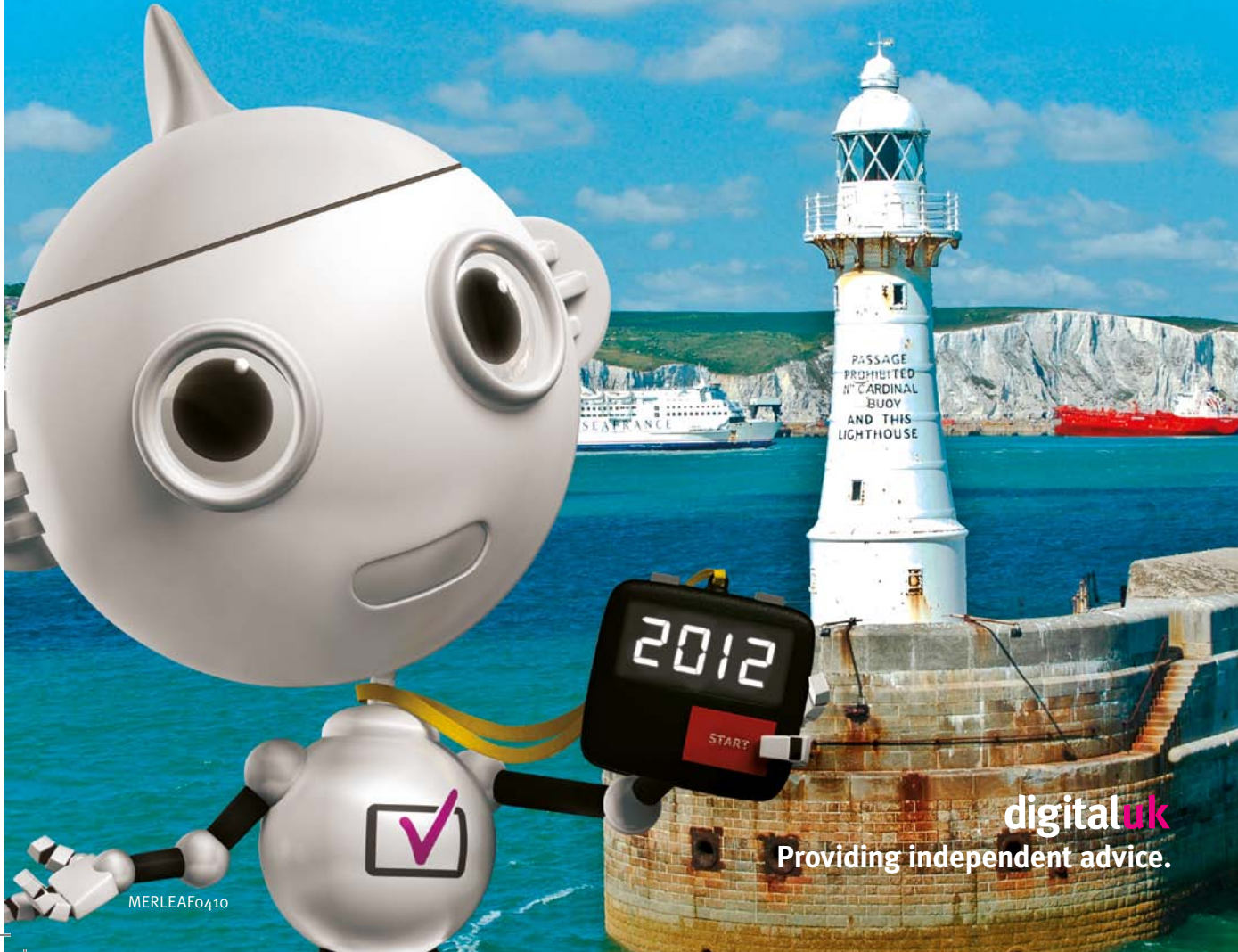




The Meridian TV region switches to digital in 2012

The Meridian TV region switches to digital in 2012



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What is the digital TV switchover?

TV across the UK and the rest of the world is going digital. The existing analogue TV signal will be switched off and replaced with a new, stronger digital TV signal.

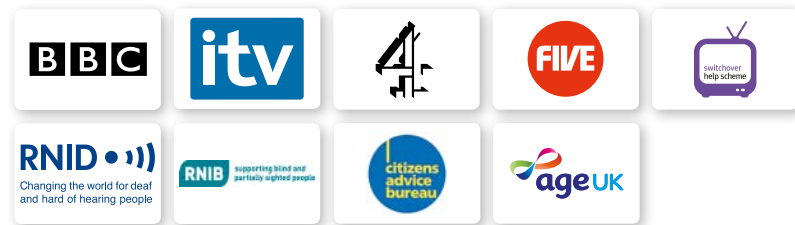
Why is it happening?

Switchover is happening so that Freeview services (digital TV through an aerial) can be extended to people who can't currently get them.

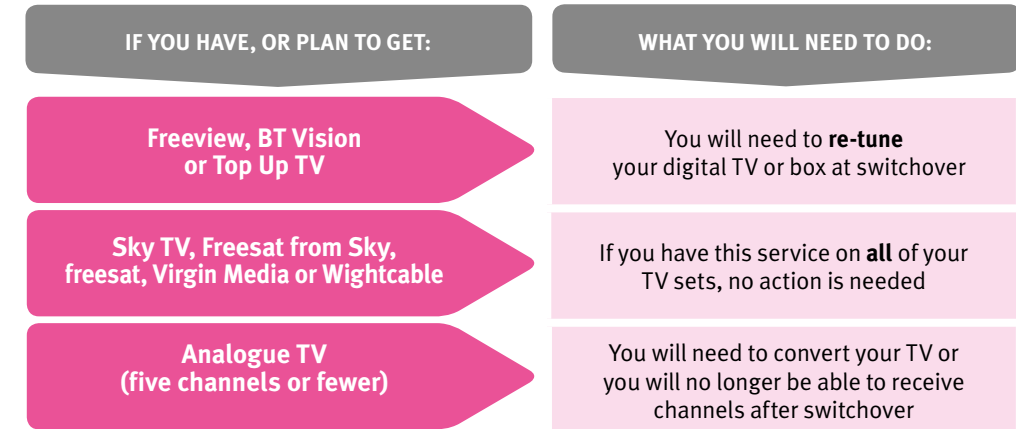
Where can I get impartial advice?

Just contact us at Digital UK. We are the **not-for-profit** organisation responsible for leading the UK digital TV switchover. We're independent, which means that all the advice and information we give is unbiased.

We are not working alone. Our partners are:



What do I need to do next?



What is the Switchover Help Scheme?

The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the **BBC**, under an agreement with the Government to help older and disabled people make the switch to digital TV.

For further information, see [page 10](#).



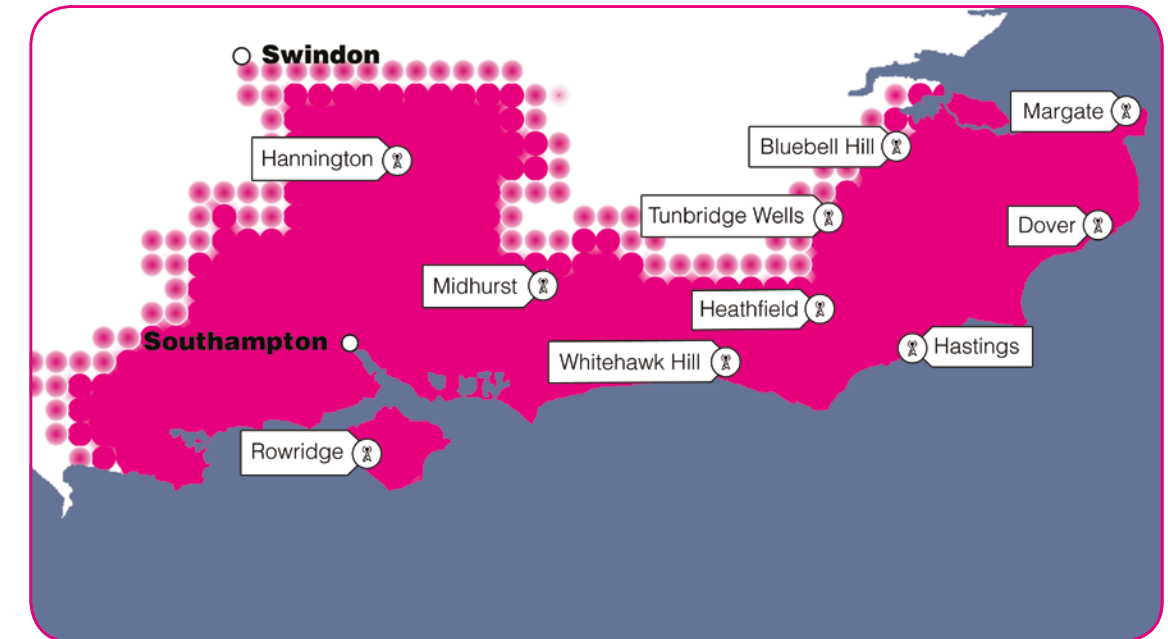
When do I switch?

The TV signal in the Meridian TV region is provided by ten transmitter groups, each made up of a main transmitter and its local relays.

TRANSMITTER GROUP (including relay transmitters)	AREA SERVING	SWITCHOVER STARTS
Bluebell Hill	North and mid Kent	2012
Dover	South and East Kent	2012
Hannington	Parts of Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey	2012
Hastings	The Hastings area	2012
Heathfield	East Sussex	2012
Margate	The Margate area	2012
Midhurst	Much of West Sussex	2012
Rowridge	Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Parts of Dorset and West Sussex	2012
Tunbridge Wells	The Tunbridge Wells area	2012
Whitehawk Hill	The Brighton area	2012

Please note: the old analogue channels will be switched off in two stages, households will receive a leaflet with more detailed information on switchover nearer the time.

Transmitter groups in the Meridian TV region



To find out which transmitter group you are likely to receive your TV signal from, visit our postcode checker† at digitaluk.co.uk or call us on 08456 50 50 50*.









What are my options?

All the options available in the Meridian TV region are listed in the table below. To find out which are available where you live, visit our postcode checker at digitaluk.co.uk or call the service provider directly.



**ONE-OFF
PAYMENT**

**MONTHLY
SUBSCRIPTION**

PROVIDER ¹	COST ²	CHANNELS	CONTACT DETAILS
	Digital boxes from £25 ³ . Digital TVs from £150. Self-installation.	Number of channels will vary depending on where you live. See page 7.	www.freeview.co.uk
	£175 including mini dish, viewing card, standard Sky box & installation.	More than 240 digital TV channels.	08442 410 595 www.freesatfromsky.co.uk
	Digital boxes from £50. Installation (if required) costs from £80.	Over 140 digital TV and radio channels.	08453 130 053 www.freesat.co.uk
	From £18.00 – £48.50 a month depending on package. Installation costs from £30.	Up to 160 digital TV channels plus 240 free-to-air channels.	08442 410 285 www.sky.com
	From £5.50 – £21.50 a month when you take a Virgin phone line (£11). Installation £35.	Up to 160 digital TV channels. Plus access to on demand TV, films and music videos.	08000 522 525 www.virginmedia.com
	From £6.99 a month or pay-per-view from 39p ⁴ , BT broadband required ⁴ . No connection fee.	Freeview channels plus on demand TV, films and sport.	08006 781 984 www.bt.com/vision
	Top Up TV Recorder from £39.99 required. From £7 a month for sports, entertainment or movie packs. No installation costs or contract required. ³	Freeview channels plus on demand TV, films and sport.	08442 125 050 www.topuptv.com
	From £10 – £50 a month depending on package. Installation costs from £30.	More than 150 digital TV channels.	08007 851 000 www.wightcable.com

¹ Some of these service providers are unable to offer 100% UK coverage. For full terms and conditions and to check availability in your area, please contact each supplier directly. ²Costs are correct at time of printing, May 2010. Cost details are standard pricing, other offers or packages may be available.

³Aerial upgrade may be required. ⁴Minimum guaranteed line speed required.

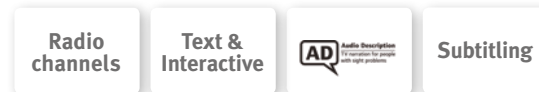
What channels and services will I get?

With digital TV, you can enjoy the five traditional TV channels, plus lots more. All viewers who receive Freeview services will get around 15 channels with most receiving around 40 channels depending on where they live. You'll be able to receive radio channels directly through your TV and some equipment will also provide audio description for people with sight impairments.

If you choose a Freeview service you'll receive the following channels as standard:

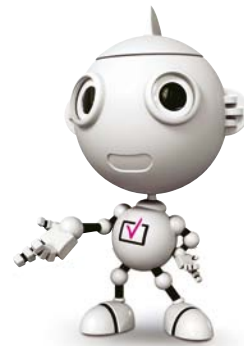


Plus:



Channels are subject to change.

If you'd like a greater choice of channels, you should consider freesat or Freesat from Sky, or subscribe to a service like Sky TV, Virgin Media, BT Vision, Top Up TV¹ or Wightcable.



Your questions answered

Do I need to get a new TV?

No, you don't need to get a new TV as almost any TV can be converted, even a black and white one. Most digital boxes connect to a TV using a SCART cable. If your TV doesn't have a SCART socket, you will need to ask for a digital box with a built-in 'RF modulator'.

If you decide to get new equipment

Look for TV sets, digital boxes and digital TV recorders that carry the 'digital tick' logo. It means they are designed to continue working after the switchover.

The logo looks like this:



Will my video or DVD recorder still work?

Your video will still play back and record but you won't be able to record one channel while you watch another. The same is true for your DVD recorder unless it has Freeview built-in. The simplest way to resolve this is to get a digital TV recorder such as Sky+, V+, freesat+ or Freeview+. A digital TV recorder with a 'twin tuner' will also convert your TV.

Will I need a new aerial?

Most existing rooftop aerials are able to receive digital TV services like Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision. If you have good reception now, you are unlikely to need to replace your existing rooftop aerial. However, some set-top aerials are unsuitable for digital TV and may need to be replaced.

Will I need to change my radio at the same time?

No, the digital switchover relates to TV only.

Any questions? Please call us on 08456 50 50 50 or visit digitaluk.co.uk

What do I do if I live in a conservation area or listed building?

Special restrictions apply to aerials and satellite dishes on listed buildings in conservation areas and national parks. Please visit digitaluk.co.uk/propertymanagers for more information.

What if I live in a flat?

If you live in a flat, it is likely you receive your TV signal via a communal aerial system. If so, you need to talk to the person who manages your property as they may need to upgrade or replace your building's communal TV aerial so you can receive a signal in your home. For more information visit digitaluk.co.uk/sharedaerial

What if I need this information in an alternative format?

- If you need this information in large print, audio, Braille, or another language, please call **08456 50 50 50***.
- If you have a hearing or speech impediment, you can contact our textphone service on **0845 234 0380***.

Any questions? Please call us on **08456 50 50 50*** or visit digitaluk.co.uk

What does the Switchover Help Scheme do?

The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC and provides older and disabled people with everything they need to switch one TV to digital.

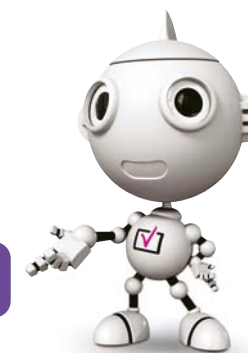
The standard offer includes:

- Easy-to-use equipment.
- Installation by an approved installer.
- A 12 month aftercare service.

There is an all inclusive cost of **£40** for the standard offer, or for eligible people on certain income-related benefits, it's **free**.

The Help Scheme can help everyone who:

- Is aged 75 or over, **or**
- Has lived in a care home for six months or more, **or**
- Gets (or could get) certain disability benefits, **or**
- Is registered blind or partially sighted.



For more information, please visit helpscheme.co.uk



The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC.

