

TOLLER PORCORUM PC

Query on DAB Radio in Toller Porcorum from Ken Pett of Dorbag

DAB reception is typically rather indifferent, depending on where you live as we don't have many transmitters in Dorset. I believe you probably get your signal from the Ridgeway transmitter near Weymouth. It was primarily installed to serve Dorchester and Weymouth, so you are very much on fringe reception anyway. We are not aware of any changes in the transmission signal, so if the signal was fine and now isn't, we can only think that something has changed in your area e.g. strong growth in trees which could well be the cause. If so, reception should improve in the autumn/winter. It is surprising how trees can block the signals with strong, leafy growth.

I live in Burton Bradstock and get a very good signal, but I am using a high gain external aerial on the chimney. From my experience, many people rely on the DAB sets' internal aerial which really is not going to get anything like the signal that is available. Apart from anything else, house walls/structures will substantially reduce the signal strength. This is also true for TV reception with attic mounted aerials – they lose about half the signal strength as compared to a full outside aerial.

As a possible solution some, providing their sets have a socket for an external aerial, might want to consider upgrading to a full external aerial using a good technical company such as Tower Hill services in Beaminster (Tel: 01308 863 319). With the advent of the change to digital TV and DAB, a large number of new cheap companies set up, but not all of them are technically competent to solve these problems, and some aerials are just not good enough. So it could be that even those with an external aerial might not have the optimum installation for your area. Tower Hill Services would, no doubt for a fee, check & advise whether you might get a stronger signal with a new set up or not, as the case may be. Either way, I am sure they would be able to give you the best that you can get in your area.

Michele Harding
Clerk to the Council
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