

Using Wi-Fi calling on your mobile phone

Phone calls made from mobiles traditionally use the network of masts you see dotted around the countryside and throughout cities.

However, as you'll have discovered in North Devon, the reception can often be patchy, especially in rural areas or deep inside buildings.

That's where Wi-Fi calling comes in.

So what is Wi-Fi calling?

Quite simply, Wi-Fi calling allows you to make phone calls and send text messages over wireless internet networks rather than over the 3G or 4G mobile internet connection that you normally use that is generated by mobile phone masts.

All sorts of Wi-Fi networks are compatible with the service. That includes the one you pay for at home, as well as public ones in coffee shops, airports and train stations.

If you are somewhere without mobile reception but with Wi-Fi, such as at Martinhoe Cleave Cottages, you only need to connect your smartphone to the network to make a call. It's that simple.

Which networks offer Wi-Fi calling?

Not all smartphones can make calls over Wi-Fi. UK carriers that offer Wi-Fi calling in some form are EE, Vodafone, Three and O2.

Vodafone



Wi-Fi calling is easy on Vodafone, but you need to follow specific instructions to get it to work. Vodafone has a dedicated page to explain how to set it up. Click [here](#) for details

Vodafone offers this service to pay monthly customers with an iPhone 7, iPhone 7 Plus, iPhone 6s, iPhone 6s Plus or iPhone SE.

Pay monthly customers with a Samsung Galaxy A5 (2016), S6, S6 Edge, S7 or S7 Edge can also access Wi-Fi calling, but only if the phone was bought directly from Vodafone.

EE



EE's Wi-Fi calling service works for pay monthly customers on a wide range of handsets from the likes of Apple, Samsung and LG.

EE also offers the service for pay as you go customers with a Harrier Mini or Microsoft Lumia 550.

There is a comprehensive guide on EE's website, which can be accessed [here](#) with easy to follow steps to setting the service up.

Three



Three has recently rolled out app-free Wi-Fi calling, allowing users of its network to make and take calls whenever they're in a place that has no phone signal.

It currently works with Samsung's Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge, LG's G5's and iPhones including the 5c, 5s, 6, 6s and 7. Three has promised that the Galaxy S7 and S7 Edge will be compatible with Three's Wi-Fi calling soon. Full details can be found on the Three Website, which can be accessed [here](#).

O2



O2 pay monthly customers can use Wi-Fi calling provided they have an iPhone with iOS 8 or higher, or an Android phone with Android 4.0 or higher.

To use Wi-Fi calling on O2, you'll need to download the TU Go app. Full details can be found on the O2 website [here](#).