

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL - 2026 BROADBAND REPORT

Reviewing Data Transmission Technologies and Connectivity



Please note that the information provided is for information only. Hunton Parish Council does not underwrite the performance of any of the companies mentioned.

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Date: August 2026.

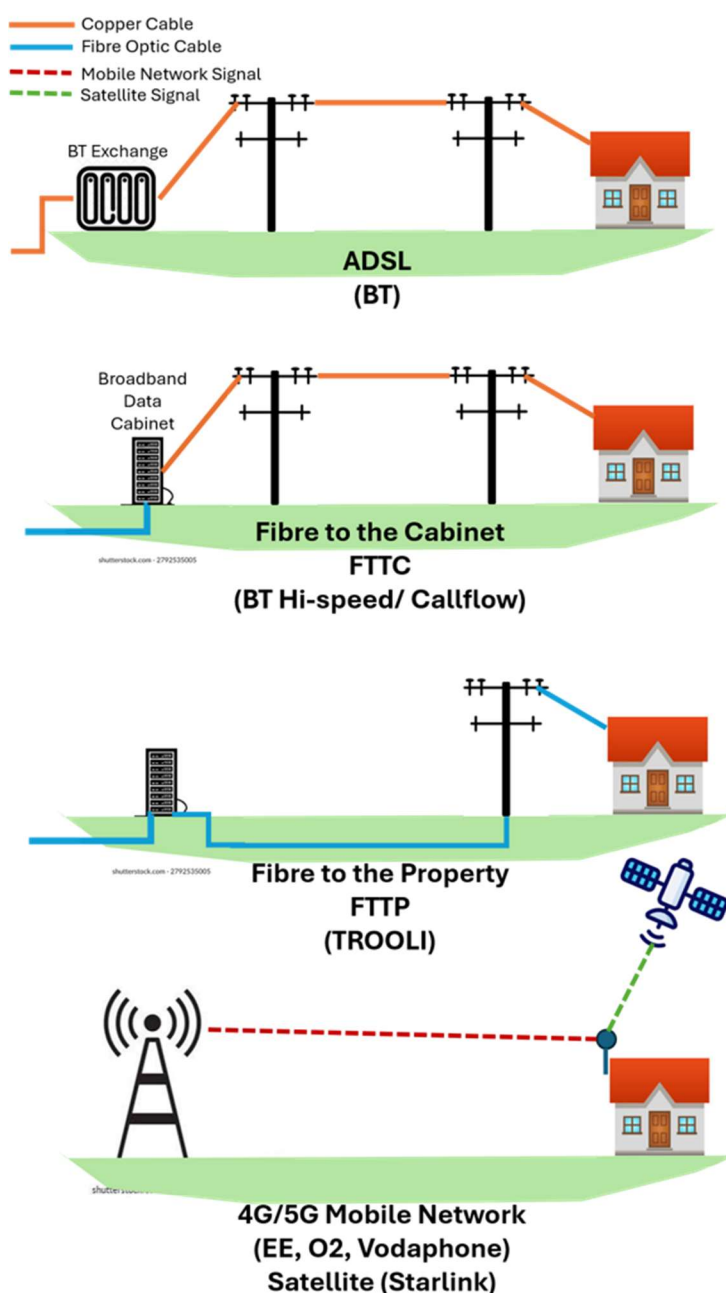
Introduction

During recent years the issue of Hunton's broadband connectivity has become more prevalent. Increased working from home and the use of streaming services have highlighted poorly performing internet services and served to demonstrate the varying degrees of connectivity within one village. The issue has gathered greater urgency as the country moves towards the deadline in January 2027 when access to the copper wire network for non-BT customers will cease.

This article has been authored to provide an update on progress to upgrade Hunton's fibre network and other options open to those who may not be able to access a fibre broadband network.

Data Transmission Technologies

To outline the various technologies, we have provided an overview of the different data transmission methods.



BT – fibre broadband. This has typically been seen to deliver around 50Mbps to the homes on West Street near the village club and school. At this point we are unaware of any plans to extend this network. For many users this provides an adequate speed and a reliable service.

BT – ADSL. This is now an outmoded form of technology providing the existing phone network to provide limited downloaded speeds in the range of 1-10Mbps. Plans to deactivate access to the copper network should not affect this service.

Trooli Superfast Broadband – you may be aware that Trooli have been active in the village in mid-August. This was installation work to extend the fibre network. A recent meeting with Trooli representatives provided an outline of the new network. Essentially this services parts of West Street, East Street, Lughorse Lane, Barn Hill, Redwall Lane and George Street. An indicative layout of the new network is provided below. The final connection to homes will be made via the current connection route to a house i.e. via overhead line or underground ducting.

Once connected, various packages can be offered for domestic and business users ranging from 100Mbps to 2000Mbps. Monthly charges will vary depending on the service speed selected.

If this is of interest, we recommend registering your interest for this service via the Trooli website if you live along the new routes or close by.



Edit: Since this report was written, Trooli have subsequently notified some residents that, while there were plans to extend the fibre network to their area on East Street, the rollout has experienced significant challenges with the network and infrastructure. The Trooli senior management team is unable to provide a confirmed date for these works to be completed. The residents have been informed that their current copper service will cease on 23rd October 2026.

Callflow – Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC). This system provides high speed broadband to a cabinet located at the bottom of Hunton Hill. The service then uses overhead copper cables to connect this cabinet to homes. This service will be directly affected by the January 2027 switch-off of 3rd party access to the copper network.

Current customers of Callflow can expect to be contacted by Trooli in the coming weeks/months to offer the option to switch to Trooli and upgrade to a full Fibre To The Property service (FTTP). Although a connection fee should not be expected, the improved service may see an increase in monthly subscriptions.

If Trooli nor BT Openreach can offer a fibre broadband option, there are a few more options available.

4G/5G mobile network connectivity. This uses existing mobile data networks to transmit a signal to transfer data. Although poor mobile phone signal may be an issue in parts of the village, it may still be adequate for home internet use as these systems boost the signal. There have been some encouraging reports from households who have adopted such a solution with speeds up to 300 Mbps. The system can be susceptible to fluctuations in the mobile signal strength.

The system requires an antenna to be located on a specific orientation on a house. Additional information on this system and a quote for installation and monthly subscriptions may be obtained from Broadband For Rural Kent (B4RK). Hunton Parish Council has commissioned a study of the mobile signal strength across the parish from several providers (see Appendix A). It is recommended that a final signal strength check is undertaken by the installation team prior to installation to determine the best service provider to connect to i.e. Vodafone, EE and O₂).

Note: It may be easier to see the graphics on the B4RK report at Appendix A by viewing it at www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk under Notices.

Starlink – satellite broadband. This system also requires an antenna to be purchased and installed which will then connect a household router to the Starlink satellite network. Initial equipment purchase costs have been known to fluctuate depending on any special offers. Installation can be carried out by the homeowner or a professional installer however the system will require orientation and avoid obstructions such as buildings and trees not to be within the antenna's reception 'cone'. Again, there have been some positive reports from some households within the village with speeds of 300-500 Mbps being achieved. Following the installation, a monthly subscription will also be charged. There has been some mixed feedback regarding the quality of after-sales care with this product.

Useful contacts

Company	Contact Details	Details
Trooli	https://www.trooli.com/	Currently installing fibre to the home systems in parts of Hunton.
B4RK (Broadband for Rural Kent)	https://b4rk.webflow.io/	Specialists in specification & installation of 4G/5G systems & Starlink.
BT Openreach	https://www.openreach.com/	Providers of ADSL and fibre broadband.
Warford Computers	Email: info@Warford-Computers.co.uk M: 07722 293187	Locally based computer services covering wifi infrastructure, hardware install/set-up and computer repairs.

Note

Please note that this information is provided for general informational purposes only. Hunton Parish Council accepts no liability and does not endorse or guarantee the services of any company mentioned.

Appendix A: Hunton Parish 4G/5G Coverage Survey

Scope

Survey and confirm the availability of 4G/5G broadband options throughout the parish of Hunton.

Areas to survey include:

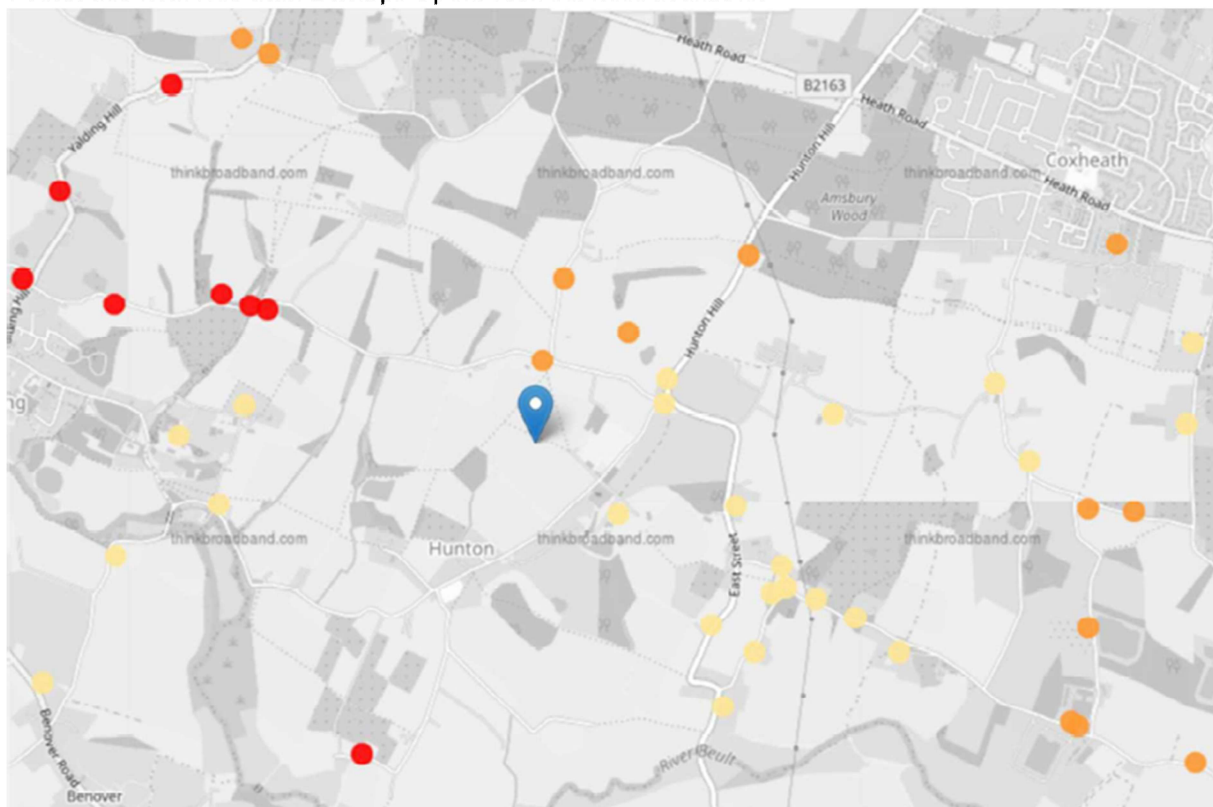
Barn Hill
Hunton Hill
Lughorse Lane
East Street
West Street
Bishops Lane
Water Lane

Survey conducted with telescopic pole and 5G antenna. Switching between O2, EE and Three SIM's.

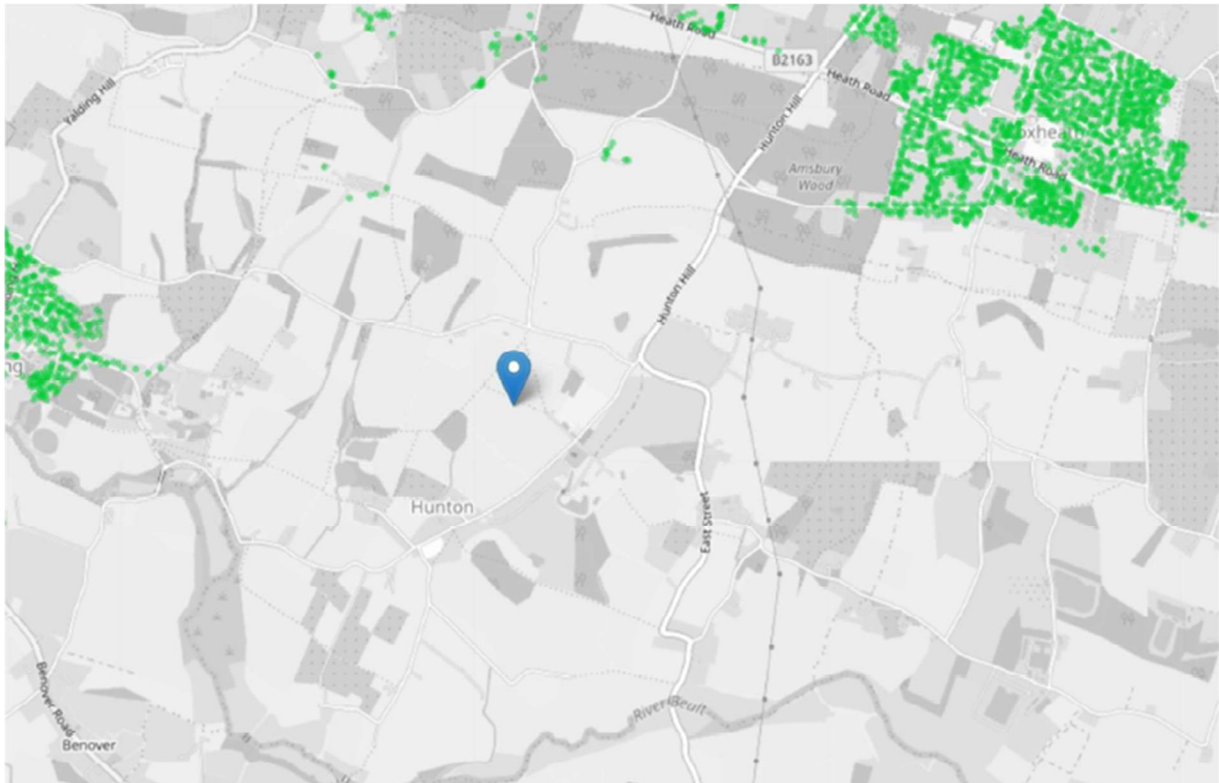
Basic mobile coverage on a phone and Cell Mapping using CellMapper with dual SIM O2 and EE handset.

Overview

Postcodes with less than 24Mbps Openreach services available.



Fibre to the premisses (FTTP) availability, just on the north edge of the parish. Existing FTTP is available on Foremans Barn Road, Hilltop Road and Shingleton Barn Lane.



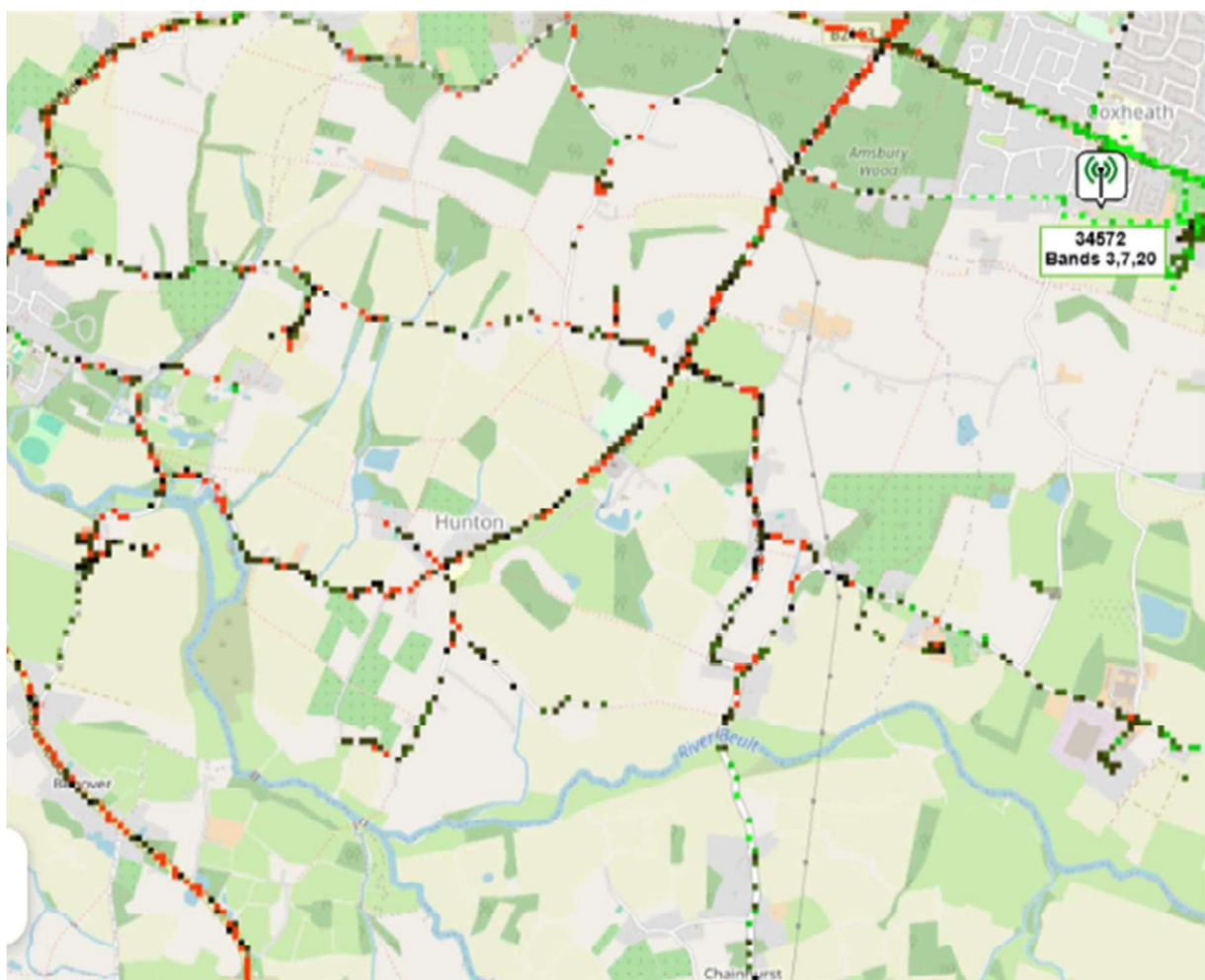
4G and 5G coverage

There is 4G and 5G coverage with in Hunton, however from masts outside the parish. This means that signal is low for mobile devices, especially if inside. However with a high-gain 4G or 5G antenna it is possible to get a good signal and superfast speeds on either O2 or EE depending on the location within the village.

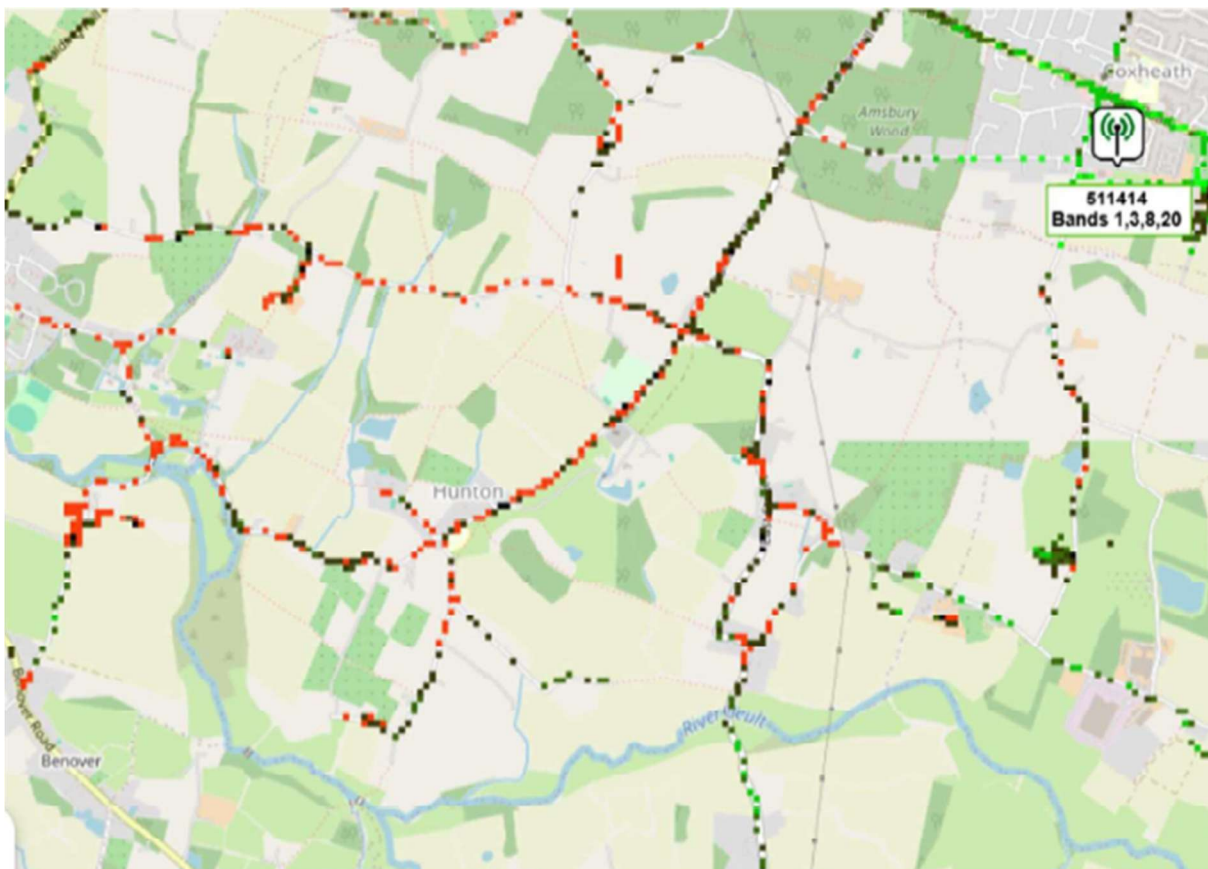
Generally speaking, the north of the village will see the O2 or EE mast to the south (Marden). The south of the village will see the O2 or EE mast on the water tower in Coxheath. Some location in the village may see the EE mast near Mereworth which is 4G only. O2 does not have a mast in the same location.

CellMapper EE coverage

Note this is signal on a mobile phone, so anywhere with a low signal could still be good with a high gain dish antenna.



CellMapper O2 coverage

**4G/5G speeds**

EE 4G = Typically between 140 - 220Mbps download and 40 - 70Mbps upload.

EE 5G = Typically between 150 - 350Mbps download and 50 - 100Mbps upload.

O2 4G = Typically 60 - 80Mbps download and 20 - 30Mbps upload.

O2 5G = Typically 300 – 550Mbps download and 40 – 100Mbps upload

Speeds are dependent on the 4G or 5G antenna installed, the network used, signal strength and quality.

Example O2 5G test from a customer on Barn Hill:-

Ping min/avg/max	21.2ms / 26.5ms / 56.8ms
Jitter min/avg/max	13us / 4.35ms / 33.4ms
Loss	0% (0/200)
TCP Download	553Mbps local-cpu-load:79%
TCP Upload	107Mbps local-cpu-load:36% remote-cpu-l

Example O2 5G test from a customer on East Street with a lower signal:-

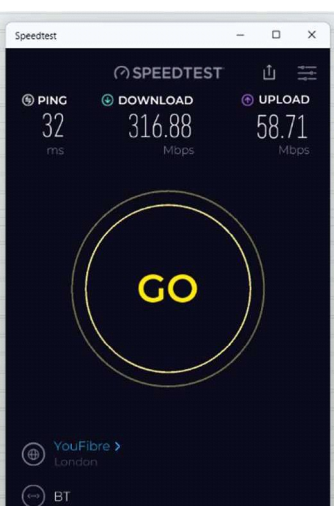
Ping min/avg/max	21.9ms / 33.7ms / 86.3ms
Jitter min/avg/max	13us / 8.84ms / 57.4ms
Loss	0% (0/200)
TCP Download	501Mbps local-cpu-load:74%
TCP Upload	35.4Mbps local-cpu-load:12% remote-cpu-load:10%

Example EE 4G test from a customer on Barn Hill with a low signal:-

Ping min/avg/max	19.8ms / 29.9ms / 42.3ms
Jitter min/avg/max	5us / 3.40ms / 20.3ms
Loss	0% (0/200)
TCP Download	95.4Mbps local-cpu-load:32%
TCP Upload	32.3Mbps local-cpu-load:26% remote-cpu-load:6%

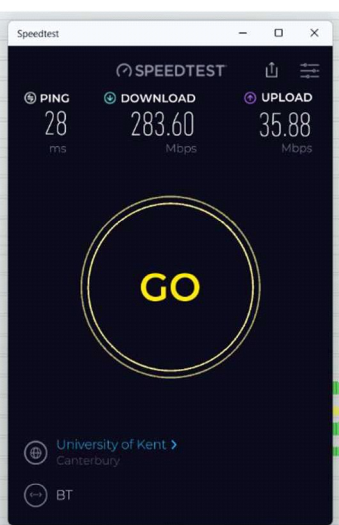
Example EE 5G test when surveying in Hunton, this test was from Water Lane:-

Current Operator	EE (EE)
Current Cell ID	8850437
eNB ID	34572
Sector ID	5
PHY Cell ID	351
Data Class	5G NSA
IMEI	869454050094167
IMSI	234301207084806
ICCID	8944304713424603250
Subscriber Number	00000000000
Primary Band	B3@20Mhz earfcn: 1815 phy-cellid: 351
CA Band	n28@10Mhz earfcn: 156510 phy-cellid: 938 B7@20Mhz earfcn: 3350 phy-cellid: 137 B3@20Mhz earfcn: 1817 phy-cellid: 352
Session Uptime	00:03:30
RSSI	-60 dBm
RSRP	-94 dBm
SINR	12 dB
RSRQ	-13.0 dB
CQI	15
RI	2
MCS	2
NR RSRP	-82 dBm
NR SINR	10 dB
NR RSRQ	-10.0 dB



Example EE 4G test when surveying in Hunton, this test was from East Street:-

Current Operator	EE (EE)
Current Cell ID	8850440
eNB ID	34572
Sector ID	8
PHY Cell ID	137
Data Class	LTE
IMEI	869454050094167
IMSI	234301207084806
ICCID	8944304713424603250
Subscriber Number	00000000000
Primary Band	B7@20Mhz earfcn: 3350 phy-cellid: 137
CA Band	B7@15Mhz earfcn: 3179 phy-cellid: 89 B3@20Mhz earfcn: 1817 phy-cellid: 352 B3@20Mhz earfcn: 1815 phy-cellid: 351
UL CA Band	B7@15Mhz earfcn: 3179 phy-cellid: 89
Session Uptime	00:01:54
RSSI	-63 dBm
RSRP	-91 dBm
SINR	22 dB
RSRQ	-8.0 dB
CQI	14
RI	2
MCS	1



Recommendations and options

Due to the nearest masts being outside of Hunton Parish a high-gain 4G or 5G antenna is required. Internal 4G/5G routers or low gain antenna will not be suitable for a fast and reliable service. Because there is 5G coverage from EE and O2 it makes sense to have a high-gain 5G antenna installed to take full advantage of the available signal/speed.

For residents on in the north of the village that have a good view to the O2 mast in Marden it may be best to use O2. For residents to the south of the village or with obstructions (trees or other buildings) that prevent a strong high band 5G signal from O2 it will be best to use EE.

The high-gain 5G antenna which is installed and supplied with a Wi-Fi 6 router is £599 including VAT. On O2 the monthly cost is £36 including VAT. On EE the monthly cost is £45 including VAT.

More information and to order a service:- <https://shop.b4rk.co.uk/products/fixed-access-5g?variant=55594968416635>

Starlink

Starlink is a good option where 4G/5G isn't possible. For example, if there is a building, trees or hill blocking the 4G/5G signal. However, Starlink requires a clear view of the sky, a 120 degree cone looking North West. Due to this view of the sky the Starlink dish needs to be installed clear/above nearby obstructions such as trees, buildings, chimney, TV aerial and satellite TV dish.

Starlink prices keep changing, not just the cost of the kit but also the monthly cost. When the monthly price changes this often changes for all existing customers and this can go up as well as down. Recently Starlink increased the monthly cost by £5 and then again by £10 after adding a hardware rental cost. They are now providing the dish and router for free. Although this is self-installation or £150 for installation and £19 for delivery. Starlink with a 200Mbps download speed is £60/m + £10 hardware rental fee = £70 per month.

Order Residential

No contracts. Ships in 2-4 weeks.

Fast, reliable internet available at:
Barn Hill, Maidstone ME15, UK

100 Mbps £40/mo
200 Mbps £60/mo
Max £80/mo

Fast, reliable internet service for everyday home use with speeds up to 200 Mbps.

SERVICE

Residential 200 Mbps £60/mo

HARDWARE

Standard 4 + Professional Installation

If you cancel service, you will have to return your Starlink hardware rental.

Upfront Hardware Cost £0

Monthly Kit Fee £10/mo

Order Summary

Recurring Monthly Payment

Residential 200 Mbps £60/mo*
Hardware Rental £10/mo*

* First month of service is charged upon activation or 7 days after delivery, whichever comes first.

One-Time Payment

Rental Kit (Standard 4) £0
Shipping & Handling - Standard £19

Total Due Today £19

Estimated tax inclusive total price. Total due today may adjust after providing your address.

Apple Pay PayPal

Checkout

Frequently Asked Questions

Call Starlink Sales at +44 800 296 2722
When does my order ship?
How can I pay off or finance my Starlink kit over time?
Existing Starlink customers sign in here
Contact Support