

Helping you to achieve excellence in street data management



The GeoPlace
Streets Team
offers a range of
services to teams
managing street
data in England
and Wales.



geoplace.co.uk



Excellent addressing and accurate street data can transform people's lives.

The National Street Gazetteer (NSG) is one of the nation's largest, most valuable shared assets.

By mitigating risks and reducing costs while at the same time increasing productivity and profitability, the NSG is an ideal means for removing the practical barriers to transformation and innovation across both the public and private sector.

The National Street Gazetteer is compiled and managed by GeoPlace LLP, and the GeoPlace Streets Team is on hand to offer all kinds of help with the management and use of streets data.

The National Street Gazetteer (NSG)

The National Street Gazetteer (NSG) is the most authoritative source of information about streets in England and Wales. Compiled by the combination of 173 highway authority Local Street Gazetteers (LSG), it was created to coordinate works on the street and help minimise the number of times they are dug up by utility companies, statutory undertakers and highway authorities. It holds details of every street in England and Wales.

For highways authorities and statutory undertakers, the NSG is a way to ensure that streetworks can be planned more effectively. For the public, this means less traffic congestion, increased safety and lower levels of disruption to road users.

- It holds definitive and authoritative information, and its maintenance is embedded in legislation
- It's an evidence-base for performance measurement and efficiency
- it has data needed for accurate planning; streetworks and reducing the costs of collaboration.

The LSG is used as a basis for a variety of services within local authorities, not only to underpin streetworks but as the core dataset in activities that use street data. This makes the LSG a key strategic data source within local authority internal management systems.



GeoPlace compiles and manages authoritative street data

At a local level, all 173 highway authorities across England and Wales create and maintain their authority's Local Street Gazetteers (LSGs).

Once a month, these LSGs are uploaded to the NSG hub alongside additional Street data submitted by utilities, regional authorities and national organisations. The GeoPlace teams verify the information against several hundred criteria, integrate the data, and make it available as the National Street Gazetteer to licenced users via web downloads.

Additionally, the authoritative street data is supplied to Ordnance Survey to help in the creation of the OS MasterMap Highways Network. The Unique Street Reference Number (USRN) from NSG is integrated with the detailed definitive geometry from Ordnance Survey; creating an accurate, navigable road network dataset for Great Britain. It is also used by the Department for Transport in their road funding analysis.

Efficiency. Consistency. Confidence

Consolidating the data at national level improves consistency and reduces costs. It also means third parties (such as utility providers) can get the data they need from one repository, rather than going out to hundreds of individual data providers.

For users, it also means there's a central place to obtain guidance and support. Over the last 15 years, the GeoPlace Streets Team has built strong, trusted relationships with every local authority in England and Wales.

There are processes and governance in place to ensure the continual improvement of data, allowing the NSG to be used for current and future user needs.

GeoPlace is happy to offer its expertise and advice for all kinds of street data management projects.



We're increasing efficiency in road classifications

The nation's roads are classified in a way that makes it easy to identify routes across the country. In April 2012, government handed over more responsibility to local highway authorities for the management of that classification process.

Previously, local highway authorities had done most of the work in reclassifying a road, but they had needed final sign off and agreement from the Department for Transport (DfT).

Today they work more independently without the need for central approval. They're responsible for defining the primary route networks across England and Wales (designating roads between places of importance), and each local authority has the power to designate a route appropriately as either an 'A', 'B' or 'C' road, in their area.

To make changes, the local authorities now send a single form to GeoPlace (along with any evidence), changes are then required to the National Street Gazetteer at which point the classification is live.

GeoPlace acts on behalf of DfT to host the form; to receive those applications; collate the information and distribute it to the designated contacts within the DfT and Ordnance Survey.

Local knowledge reduces traffic jams, enabling easier flow of people and vehicles, but central management of that knowledge increases confidence all round.

We're working in partnership to deliver the TMA Performance Indicator

The Traffic Management Act (TMA) Performance Indicator is a quarterly scorecard that tracks and evaluates works taking place across the road network. It was introduced by the UK Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC(UK)).

The scorecard helps organisations to:

- Benchmark performance
- Identify strengths and weaknesses
- Monitor trends overall
- Collect robust evidence for policy making or intervention
- Monitor the value of legislation

The scorecards form a rolling record of evidence about the works being done by utility companies and local highway authorities. They're important because they provide a true picture of what's happening on the UK's road network. The scorecards support self-regulation and good practice; and they help to identify major issues that need addressing in England and Wales.

The relationship has enabled delivery of many initiatives that directly affect the way that street works can be carried out by local authorities and utilities and has promoted better relationships with other parties in the broader street works industry.

HAUC(UK) and GeoPlace

HAUC(UK) has partnered with GeoPlace to administer, consolidate, and produce these scorecards.

HAUC(UK) brings highway authorities, utilities and government together with the aim of working safely and smartly - reducing the impact of streetworks across the UK, while maintaining the essential services provided by utility companies and local authorities.

HAUC (UK) is a partner organisation to the Joint Authorities Group UK (JAG(UK)), which sits under the GeoPlace umbrella. In short, this means our statisticians and experts are always working closely together.

JAG(UK) and GeoPlace

In March 2013, JAG(UK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GeoPlace for GeoPlace to provide services to JAG(UK) members. The aim of the partnership is to support local authorities in their day-to-day operation of works as well as delivering logical joined-up solutions to central government and other parties.



We're making it easier for anyone to find streetworks, everywhere

There are many diverse reasons for looking up planned streetworks. At one end of the spectrum, it's about practical collaboration between contractors. At the other, it's about organising a street party.

- GeoPlace's Streetworks signposting service enables the Department for Transport (DfT) to make streetworks information more accessible for everyone.
- The service enables users to search for streetworks via a map or free text search function and then directly link to the relevant highway authority streetworks register.

Under the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991, each English local highway authority has to make its streetworks register available to the general public.

This makes it easy to find answers for simple queries in one area. However, complex requests across a wide area take up time – and each local highway authority's website works in a different way.

GeoPlace's services provide easy access to streetworks data, all in one place. It's free, and anyone can use it.



Findmystreet

Findmystreet.co.uk lists every street that's held in the National Street Gazetteer (NSG). For England and Wales, Findmystreet.co.uk shows where a street is, what its official name is in the NSG, and who is responsible for maintaining that street.

Via Findmystreet.co.uk, anyone can find out which streets are recorded in the NSG.



We manage the Street Works Act (SWA) code allocations

Street Works Act (SWA) codes are allocated to statutory undertakers and others with a licence to carry out streetworks. These codes are a safety-net: an organisation can't conduct streetworks without one.

GeoPlace is responsible for the administration, allocation and hosting of the SWA codes on behalf of the DfT. Any statutory undertaker regulated by OFCOM, OFGEM or OFWAT requiring an SWA code needs to register with GeoPlace, first.

GeoPlace helps you to achieve excellence in street data management

Our GeoPlace Streets Team has many of experience. We help local authorities, businesses, contractors, and all kinds of organisations to work with (and get more value from) the National Street Gazetteer – and to help traffic flow through the authority.

If there's a project you're working on, we'd like to hear from you.

GeoPlace Streets Team



Reviewing traffic sensitive streets

To help encourage national consistency we can work with authorities to review and advise on streets that should be traffic sensitive, identifying where changes should be made and communicating these changes through consultations. We might use a combination of data such as traffic counts, reinstatement records or road classifications but we can deliver many diverse reports, depending on needs and priorities.

We also run monthly statistics on traffic sensitive roads and generate national comparisons to give an indication of places in which data has become out-of-date.

Our Data Quality and Analytics and Engagement teams respond to individual local Highways Authority needs around managing street data.

Implementing permit schemes

Working together with JAG(UK), we've put together a comprehensive package to help authorities prepare, consult on and implement a permit scheme.

It can be a daunting task. But by drawing on the experiences (both good and bad), of other local highway authorities, it is possible to get it right first time.

One of the most important aspects of a successful implementation is preparation: Ensuring your data is complete and current, and understanding how your authority works currently under noticing makes implementation of any scheme much easier and straight forward task.

We understand the complexities of implementing and running a good permit scheme. Having worked with numerous schemes since they were first introduced in 2010, we have seen how a permit scheme can be an effective process in managing the highway network, leading to a reduction in congestion, efficiency in street works management and reduced air pollution.

Why do we need comprehensive, standardised National Street and Address Gazetteers?

From next-day deliveries of online shopping to streetworks; from meter readings to routing the emergency services – finding the right address in a high-rise block of flats, for example – comprehensive, standardised indexes of street and address data help to keep Britain running efficiently and effectively.

At the heart of these indexes, data users find two powerful identifiers: Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) and Unique Street Reference Numbers (USRNs).

UPRNs and USRNs enable many different data sources to be connected with ease and with confidence. Accuracy is a watchword – there's no ambiguity, and no duplication.

Excellent street and address data keeps Britain running smoothly

GeoPlace LLP is Great Britain's national guardian and champion for addressing and street data. We act as a co-ordinator, managing the UPRNs and USRNs, supporting the nation's street and addressing data creators, making that information widely available through

Ordnance Survey and our statutory partners.

Our work focuses on helping others to deliver excellence in street data management – liaising closely with local government, central government and industry stakeholders.

We play a central role in coordinating the management of street related issues such as congestion, capacity planning, streetworks, incidents and maintenance; and we help our partners to provide a holistic view of the streets network – collecting the authoritative data needed to provide a trusted evidence base for policy making.



Bringing location to life



GeoPlace: supporting national infrastructures and creating communities

We work closely with JAG(UK) and HAUC(UK), helping local authorities to identify common goals, which makes it easier to share best practice and deliver better outcomes.

This partnership also helps local authorities present joined-up solutions to central government and other parties, driving forward better street services to the consumer by streamlining processes in the managing of street works as well as building upon the data that is held within the NSG.

The Data Co-operation Agreement (DCA) was issued by GeoPlace to all district, county and unitary councils in England and Wales. It's a legally binding agreement between us, to support the creation and maintenance of the National Street Gazetteer.

Under the guidance of the DCA, we support a national governance process in which the local authority street Custodians elect regional and national Chairs to represent their interests in the development of GeoPlace data and services.

We're here to give you support and guidance

Are you working with streets or addressing? Would you like expert help with an addressing or streetworks project? Our technical support team loves a challenge.

We work closely with all of the nation's local authorities, as well as utility providers and other users of NSG data. We can offer all kinds of help with the management and use of highways data.

- supporting technical working groups
- working in partnership on data formats
- advising on data quality and interoperability
- providing expert help to street and addressing data users



GeoPlace is a public sector limited liability partnership between the Local Government Association and Ordnance Survey

