

Helen Woolley is one of Britain's unfortunate have-nots. Her home, like at least 10 percent of households in the UK, doesn't have access to terrestrial broadband: not just high-speed internet access, but any kind of low-speed, minimum-service broadband.

She doesn't live in the Outer Hebrides or some remote part of Easter Island; her home is only 30 miles from Leicester and 45 miles from Nottingham and 5 miles North of Stamford.

Helen has been trying without success to get terrestrial broadband for more than five years and has now learned that there are no plans to do any work on her exchange until 2012.

So she has had to make do with dial-up: tie-up-your-phone-for-three-hours-while-you-wait-for-Yahoo's-home-page-to-load dial-up. The sort of things that most of us take for granted, such as music and video downloads, software updates and swapping family photos, are activities she could only dream about.

Until recently that is. Because Helen now has a satellite broadband service called *beyondsl* from Eurosat. It uses an innovative satellite platform known as *ASTRA2Connect* and it has transformed her life.

Helen can now do all the things that were impossible with dial-up, or impossibly slow, such as internet shopping and home banking, online bill payments and downloading track listings and cover artwork for her iPod.

But satellite broadband has not only transformed her home life, it's also revolutionized her work life. Helen is the East Midlands regional director for the Country Land & Business Association.

Her job takes her across Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire offering a wide range of advice and support to around 4000 farming, land owning and business members throughout the region.

Being able, on occasion, to work from home would have been a significant benefit but it was impossible with dial-up because it limited her to downloading a few text emails, and prevented her from making the best use of her time in and out of the office.

With satellite broadband she can now access the work server from home, download large attachments and make full use of the work email system. More or less anything that Helen does in the office can now be done at home, which means her days can be a lot more productive.

The advantage of satellite broadband is that it gives everyone access to a high-speed and reliable internet connection regardless of where they live or work. Eurosat provides a range of internet access speeds from 256kb to 2Mbps but Helen opted for the one Mbps service because she felt it provided the right balance of price and performance.

"I'm delighted with satellite broadband," says Helen, "it works well and is always there when I want it. In fact, it seems to be a good deal more reliable than some of the terrestrial

broadband of my friends and CLA members who often complain about their service being down or working slowly.

“Satellite broadband is more expensive than terrestrial equivalents, but just as there are many advantages to rural living, there are also some additional costs involved, and this is one of them. -

“Now that I have satellite broadband I can’t imagine life without it and I would have no hesitation in recommending *beyondsl* to CLA members or anyone else in a similar position to myself.”