



Context:

We are living through an extraordinary period of technological evolution that is changing how we live, work and travel. Location technologies enable us to be on the cutting edge of innovation and are increasingly valuable tools for businesses, public-sector organisations, and individuals. Spatial applications give us new insight into our place in the world, from tracking a parcel as it is delivered to your door, to our creation of a digital map of the pipes and cables that are buried underground.

The Geospatial Commission is the policy team responsible for setting the [UK Geospatial Strategy](#). Our aim is to unlock the significant economic, social and environmental opportunities offered by location data and maintain the UK's global leadership in geospatial technology.

Project overview:

Geospatial technology disruptors - we're in the process of establishing a Market Intelligence programme to help us develop/publish a UK government view on how evolving technologies (cloud; AI; quantum etc) may further disrupt the geospatial ecosystem.

The specific project can depend on the individuals specialist knowledge but could include:

- How might (improving) edge computing most disrupt applications of location data and technology?
- Can the principles behind LLMs be applied to non-textual data to, for example, train AI on the creation of detailed digital maps?
- Privacy & utility: How can technology improve anonymisation of location tracking data, whilst maximising its usefulness? What are current and future methodologies in this space? PETs, federated privacy.

Candidate specification:

Knowledge/experience of new/disruptive technologies and/or understanding of geospatial technology/applications.

Timing: start asap for duration 3-12 months.

Capacity: We would be happy to support full or part-time. This skillset might usefully inform a view of digital disruption in other policy areas too if we wanted to jointly assign a tech secondee.

Contact: rosalind.goodfellow@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

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Programme overview:

The Geospatial Commission is building a digital map of underground pipes and cables that will revolutionise the way we install, maintain, operate and repair our buried infrastructure - the National Underground Asset Register ([NUAR](#)). Once operational it will standardise, centralise and make available privately and publicly owned data from 650+ organisations about the location of underground utilities assets. It will deliver at least £350m pa of economic growth through increased efficiency and utility strike avoidance, and reduced disruption to the public and businesses.

NUAR has just launched a BETA version across Wales, London and North East England, and will be iteratively enhanced with new features, refinement of existing ones, additional asset owner datasets, and improvements to data currency. It is envisaged to be a live service across England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2024/25.

We would benefit from someone with experience in building and operationalising digital products and services, particularly services that are run on an ETL data requirement and evolving data model, to inform the operational (and potential commercial) future running of the NUAR service.

Candidate specification:

A technical *geospatial* background is not required, rather an individual with proven experience of leading the development, introduction to market and operation of new digital products / services. This would entail strategic understanding of relevant technical solutions/approaches and how the service keeps up to date with a market that might evolve over time.

Timing: start asap for duration 3-12 months.

Capacity: We would be happy to support full or part-time. The individual would work with a CS team delivering all aspects of the NUAR programme and part of the wider Geospatial Commission.

Contact: chris.chambers@cabinetoffice.gov.uk