ahead of yours. The good news is that full fibre now reaches roughly four in five UK homes and is still expanding fast, so your turn is very likely coming.



A typical mid-build street. The fibre spine runs down the road, but individual homes connect at different times depending on duct condition, property type and build phase.

The pattern above is the everyday reality of a "work in progress" street. Numbers 2, 6 and 16 are live, while a blocked duct, a flat that needs landlord sign-off, and a later build phase mean the others are still waiting. None of it is permanent.

THE REASONS

Seven reasons, and what to do

Here are the most common reasons your address shows no full fibre while a neighbour can order it, each paired with the practical step that tends to move things along fastest.

REASON	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT YOU CAN DO
Phased build	Your road is split across build tranches, so one side or end goes live first.	Register interest with the network and recheck monthly.
Blocked or missing duct	The underground route to your home is collapsed, full or absent and needs civil work.	Report it through your chosen provider so the network can survey it.
Overhead vs underground	Your line type differs from next door's, so a different build method is needed.	Ask whether a nearby telegraph pole can serve your home.
Flat or shared building	A wayleave, meaning the landlord's legal permission, is required before fibre can enter.	Chase the freeholder or managing agent to sign the wayleave.
Records not updated	Systems can show neighbours as ready a little before your record refreshes.	Recheck using your exact address or UPRN, and try again in a few weeks.
Commercially "on hold"	The final connection cost exceeds the network's threshold for now.	Check alternative altnet networks or ask about FTTP on Demand.
New-build adoption gap	A recent development is built but not yet "adopted" onto the live network.	Ask the developer and network for the adoption date.

A wayleave is the legal agreement that lets a network operator install and maintain equipment on someone else's land or building. FTTP on Demand is a paid early-build option, and the civil works element can be expensive where new duct or carriageway digging is required.

WORTH KNOWING

The UK's old copper phone network switches off on 31 January 2027. That deadline is pushing build and connection rates up across the country, which is good news if you are currently waiting for full fibre to reach your door.

Not sure what you can order today? A free postcode check shows every technology and live deal at **your exact address**.

[Check now →](#)

YOUR NEXT STEPS

A simple plan while you wait

You do not have to sit on a slow connection while you wait. These four steps get you the best speed available now, and put you first in line.

- 1 Check your exact address.**
Run a postcode check and confirm the result against your full address or UPRN, since neighbours can differ. While you are there, register your interest, as demand genuinely influences build order.
- 2 Take the best available deal now, on a short term.**
A rolling or 12-month plan keeps you flexible so you can move to full fibre the moment it lands.
- 3 Check the altnets, not just Openreach.**
A different network may already reach your street, which is where a comparison covering every network pays off.
- 4 Recheck monthly.**
Build status changes fast in 2026, and a quick monthly postcode check catches the day you become orderable.

If full fibre genuinely is not available yet

These alternatives can still deliver a strong connection in the meantime.

ALTERNATIVE	BEST FOR	THINGS TO CHECK
Virgin Media cable	Fast downloads where Virgin's network reaches	Upload speed is capped by tier
FTTC (part fibre)	A solid step up from old copper ADSL	Speed falls with distance from the cabinet
5G home broadband	Renters and quick, plug-in setups	Depends on local 5G signal strength
4G home broadband	Rural areas with no fibre or cable	Slower than 5G, watch any data limits

• GET AHEAD OF THE QUEUE

Full fibre may be closer than you think.

See what you can order today across every network we track, and set yourself up to upgrade the moment full fibre arrives.

[Compare live deals at your postcode →](#)

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SECTION · REFERENCES

References and sources



Written by **Dr Alex J. Martin-Smith** (CMgr, MBA, LL.M, DBA), Lead Editor. Reviewed by **Adrian James**.
Published 8 June 2026, next review within 90 days. Every figure is sourced below and logged in our public corrections process.

Every quantitative claim in this guide is backed by a publicly verifiable source. References are listed in APA 7th edition format. Coverage figures use Ofcom's most recent Connected Nations update as the official baseline.

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REMEMBER

If your neighbour has full fibre and you do not, it is almost always a matter of timing, not exclusion. Register your interest, take a flexible deal now, and recheck your postcode monthly at broadbandswitch.uk/compare so you can upgrade the day fibre reaches you.

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