



TELLUS SHALLOW TOPSOILS GEOCHEMISTRY **SURVEY**

DATA RELEASE

SURVEY AREA G12

March 2026

1. SURVEY AREAS

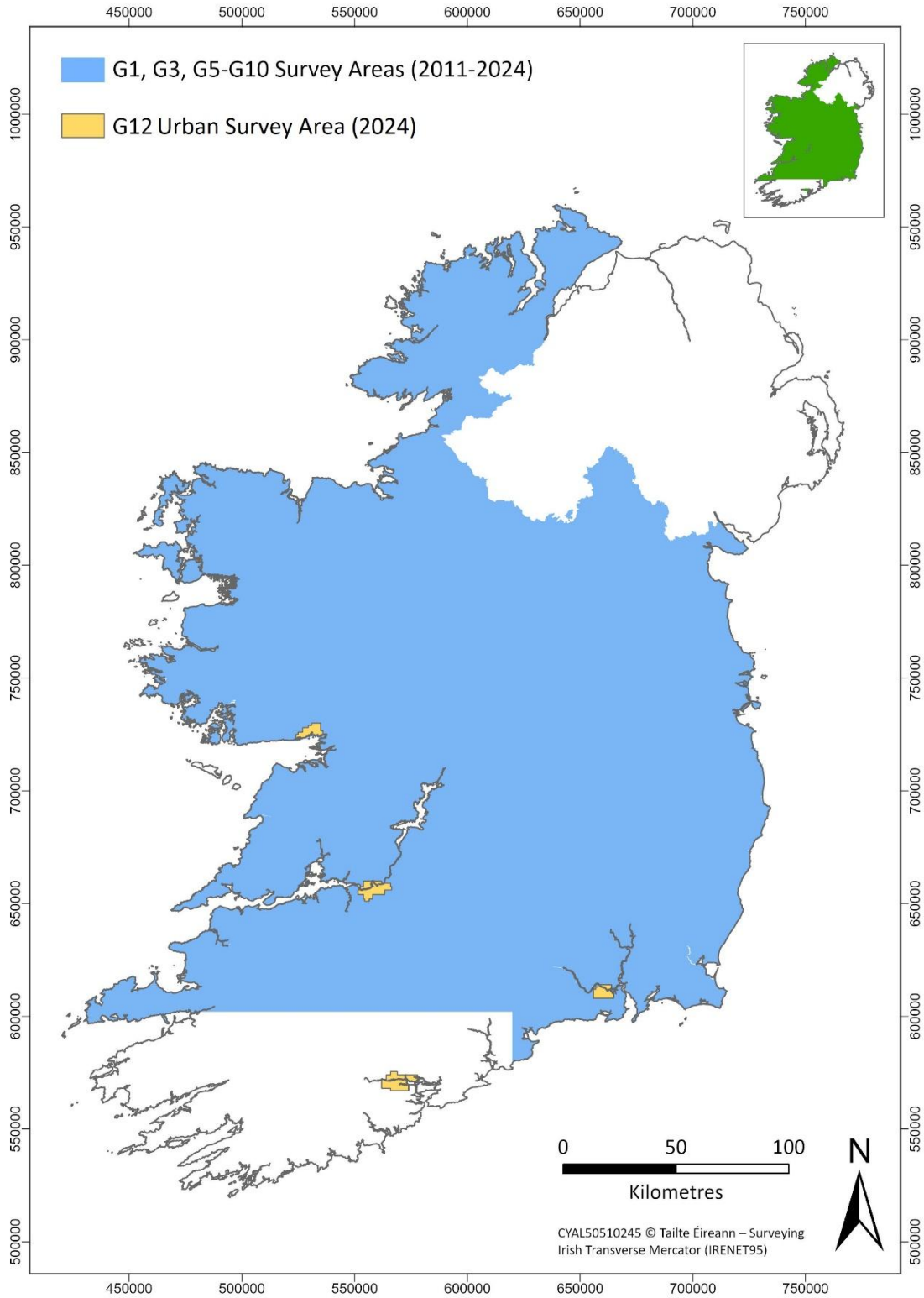
Geological Survey, Ireland has embarked on a flagship project to sample and measure the geochemical characteristics of the shallow subsurface across Ireland. The Tellus geochemistry programme is underway since 2011. Its aim is to produce spatial data to determine a surficial geochemical baseline of shallow and deeper topsoil, stream sediment and stream water sample media across Ireland. Work began in the border region (to complement the Tellus project of Northern Ireland, completed in 2008) and surveying has systematically extended in a southerly direction since.

This data release relates to geochemical sampling survey area G12, which was undertaken in early 2024. Survey area G12 covers the urban centres of Cork, Galway, Limerick, and Waterford in Ireland and brings a total country coverage for shallow topsoil to approximately 88% (see Map 1 and Map 2 below).

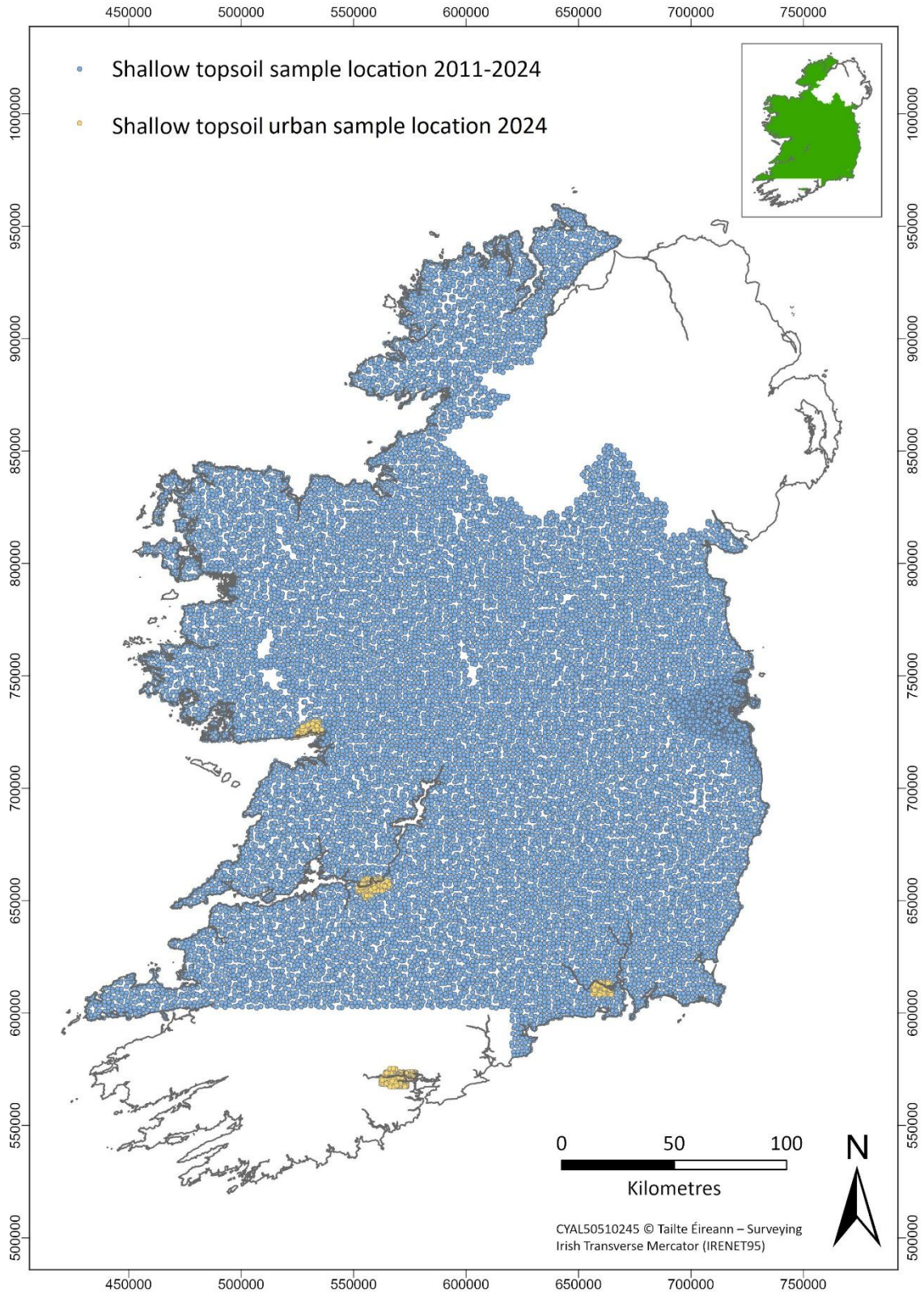
Within the data release for the G12 survey area, there are a total of 1083 sample sites at a typical density of one sample per 500 m by 500 m grid square (0.25 km²).

Shallow topsoil samples were routinely chemically analysed by several methods:

- Soil loss-on-ignition at 450°C.
- Soil pH by CaCl₂ slurry.
- Multi-element analyses for a range of major, minor and trace elements by aqua regia digestion with an ICP finish “ICP_{ar}”.



Map 1. Locality of the Tellus survey areas G1, G3, & G5-G10 (blue); G12 (yellow).



Map 2. Shallow topsoil sample locations in survey areas G1, G3, & G5-G10 (blue); G12 (yellow).



2. URLs FOR DATA DOWNLOAD

Data and supporting documentation may be downloaded from the GSI website at the following URLs:

Data package:

https://gsi.geodata.gov.ie/downloads/Geochemistry/Data/IE_GSI_Geochemistry_Shallow_Topsoil_A_G12_CGLW_Urban_ITM.zip

QC Data Report:

https://gsi.geodata.gov.ie/downloads/Geochemistry/Reports/IE_GSI_Geochemistry_Shallow_Topsoil_A_G12_CGLW_Urban_ITM_Report.pdf

QC and EDA plot packages:

https://gsi.geodata.gov.ie/downloads/Geochemistry/Data/IE_GSI_Geochemistry_Shallow_Topsoil_A_G12_CGLW_Urban_QC_and_EDA_Plots.zip

For support and further information at GSI: Tellus, tellus@gsi.ie.

3. RELEASE INFORMATION FOR ANALYTICAL DATA

Geochemical data for analytes by pH (CaCl₂), LOI (at 450°C) and ICP_{ar} analyses on <2 mm fraction shallow topsoil (0.05 to 0.20 m depth). Unique sample ID is a combination of site number and sample media code. Location co-ordinates data easting and northing are in Irish Transverse Mercator. In case of non-detects, i.e. data reported by the laboratory as "< LLD", data are censored to half the method LLD. For elements where a very large proportion of observations fall below the accredited LLD, non-accredited, uncensored below-LLD data are also provided (B, Ta, Pd and Pt). Conditioned pH data are calculated using the linear regression relationship between the G12A block of data and the mean values for the pH SRMs for blocks up to G6 (Intercept: 0.17; Slope: 1.05). Users are cautioned that no conditioning or correction factors have been applied to the data, other than for pH. Therefore, boundary affects for some elements may be apparent if mapping alongside other Tellus datasets.

- **IE_GSI_Geochemistry_Shallow_Topsoil_A_G12_CGLW_Urban_ITM_6711xxA-6724xxA_Download_v1.0:**
[IE_GSI_Geochemistry_Shallow_Topsoil_A_G12_CGLW_Urban_ITM_6711xxA-6724xxA_Download_v1.0.xlsx]