



Dark Fibre Network



The dark fibre network is a secretive society of communication workers who have constructed an autonomous internet.

When telecommunications companies lay fibre-optic cable, they lay extra cable to mitigate the future cost of having to lay it again. Dark fibre refers to these unused fibre-optic cables. The dark fibre network utilises the unused cables, splicing them together into a peer to peer network to establish an international society of revolutionary communication workers. They see the potential of the network to form the backbone of a future cybernetic communism.

‘Only through repurposing the most advanced communication systems, data analysis and computer processing can we put in place the necessary forms of production that will ensure continued planetary sustainability’.

“We followed the route of underground fibre-optic cables linking seven of the core data centres that form the London Internet Exchange”.

Key East London Data Centres

Telehouse Docklands Campus: is made up of four data centres; West, East, North and North Two. Telehouse North is the main hub of the UK's internet. The Telehouse Campus is part of the London Internet Exchange (LINX) and forms part of the backbone of the global internet. Telehouse North Two is the only UK data centre to own a 132 kV on-campus grid substation that is directly connected to the National Grid.

Global Switch London campus: comprising two data centres – London East and London North. Global Switch North is the termination point of Atlantic Crossing 1 (AC1) one of the main subsea optical submarine telecommunications cable systems linking the UK to the United States. Global Switch London East hosts several financial services customers and enterprises. Customers include Google, Fujitsu, Claranet and Datapipe.

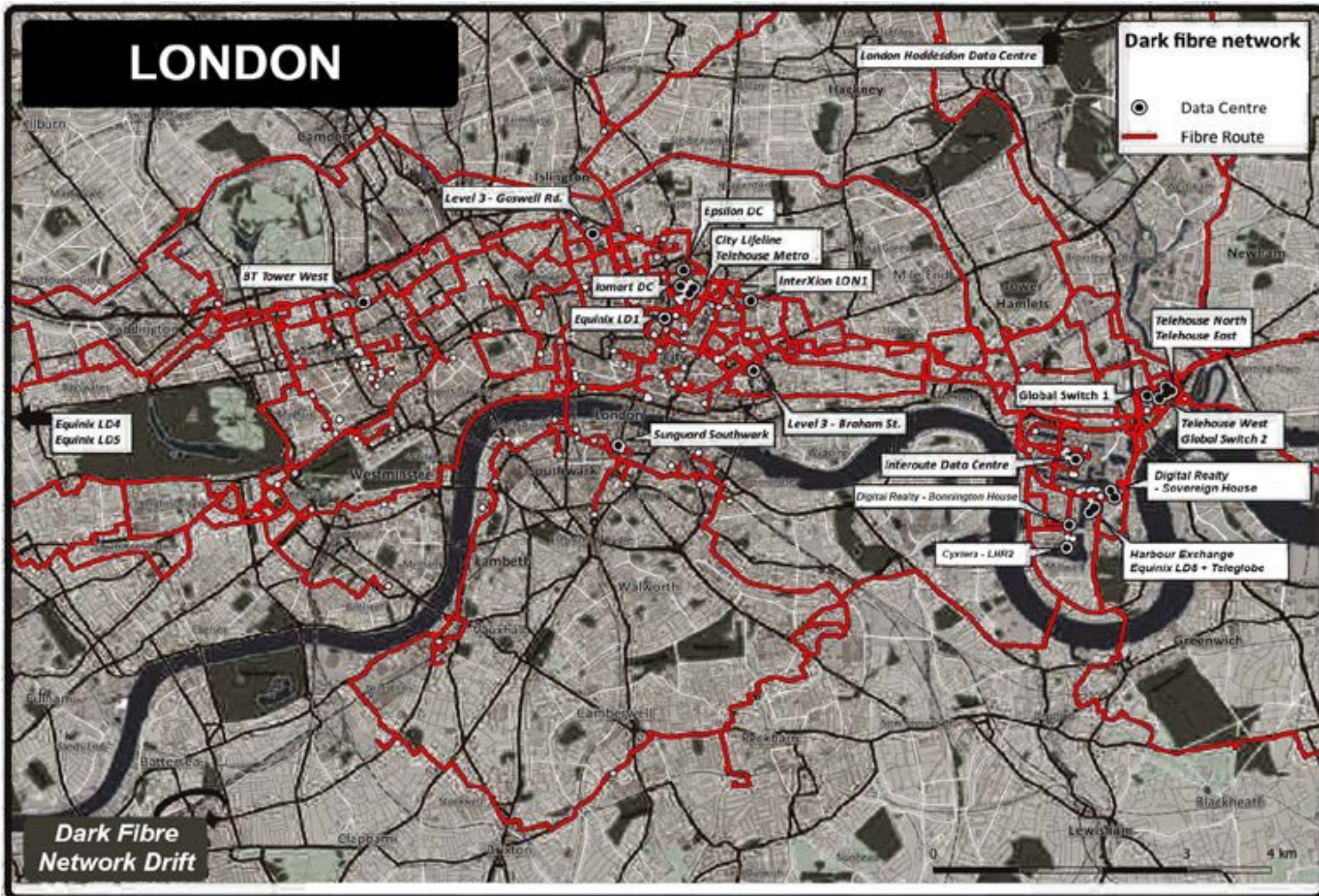
Sovereign House: The facility is a major carrier-neutral and fibre-rich hub providing access to key telecommunication providers, service providers (ISP's) and Internet Exchanges (IXP's) as well as global Cloud providers. **Meridian Gate:** formerly Telecity Meridian Gate is a satellite site of Sovereign House.

Equinix LD8: located at 6&7 and 8&9 Harbour Exchange (HEX). Equinix LD8 is part of the London Internet Exchange (LINX). Equinix is an American multinational company, with headquarters in California, that specialises in internet connection and data centres. The company has 200 data centres in 24 countries on five continents. Notably, Equinix LD8 hosts Amazon's cloud servers and is the UK connection point for Israel's Bezeq and the Palestinian company PALTEL.

LONDON

Dark fibre network

- Data Centre
- Fibre Route



Dark Fibre
Network Drift

Beside the road. Discarded nitrous oxide capsules, alien quicksilver slugs, amongst litter of stray leaves, fast food sarcophagi, empty bottles, fag ends and exhaust dust; half a bottle of pungently strong perfume. A stopping place, waiting place at night. Currently untenanted. And the traffic; eternal, inevitable, passing; the irreparable daylight. Under the pavement, out of reach beneath old and new scars of asphalt, the data and money flowed. Away, to east and west, parallel to the traffic.

The constant movement into the future: red lights on the left, white lights on the right. Worms of light hidden beneath our feet passing messages in near instantaneous peristalsis.

It was the shittiest marketing suite I'd ever seen. Stuck on a roundabout, cut off by traffic. Tiny; a mere fraction of the size of the development rising skeletal nearby, attended by cranes and skirted in glossy hoardings. Financial orogeny. Not even an obvious door into it. No one was expected to go there.

...The constant passing away.

The aesthetics of the hoardings follow contemporary tastes, featuring impossible composite views from as-yet unbuilt towers. Vistas from several hundred feet in thin air, from a notional balcony where no balcony will ever be, supported by nothing but future surplus value. Skewed perspectives, where one layer is pasted on another. And no people visible. The view of capital; the red lights on the left and white lights on the right; moving away.

The shittiest marketing suite I'd ever seen. Potential investors were not expected to physically attend, transactions would take place elsewhere, off plan, without prior sight. Viewing is unnecessary if no one will ever live there. The views on the hoardings represent nothing that will be seen. Sky-line of crystallised value.

...Core samples taken hereabouts show that beneath four metres of "made ground" - a mixture of sand, silts and coal dust and rubble, there is three metres of soft green-brown clay with an admixture of fine to medium gravel, containing traces of peat and other organic matter. This is followed by one

and a half metres of dense dark brown medium to coarse gravel. Beneath this is seventeen metres of fissured blue grey clay, down to a depth of twenty six metres, containing gravel, some fine sand. Beneath this is green silty clay; beneath which is clayey sand and gravel; silt with seashells. Beneath it all, chalk.

This was once a seabed - or perhaps several different seas at different times - fifty six to thirty four million years ago. A basin area - a syncline - formed as a distant effect of the Alpine orogeny more recently, around fifteen to twenty million years ago.

... the red lights on the left, the white lights on the right..

The dying of innumerable small creatures sifting slowly down through the subaqueous light to settle. More tiny life settling upon them.

It was the shittiest marketing suite I've ever seen. Inaccessible due to road and roundabout...

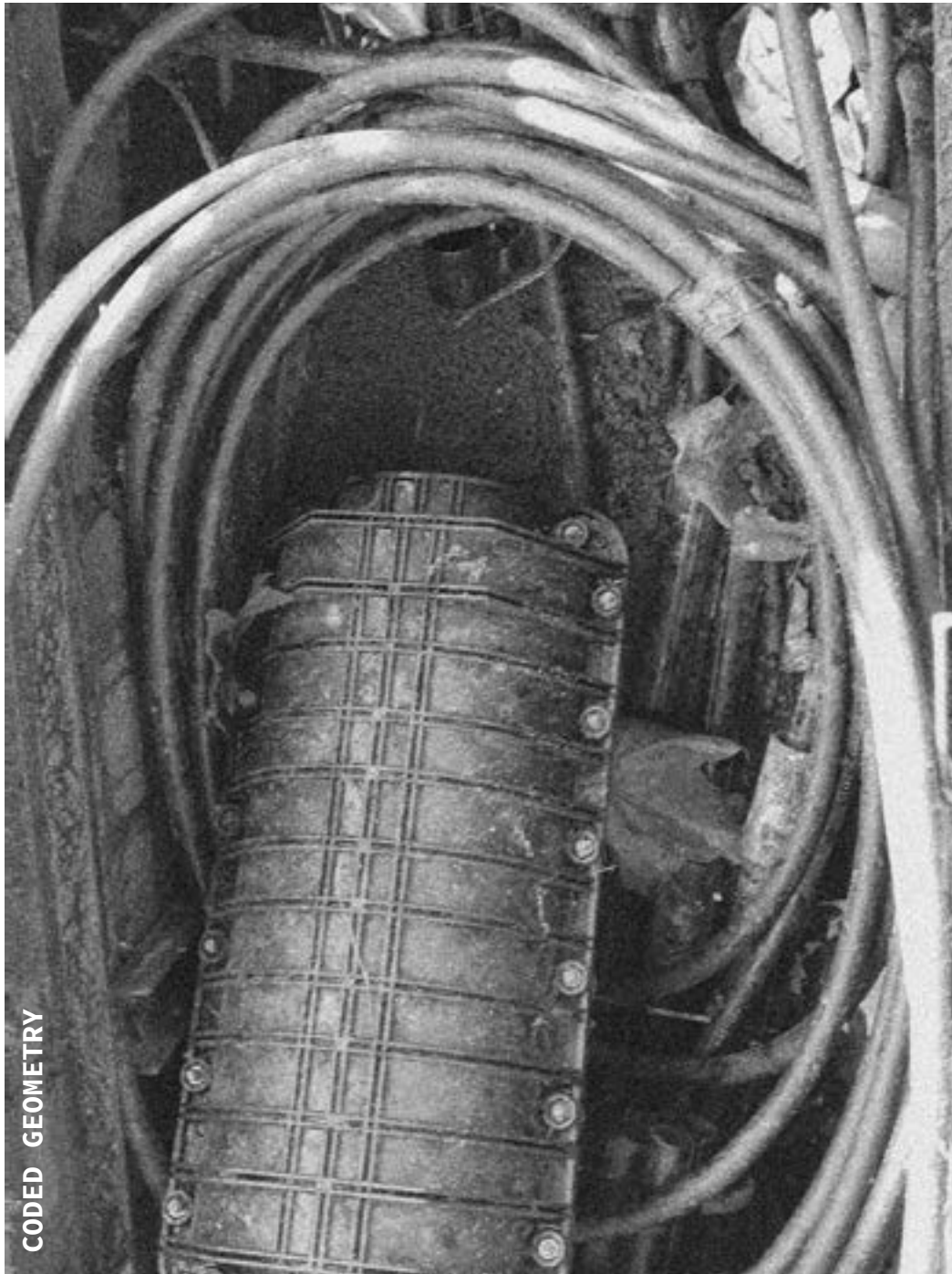
Sifted slowly downward from the surface. They settled. More settled upon them, over aeons, in the dim shifting submarine light, then no light, then light again.

The red lights on the left, the white lights on the right. It hasn't been built, yet.

Not yet. It's not yet complete. The bodies, the tiny life, still sift down. Places are lost; there's spare capacity, in case of emergency or catastrophe. The capacity that is spare is also an enticing opportunity for investment.

They sift down...a long descent through deep water. The small dead, mounting up until the pressure of ages forms them into something like an homogeneous mass. Worms of light hidden beneath our feet passing messages in near instantaneous peristalsis.

And this is the first of a set of goodbyes. There is always spare capacity hedged against the future. There is always spare capacity for leaving.



A cybernetic communism would involve some of the following elements: use of the most advanced super-computing to algorithmically calculate labour time and resource requirements, at global, regional and local levels, of multiple possible paths of human development; selection from these paths by layered democratic discussion conducted across assemblies that include socialized digital networks and swarms of software agents; light-speed updating and constant revision of the selected plans by streams of big data from production and consumption sources; the passage of increasing numbers of goods and services into the realm of the free or of direct production as use values once automation, copy-left, peer-to-peer commons and other forms of micro-replication take hold; the informing of the entire process by parameters set from the simulations, sensors and satellite systems measuring and monitoring the species metabolic interchange with the planetary environment.

Nick Dyer-Whiteford