

REFERENCE

2526111

RELEASE DATE

July 2025

SUBJECT

Various queries relating to water pipes location, if they are mapped on our system, and how many contain asbestos.

RESPONSE

NI Water answers each of your queries in turn as follows. Firstly, please note the following disclaimer.

The NI Water Corporate Asset Register (CAR) is our official system for recording physical operational assets, including water main and sewer networks, service reservoirs, treatment works, pumping stations, etc.

Please note:

- The CAR may not always reflect real-world conditions in real time. There can be delays between when assets are installed, modified, or removed and when those changes are updated in the CAR.
- The data used in this analysis comes from the live CAR, which is continuously updated by our Asset Data Management team.
- Any data or analysis provided should be considered a snapshot in time and is indicative only, therefore you should ensure that this data is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.
- Because our asset base changes daily, the information may quickly become outdated. If your project extends beyond three months, we recommend that you request updated data to ensure accuracy.

1. ***Please can you confirm if you have all of your water pipes locations mapped on your asset system? Has this information been included in the National Underground asset register?***

NI Water can confirm that our underground assets are supplied to the Geospatial Commission for use in the National Underground Asset Register.

2. ***Please can you confirm how many of your water pipes are made of the old concrete asbestos pipes? What percentage is this of the whole system please?***

There is approximately 3% of our whole water system made from asbestos cement (AC) pipes.

3. ***Can you confirm how many old decommissioned asbestos pipes have been left in roads, pavements and in land? In Km or miles please if possible?***

There are approximately 1,220 km of abandoned AC water mains in the CAR.

4. ***Can you confirm if these old decommissioned asbestos pipes are logged on your asset systems?***

NI Water can confirm these pipes are logged in the CAR where the information had been supplied to NI Water.

5. ***Can you confirm how easy it is for contractors working in the roads to be able to check on your systems and id these old decommissioned asbestos water pipes?***

If contractors have access to the NI Water CAR, they can easily interrogate the data.

6. ***Lastly are all of your storm and emergency overflow pipes permitted with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency?***

NI Water, through investigatory work on the wastewater network catchments, has identified discharges which have not been consented and our Environmental Regulator, the NI Environment Agency (NIEA) retains a register of these unconsented discharges.

New digital solutions have been developed in-house by NI Water's Asset Information Team to transform the Collection System consenting process between NI Water and NIEA. This has led to a consistent approach to maintaining the consent information by utilising the GIS and Ellipse Asset Register elements of the CAR to automate, as far as practicable, the method of submitting the Collection System Review Applications to NIEA. A number of Collection System consent review applications have been submitted to NIEA for processing.