

Your NUAR News

Newsletter

• October 2025

- Welcome to the October edition of our regular National Underground Asset Register (NUAR) newsletter for asset owners and supply chain contractors. Keeping utility, pipeline operators, telecommunications, transport organisations and local authorities up to date.

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- This edition includes the following:
 - News
 - Customer support for NUAR
 - Platform Improvements
 - Upcoming webinars for the admin, user, data lead and champion training session
 - Top tips for admins and data leads
 - Details of upcoming events
 - Information on opportunities to engage with the NUAR team

• NUAR news

• Last chance to respond to NUAR legislation consultation

Last chance to respond to NUAR legislation consultation.

The Government Digital Service's consultation, launched on the 6 August, closes at 23:59 on 15 October. Please sign up and share your views on requirements for secondary legislation.

[Read the consultation and respond here.](#)

The Data (Use and Access) Act achieved Royal Assent in June this summer. This allows NUAR to operate as a statutory register. The Act is primary legislation, which establishes a framework for governance. Secondary legislation will be required to provide detail to implement the primary legislation. NUAR will be implemented by regulations introduced in at least two tranches of secondary legislation. This consultation seeks views on the first tranche, covering:

- Initial data upload
- Keeping data up to date
- Access to information held in NUAR

The responses to this consultation will be used to inform the first tranche of secondary legislation. A subsequent consultation to seek detailed views in relation to the second tranche of regulations will be launched when appropriate (currently this is expected to take place during 2027).

• How NUAR complements existing safe dig processes

The removal of user limits has driven increased interest in NUAR and generated engagement, discussion, and questions from the asset owner community.

It is excellent to see such strong engagement, and we have taken the opportunity to clarify the platform's role in relation to existing excavation regulations and procedures.

This has involved explaining that NUAR is here to complement and enhance existing practices, rather than replace them. By providing one of the most comprehensive datasets of underground pipes and cables in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland in a single online map, NUAR can dramatically streamline the ability for users to search for, access, and view data on buried assets.

This supports Safe Excavation procedures and the avoidance of utility strikes when undertaking statutory duties in respect to the design, construction, maintenance, operation, or improvement of underground assets under any relevant legislation, including sections 79-82 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 91 and equivalent provisions in The Street Works (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.

The NUAR platform does not provide formal Health and Safety instructions or risk assessment advice. Users should be aware of all applicable guidance, including but not limited to: HSE guidance document HSG47; HSE guidance document GS6 (for overhead lines); and any specific direction given by owners of buried utilities.

Users should maintain existing Safe Excavation practices as specified in industry guidance and company policies, including for excavation near high-risk assets (e.g. where custom guidance or further engagement such as a detailed risk assessment or onsite supervision are required) and additionally to follow all instructions for necessary asset owner engagement, where flagged on the NUAR platform. This is to reduce the risk of harm to workers and damage to underground assets.

The guidance statements on the platform have been updated to reflect this.

NUAR now has over 320 asset owners' data published to date and over 400 agreements from organisations to share their data with NUAR. As we bring more asset owners onboard, the data displayed on the interactive map or in an exported work pack will become even more comprehensive.

If you have further questions on the use of NUAR, please contact your NUAR Account Manager or support@nuar.uk.

• Support for NUAR

Esh Construction recently welcomed representatives from Ordnance Survey to discuss collaboration opportunities on NUAR.

Karen Hunt and Neil Dewfield met the Esh team to get insight into how the system is used day to day and share feedback, before heading out to an Esh-Stantec joint-venture site to review the system in action.

Karen Hunt, NUAR Engagement Lead at OS said, "It was fantastic to see NUAR in action on the ground and hear firsthand the benefits it delivers and understand where practical improvements can be made to ensure NUAR development further supports safe excavation processes."

Some of the feedback from the Esh team included:

"NUAR is a great tool, we use it every day as part of our safe excavation process."

"NUAR is used to identify hazards ahead of works, helping to minimise dangers for our site teams, and providing access to a 24/7 live system of underground cables. I find looking at multiple paper maps at different scales and formats very tricky. With NUAR it's a much better way to identify buried assets. I can see everything in one

place on a common platform. I can switch layers on and off and receive the attribute data that I require to enable me to understand what buried assets are in the ground.”

Bringing together users and developers like this is key to driving innovation and making sure new tech works where it matters most. If you are interested in engaging with the NUAR team, please contact adoption@nuar.uk.

• Platform Improvements

The NUAR platform is continually evolving as enhancements are made to address user feedback. One area that has attracted most feedback recently has been PDFs and we will be releasing the following updates by 10 October:

- Annotations and dimensions corrected to appear in PDFs in the same position as in the portal map
- The size of point symbols has been halved, resulting in a less cluttered PDF
- All appropriate raster layers will now show on PDFs

Further PDF improvement work is being worked on which will aim to address:

- The clarity (pixelation) of PDFs
- The scale of maps on PDFs

• Engagement with pipeline • asset owners

Over the past month, OS has met with several of the larger gas and oil pipeline operators and had some great engagement to understand how existing excavation enquiries work and what risks need to be mitigated via NUAR notifications of work.

The UK Pipeline Operators' Association (UKOPA) also welcomed representatives from OS to attend their monthly Infringement Working Group (IWG) meeting on 16 September. OS presented updates on the NUAR platform, including a revised guideline statement on the safe usage of NUAR and a high-level development roadmap. IWG further engaged our representatives in some in-depth discussion around notifications of works and how NUAR can integrate with existing safe excavation processes.

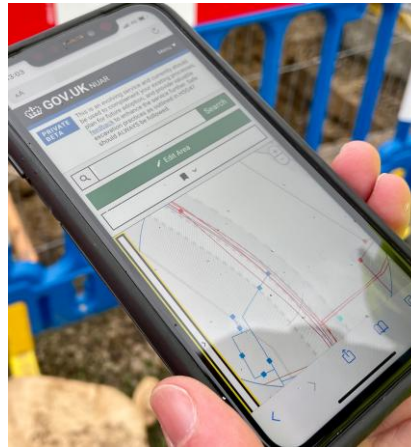
OS has also commenced a review of existing NUAR platform messaging for sensitive assets, focusing initially on gas and pipeline asset owners. The goal of this work is to ensure the way sensitive assets are displayed on the platform and the warnings that accompany them are appropriate and consistent.

Several asset owners have been contacted directly, resulting in changes to how NUAR displays their data. Visibility of these sensitive assets will be increased, either by highlighting the asset itself or making a platform user aware that a sensitive asset exists within a search area. We are also working with Asset Owners to provide specific guidance for excavators.

OS is also engaging with industry bodies such as the Gas Networks Collaboration Forum to ensure standardisation across the sector with the aim of ultimately improving safety during works.

• NUAR User Webinars

- If you are a registered NUAR user, we would love you to join one of our monthly training sessions. In these webinars, we will take you through the basics of what NUAR is and why it is useful; then guide you through a step-by-step demonstration of all the key features that will help you get the most out of the platform.



- **Register here:**
- **October**
 - Mastering NUAR Administration: Step-by-step | [Monday 13 Oct, 14:00 – 14:30](#)
 - Being a NUAR Data Lead | [Monday 13 Oct, 15:00 – 15:45](#)
 - Getting started on NUAR as a user | [Tuesday 14 Oct, 14:00 - 14:30](#)
 - Induction for NUAR Service Adoption Champions | [Tuesday 21 Oct, 14:00 - 15:00](#)
 - Getting started on NUAR as a user | [Tuesday 28 Oct, 14:00 - 14:30](#)
 - Mastering NUAR Administration: Step-by-step | [Monday 29 Oct, 14:00 – 14:30](#)
- **November**
 - Technology Demo | [Thursday 6 Nov 13:00 – 14:45](#)
 - Mastering NUAR Administration: Step-by-Step | [Monday 10 Nov 14:00 – 14:30](#)
 - Getting started on NUAR as a user | [Tuesday 11 Nov, 14:00 - 14:30](#)
 - Being a NUAR Data Lead | [Monday 17 Nov 14:00-14:45](#)
 - Induction for NUAR Service Adoption Champions | [Tuesday 18 Nov, 14:00-15:00](#)
 - Mastering NUAR Administration: Step-by-step | [Monday 24 Nov, 14:00 – 14:30](#)

- Getting started on NUAR as a user | [Tuesday 25 Nov, 14:00-14:30](#)
 - **December**
 - Mastering NUAR Administration: Step-by-step | [Monday 8 Dec, 14:00 – 14:30](#)
 - Getting started on NUAR as a user | [Tuesday 9 Dec, 14:00-14:30](#)
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- **Top Tips:**

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- **For NUAR Admins:**

- We encourage you to add the supply chain organisations you are working with to provide them with visibility of NUAR, supporting them to work as efficiently as possible. This connection can be established in the Admin Portal by selecting 'Create Supply Chain,' designating your organisation as the 'Parent organisation,' and then adding your supply chain partner as the 'Child organisation.'

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- **For NUAR Data Leads:**

- Completing your initial NUAR data upload using a single data format makes future refreshes easier to replicate and manage.

• Upcoming events

- **Highways UK**

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- **15-16 October, NEC, Birmingham**

- NUAR Account Managers will be on the GeoPlace stand, number J14. We look forward to seeing you. Admission is free and you can [register here](#).
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• **KaarbonTech User Conference**

- - **21 October, Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford**
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 - The NUAR Account Managers will be attending this conference and are looking forward to having conversations about future drainage with local authorities.
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• **United Kingdom Pipeline Operators Association (UKOPA) events in October**

- - The NUAR Account Managers will be attending these events and are looking forward to engaging with pipeline operators.
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• **Women in Telecoms networking event**

- - **21 October, Geovation, London**
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 - NUAR Account Manager Marisa Hayes will be hosting this third anniversary party. [Please register here](#).
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• **Regional Highways Authority and Utility Committee events**

- - The NUAR team look forward to speaking to attendees at the following events: WMHAUC on 15 October and NWHAUC on 16 October. They're also looking forward to:
 - NIRAUC, 4 December,
 - JAG UK, 10 December,
 - SWHAUC, 11 December, and
 - SEHAUC, 12 December.
 - If you are at any of these events, please come and find us!
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• **Ordnance Survey technology demo**

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- **6 November, 13:00-13:45, Online**
- The Ordnance Survey Technology Development Team would like to invite you to a demo of the progress made since July after a successful move to Public Beta.
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- Come armed with an open mind and feel free to ask questions, as this is an interactive session. You will receive an email notification upon registering with a link to add the event to your calendar and a reminder email closer to the event.
- [Please register here.](#)

• **Opportunities to engage**

- **NUAR User Group**

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- Ordnance Survey leads a user group of asset owners and contractors representing the interests of the users, ensuring that the NUAR service meets the requirements of statutory undertakers and asset owners. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact karen.hunt@os.uk.

Want a NUAR update at the next JAG/HAUC/WHAUC/NIRAUC and regional meetings?

- NUAR Team Account Managers are available to attend the Joint Authorities Group UK (JAG), Highways Authorities and Utilities Committee UK (HAUC), Welsh Highways Authorities and Utilities Committee (WHAUC) and Northern Ireland Road Authority and Utilities Committee (NIRAUC) meetings to provide updates, such as recent/upcoming developments, and answer any questions from the forum attendees.
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- If you are part of a regional meeting or regional GIS forums, we welcome the opportunity to provide you with a quick NUAR project update.
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- To arrange this, please contact us at support@nuar.uk.

• Any questions?

- If you have any questions, or if you want to speak to our onboarding team about signing up to NUAR, please contact our Service Desk on email at support@nuar.uk.

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- Follow the GDS Geospatial Team for the latest news on NUAR:



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Registration No: 09121572

os.uk

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