

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.

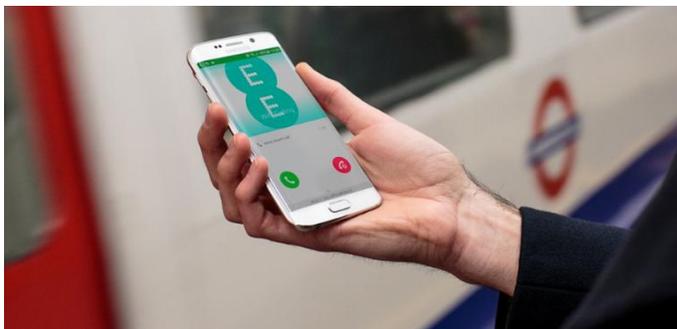
All sorts of Wi-Fi networks are compatible with the service. That includes the one you pay for at home, as well as public ones in coffee shops, airports and train stations.

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.

EE



EE offers true Wi-Fi Calling, which is to say there aren't any separate apps or accounts involved, instead calls and texts will come through via your standard dialler and SMS apps, they'll just use Wi-Fi to do so if you're connected to a Wi-Fi network.

That makes it a seamless experience, which is a big bonus and calls and texts will come out of your normal monthly allowance.

The only downside to EE's Wi-Fi Calling is that it's not available on all devices, but it is available on a large and ever growing selection of handsets, including the Samsung Galaxy S8, Huawei P10, iPhone X, iPhone 8, Samsung Galaxy 7, Sony Xperia XZ1 and many more. It also works on phones not bought from EE direct, but the network can't guarantee it'll work with all phones so check the list linked to below.

Find out more about EE Wi-Fi calling [here](#)

Vodafone



Vodafone's Wi-Fi Calling service is similar to EE's, in that it works seamlessly without the need for a separate app. You simply need to have a compatible handset on a Vodafone Red Extra, Red Entertainment, Red, Red Value or Red+ tariff and then to enable Wi-Fi Calling in the phone's settings. Once that's done you'll be able to call and text as normal, but over Wi-Fi when available.

Vodafone Wi-Fi Calling is available on the iPhone X, iPhone 8, Samsung Galaxy S8, Samsung Galaxy Note 8, Huawei P10 and Sony Xperia XZ Premium among many other devices.

Find out more about Vodafone Wi-Fi calling [here](#)

Vodafone also has another trick up its sleeve called Call+, which is an additional service that works in combination with Wi-Fi Calling (or standard calls if you have a mobile data connection). It allows you to mark your call as important, type a subject or reason for the call, add your current location and even add a photo.

So the person you're calling has far more information available before you even start talking. You can also switch to a video call mid conversation and once the call is done you can access any messages, photos or videos that were shared during the call directly from the call logs. If the person you're calling doesn't answer you can also leave a note or voice message for them.

This service requires the Vodafone Call+ app, which is available on both Android and iOS. But once you've got the app it too is fairly seamless

Three



Three also offers true, app-free Wi-Fi Calling.

On Android it works automatically while those iOS will need to activate Wi-Fi Calling in their phone's settings screen. Currently it's available for all iPhones running iOS 6 or later, Samsung Galaxy S8, S8 Plus, Note 8, S7, S7 Edge, S6, S6 Edge, A3 2016, A5 2017, J3 2017, LG G6 and LG G5. You will need to have purchased your from Three as it needs firmware pre-loaded to support WiFi calling.

If your phone isn't supported or not bought directly from Three you're not out of luck, as Three also takes an app-driven approach to Wi-Fi Calling with its inTouch app. While this does require a separate app you don't need an account or password, just a smartphone on Three.

Minutes and texts will come out of your standard credit, so there are no extra charges either and it works on most Android phones running Android 4.0 or above and most iPhones running iOS 6 or higher.

Find out more about Three Wi-Fi calling [here](#)

O2



O2 was the last major network to launch a Wi-Fi Calling service, and it's currently a bit limited, as you can only use it on an iPhone X, iPhone 8, iPhone 8 Plus, iPhone 7, iPhone 7 Plus, iPhone 6S, iPhone 6S Plus, iPhone 6, iPhone 6 Plus, iPhone SE, Samsung Galaxy S8, S8 Plus, Note 8, S7, S7 Edge, J5 2017, J3 2017, Sony Xperia XZ Premium, Xperia XZ1 or Xperia XZ1 Compact – all of which have to have been purchased direct from O2.

If you have a supported handset you should get a software update to enable Wi-Fi Calling, after which it will work automatically whenever you're on a Wi-Fi network - though in some cases you may need to enable it through your My O2 account and in your device's settings first.

O2 used to also offer an app-driven Wi-Fi Calling service called TU Go, which was an alternative for anyone without a compatible handset, however this has now been discontinued.

Find out more about O2 Wi-Fi calling [here](#)

Other Apps

Third party apps such as WhatsApp and Skype are great alternatives for making Wifi Calls and sending messages. Find out more at about WhatsApp [here](#) and Skype [here](#)