Geological Survey of Ireland – Tellus Communications Viewer

The Tellus programme is a geoscience mapping programme that informs the management of our natural resources. As part of the programme, a low-flying airborne survey is in operation. This survey involves an aircraft flying at 60 metres above ground level over rural Ireland gathering geophysical information about the earth below it.

WHAT ARE THE **KEY BENEFITS** TO THE TCV OF USING EIRCODE?

Speed and accuracy in locating land parcels of landowners and residents by using their unique Eircode

Increased **communication and rapport** with landowners and residents

Increased efficiency in data gathering and mapping

Time saving across all survey elements

The survey is data intensive. We gather and manage geospatial information, flight plans and comprehensive records of contact with landowners, residents, and so on. To do this effectively, Tellus has developed the Tellus Communications Viewer (TCV). This is a single, easy-to-use system that can be used remotely by multiple users, and combines all the required information. The TCV utilises a number of different geospatial information systems, and one of the most useful of these systems is Eircodes.

How are Eircodes helping the TCV?

Eircodes have been successfully integrated into the TCV system. This allows us to accurately locate landowners and residents who need to be given notice of flights. Because the survey aircraft is low flying (60m), it is extremely visible to the public within the survey areas. It could also pose a fright risk to sensitive (often valuable) animals including horses, pedigree cattle, sheep, poultry and deer.

A data solution capable of integrating several large spatial datasets, such as Eircodes, was necessary in order to identify particular land parcels from (often non-unique) addresses. To check an Eircode in the TCV, the Eircode is entered into a dedicated field in the address block. Then, a few moments after clicking the 'Validate Eircode' button, the property for this Eircode is located on the map. If the Eircode is valid, the system will automatically complete the address lines and location details. If the Eircode is not valid, an error message is displayed.

Scale of savings or improvements

Using Eircodes makes data collection quicker and easier, which increases the overall efficiency and accuracy of the survey. Communication with landowners and residents is also enhanced, with 90% of those who are affected by the survey supplying their Eircode.

At first, some (about 50%) seemed quite hesitant about giving their Eircode, possibly because they didn't know it off-hand. However, when they learned that they could check their Eircode on the finder website (Eircode.ie), the majority of people were happy to find this information and share it with us.