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NEWS

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Camera saves explorer from a frosty finish

A Scottish explorer has avoided certain death after a failed third attempt at reaching the North Pole - with the help of his digital camera. David Mill, from Kenmore in Perthshire, was able to wire a picture of a 320-metre self-made runway to rescuers with his satellite phone and laptop, allowing a rescue plane to land safely.

"In the Arctic, you cannot land an aircraft by computer so I had to prove the pilot would have a clear line of sight as he needs to see what he is coming on to," claims Mill. "If the plane hits a bump it would just topple over and we would have another problem on our hands."

The 34-year-old, who runs survival courses in Perthshire, had become trapped on a shrinking ice-floe just 300km short of the North Pole, after attempting to become the first man to walk solo and unaided from Canada to the famous Arctic wilderness. The rescue crew claimed the explorer would have faced certain death if he hadn't been rescued within the week - the gravitational pull of the full moon would have sent hummocks and hollows rippling through the ice, making rescue all but impossible. I think you all know the moral of this story!

