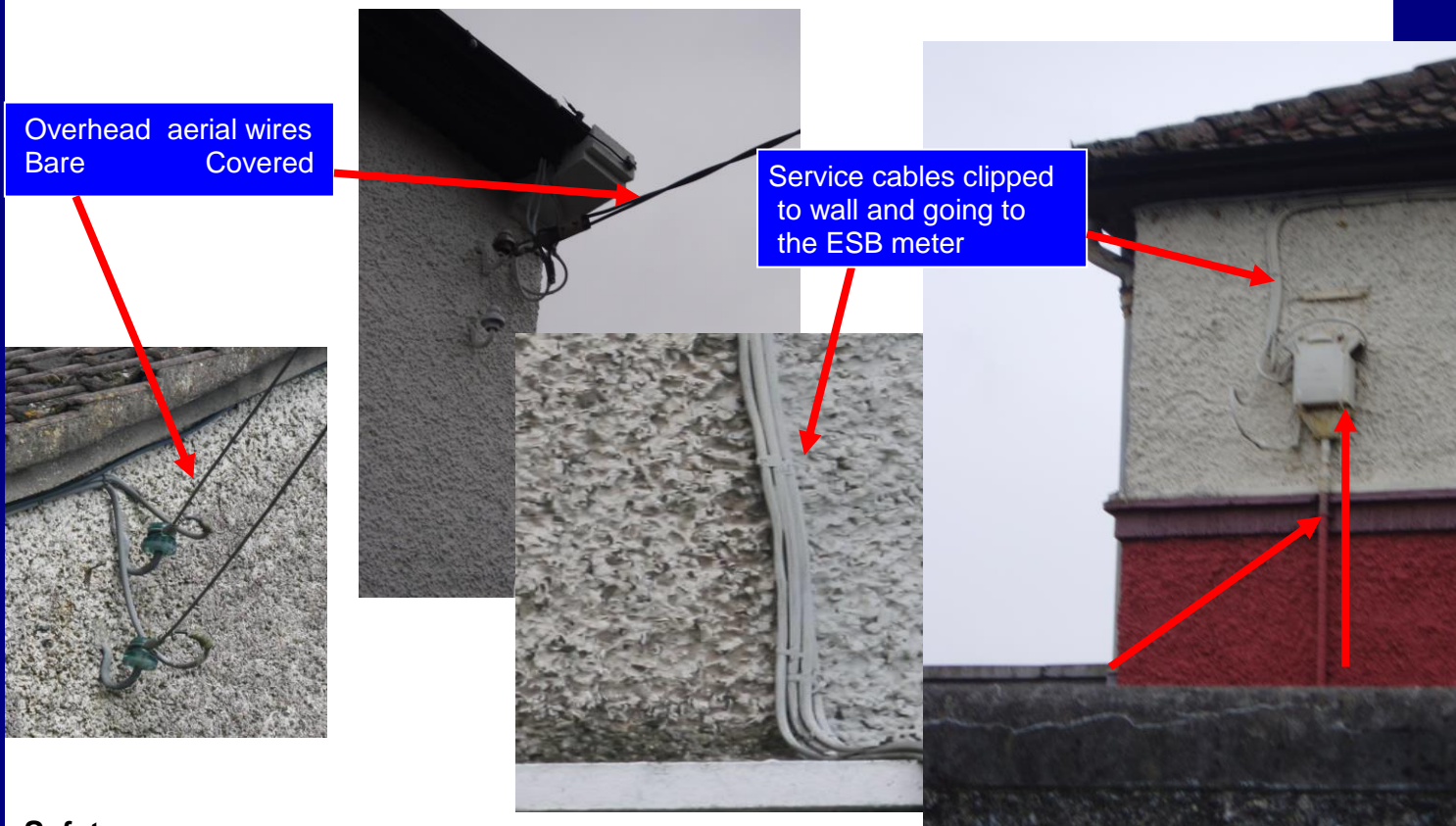


Introduction

Houses which are suitable for external wall insulation are in most instances connected to the ESB network by either, an overhead aerial wire(s) or a wall mounted distribution box. Surface mounted service cables are then used to complete the connection to the Electricity Meter position. Examples of each are shown in the following photographs:



Safety

For Health and Safety reasons - including fire safety, External Wall Insulation or other materials MUST NOT be placed over ESB Networks electricity cables or fixtures.

Where the electricity supply to a house is attached to external walls or soffits, as shown in the photographs above, ESB Networks must be contacted to arrange for the required alteration. The insulation contractor or other third party must not attempt to remove or touch any service cable, aerial wires or other fixtures belonging to ESB Networks. Only ESB trained and approved personnel are permitted to alter or work on these cables/wires.

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

SEAI's Terms and Conditions for grant approvals require compliance with this Guideline.

SEAI's 'Contractors Code of Practice and Standards and Specification Guidelines' under the 'Better Energy Homes Scheme' also specifies the need for full compliance with this Guideline. A set of drawings showing technical specifications titled 'External Wall Insulation' also form part of the Code of Practice and should be referred to for guidance.

Charge for Service Alterations

ESB Networks apply a standard charge where the service cables / aerial wires etc. to a domestic house have to be altered. This charge, which is approved by the Commission for Energy Regulation, is €413 payable in advance and is subject to change.

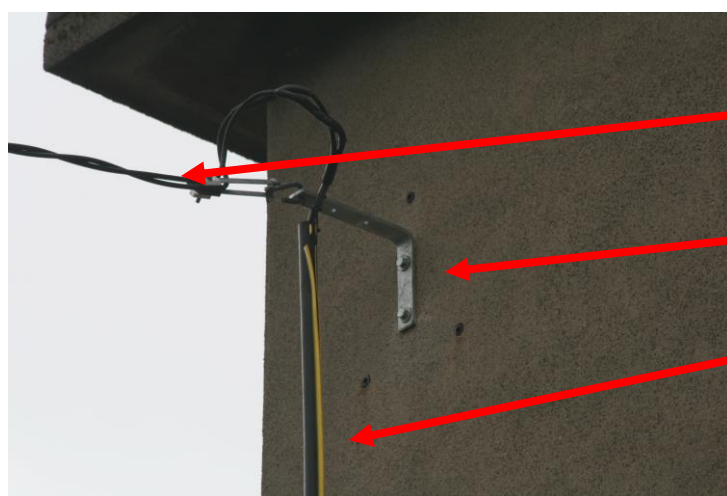
Contacting ESB Networks

ESB Networks can be contacted by calling **1850-372-757**. The **Meter Point Reference Number (MPRN)** for the property where the work is being carried out is required by the Call Centre when logging a service alteration request. The **MPRN** number can be found on your electricity bill directly beneath the ESB Networks emergency phone number. **ESB Networks require a minimum notice of 5 working days from receipt of payment for a site visit.**

Site Visit

As part of the initial site visit, ESB Networks will carry out all preliminary work **to allow the wall insulation work to commence**. This preliminary work will include:

- **Unclipping of existing service cables** (and replacement of cables where required)
- **Removal of anchor insulators and the fitting of a new extended aerial bracket**
- **Installation of new covered “bundle” aerial wire if the existing aerial wire is bare or PVC covered (See photograph below)**
- **Fit lead in pipe if required**



New covered “bundle” aerial wire

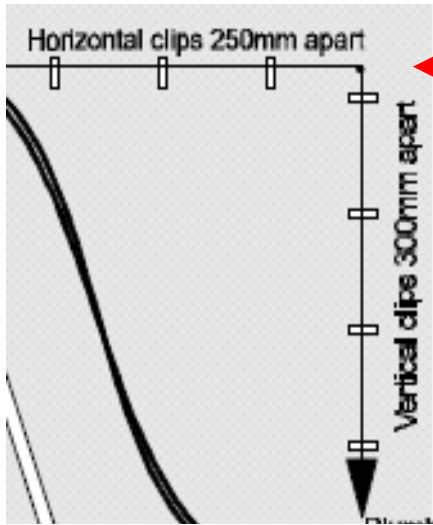
New aerial wall bracket installed

Service cables unclipped, temporary cover may be fitted over service cables to provide additional mechanical protection if required while installation of wall insulation is in progress

Reinstatement of Service Cables

The homeowner or contractor must notify ESB Networks as soon as the work is complete. The contractor is required to fit non load bearing fixing elements for cable clips along the service route to enable ESB Networks to re-clip the service. These fixing elements should be spaced at 250mm intervals for horizontal runs and 300mm for vertical runs. They must have sufficient strength to support the service cable. The contractor shall mark the location of these fixing elements on the finished render to avoid the risk of damage to the render during re-clipping. For Safety reasons ESB Network service cables **must not** come into contact with un-rendered insulation materials. A lead in pipe is required where the service cables pass through insulation to the meter position. ESB Networks will supply and fit this where required.

Alternatively: The service cable can be placed in a 50mm by 50mm UPVC trunking. **The contractor is responsible for supplying and fitting this trunking.** The trunking must be securely fixed with non load bearing fixing elements. **Trunking fixed with an adhesive backing is not acceptable.**



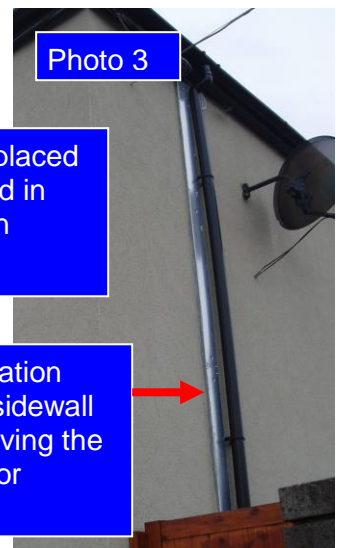
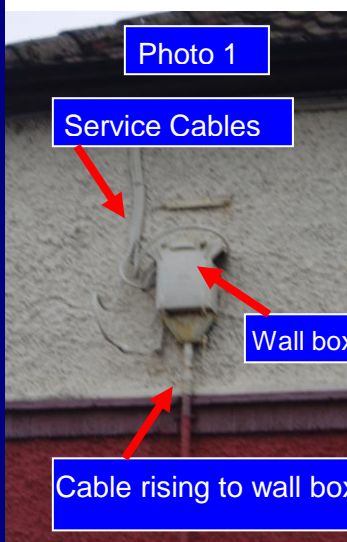
Spacing of non load bearing fixing elements for reinstating service cables to finished render.

Alternatively the service cables can be enclosed in UPVC trunking.



Wall Distribution Box

In some urban situations a Wall Distribution Box will be found at an elevated level instead of overhead aerial wire(s). **ESB Networks must be contacted to remove this box before external wall insulation is fitted.** The three photographs below show the stages involved in replacing a Wall Distribution Box. Photo 1 shows an existing Wall Distribution Box. The Wall Box is connected to the ESB underground network by a surface mounted cable. The electricity supply to a number of houses is taken from the box. Photos 2 and 3 show the existing surface mounted cable and Wall Distribution Box replaced with a new cable enclosed in a 100 x100mm steel trunking (supplied by ESB Networks). The steel trunking is mounted on a timber backing. **The timber backing must be supplied and fitted by the contractor carrying out the external wall insulation.** The wall insulation and finished render cover the sidewall of the steel trunking. The lid of the trunking must not be covered as this provides access for ESB to their cables (photo 3). Ground excavation for connecting the cable is normally located on the property, but it may be necessary to locate this trench on the public footpath.



Outdoor Meter Cabinet

Where an outdoor meter cabinet exists, the ESB Networks equipment in the meter cabinet may be connected to the Network by:

1. **Overhead aerial wires and service cable or a wall mounted box and service cable** (see photos on Page 1)
2. **An underground service cable** (from a pole or ground mounted pillar or buried mains cable)


Where the connection to the cabinet is by means of an underground service cable which runs within the wall cavity along its full length from the cabinet to the network, then it is not necessary to contact ESB Networks before proceeding with the external wall insulation. However, care must be exercised when drilling or attaching fixings under or in the vicinity of the cabinet, to ensure that electric cables within the cavity are not damaged.


In any situation where the connection from the ESB network to the meter involves any cables, wires or other fixtures that are attached to an external wall or soffit, then ESB Networks must be contacted to carry out the required alteration.

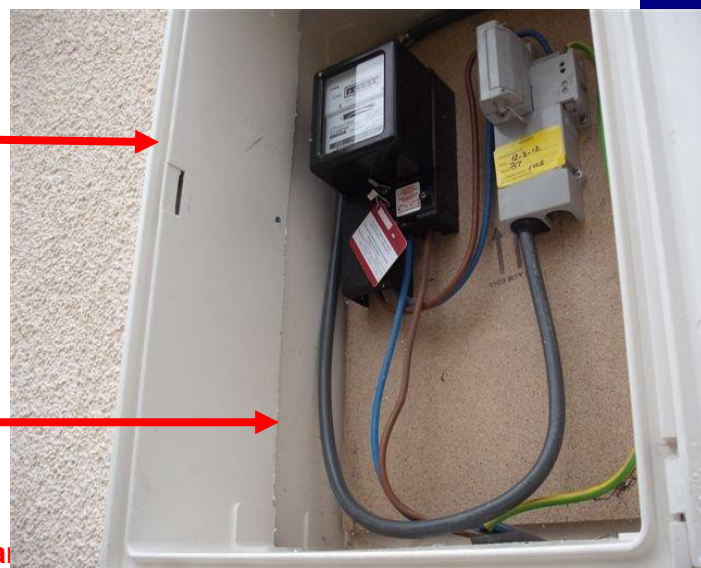
Do not attempt to move the existing cabinet. Doing so will disturb the existing connections and increase the risk of damage to the cables creating a potential fire hazard.

Meter Cabinet Door

The contractor must modify the existing meter cabinet in order to fill the recess created by the fitting of external wall insulation. This is done by removing the door from the existing cabinet and cutting away the back from a new cabinet. The new cabinet is then placed in the recess with the sidewalls of the new and old cabinets overlapping. Accurate fitting is essential to “seal off” the wall insulation from the inner cabinet. The photograph below shows a modified cabinet fitted to an existing meter cabinet.

New meter cabinet with back removed is placed into existing cabinet. 

The sidewalls of the new cabinet overlap the sidewalls of the existing cabinet to seal off the wall insulation from the inner cabinet 



Meter cabinets are manufactured to a specific standard
Do not use alternative materials to modify the meter cabinet.