Huntingdonshire Digital Connectivity Overview – June 2025







Broadband

Fibre broadband coverage in Cambridgeshire and 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*
- >90% 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, meaning this area exceeded the target of 85% coverage by 2025 a year early.

- A number of commercial fibre providers are active in Huntingdonshire, including but not limited to: CityFibre, Virgin Media (Nexfibre), Gigaclear, County Broadband and Openreach
- View our <u>active suppliers list</u> for more information.
- Project Gigabit, delivered by City Fibre, is combining government funding with commercial investment to extend gigabit capable fibre coverage to fill the gaps.
- Gigabit Broadband Vouchers may soon be available again 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 eligibility for Gigabit Vouchers

Work is underway to improve broadband coverage and connection speeds for social housing, though our liaising with leading housing providers, UK Government and telecoms networks.

Public Access Wifi

- Free and secure public access Wifi (CambWifi) is widely available in public buildings, libraries, leisure centres, and council offices across Cambridgeshire.
- On-street CambWifi is available in Huntingdon (including Oxmoor), Ramsey, St Ives and St Neots town centres and installed in 8 village halls through the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme.
- View our <u>CambWifi map and postcode checker</u>

District plans Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Plan 2020-2025 highlights the importance of digital connectivity and smart technology to Key support business and communities. This strategy is now Gigabit capable broadband coming to an end, and a new strategy is under development. CambWifi available in CambWifi outdoors in town centres & open spaces Mobile coverage – known partial notspots Smart sensor networks Sawtr Smart travel screens Alconbury (0) Huntingdon St Ives Godmanchester Kimbolton

Invest in Huntingdonshire is the Economic Development Team for HDC. They support inward investment in the region and help companies looking to grow their businesses there to thrive. Find out more and subscribe to the Huntingdonshire Business Newsletter via their website.

 Digital Switchover webinars and in-person workshops are being delivered by FarrPoint throughout 2025 to raise awareness of how the Switchover will affect businesses, and how to prepare for a successful transition.

Mobile coverage

- Working with local authorities, leading businesses and network providers to improve mobile coverage and capacity
- Detailed coverage testing surveys (February 2025) of 'partial notspots' in market town centres, business parks, major roads and train stations, are being analysed to identify areas for further improvements.
- Data analysis shows a slows down in the number of planning applications/notices for new/upgraded 4G/5G masts for digital connectivity for rural areas, highways and urban networks. There have been 12 mobile telecoms applications/notices covering the district from April 2023 up to April 2025 - 8 were approved.
- A dedicated digital connectivity planning officer has been appointed to proactively engage with network providers, planning teams and local communities.

Smart technology

- Real-time travel and information screens have been installed in libraries at Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Ives, the Priory Centre in St Neots, and New Shire Hall in Alconbury.
- Outdoor digital information screens, funded by HDC, display local updates—two each in St Ives, St Neots, Ramsey, and Huntingdon.
- Pocket <u>SmartPanel app</u> offers real time bus and train info via smart phones for Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Neots, St Ives.
- LoRaWAN sensor networks allowing the collation of environmental and transport data are in place in St Neots, St Ives, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Kimbolton, Buckworth and Alconbury.
- Flood sensors have been installed in St Ives, St Neots, Kimbolton, Bury, Wistow, Abbotts Ripton, Alconbury, Broughton, Ramsey and Houghton.

Digital Inclusion

- Enabling local Digital Hubs via small grants for connectivity and devices.
- Co-delivering the <u>Cambridgeshire Digital Partnership</u> with Support Cambridgeshire to train and empower VCS groups.
- Launching a countywide Digital Inclusion Directory with key partners.
- Running a public awareness campaign on the <u>Digital Switchover</u>.
- Embedding digital inclusion into district council service delivery.
- Promoting tech repurposing through a partnership with Sustainable Tech 4 Good.
- Working with HDC to distribute digital devices purchased under their Rural England Prosperity Fund digital connectivity project to help get digitally excluded residents online.

Business Support