



Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of the Borderlands 5G Innovation Region programme newsletter — and it's fair to say the momentum is building.

The network is now live at four venues, and we're already seeing valuable insights emerge. Live data is flowing in from our first use cases, with new visitor-counting cameras and environmental sensors already helping to build a clearer picture of visitor patterns and environmental conditions, which will support more informed decisions and future investment in the area.

From video analytics that count people, bicycles, and cars to sensors monitoring air and water quality, these early deployments are powerful examples of how advanced wireless and Internet of Things (IoT) can support local authorities and communities in meaningful, practical ways.

As always, we're actively looking for more use cases and encourage partners to build on the Borderlands 5GIR network to unlock funding, drive digital adoption, and bring fresh investment into the region. Whether it's improving services, creating better tourism experiences, making people safer, protecting the region's natural capital or strengthening a funding bid, our infrastructure is here to be used. If you've got an idea or opportunity, get in touch - we'd love to explore it with you.

Thanks again for following our progress, and please do share this newsletter with others who may benefit from staying connected to the programme.

Jonathan Harris, Programme Director, Connecting Cumbria



Project Updates

While work continues to secure full planning permission for the permanent mast installations, our supplier AWTG has been busy setting up radio equipment on temporary structures across our venues.

We're also excited to share that B4RN is in the thick of rolling out fibre backhaul to connect the radios into the wider Borderlands 5G network and the internet. While that work is being undertaken, AWTG has deployed Starlink connections to ensure uninterrupted service until the fibre is switched on.

Across the venues, cameras and environmental sensors are now being deployed, making the most of the new connectivity. These are already capturing valuable data and feeding into the shared Borderlands Data Platform.

Behind the scenes, we've been working on the Borderlands app, which is progressing well and currently undergoing testing with stakeholders, who are actively providing and refining content for each venue. The app will play a key role in enabling stakeholders and visitors to connect to the network securely and with ease.

And because that's not enough, at Windermere, the Ferry team is preparing to deploy new payment terminals, which will benefit from resilient connections via both the 5G and existing 4G networks. These terminals will link to a new payment management service, improving reliability, operational efficiency and security.

More is happening every day – read on to see what we're planning to tackle next.



Future Look

As we move into the busy summer tourism season across our iconic visitor destinations, we're excited to see how 5G infrastructure can handle seasonal surges and help deliver smoother, smarter visitor experiences. From rich data capture to enhanced on-site services, we're putting the network to work right where demand is highest.

Cumberland Council is already exploring how it might extend the value of the programme within its area. As the network and use cases mature, there may be growing opportunities for local partners to build on this foundation and unlock further impact.

This next phase will give us fresh insight into how advanced connectivity can directly support local tourism, and how those benefits might scale across the region. We'll be sharing results in future editions - stay tuned!

In Case You Missed It

We've published the first in a new series of Borderlands 5GIR blogs.

"Reimagining Rural Connectivity: Why Borderlands Needs a New Approach" explores why mobile connectivity still falls short across the region, not just in remote areas, but in the very places where people live, work and visit. Jonathan Harris, Programme Director, sets out how the programme is creating a scalable, shared model for advanced wireless infrastructure.

Read the full blog: <https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/post/the-borderlands-5gir-programme-blog>