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# Increasing the traceability of wool

By Otis Robinson 17 September 2021



English

**Harris Tweed Hebrides, in collaboration with FibreTrace, has introduced traceability technology to its wool. The implementation will authenticate fibre origin, fibre quantification and allow full supply chain custody with real-time verification.**

The textile manufacturer has processed wool from wool growers across Scotland into a handwoven Harris Tweed. The textile will be supplied directly to Scotland-based retailer, House of Bruar.

The implementation of FibreTrace technology begins at the raw materials stage, when a luminescent pigment is embedded into the fibre at the scouring stage.

The product is scanned at each step of the supply chain – from spinning, to weaving, to garment construction and beyond – with every audit recorded on the blockchain to provide access to secure and irrefutable data.



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## The FibreTrace scanning stage

This data is used to build a unique passport telling the story of the item from farm to shelf, eventually shared with the end-consumer via a QR code.

According to Harris Tweed Hebrides, the initiative demonstrates the proactivity of the UK luxury textile community: to put local wool suppliers at the forefront of sustainability and have their efforts at farms be globally recognised by brands and consumers.

Margaret Ann Macleod, sales director at Harris Tweed Hebrides, says: "Our partnership with FibreTrace is an opportunity for Harris Tweed Hebrides to truly champion British wool and support local suppliers who are committed to best practice and reducing wool's local environmental footprint."



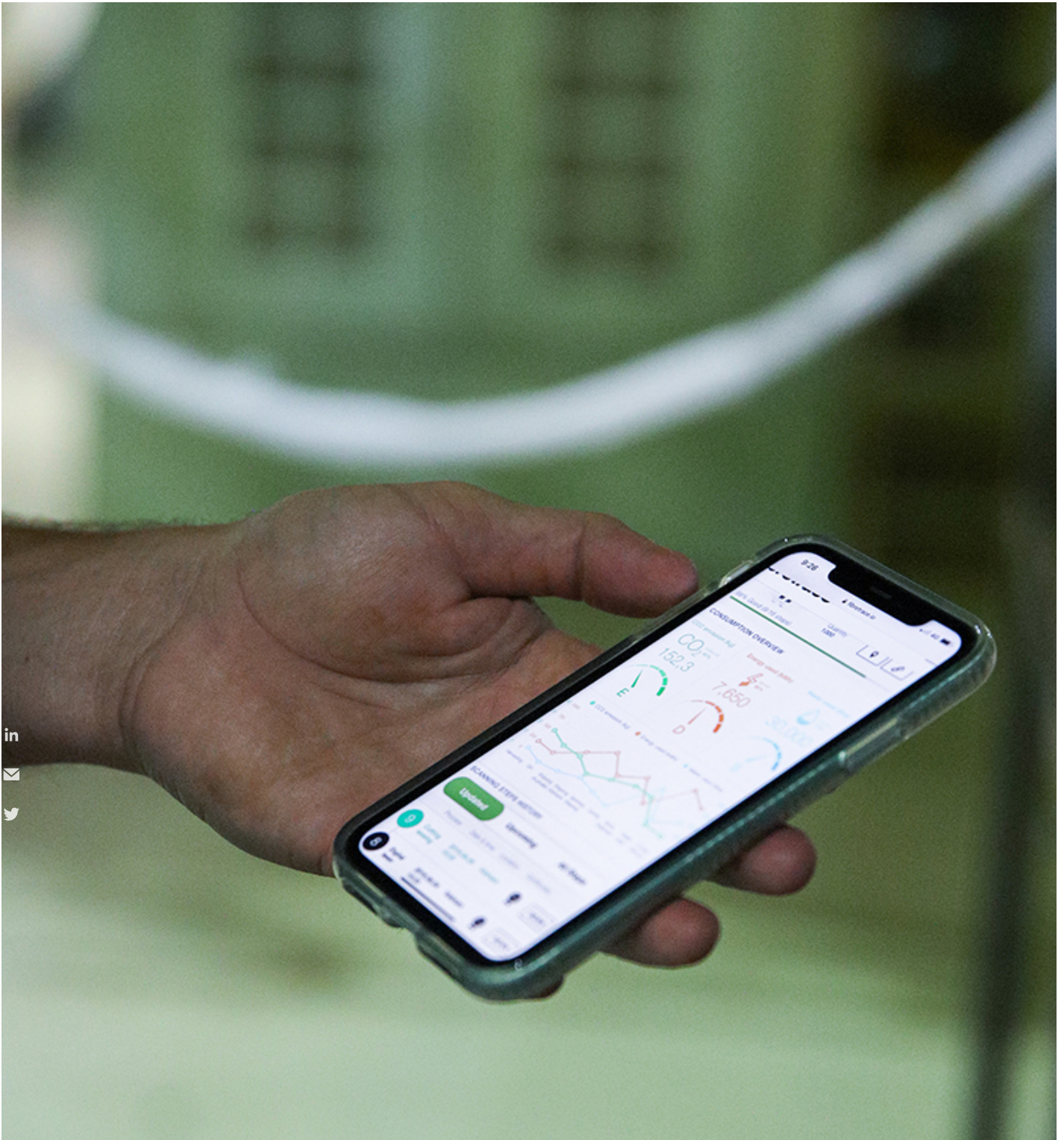
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Harris Tweed Hebrides have added FibreTrace technology to its woollen textile

She adds: "Despite the importance of the sheep farming sector to many of our most rural and remote communities across the UK, the relative scale of the wool industry has made it more challenging for British sourced wool to participate with established globally recognised sustainable certifications to trace wool back to its origin.

"This project is a fantastic step forward to help us all support the many UK farmers and Scottish crofters who supply the wool fibre to produce Harris Tweed, which is always handwoven using 100% pure new British wool."





(/media/11465577/web-fibretrace-software-platform-in-use-cropped.jpg)

FibreTrace software platform in use

FibreTrace provides brands and retailers with the ability to quantify and audit fibre content and access primary impact data for all natural and man-made solutions.

The partnership marks a global first for FibreTrace to launch fully traceable wool into the global market, sharing the entire lifecycle of sustainable UK wool products with consumers for the very first time.

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