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**BRITAIN'S SLOWEST STREET FOR BROADBAND: MOUNT PLEASANT IN  
HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK**

- **Mount Pleasant's average download speed is 147 times slower than the UK's fastest town, Leamington Spa<sup>[1]</sup>, and 53 times slower than the national average<sup>[2]</sup>**
- **England's southern counties perform badly – with West Sussex and Hampshire accounting for a quarter of the UK's 20 slowest streets by broadband speed**
- **In the list of UK's 50 slowest broadband streets, Derbyshire has five entries**

With an average download speed of just 0.128Mb, Mount Pleasant in the Suffolk town of Halesworth is the street with the slowest broadband in the UK, according to new research by the independent price comparison and switching service, [uSwitch.com](http://uSwitch.com). In contrast, Leamington Spa in Warwickshire has the fastest average download broadband speed in the UK at 18.87Mb - more than 147 times faster than in Mount Pleasant<sup>[1]</sup>.

Their street's name may have a high altitude ring to it, but Mount Pleasant residents are at the bottom of the pile when it comes to downloading. With their broadband speed, it would take them approximately 48 hours to download an online movie<sup>[3]</sup>. Things are almost as bad on Forestfield, in the West Sussex town of Horsham, where the average broadband speed of just 0.134Mb again harks back to the Nineties. At that speed it may take up to a frustrating 90 minutes to download just one music track<sup>[3]</sup>.

And spare a thought for the people of Inchkeith Drive, who are all too used to seeing their progress bar inching along. With an average download speed of 0.169Mb, their street in Dunfermline, Fife, is definitely a broadband cul-de-sac. And although Faraday Avenue in Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire may be named after the father of electricity, people living there are being left in the internet dark ages. Their broadband speed of 0.182Mb is 37 times slower than the UK's average download speed of 6.8Mb<sup>[2]</sup>.

England's southern counties perform particularly badly in the tests, with West Sussex and Hampshire together accounting for a quarter of the UK's 20 slowest streets by broadband speed. In the list of the 50 slowest streets, there are five streets in Derbyshire and four each in Hampshire, Gloucestershire and Suffolk. But the area around Glasgow also earns a mention in the list too – four of the 50 slowest broadband streets are in Ayrshire, Glasgow City and West Dunbartonshire.

**Ernest Doku, technology expert at [uSwitch.com](http://uSwitch.com), comments:** “While many areas of the country are already benefiting from the considerable investment into super-fast fibre optic networks, our research highlights the plight of households at the other end of the spectrum, struggling with download speeds so poor that in some cases it can hardly be considered a broadband service at all. What is particularly interesting is that many of the streets that feature in the list aren't in the far-flung countryside, but rather in more urban areas, nearer to exchanges and where we would expect to see higher download speeds across the board.

“While broadband providers have been committed to upgrading broadband infrastructure as a priority, for some areas these improvements can't come soon enough. Being stuck in the slow lane is a frustrating situation, with many of us now considering broadband to be an essential service.

“In the meantime, home broadband users should test their broadband speeds regularly to check that they are getting the best possible package for their area, and not be afraid or complacent about switching providers if they feel they can get a better service elsewhere.”

The following table lists the 50 slowest streets in the UK in terms of average broadband connection speeds:

Rank	Street name and location	Download speed (Mb/s)
1	Mount Pleasant, Halesworth, Suffolk	0.128
2	Forestfield, Horsham, West Sussex	0.134
3	Inchkeith Drive, Dunfermline, Fife	0.169
4	Faraday Avenue, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire	0.182
5	Baird Avenue, Kilwinning, Ayrshire	0.225

6	Wheatears Drive, Romsey, Hampshire	0.242
7	Furzy Park, Haverfordwest, Dyfed	0.254
8	Calmore Drive, Totton, Hampshire	0.267
9	Mowbray Grove, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland	0.274
10	Colledge Close, Brinklow, Warwickshire	0.279
11	Kimbells Close, Shabbington, Buckinghamshire	0.282
12	Glenbuck Avenue, Glasgow	0.289
13	Common Hill, Pulborough, West Sussex	0.296
14	John O'Gaunts Way, Belper, Derbyshire	0.298
15	Kenrick Square, Bletchingly, Surrey	0.319
16	Marlings Park Avenue, Chislehurst, Greater London	0.324
17	Silver Street, Chalford, Gloucestershire	0.328
18	Spinners Drive, St Helens, Merseyside	0.334
19	Raleigh Close, Churchdown, Gloucestershire	0.335
20	W Way, Littlehampton, West Sussex	0.335
21	Cromwell Avenue, Findern, Derbyshire	0.337
22	Greyson Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk	0.345
23	Phlap Street, South Hetton, County Durham	0.349
24	George Road, Water Orton, Birmingham	0.357
25	Bexleigh Avenue, St Leonards, East Sussex	0.373
26	Canon Close, Ilkeston, Derbyshire	0.383
27	Tylers Way, Chalford, Gloucestershire	0.383
22	Ullswater Road, Urmston, Manchester	0.384
29	Sutton Lane, Brant Broughton, Lincolnshire	0.384
30	Langside Gardens, West Calder, West Lothian	0.384

31	Pinfold Close, Cockermouth, Cumbria	0.386
32	Mithras Gardens, Walton, Buckinghamshire	0.388
33	Broadwaters Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk	0.396
34	Riverbank, Dunmurry, Belfast, County Antrim	0.399
35	Church Street, Hayfield, Derbyshire	0.411
36	Warren Field, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, West Midlands	0.421
37	Woodland Grove, Beeston, Nottinghamshire	0.422
38	Sokeman Close, Stony Stratford, MK, Buckinghamshire	0.426
39	Mount Pleasant, Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire	0.430
40	Elmsdale Road, Hartshorne, Derbyshire	0.431
41	Yew Tree Avenue, Pemberton, Manchester, Wigan	0.432
42	Fairwinds Place, Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire	0.435
43	Pollards Moor Road, Copythorne, Southampton, Hampshire	0.440
44	Tern Way, Wirral, Merseyside	0.440
45	Glamorgan Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland	0.441
46	Darren Road, Berry Hill, Coleford, Gloucestershire	0.443
47	Adrian Avenue, Motherwell, North Lanarkshire	0.445
48	North Road, Lakenheath, Brandon, Suffolk	0.445
49	Chadwell Avenue, Southampton,	0.451
50	Bloomsfield, Burwell, Cambridge	0.454

Source: uSwitch.com Broadband Speed Tracker, September 2011

Test your speed at <http://www.uswitch.com/broadband/speedtest/>

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For further information please contact:

Katherine Cooper, uSwitch.com on 020 7802 2961 or [katherinecooper@uswitch.com](mailto:katherinecooper@uswitch.com)

Jonny Stevens, Rhizome PR on 07977 119 579 or [Jonny@rhizomepr.com](mailto:Jonny@rhizomepr.com)

**Notes to editors:**

**More than 1,500,000 speed tests were conducted through the [uSwitch.com](http://uSwitch.com) website between March and August 2011.**

1. The following list shows the top 10 fastest broadband villages/towns/cities in the UK:  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire **18.865**  
Welling, Greater London **18.426**  
Herne Hill, London **17.897**  
Kidderminster, Worcestershire **17.369**  
Northwich, Cheshire **17.219**  
North Shields, Newcastle-upon-Tyne **16.984**  
Oldbury, Worcestershire **16.923**  
Broxbourne, Herefordshire **16.699**  
Morden, Greater London **16.584**  
Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire **16.379**

(Average download broadband speeds are in Mb)

2. A study by the telecoms regulator Ofcom found that in May 2011, the average broadband speed in the UK was 6.8Mb.
3. uSwitch.com calculation.

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