

SKYWAVES

Produced by the British FM & TV Circle

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DX News, Loggings and
Information for FM & TV
DXers



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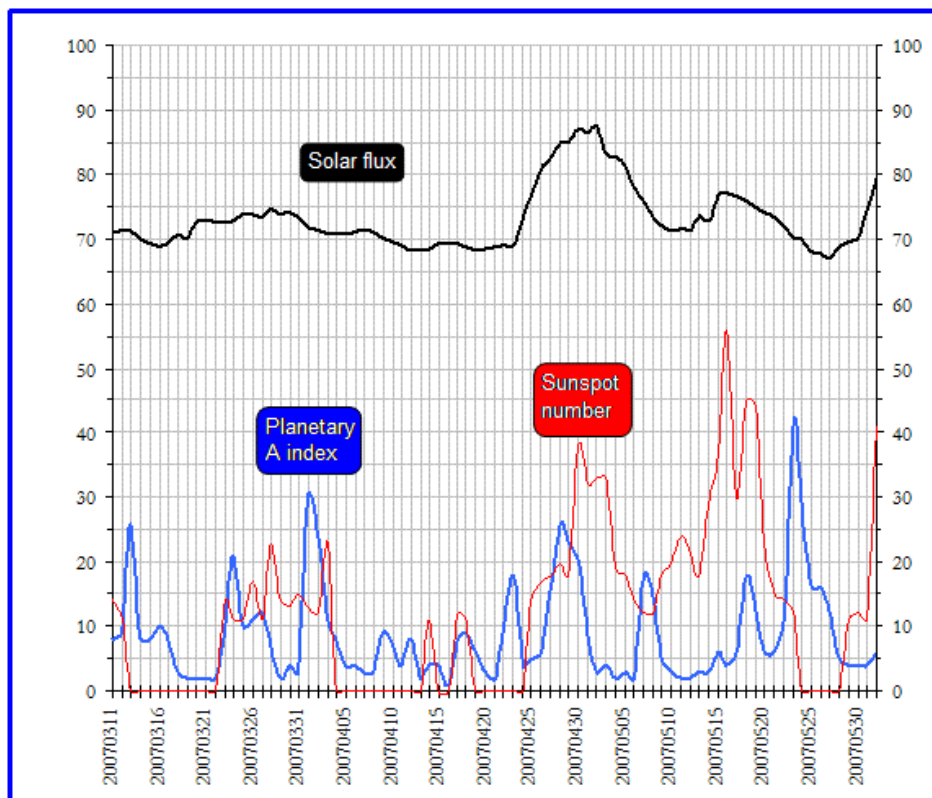
Hello and welcome to Skywaves 120.

Welcome to summer ... well April was sunny & hot, then May was wet and sometimes cold ... but the Sporadic E has made its seasonal appearance, and we're now into June (just), and looking forward to lots of extreme propagation.

There have been some reorganisation of Skywaves in the past few months, with various club offices being reallocated or deleted. And again comes the plea for "more help needed!" ... editing sections ... submitting news items and logs ... even just writing about your equipment setup, or a day's dxing experience.

The Online Logbook on the Skywaves website is there for you to easily enter your FM and TV logs. Lynton will also batch upload a suitable CSV or tab separated variable text file into the database. It's this online logbook that I retrieve and use for the Skywaves ezine, and which then progresses to the All Time Log. So the more contributions we make, the more useful the Logbook is, and the more complete the All Time Log is.

A reminder too that the Skywaves chatroom is currently running on the Skywaves website, there's a link on the main page for the webchat, and it seems to be running satisfactorily at the moment.



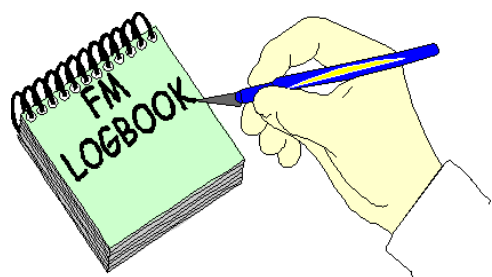
Solar Chart courtesy of
Jan Alvestad
DX Listeners Club
Norway
www.dxl.com



Edited by –

VACANCY

Deadline – 1st of every month



Edited by – Mark Hattam

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Standard Deadline – 1st of every month

Ionospheric logbook

FREQ	TIME	DATE	ITU	STATION		RDS CODE	SIGNAL	M	RP
87.6	1532	03/01	S	SR 1, Unknown. Talking	E201	SR_P1___	good	E	WK
87.6	1502	02/05	TUN	Radio Tataouine, Zarzis. Music and Talking	7205	TATAOUIN	v strong	E	WK

Meteor Scatter logbook

FREQ	TIME	DATE	ITU	STATION		RDS CODE	SIGNAL	M	RP
87.6	2213	22/04	CZE	Radio Impuls, Brno. Music	2203	_IMPULS_	v strong	M	WK
87.9	0813	01/01	F	France Inter, Pic du Midi. Talking	F201	__INTER_	v strong	M	WK
94.9	0347	30/03	I	RAI 1, Udine-Baldasseria. Talking	5201		fair	M	WK
99.8	0156	19/03	?	Unknown. Music	A9DF		strong	M	WK
99.8	1412	13/01	F	France Inter, Metz. Talking	F201		fair	M	WK
99.8	1558	23/02	F	France Inter, Metz. Talking	F201	__INTER_	v strong	M	WK
99.8	1922	25/02	F	France Inter, Metz. Talking	F201		fair	M	WK
99.8	1437	26/02	F	France Culture, Perpignan. Talking	F202	_CULTURE	strong	M	WK
99.8	0217	21/03	F	France Inter, Metz. Talking	F201	__INTER_	strong	M	WK
99.8	1827	21/02	I	RAI 3, Udine-Baldasseria. Talking	5203	RADIO3__	v strong	M	WK

Tropospheric logbook

FREQ	TIME	DATE	ITU	STATION		RDS CODE	SIGNAL	M	RP
87.7	2104	01/05	D	NDR Info, Flensburg-Engelsby. Music and Talking	D384	NDR_Info	strong	T	WK
87.7	2220	02/05	D	NDR Info, Flensburg-Engelsby. Talking	D384	NDR_Info	fair	T	WK
87.7	1855	03/05	HOL	CAZI, Lelystad. Pop Music	83D2		strong	T	WK
87.9	1001	03/02	HOL	Omroep Zeeland, Goes. Talking	841B		weak	T	WK
88.0	1756	03/05	HOL	Radio 2, Smilde. Talking	8202	RADIO_2_	strong	T	WK
88.0	1756	04/05	HOL	Radio 2, Smilde. Talking	8202		fair	T	WK
90.7	2026	02/05	HOL	Jazz FM, Lopik. Music	82A8	JAZZ_FM_	v good	T	WK
91.8	2013	02/05	HOL	Radio 1, Smilde. Talking	8201	RADIO_1_	strong	T	WK
91.8	1754	03/05	HOL	Radio 1, Smilde. Talking	8201	RADIO_1_	strong	T	WK
92.0	0934	11/03	F	France Musique, Rouen. Talking	F203	MUSIQUE_	strong	T	WK
92.0	1521	13/04	F	France Musique, Rouen. Classical Music	F203	MUSIQUE_	good	T	WK
92.2	2015	02/05	HOL	Omrop Fryslan, Smilde. Music	8411		strong	T	WK
94.3	2017	02/05	HOL	Radio 4, Lopik. Music	8204	RADIO4NL	strong	T	WK
94.8	2118	02/05	HOL	Radio 4, Smilde. Classical Music	8204	RADIO4NL	strong	T	WK
95.0	1900	03/05	HOL	Radio 1, Wieringermeer. Talking	8201		qrm	T	WK
96.6	2129	02/05	HOL	Radio NL, Leeuwarden. Music and Talking	8421		fair	T	WK
96.8	2021	02/05	HOL	3 FM, Lopik. Talking	8203	__3FM__	strong	T	WK
101.0	2131	02/05	HOL	Sky Radio, Smilde. Pop Music	83C6	SKYRADIO	qrm	T	WK

WHO USED WHAT

WK William F Kitching Telford, Shropshire

Pioneer F737, Kenwood KTF 3010, 8 element horizontal Triax and 5 element Vertical. Conrads and DOS RDS software.

FM & Digital News Desk

Edited by – Mark Hattam

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Standard Deadline – 1st of every month

UNITED KINGDOM

Ofcom awards six new community radio licences

Ofcom today (11 May 2007) announces the award of six new community radio licences.

Community radio is a new tier of radio which complements the mix of services already provided by the BBC and commercial radio sectors. Community radio services cover a small geographical area and are provided on a not-for-profit basis focusing on the delivery of specific social benefits to enrich a particular geographical community or a community of interest.

Ofcom has awarded community radio licences in the following areas:

- Inverness
- Isle of Bute
- North and South Queensferry
- Dumfries
- Bangor (Northern Ireland)
- Enniskillen

The new community radio licensees in each of these areas are:

Ness FM (Inverness)

Contact: Mike Gilmour, Lismore, Rosehaugh, Avoch, Ross-shire, Scotland, IV9 8RF

Tel: 01381 620655 or 07815 416957

E-mail: gilmourmike@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.nessfm.org

Ness FM will provide Inverness with a local voice and a platform for local culture and the arts. Access to the station will be open to local residents, and programming will be governed largely by local market research to reflect the unique nature of the Highland Capital.

Bute FM (Isle of Bute)

Contact: Iain Donald, ButeLive, Macbeth & Maclagan, 34 Castle Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 9HD. Tel: 01700 504673

E-mail: butefm@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.butefm.org.uk

Bute FM will provide a community-focussed station devoted to the people of Bute. It will include a varied mix of music styles and genres together with local news and views, up-to-the minute travel information and other items of local interest.

Jubilee FM (North and South Queensferry)

Contact: Charles Fletcher MBE, 17 Carlingnose Point, North Queensferry, Fife, KY11 1ER. Tel: 0131 331 3325 or 07774 405279.

E-mail: jfm@jubileefm.co.uk Website: www.jubileefm.co.uk

Jubilee FM will serve the community of North and South Queensferry, twin towns on either side of the River Forth. The service will offer local news, local views, music and entertainment.

Alive Radio (Dumfries)

Contact: Ian Faulds, 2 Norfolk Terrace, Glencaple Road, Dumfries DG1 4AR

Tel: 01387 270294 or 07910 124483

E-mail: mail@aliveradio.net Website: www.aliveradio.net

Alive Radio will provide a community service with a Christian ethos for the Dumfries area.

Star FM (Bangor, Northern Ireland)

Contact: Liane Radcliffe, South Eastern Regional College, Castle Park Road, Bangor, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, BT20 4TF.

Tel: 02891 276710 or 07817 425533

E-mail: lradcliffe@ndai.ac.uk Website: n/a

Star FM will broadcast a service reflecting the area's rich local heritage and arts activities. The provision of training opportunities will be central to the ethos of the station and programming will include a diverse range of music and speech-based output.

Vibe FM (Enniskillen)

Contact: Neil Wylie, Vibe FM Community Radio Limited, Intec Centre, East Bridge Street, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, BT74 7BT

Tel: 02866 343944 or 07782 561217

E-mail: manager@viberadio.fm Website: www.viberadio.fm

Vibe FM will provide a service for the Enniskillen area, focusing on the interests and needs of young people. The station will provide media training, and broadcast programming relevant to the local community including a diverse range of music genres and participatory speech-based output.

Licences are awarded for a five-year period.

A statement setting out the main determining factors for the award of the six community radio licences set out above will be available shortly from the Ofcom website.

In addition to the licence awards detailed above, Ofcom considered two further applications, but has decided not to award a licence to the following groups:

- Highland Christian Radio, Inverness
- Radio North Isles, Orkney

Ofcom advertises new local digital radio multiplex licence for Oxfordshire

Ofcom today (9 May 2007) advertises a new local Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) radio multiplex licence to cover Oxfordshire.

This advertisement is one of a number of new local radio multiplex licences planned to develop DAB coverage for local services in those parts of the country not already served. This licensing process will lead to a significant expansion in digital radio services throughout the UK.

Ofcom estimates that this licence could achieve coverage of an area with an adult (aged 15+) population of around 494,000. The exact coverage will be determined by the location of the successful applicant's transmission sites and other technical characteristics.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 3.00pm on 7 August 2007. A non-refundable fee of £5,000 will be payable for each application submitted.

This local radio multiplex will include capacity reserved for the transmission in digital form of BBC Radio Oxford.

The licence will be issued for a twelve-year period. All applications for this licence will be published on the Ofcom website as soon as possible after the closing date.

The full details for this licence, including the guidelines and procedures for the submission of applications, can be obtained from the Ofcom website at: <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radio/ifi/rbl/dcr/adverts/oxfordshire/>

Ofcom awards new FM commercial radio licence for South Wales

Ofcom today (8 May 2007) announces the award of the new FM local commercial radio licence for South Wales.

By the closing date of 12 December 2006, Ofcom received eight applications for the South Wales licence. After giving careful consideration to each of the applications submitted, the Ofcom Radio Licensing Committee has decided to award the licence to:

XFM South Wales Limited, 30 Leicester Square, London, WC2H 7LA

Contact: Nick Davidson, Tel: 0161 662 4764

Email: nick.davidson@xfm.co.uk

XFM South Wales Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GCap Media plc. XFM South Wales will provide "an alternative format playing generally guitar-led, modern and classic music created by artists who challenge mainstream pop aesthetics".

The licence is for a service to cover South Wales, which has an adult population (aged 15+) of around 950,000. However, the exact coverage will be determined by the location of the transmission sites and other technical characteristics.

Ofcom expects XFM South Wales Limited to begin broadcasting at the earliest opportunity, and no later than two years from this award date.

Ofcom will publish a statement setting out the key determining factors for the award of this licence shortly.

The licence will be issued for a twelve-year period.

Ofcom research into illegal broadcasting in the UK

Ofcom today (19 April 2007) published detailed research into illegal broadcasting or so-called pirate radio in the UK. The report examines levels of listening to illegal stations in Greater London, in particular the boroughs of Hackney, Haringey and Lambeth. The report also measures consumer awareness of interference to safety-of-life services and licensed broadcasters caused by illegal broadcasting.

Interference

The research found that 30% of all UK radio listeners say they have experienced some form of interference to their service. Of those, 14% believe the interference was caused by illegal broadcasters. In London, these figures rise to 40% and 27% respectively. Almost two-thirds (64%) of all UK radio listeners turn off their radios or switch to a different station when they encounter interference. Some 2% of listeners who experience radio interference say they complain about it. This figure increases to 8% when listeners believe the interference is caused by illegal broadcasters.

The research found that six out of ten London adults surveyed were concerned when told that illegal broadcasting can cause interference and disruption to the communication systems used by safety-of-life services.

Listening

However, the report also shows that some illegal stations attract a substantial audience, with 16% of adults in Greater London regularly listening to them. Ofcom's research shows that 25% of adults in Hackney, Haringey and Lambeth regularly tune in. Some 62% of listeners in these boroughs say that illegal broadcasters offer something different from licensed commercial radio and 40% say that illegal radio is community focused.

Under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006, it is illegal to broadcast without a licence and under the Communications Act 2003, Ofcom is responsible for keeping spectrum free from interference. Ofcom takes illegal stations off the air by raiding studios and seizing and disconnecting transmitters and aerials. In 2006, Ofcom carried out 1,085 such operations and some 63 people were convicted of offences related to illegal broadcasting.

Illegal broadcasters transmit in the FM band. These broadcasts cause interference to the communications systems of the safety-of-life services, including the fire brigade and air traffic control, as well as legitimate licensed radio stations, such as commercial and BBC radio. There are also links between some illegal broadcasters and wider crime; Ofcom raids on studios used by illegal broadcasters have uncovered drugs and weapons.

Other key findings from today's report include:

- listeners to illegal broadcasters are made up of all age and social groups; however, 15-to-24 year-olds and C1C2 socio-economic groups are most likely to tune in;
- of those listening in Hackney, Haringey and Lambeth, 55% are male and 45% are female;
- listeners to illegal broadcasters in these three boroughs are from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, with black listeners making up 49% of the group;
- overall, the music content of illegal stations is the main motivator for listening in London; and
- nearly a quarter (24%) of people who listen to illegal stations in Hackney, Haringey and Lambeth do so because they broadcast in languages other than English.

In addition to continuing its programme of enforcement action against illegal broadcasters, Ofcom plans to consult on new ways to tackle the problem later in the year; today's research will help to inform the process.

Ofcom Chief Executive Ed Richards said: 'Ofcom's field force team works very hard to keep the radio spectrum free from interference for licensed users. However, we recognise that there is demand for content provided by illegal broadcasters in some areas of the country. This research will help shape our thinking on how to tackle this serious issue in the future.'

Ofcom advertises new local digital radio multiplex licence for Northamptonshire

Ofcom today (4 April 2007) advertises a new local Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) radio multiplex licence to cover Northamptonshire.

This advertisement is one of a number of new local radio multiplex licences planned to develop DAB coverage for local services in those parts of the country not already served. This licensing process will lead to a significant expansion in digital radio services throughout the UK.

Ofcom estimates that this licence could achieve coverage of an area with an adult (aged 15+) population of around 500,000. The exact coverage will be determined by the location of the successful applicant's transmission sites and other technical characteristics.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 3.00pm on 3 July 2007. A non-refundable fee of £5,000 will be payable for each application submitted.

This local radio multiplex will include capacity reserved for the transmission in digital form of BBC Radio Northampton.

The licence will be issued for a twelve-year period. All applications for this licence will be published on the Ofcom website as soon as possible after the closing date.

The full details for this licence, including the guidelines and procedures for the submission of applications, can be obtained from the Ofcom website at: <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radio/ifi/rbl/dcr/adverts/north/>

Ofcom awards seven new community radio licences

Ofcom today (13 March 2007) announces the award of seven new community radio licences.

Community radio is a new tier of radio which complements the mix of services already provided by the BBC and commercial radio sectors. Community radio services cover a small geographical area and are provided on a not-for-profit basis focusing on the delivery of specific social benefits to enrich a particular geographical community or a community of interest.

Ofcom has awarded community radio licences in the following areas:

- Bristol
- Glastonbury, Somerset
- Exeter, Devon
- Swindon, Wiltshire
- Poole, Dorset (two licences)
- Barry, Vale of Glamorgan

The new community radio licensees in each of these areas are:

Ujima Radio (St Paulis and Easton, Bristol)

Contact: Solomon Fubara, CEED, 97-107 Wilder Street, St Paulis, Bristol BS2 8QU

Phone Number: 0117 942 9555, extension 238. E-mail: kevin@ceed.co.uk

Website: www.ceed.co.uk or www.ceedmedia.com

Ujima Radio will feature local voices and aims to inform, represent, educate, entertain, communicate and celebrate culture, heritage and diversity within black and minority ethnic communities, particularly those living in the St Paulis and Easton areas of Bristol.

Glastonbury FM (Glastonbury, Street and surrounding areas)

Contact: Steve Bilsborough, Glastonbury FM, 8 Barn Green, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 8DU Mobile Number: 07791 509393

E-mail: sbilsborough@glastonburyfm.com Website: www.glastonburyfm.com

Glastonbury FM aims to provide a quality service to the whole community. Featuring a wide range of locally produced musical and spoken output Glastonbury FM aims to challenge, educate, entertain, inspire and inform and will empower community members by involving them in all aspects of the running of the station.

ECFM (Exeter)

Contact: Patrick Cunningham, Exeter Phoenix, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS. Tel: 01392 667057.

Email: Patrick@exeterphoenix.org.uk

ECFM will broadcast a range of arts and community-based programming to the residents of Exeter. The station will help promote cultural vibrancy and strengthen community links, as well as offering training opportunities.

Community Radio Swindon

Contact: Shirley Ludford, 54 Tryon Close, Liden, Swindon SN3 6HG

Tel: 01793 612517 or 07951 366289

Email: shirleyludford@btinternet.com website: www.communityradioswindon.com

Community Radio Swindon will provide an accessible community service for the citizens of Swindon, including underserved and deprived communities. It aims to promote the cultural, spiritual, social and economic life of the town.

The Bay (Poole)

Contact: Alan Coote, 6 The Ferns, 15 Dudsbury Crescent, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 8JD

Tel: 01202 876108 or 07801 518858.

E-mail: alan.coote@pooleradio.co.uk Website: www.pooleradio.co.uk

The Bay will provide a distinct community service that will have broad appeal and enrich the lives of its listeners throughout Poole.

Aspire FM (Poole)

Contact: Lee Williamson, Bournemouth and Poole College, North Road, Poole BH14 0LS. Tel: 01202 465468 or 07816 337730. Email: williamsonl@bpc.ac.uk.

Website: <http://bpc.digitalbrain.com/bpc/web/collegeRadio/index.html>

Aspire FM will support learners at the college, and encourage participation in education and lifelong learning in the local community, through information, advice and support on educational issues and coursework, as well as more general community-based output.

Bro Radio (Barry)

Contact: Rick Ward, The Coach House, 189 Barry Road, Barry CF62 9BG

Tel: 0845 329 0211. Email: enquiries@broradio.co.uk website: www.broradio.co.uk

Bro Radio will broadcast a mixture of locally-relevant speech and music to the target community of Barry and the surrounding area, with an emphasis on output provided by and for those within the coverage area.

Licences are awarded for a five-year period.

A statement setting out the main determining factors for the award of the seven community radio licences set out above will be available shortly from the Ofcom website.

In addition to the licence awards detailed above, Ofcom considered five further applications, but has decided not to award a licence to the following groups:

- Culm Valley FM, Cullompton, Devon
- Bay FM, Exmouth, Devon
- PCRFM, Plymouth, Devon
- Swindon FM Community Radio, Swindon, Wiltshire
- Flame Radio, Pontypool, Torfaen

Ofcom advertises new local digital radio multiplex licence for Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Ofcom today (7 March 2007) advertises a new local Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) radio multiplex licence to cover Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

This advertisement is one of a number of new local radio multiplex licences planned to develop DAB coverage for local services in those parts of the country not already served. This licensing process will lead to a significant expansion in digital radio services throughout the UK.

Ofcom estimates that this licence could achieve coverage of an area with an adult (aged 15+) population of around 586,000. The exact coverage will be determined by the location of the successful applicant's transmission sites and other technical characteristics.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 3.00 pm on Wednesday 06 June 2007. A non-refundable fee of £5,000 will be payable for each application submitted.

This local radio multiplex will include capacity reserved for the transmission in digital form of BBC Hereford & Worcester.

The licence will be issued for a twelve-year period. All applications for this licence will be published on the Ofcom website as soon as possible after the closing date.

The full details for this licence, including the guidelines and procedures for the submission of applications, can be obtained from the Ofcom website at: http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radio/ifi/rbl/dcr/adverts/herts_worcs/

Radio Cleveland's new building declared open

Gareth Southgate will this evening (14 March 2007) officially open BBC Radio Cleveland's new multi-million pound broadcasting studios and Open Centre.

The building, in the heart of Middlesbrough, has been transformed from a dated office and retail unit into a state-of-the-art complex of public open spaces and broadcasting studios. On the ground floor is a performance area and separate learning suite which has already hosted a series of lunchtime concerts and live broadcasts. On the first floor are newly-refurbished studios fitted with the latest in digital broadcasting technology.

Station Editor Matthew Barraclough said: "We hope as many people as possible pop into our Open Centre to listen to live music, contribute to our output, learn a new skill and find out more about the BBC. It really is a flagship for the BBC and represents a major investment in the region."

Today's event will also feature a formal announcement that BBC Radio Cleveland is to change its name to BBC Tees later this year.

Matthew Barraclough said: "We think the name BBC Tees better reflects the audience we serve and how they identify with their area. While administrative boundaries come and go, the Tees is a constant geographical feature which defines and unites this part of the country. Cleveland never properly reflected the whole area we cover, which includes significant parts of County Durham and North Yorkshire. The station originally broadcast as BBC Radio Teesside but changed its name in 1974 when the county of Cleveland was established. BBC Tees is already used by our website and bus so by using the same brand across all platforms we are focusing on the content rather than the medium by which it is delivered."

BBC to extend digital radio coverage to Scottish Borders

The BBC is to extend its DAB digital radio coverage to the Scottish Borders, it was confirmed today (23 March 2007).

The new transmitter will join up the BBC's current digital radio coverage north and south of the border and bring digital radio to another 40,000 people in the Melrose, Galashiels and Hawick area.

Speaking at a digital forum in Melrose on Friday, the BBC's Chief Operating Officer, Caroline Thomson, announced the BBC's plans and said: "For many years, our digital radio coverage in Scotland and England has been separated. It's good news that we're now able to join up the two nations."

The new transmitter will be located at Selkirk and is hoped to be in service by the start of winter 2007.

The BBC has also announced its intention to commission a transmitter to bring DAB digital radio to listeners on the opposite side of the country in the towns of Whitehaven and Workington in Cumbria.

This area has been selected by the Government to be the location of the switchover flagship project and will be the first to completely switched over to digital television in October of this year. Although the BBC's analogue radio services will continue after digital switchover, the new transmitter will allow listeners in the area to go completely digital if they choose to: watching digital television and listening to DAB digital radio. It is hoped to bring the transmitter on stream in the late autumn.

Digital radio listeners will be able to tune in to the BBC's portfolio of digital-only stations: 1Xtra; Five Live Sports Extra; 6 Music; BBC 7; and the BBC Asian Network; as well as the BBC's national radio stations: Radio 1; Radio 2; Radio 3; Radio 4; Radio Five Live; and the BBC World Service and enjoy the benefits of DAB and the additional choice it offers.

Listeners will need a DAB digital radio to receive the BBC's digital radio broadcasts.

For advice on receiving BBC digital radio and to check coverage, listeners can call the BBC Digital Helpline on 08700 10 10 10 or visit bbc.co.uk/digitalradio.

Improving BBC reception across South & West Dorset

To help viewers across South and West Dorset get the most from their BBC, the Corporation has launched the findings of a comprehensive survey looking at the service received by people living in and around Weymouth and Dorchester.

The survey looked at the area's terrestrial television, comparing the reception considered available with what some viewers actually see in their living rooms. The BBC worked in partnership with the South And West Dorset Broadcasting Action Group (SWEDBAG) to find out why some viewers experience poor quality reception and to find solutions in time for the digital switch over.

The first step for the survey was to analyse data collected through a questionnaire issued by SWEDBAG to households across the region to identify potential problem areas. This data was laid across potential coverage maps.

Technicians then brought in a special survey vehicle which has a receiving aerial on top of a 10m mast (the height of most houses). This enabled them to determine the television coverage viewers received wherever the vehicle was parked. The vehicle visited the areas of Bridport, Lyme Regis, Beaminster, Chilfrome, Dorchester, Sherborne and Weymouth.

The survey found that potential coverage (the best reception available to people living in the area) was as expected and that poor reception was generally caused by problems with people's aerials for example:

- Poor aerial installation - get your aerial checked by an engineer;
- Low quality aerials - should also bear in mind that roof top aerials, especially those in seaside areas, are prone to damage and corrosion. They need regular inspection and replacement with new "digital ready" aerials should be considered;
- Loft or indoor aerials - most modern houses do not have external aerials;

- Aerials not pointing at the best transmitter - check which way you need to point your aerial; guidance can be found in the report.

Presenting the report, Graham Plumb, BBC Head of Distribution Technology, said: "We have been aware of the issues some people have faced in receiving BBC programming, and the work we have done here in Dorset is very much a case study.

"While coverage is open to the elements and also geography and development, what we found was in line with what we expected. This means the majority of issues can be solved quickly and easily, especially in time for the digital switchover."

Graham added: "I would also like to thank SWEDBAG for all their efforts in the initial stages of this survey, especially in identifying those areas where people were experiencing problems."

Eve Turner, Head of BBC South, said: "I hope viewers in South and West Dorset find this report useful, especially the guidance on getting the best picture possible. For some people this advice will give them better access to both analogue and digital pictures for local and network programming. If people are experiencing problems I hope they will have an opportunity to visit our BBC Bus and talk both to a BBC engineer and an expert from Digital UK."

More information on how to improve your television reception is available at bbc.co.uk/reception/info.

The report is available on the BBC website at bbc.co.uk/dorset.

The SWEDBAG questionnaire had around 4000 responses; this is around 10% of the area's population (46,000 households in West Dorset).

BBC enters North African FM market with two relays in Mauritania

The BBC has become a player on the North African FM scene with the launch of two 24-hour FM relays in Mauritania.

BBC 106.9 FM in the capital, Nouakchott, and BBC 102.4 FM in the second largest city, Nouadhibou, now bring 24-hours a day of BBC Arabic programming to Mauritanian audiences.

As part of the agreement, the BBC has also provided Radio Mauritania staff with a training programme in broadcast journalism.

Simon Kendall, Head of BBC World Service Business Development, Africa and Middle East Region, said: "Mauritania is an important market for the BBC and it is the home of some of the BBC Arabic service's most loyal listeners. We are delighted to be able to provide our listeners in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou with the opportunity to receive their favourite BBC Arabic programmes in crystal-clear FM quality."

Mohamed Yehia Wild Hayee, Head of Mauritania Radio, added: "We already have a well-established and strong relationship with the BBC. These new FM's reinforce our partnership and also ensure that the Radio Mauritania staff get the opportunity to receive training in journalism and technology from a leader in international news such as the BBC. An agreement like this is another example of the further strengthening of the excellent relations between the UK and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania."

One hundred Devonians sign up for UK's first medium wave digital radio trial on Radio Devon

On St George's Day, 23 April, 100 Devon radio listeners will be eagerly tuning into BBC Radio Devon using a brand new technology to UK listeners, Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM).

The trial, which lasts for a year, will re-use a current medium-wave frequency in the Plymouth area (855MW) to broadcast Radio Devon as a digital service.

DRM is an emerging technology which has been designed to facilitate digital radio at frequencies below 30 MHz. The BBC already uses this technology to broadcast short wave transmissions of the World Service to some parts of Western Europe and North Africa.

An audience panel of 100 has been recruited from listeners to Radio Devon and users of bbc.co.uk/devon. Members of the panel have been given radios which are capable of receiving DRM as well as the existing FM and DAB transmissions.

The BBC intends to conduct research with this panel over the coming year to explore their experience of DRM and help inform its future digital radio strategy. Robert Wallace, Managing Editor, Radio Devon said: "It's great for Devon to be at the forefront of testing this new digital medium-wave technology. We're looking forward to hearing how our panel of listeners get on with their digital reception of Radio Devon."

The trial is now fully signed up. Radio Devon switched off its MW transmitter in Plymouth on 1 April in preparation for the trial. The BBC first started to use 855MW in Plymouth in November 1978.

The first service to be broadcast was BBC Radio 4. When BBC Radio Devon started just over four years later, the frequency was transferred over to the new station.

The BBC is working with the transmission provider National Grid Wireless in this trial. National Grid Wireless will be supplying, commissioning and operating the transmission equipment needed for the trial, as well as assisting in the engineering measurement of the transmissions and validation of the results.

The two companies intend to publish the results of the trial by the middle of 2008.

BBC and ITV to launch a free-to-view satellite proposition

The BBC has today (27 April 2007) been given approval by the BBC Trust to launch a nationally available free-to-view satellite proposition as a joint venture with ITV.

"Freesat", as it is currently known, will provide a Standard and High Definition (SD and HD) enabled digital satellite proposition with launch anticipated for Spring 2008. Consumers will be offered up to 200 channels plus full digital satellite interactivity and high definition capability, without the need to pay a subscription. Consumers will also have a choice of equipment (including both SD and HD receivers, an HD personal video recorder and an integrated digital television), together with a range of installation options.

BBC Director-General, Mark Thompson, said: "The BBC's objective in launching Freesat is to support Digital Switchover by providing another way for licence payers to receive digital television channels and radio services, subscription free from the BBC and ITV. Its primary purpose is to drive digital take-up in analogue homes, particularly in those areas which are out of digital terrestrial coverage. Freesat also offers a trusted free-to-view digital upgrade path that gives licence payers all the benefits of digital television (notably high definition capability) guaranteed free of subscription."

ITV Executive Chairman, Michael Grade, said: "Freesat will build on the success of Freeview by offering viewers a simple and cost effective way of upgrading to digital TV. By filling in the current gaps in Freeview coverage, Freesat will ensure that a free-to-air, no strings attached option for accessing digital TV is available to the whole of the UK ahead of digital switchover. By offering HD capability we will future proof Freesat if, as expected, high definition television continues to capture the imagination of UK viewers."

The BBC and ITV have been working with selected manufacturers, retailers and installers to develop an innovative consumer proposition.

The proposal for a nationally available free satellite platform offered by the BBC working with other public service broadcasters was supported in the Government's White Paper on the BBC Charter. It said: "The Government is keen to ensure that consumers have as wide a choice as possible of how they get digital TV. We welcome the plans being developed by the BBC and ITV for a free-to-view satellite service alongside Sky's offering and we hope that the other public service broadcasters will join them in this endeavour. This promises to enhance further both consumer choice and competition in the television market." The BBC and ITV are currently in discussions with other broadcasters about joining the joint venture.

BBC One to pilot short news summary

The BBC is to pilot a short news summary weekdays at 8pm on BBC One.

The pilot will run for four weeks in the Birmingham area starting from Wednesday 9 May 2007.

Three versions will be tested:

- a 60-second summary with national news;
- a longer 90-second version with national and regional news and weather;
- a 60-second version with both national and regional news.

The network element will be presented by BBC news presenter Natasha Kaplinsky and the regional by BBC Midlands Today presenter Suzanne Virdee. The service will be evaluated at the end of the trial period. The aim is for the summary to be an extension to the news portfolio adding value to and widening the BBC's services and the number of people reached by them. It will maintain all the BBC's high editorial and journalistic standards and provide an extra opportunity for viewers to catch up on the news at a time convenient for them.

BBC expands FM presence in DR Congo

BBC World Service has expanded its FM presence in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the launch of BBC 92 FM in Lubumbashi and BBC 92 FM in Kisangani. The new FM stations broadcast World Service programmes in French, English and Swahili, and reinforce the BBC's position on the FM market by complementing existing BBC 92.6 FM in Kinshasa and the well-established partnership with Raga FM throughout the country.

On Thursday 10 May 2007, BBC Afrique celebrates the launch of the new FMs with a special day of programming, broadcasting live from Kinshasa, Kisangani, Lubumbashi and London. A highlight of "DR Congo Day" on BBC Afrique will be Le Congo En Direct, a live interactive programme broadcast across francophone Africa.

The launch of the new relays coincides with the release of the BBC's first national survey in DR Congo. According to the survey, more than seven million people are regularly listening to BBC Afrique in DR Congo.

Head of BBC Afrique, Tim Cooke, said: "DR Congo is the jewel in the crown of BBC Afrique, with many millions of listeners right across the country tuning in regularly for news, sport and entertainment. It is wonderful that we can reach yet more people in FM quality with the information they crave. For us at the BBC, there is nothing more important than ensuring the information we provide is impartial, fair and balanced and includes a range of opinions over time to allow everyone to decide for themselves what they think. The warmest of welcomes to new BBC FM listeners in Kisangani and Lubumbashi!"

Toussaint Tshilombo Send, DR Congo's Minister of Information, added: "The BBC is a big international broadcaster, available in many languages all over the world. We are glad that, with the establishment of two more relays in Kisangani and Lubumbashi, more listeners there have access to the BBC's world-class programmes on FM."

BBC's Newshour on Florence's Novaradio Citta Futura

BBC World Service has teamed up with Novaradio Citta Futura to bring its flagship news and current affairs programme to English-speaking audiences in Florence and its suburbs.

At 10pm local time every day, from Monday 14 May 2007, Novaradio Citta Futura 101.5FM will broadcast the BBC's Newshour - 60 minutes of the day's top stories from around the globe. Drawing on the vast resources of the BBC's newsgathering operation, Newshour offers listeners the essential perspective of world developments and is packed with breaking news, bulletins, interviews and analysis. It is hosted by internationally-acclaimed journalists including Owen Bennett Jones, Claire Bolderson, Lyse Doucet, Robin Lustig and Julian Marshall.

Executive Editor of Americas and Europe Region, BBC World Service, Olexiy Solohubenko, says: "I am delighted that our partnership with radio Citta Futura, enjoyed for 16 months in Rome, now extends to Florence. Historically, Florence has always wanted the best in art, in architecture, in food, in style. We hope very much that the BBC fits the bill for international news. We are proud to have earned the privilege to broadcast to Florence, one of the greatest treasures of the world."

Presenter Julian Marshall adds: "I hope very much that Newshour becomes a regular and trusted source of news and analysis for anyone in and around Florence - residents and guests alike - who want to keep abreast with the global news."

New programme from BBC Ukrainian and Radio Era FM

BBC Ukrainian has teamed up with its key partner Radio Era FM to launch a regular joint debate programme called Kolo Zapytan (A Round of Questions). It is co-produced and co-presented by the BBC's Kateryna Khinkulova and Era's Serhiy Sulym from various Ukrainian cities, and broadcast across the country.

Kolo Zapytan launches on Friday 18 May 2007 from Ukraine's second largest city, Kharkiv. Kolo Zapytan features a panel of four prominent guests from the worlds of politics, legal affairs, business and literature. They will answer the questions from a specially invited audience on a range of political, economic, social and cultural issues.

Maciek Bernatt-Reszczyński, Head of BBC Ukrainian, says: "This is an important next step in our partnership with Radio Era FM.

"It moves the relationship into delivering a joint production which will maximise the skills, expertise and insights of both broadcasters to the benefit of listeners across Ukraine."

Ihor Lotashevsky, Radio Era FM Director General, adds: "We are delighted with this co-production. Radio Era FM is Ukraine's only speech radio station. Yet Kolo Zapytan is a completely new format in an exciting and engaging new experience for our listeners."

The format of Kolo Zapytan is based on Any Questions? - the popular current affairs debate programme running on the BBC's domestic speech radio station, BBC Radio 4.

Peter Griffiths, Executive Producer of Any Questions?, will travel to Ukraine to see the launch of Kolo Zapytan.

BBC Ukrainian started broadcasting in 1992 and now has an extensive network of partner radio stations. Radio Era FM is BBC's leading partner, re-broadcasting two hours a day of the BBC Ukrainian output as well as co-producing a weekly international news analysis programme with the BBC's London-based team. Radio Era FM started broadcasting in 2002 and is now on air in 38 Ukrainian cities.

BBC Ukrainian is re-broadcast by more than 20 partner FM stations across Ukraine. It also broadcasts on medium wave in Kiev and Kharkiv, short wave and via satellite. Programmes are also available, in text and audio, via the service's website, bbcukrainian.com.

R S L U P D A T E

Updated 2 June 2007

Compiled by MARK HATTAM

This list is continually updated at the Skywaves website (www.skywaves.info), where email and web addresses for many of these stations can also be found.

Location	Freq	Station	Date On	Date Off	Telephone	Details (and contributor details)
Carshalton		Youth FM	10/07/07	31/07/07	07736 338469	Annual Youth FM broadcast
Chelmsford, Essex		Promise FM	23/07/07	08/08/07	01227 768745	World Scout Jamboree
Cowes		Cowes Radio	03/08/07	12/08/07	01489 578850	Cowes week yachting regatta
Croydon		Brit FM	18/07/07	27/07/07	020 8665 5242	Student broadcast at The BRiT school.
Edinburgh		Festival FM	02/08/07	27/08/07	01789 450703	Edinburgh Fringe Festival
Hickstead		Radio Hickstead	23/07/07	29/07/07	01264 369369	Hickstead Dressage
Kilburn		SKFM	30/07/07	26/08/07	020 8969 6071	Radio project
Leeds		Interplay Radio	08/07/07	21/07/07	0113 263 8556	I love West Leeds festival
Lincoln		Grapevine FM	22/08/07	28/08/07	01522 533 535	Annual Network of Christian churches
Nr Newton Abbott		New Life Radio	28/07/07	10/08/07	01392 219499	New Life Conference
Shepton Mallet		New Wine Radio	27/07/07	11/08/07	07779 304680	New Wine Christian Conference
Somerset		Frome FM	06/07/07	15/07/07	07968 726196	Community/Festival radio service
Southampton		Radio Redbridge	09/07/07	13/07/07	02380 232302	Creative Partnerships Community Radio Project
Tamworth, Staffs		TCR FM	04/08/07	31/08/07	01827 475785	Youth Community Radio project
Torpoint		TCC FM	08/07/07	13/07/07	01752 812511	School broadcast
Wallasey		Ice Radio	04/07/07	13/07/07	07956 364287	School Radio Station
Warminster		WCR Community Radio	21/07/07	17/08/07	07836 232959	Community radio broadcast
Argyll	87.7	Scottish Series Radio	24/05/07	28/05/07	01389 762377	Bell Lawrie Scottish Series
Bournemouth	87.7	Watchtower Convention	14/06/07	17/06/07	020 8371 3438	Annual convention of Jehovahs Witnesses
Cambuslang, Glasgow	87.7	CamGlen Radio	04/05/07	31/05/07	0141 646 0123	Community trial and local health Project.
Cardiff	87.7	Watchtower Convention	12/07/07	15/07/07	020 8371 3438	Watchtower Convention Cardiff
Cheltenham	87.7	Wychwood Festival R	01/06/07	03/06/07	01993 772580	Wychwood Music Festival
Corby	87.7	S.E.D FM	21/05/07	24/05/07	020 8652 4657	Site Equipment Demonstration
Coventry	87.7	Watchtower Convention	26/07/07	29/07/07	020 8371 3438	Jehovah's Witness annual convention
Dorchester	87.7	Dorchester Festival R	18/05/07	28/05/07	01308 861028	Dorchester Festival
Ealing	87.7	Blast Radio	01/05/07	25/05/07	020 8231 2492	Student & Training Broadcast
East Grinstead	87.7	Meridian FM	22/04/07	19/05/07	01342 325825	Community radio trial
Gillingham	87.7	Watchtower Convention	28/06/07	01/07/07	020 8371 3438	Watchtower Convention Gillingham
Leeds	87.7	ELFM	04/06/07	10/06/07	07970 261124	Local Community Radio broadcast
Leeds	87.7	PGFM	11/06/07	06/07/07	0113 2296000	School broadcast
London SE1	87.7	Overture Radio	04/06/07	11/06/07	020 7593 0011	Royal Festival Hall Celebration
Manchester	87.7	Watchtower Convention	05/07/07	08/07/07	020 8371 3438	Annual convention of Jehovahs Witnesses
Newcastle	87.7	Watchtower Convention	14/06/07	17/06/07	020 8371 3438	Annual convention of Jehovahs witnesses
Norwich	87.7	Radio Fine Print	26/05/07	28/05/07	0121 6786600	Snetterton 24hr 2CV Race Meeting
Norwich	87.7	Watchtower Convention	19/07/07	22/07/07	020 8371 3438	Annual convention of Jehovahs Witnesses
Nottingham	87.7	Watchtower Convention	14/06/07	17/06/07	020 8371 3438	Annual convention of Jehovahs Witnesses
Oxfordshire	87.7	Rally Radio FM	22/05/07	29/05/07	01342 336782	The Caravan Club National rally
Perth	87.7	Watchtower Convention	12/07/07	15/07/07	020 8371 3438	Annual convention of Jehovahs Witnesses
Plymouth	87.7	Watchtower Convention	21/06/07	24/06/07	020 8371 3438	Annual convention of Jehovahs witnesses
Reigate	87.7	Redstone FM	21/05/07	17/06/07	07977 164872	Community Radio trial run by RNIB Redhill college also covering the Redhill carnival
Stoke on Trent	87.7	Watchtower Convention	21/06/07	24/06/07	020 8371 3438	Annual convention of Jehovahs Witnesses
Swindon	87.7	Flame FM Swindon	01/05/07	27/05/07	01793 536815	Christian community & Pentecost event
Thornbury, Bristol	87.7	Thornbury FM	23/04/07	20/05/07		Community Broadcast

Tottenham N17	87.7	Rough to Smooth	28/04/07	25/05/07	0793 2658638	Community radio project for homeless and deprived youths. Red Nose day fundraiser.
Twickenham	87.7	Watchtower Convention	26/07/07	29/07/07	020 8371 3438	Jehovah's Witness annual convention
Marlow	87.8	Marlow FM	29/05/07	25/06/07	020 7896 9000	Community based broadcast /trial
Cosford	87.9	Radio Cosford	08/06/07	10/06/07	01952 820092	Annual RAF Cosford Airshow
Halton	87.9	Halton Community R	28/04/07	25/05/07	01928 835291	Community radio broadcast
Luton	87.9	Luton FM	01/05/07	28/05/07	01582 734111	
Potton	87.9	Biggles FM	04/06/07	01/07/07		Community Summer broadcast to promote festivals, markets, local events & businesses.
Preston & Blackpool	87.9	Preston FM	20/05/07	16/06/07	01772 880791	Community radio trial
Spalding	87.9	Tulip Radio	15/04/07	12/05/07	01775 712400	Community Trial and Flower Parade
Leicester	95.1	Wiggle FM	11/05/07	26/05/07	0116 2885051	College Broadcast
Oundle, Peterborough	96.3	OSCAR Radio	30/04/07	13/05/07	01832 277219	Student Broadcast
Leicester	97.5	Demon FM	23/04/07	20/05/07	0116 255 5576	
London EC1V	101.4	EC1 FM	28/05/07	08/06/07	020 7040 8234	Youth training & community broadcast
Watford	101.8	Fresh FM	26/05/07	09/06/07	07983 611735	Community Youth trial broadcast
Coventry	102.6	Synergy FM	30/04/07	18/05/07	07919 204318	Student Assesment
Waddington	103.6	Airshow FM	18/06/07	01/07/07	01522 726100	RAF Waddington International Airshow
Aberdeen	105.8	Me-FM	04/05/07	31/05/07	01224 645268	Annulal Me-FM Community broadcast
Peterborough	106.2	High Trees FM	13/05/07	18/05/07	01733 767366	Student broadcast at Peterborough Regional College
Nr Portrush	106.3	Radio North West 200	07/05/07	12/05/07	028 2586 1133	North West 200 Motor Cycling Event
Manchester	106.5	Urban Education Radio	02/05/07	29/05/07	0161 980 2759	To promote urban education
Banff	107.0	Deveron FM	23/04/07	20/05/07	01261 812000	For Banff, Macduff & the immediate vicinity
Hastings	107.0	Hastings Rock	05/05/07	01/06/07	07971 360269	Cancer Charity Broadcast
Girvan	107.5	Girvan FM	31/05/07	27/06/07	01292 513888	Community trial and health project
Leeds	1431	Watchtower Convention	28/06/07	01/07/07	020 8371 3438	Annual convention of Jehovahs witnesses

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- Skywaves (FM & TV DX) at <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/skywaves/>
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Skywaves is the monthly group newsletter, published as an electronic e-zine which can be downloaded by members via the Skywaves Yahoo Groups. You must be a member of at least one of these groups to qualify for this. Membership to the DX Early Warning system is free though regular mobile phone costs will apply. Check the website for updates at <http://www.skywaves.info>

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