

Digital Case Study

FIRST SCOTTISH ISLAND TO HAVE 4G CONNECTIVITY

Being able to use your mobile phone, no matter where you are, is regarded as a vital element of modern living. But on the Isle of Coll, the remoteness and rugged landscape of the Inner Hebridean island meant there has never been a mobile reception which impacts negatively on local businesses, the community and tourist trade.



The fact that mobile phone operators would not deliver mobile services using their standard business models meant a solution was urgently required. Working in partnership with numerous stakeholders including Development Coll (a community trust set up to generate income through local enterprise),

SFT developed an innovative and long-term solution to their problem with a state-of-the-art telecoms mast (funded by Scottish Government), now owned and maintained by Development Coll, with the mobile network supplied by Vodafone.

Today, the Isle of Coll is the first Scottish island that has 4G mobile coverage which is now opening up many commercial opportunities for local businesses that are taken for granted on the mainland.

Working on this project has enabled SFT to develop an alternative approach that will shape additional work of a similar nature in the future. “The ability to communicate has a real impact on families and businesses within small, remote communities such as ours, and this project will help to make a big difference.” Lavinia MacLean-Bristol, Chair of Development Coll