Huntingdonshire Digital Connectivity Overview – August 2023







Broadband

Fibre broadband coverage in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is above the national average and ahead of Government targets

In Huntingdonshire:

- >98% of premises can access partial/full fibre broadband with download speeds > 24Mbps
- > 67% can access gigabit capable broadband with download speeds of at least 1000Mbps (1Gb)

Gigabit capable fibre broadband coverage is increasing at pace through direct government intervention and commercial deployment towards the target of 85% by 2025

- A number of commercial providers have announced plans to rollout gigabit capable fibre broadband in Hunts from 2022 including: CityFibre, Gigaclear, County Broadband, and Openreach, with more expected
- → View our <u>active suppliers list</u> for more information.
- Virgin Media's cable network will be upgraded to full fibre over the next two years
- <u>Project Gigabit</u> is combining government funding with commercial investment to extend gigabit capable fibre coverage to fill the gaps
- Gigabit Vouchers and top ups may be available to cover the cost of installing broadband for eligible groups of rural premises that are not in commercial plans or covered by Project Gigabit
- → View our <u>broadband postcode checker</u> and check <u>eligibility</u> <u>for Gigabit Vouchers</u>

Work is underway to improve broadband coverage and speeds for social housing, matching the 85% target for market housing by 2025, by liaising with leading housing providers, government and telecoms networks.

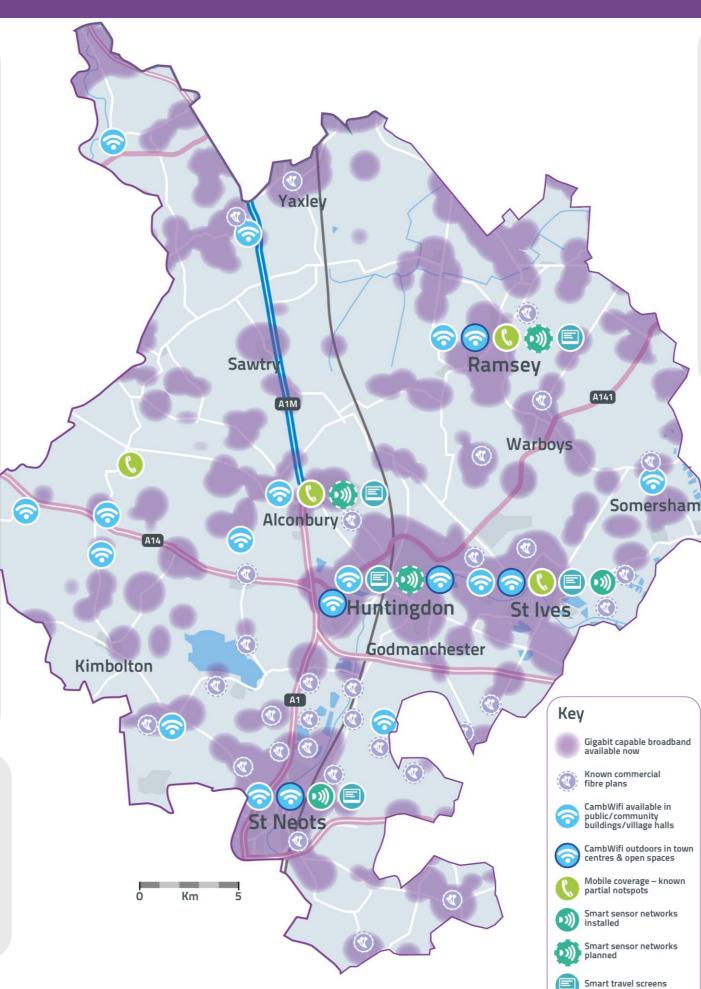
Public Access Wifi

CambWifi is widely available in public buildings, libraries, leisure centres, park & ride sites, and council offices.

CambWifi has been extended to Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Ives and St Neots town centres and installed in 9 village halls through the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme.

CambWifi has also been extended on the Oxmoor estate to support digital inclusion for the local community.

→ View our CambWifi map and postcode checker



Mobile coverage

- Working with local authorities, leading businesses and network providers to improve mobile coverage and capacity
- Detailed coverage testing surveys (March 2023) of 'partial notspots' in market town centres, business parks, major roads and train stations showed an overall improvement of 2% in combined network 4G coverage since 2019, and in key areas including Alconbury Enterprise Zone.
- Data analysis of the increasing volume of planning applications/notices for new/upgraded 4G/5G masts for digital connectivity for rural areas, highways and urban networks. There have been 18 mobile telecoms applications/notices covering the district up to April 2023 of which 10 were refused
- A dedicated digital connectivity planning officer has been appointed to proactively engage with network providers, planning teams and local communities
- View our Mobile Coverage Factsheets

Smart technology

- Real time travel and information screens installed in libraries at Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Ives, the Priory Centre, St Neots and New Shire Hall, Alconbury
- Pocket SmartPanel app offers real time bus and train info via smart phones for Huntingdon, Ramsey, St
 Neots View our Smart Journey Planning pages
- LoRaWAN sensor networks allowing the collation of environmental and transport data are in place in St Neots, Kimbolton and Alconbury with more to follow.
- A separate HDC run project is looking at installing networks in St Ives, Ramsey and Huntingdon.
- 15 potential sites for flooding sensors have been identified across the district

District plans

- Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Plan 2020-2025
 highlights the importance of Digital Connectivity and Smart technology to support business and communities
- St Neots Master Plan includes a vision for town-wide gigabit capable services

Business Support

- HDC <u>Digital Business Grants for Local Businesses</u> grant scheme providing £2,000 to aid with the digitisation of each successful business. *Oversubscribed, now closed*
- 41 Huntingdonshire businesses have benefited from the Connecting Cambridgeshire Digital Business Grants scheme funded by CPCA and EU

For more information: email contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk or visit www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk

Figures correct *August 2023 Thinkbroadband.com