

First off – well done and welcome to the hobby! Here is some information to help with the next steps:

How to get your callsign:

You should be able to get your callsign and licence approximately 6 working days after passing your exam. The steps are as follows:

1. You need to register on the Ofcom website at ofcom.force.com
2. Wait to receive your certificate in the post
3. Log on to the Ofcom site, select “Apply for a new licence” and use your five-digit Candidate Number to apply – You can then choose your callsign.

Tips: Whilst you wait, look on www.qrz.com to see if your preferred callsign(s) has gone

For a step-by-step guide, go to: www.essexham.co.uk/getcallsign

Next Steps in Amateur Radio:

Online Help: The Essex Ham website contains lots of pages of information on how to get started in the hobby, including help with programming local repeaters, guides on setting up QRZ and eQSL, upcoming events in the Essex area, and help with setting up your first station. There is also a forum for questions and an email discussion group. www.essexham.co.uk



Monday Night Net: If you’re in the Essex area and you’re looking for the opportunity to use your new callsign amongst friends for the first time, try the Essex Ham Monday Night Net. The net normally starts at 8pm on a Monday evening on the 2 metre repeater GB3DA, based in Danbury, Chelmsford. You can also listen in over the Internet and take part in the chatroom. Details at www.essexham.net

Handy Amateur Radio Websites:

- www.rsgb.org - The Radio Society of Great Britain. Information on all aspects of amateur radio, plus lots of help and advice. Go here for the latest amateur radio band plans.
- services.ofcom.org.uk - Manage your amateur radio licence at Ofcom.
- www.qrz.com - An online directory of amateur radio callsigns.
- www.essexrepeatergroup.org.uk - The Essex Repeater Group’s website.
- www.essexham.co.uk/clubs - A list of amateur radio clubs in Essex.
- www.southgatearc.org – For the latest amateur radio news.
- www.ukrepeater.net - A list of all the active repeaters in the UK.

Help and Advice from Essex Ham:

The Essex Ham website promotes amateur radio in Essex and to help people get on-air. Free services include a local events guide, the Monday Night Net, getting started guides, a chat forum and pages of advice aimed at newcomers to the hobby, please go to www.essexham.co.uk