

Broadband on new developments

We are seeing almost daily enquiries from owners of properties on new developments asking when we will be going to their areas. The simple answer, generally speaking, is that we won't!

Before CSW Broadband went out to tender in 2017 for Contract 3, we carried out an Open Market Review in 2016. Under this process, suppliers were sent lists of premises that appeared at that time on the Ordnance Survey AddressBase. The data for this originates from the District or Borough Authorities, who enter the information into the Property Gazetteer. Therefore, the data can only include homes that have been built and registered, and is only as up-to-date as the District or Borough Authority data at that time.

If a property had not yet been built, or was not registered, then it could not be included in the data that was sent to suppliers.

It is not unreasonable to expect the developers to include broadband in their on-site infrastructure, and many do, however many people buy homes and expect that broadband will be provided, only to be disappointed once they move in. To complicate the issue, there is an EU standard that required newer homes to be built as "internet ready", so they will have network wiring around the property. However, that does not necessarily mean that there will be any connectivity from the property to the fibre network.

Buyers of any property, new or old, are strongly recommended to check the broadband connectivity situation, if it is important to them, before they buy. Don't just take the salesperson's word for it!