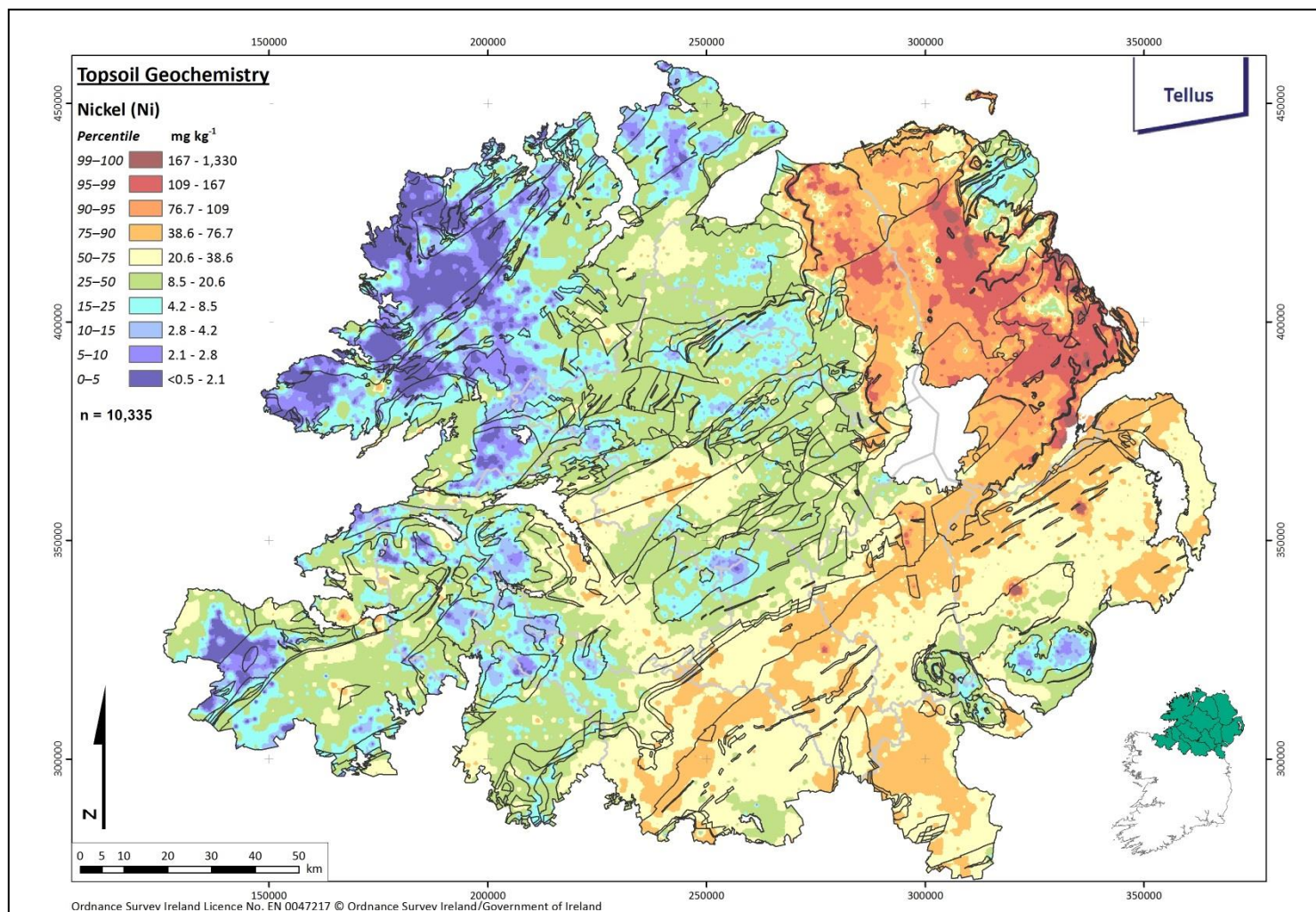




About Tellus

Tellus is a national programme to gather geochemical and geophysical data across the island of Ireland, examining the chemical and physical properties of our soils, rocks and water to inform the management of Ireland's environment and natural resources. Tellus is undertaken by the Geological Survey of Ireland and is funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Tellus surveying has been carried out in Northern Ireland (2004–2008), the border region of Ireland (2011–2013) and in the north and east midlands of Ireland (2014–2015). Surveying of the west of Ireland is scheduled for completion in 2017. Tellus aims to complete surveying the entire island of Ireland on a phased basis in the coming years.

Download free data and interactive maps at www.tellus.ie

Geochemical data fact file

Tellus Border geochemical surveys were conducted between August 2011 and June 2012.

Samples of soil, stream sediment and stream water were collected from a region spanning 12,339 km² at a typical density of one sample per 3–4 km².

Two soil samples were taken at each location. Topsoil samples (c.5–20 cm depth) were analysed for 52 elements, pH and loss-on-ignition. Subsoil (c.35–50 cm) samples have been archived.

Stream water and sediment samples were typically collected from first and second order streams. The sieved <150 µm sediment fraction was analysed for 56 elements. Water samples were analysed for a range of physical parameters and 65 chemical elements and ion species.

Nickel (Ni) in topsoil

The map displays the range of nickel (Ni) concentrations in 10,335 topsoil samples (c.5–20 cm) determined by the Tellus Border survey in the Republic of Ireland, and the Tellus survey in Northern Ireland.

Nickel concentrations were determined by ICP-OES analyses following *aqua regia* digestion. The lower limit of detection is 0.5 mg kg⁻¹. Data have been quality controlled with respect to a range of certified and secondary reference materials.

High Ni concentrations characterize topsoil overlying the Antrim basalts. Lower but still relatively high Ni concentrations are also reported from topsoil overlying parts of the Longford-Down inlier. The lowest Ni concentrations recorded in topsoil are in the west of the survey area, in areas underlain by the Sliswood Division, much of the Dalradian Supergroup, Donegal granites and the Pennsylvanian sandstone-shale-coal succession around Lough Allen. Many of the samples with low Ni concentrations are from areas of bog or peaty topsoil.