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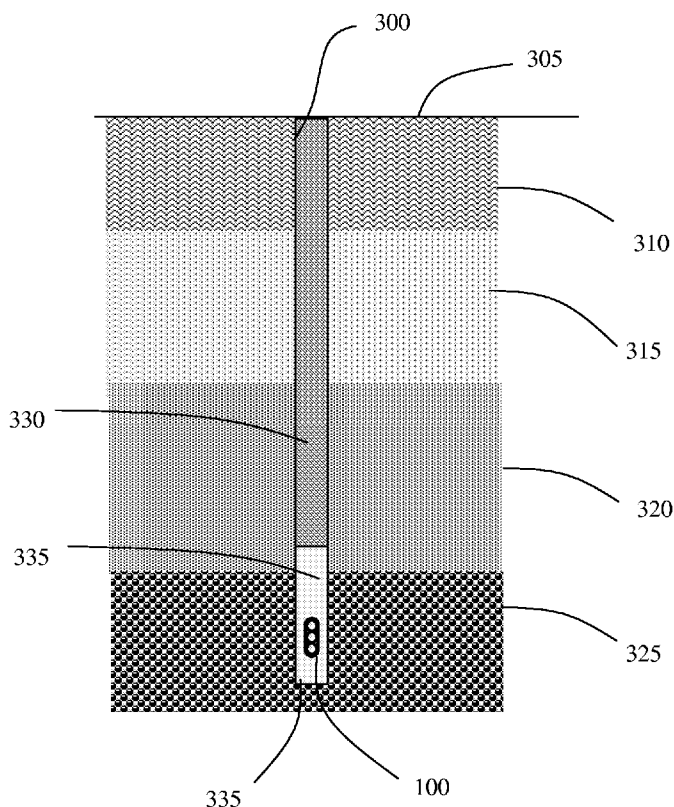
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(54) Title: COMMUNICATIONS DUCTING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF LAYING SAME



(57) Abstract: A communications ducting system, and method of laying a communications duct assembly (100, 200) below a surface, usually in a carriageway or footpath, using an open slot (300) which is subsequently backfilled, is described. The width of the slot (300) is preferably not substantially greater than the narrowest outer cross sectional width of the duct assembly (100, 200). In at least one direction, the duct assembly (100, 200) has a dimension of less than 20 mm and thus the slot (300) need be no more than 20 mm wide. The duct assembly (100, 200) can be laid along the bottom of the slot, preferably on a layer of sand or other bedding material (335). Access chambers (500) may provide fibre blowing points along the slot (300) for installing optical fibre in the duct assembly (100, 200) after the assembly is in place, either for the original installation of the fibres or for repair purposes. The access chambers (500) can also be used to accommodate changes in direction of the slot and for repairs in the duct assembly (100, 200).



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