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**From Hades to
Heaven?
Developments in
integrated buried
asset information
systems in the UK**

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From Hades to Heaven?
**Developments in integrated buried asset information systems in
the UK**

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ABSTRACT: When designing any new pipeline scheme, information about the existing buried assets is essential to ensure that the design is optimized, even more so for trenchless projects where damage to existing buried assets may not even be identified at the time of the work.

With the deregulation of the utilities industry in the UK, where once only a small number of organisations would need to be contacted to obtain information about their assets, now over 100 may own assets in the area under consideration and collating the details can be a time consuming and expensive business.

In 2006 a research project was launched which looked at the problem of integrating the wide variety of data base systems and structures. This resulted in the launch in Scotland of an integrated web based system in 2012, the Scottish Vault. This has been very successful and is used by all members of the utility and highways community with legislation being introduced to support the timely update of data.

In England the development of such a system has been rather more problematic. The issues are not technical but rather organisational and financial. A number of funding models have been considered and some organisations have been established to promote such a system, only to struggle and fail. In 2018 another attempt was made to launch an integrated system for London, named Hades – Highways Asset Data Exchange System. The trial was successful and options for ownership of the data and processes are currently being considered. It is hoped to report on the successful implementation in the presentation.. The presentation will also consider the technical and organisational factors which need to be considered when setting up and the factors which made the Scottish project so successful so other countries can attempt to reach buried asset information Heaven!