



Farming from the sky!

In the South American country of El Salvador the fields full of sugar cane, are now being tended by drones. Large unmanned hexacopters fitted with 20-litre tanks for carrying fertiliser or pesticides follow mapped routes and spray the crops. This isn't a case of new technology replacing old farm equipment - some of these fields are being sprayed for the very first time.

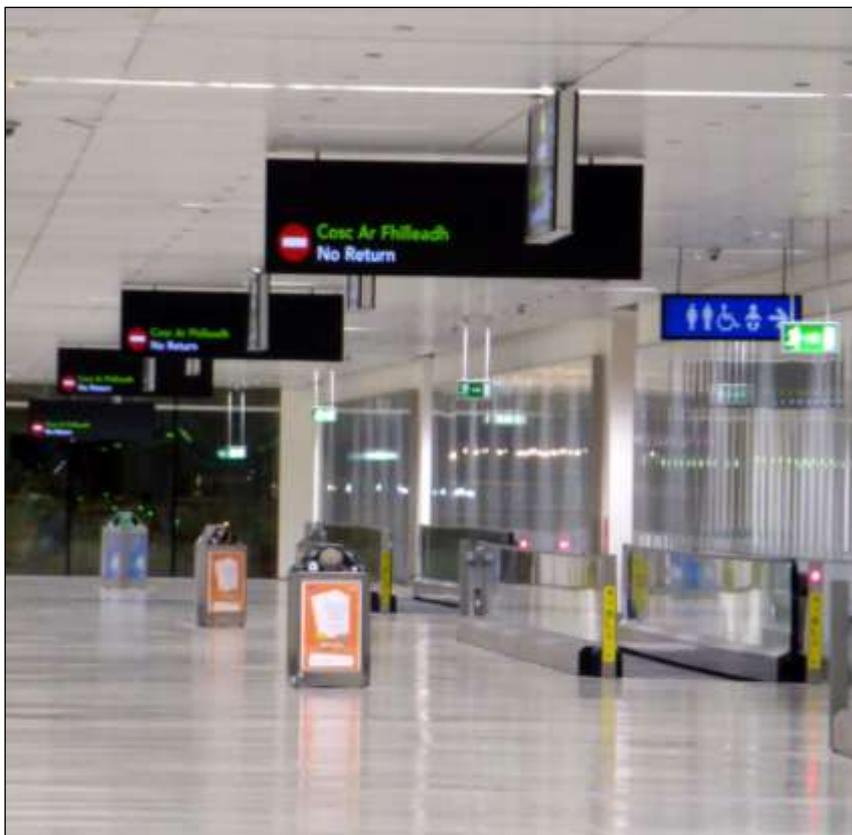
"We're spraying crops that previously have not been sprayed," says Nick Nawratil, chief operating officer of Hylío, the firm behind the trial.

"That's one huge opportunity that drones are opening up." In a country where access to fields is often difficult for tractors and even planes, drones are showing great potential. Mr Nawratil thinks the success of crops could improve by "tens of percent".



Pictured: A farming drone.

Airport crime doubles in two years



Pictured: A typical airport terminal.

There were 5,234 crimes at or close to airports in the UK in 2017, compared with 2,432 in 2015.

Vehicle crime and weapons are among the types of crime to have increased. Police said they confiscated small weapons from people whose own countries legally allow possession. The airport with the largest number of overall crimes recorded on or near the premises was Stansted, near London, with 1,870 in 2017 and 721 in the first five months of 2018.



Where have all the toilets gone?



Pictured: Public toilets in Severn

If you've been out and about this summer, you may have had to search harder to find a toilet! The number of public toilets has been declining for a number of years. According to the BBC, some UK high streets and other places of interest now no longer have any council run public toilets at all!

At least 673 public toilets across the UK have stopped being looked after by major councils since 2010, according to figures obtained under the Freedom of Information law. In that time, the UK's population has been increasing.

Has a public toilet disappeared near you? Let us know!

The end of the 9am-5pm working day?

Traditional workplace hours of 9am to 5pm are now the hours for very few workers, research suggests. Just over 5% of people in the UK now work such hours, a YouGov survey found. Almost half of the people asked worked flexibly, with arrangements such as job sharing or working less hours, allowing them to juggle other commitments, it found.

Anna Whitehouse, a campaigner to improve flexibility in work, is delighted with the change. Anna, whose own flexible working request was refused by her employer, said there were still misconceptions about such arrangements. In her case, her employer refused her request for 15 minutes flexibility at the start and end of each day to enable her to drop off and pick up her children from nursery.



Pictured: Anna Whitehouse from the Flex Appeal.



YOUR COMMENTS

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