



The Northern Times

Dornoch webcam in world's Top Ten November 5, 2009

A NEW webcam in Dornoch has been voted amongst the world's Top 10 by the internet company [EarthCam](#).

The Top 10 Webcams are chosen by a panel of [EarthCam](#) producers who select the best out of hundreds of popular webcam submissions.

The criteria used for judging includes image quality, uniqueness of the content, and overall technical achievement in webcam technology.

The webcam is situated on the Dornoch Castle Hotel "battlements" and the picture fed into Dornoch's tourism web site, where it is regularly watched all over the world.



The view from the Dornoch Castle Hotel webcam.

Chris Ferne, chairman of the Dornoch Area Community Interest Company, which operates both the web site and the new webcam, said: "The original camera was put there some years ago by The Highland Council but the picture quality wasn't good and it had become less reliable over the years.

"Apparently, whenever it stopped working, they received messages of complaint from Canada to New Zealand and even, on one occasion, Uruguay.

"With the help of funding from The Highland Council and the co-operation and support of the Dornoch Castle Hotel, we were able to buy and install this unit, which is about as good as it gets.

"It's the same webcam that's used at Times Square, New York; the Panama Canal and other major venues."

The new camera produces a larger picture of excellent clarity, pointing down onto Castle Street and towards The Square.

Asked about the location, Mr Ferne said: "We did once try pointing it towards the Cathedral but were inundated with messages asking for it to be re-aligned.

"People said they knew what the Cathedral looked like but wanted to see the activity in the Square.

"We've noticed people and couples waving at the camera with a hand to their ear - it seems they tell their friends back home when they'll be there, then ring them on a mobile phone while waving at them via the web."

The view from the webcam, updated every fifteen seconds, can be seen at www.visitdornoch.com