WORKING IN PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

The Traffic Management Act (TMA) aims to reduce disruption on our roads. It obliges local authorities to employ a traffic manager and sets the notification period necessary before digging up the roads.

If you’ve received this factsheet, it’s because:

- We need to work in the publically maintained road, footway or verge in order to carry out the work you have requested.
- Or, your site has been identified as an area where working in public highways is a common occurrence.

If we need to work in the publically maintained highway, we will need to obtain on your behalf, either a permit or an opening notice depending on where you are in the country. From January 2010 most London boroughs and Kent County Council will require us to obtain a street works permit. There are certain differences between a permit and opening notice which can have an effect on your job.

We’ve created this factsheet to give you as much advance notice as we can on the potential implications of working in the public highway.

Working in public highways can add significant delay to the commencement of your job.

An Opening Notice
UK Power Networks has to apply in advance before it can excavate the public highway. Once you have accepted and paid the quotation, we will obtain the required notifications for you. Depending on the duration of the work different periods of advance notification have to be given to the local authority.

The Permit Scheme (many London boroughs from January 2010 and Kent)
UK Power Networks has to apply in advance before it can excavate the public highway.

Under the permit scheme, permission to excavate in the public highway has to be given by the local authority. One permit is needed per street. Once you have accepted and paid the quotation, we will obtain this on your behalf. The cost of a permit will depend on the work being undertaken.

Your local authority has the right to

- Charge an administration fee if the permit has to change in any way.
- Request alterations to what we’re doing on the site.
- Refuse the permit request if another utility company already has permission to work on the same street or adjacent roads on the same date.

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How it will affect your job

**Time**
The notification periods for working in public highways depend on the length of time the work will take. So if your job is going to take:

- More than ten days, then a minimum of three months’ notice is required
- Four to ten days, then ten days’ notice is required

If we work at weekends or outside normal working hours then special permission from your local authority will be needed.

If the work requires a road closure or a traffic diversion then a ‘temporary traffic regulation order’ will also be needed. These orders require three months’ notice – even if the work is only going to take a few days. In these instances it is sometimes necessary to operate temporary traffic lights.

**A typical example is:**
We may need to carry out work on a cable that runs through the footway outside your property. If this occurred, we may need to create a temporary public pathway in the road. This affects traffic flow and could then require temporary traffic lights.

**Cost**
We will usually obtain a ‘basic’ permit for you once you have accepted a quotation. However, if we need to work on certain roads or pavements, for example those that include red routes, loading bays or parking bays, we will need to charge this back to you in addition to your quotation.

This is because the charges by your local authority on these major routes could rise to as much as £2,000. Our Small Services team will discuss the cost implications with you if anything other than a basic permit/notice is likely to be needed.

**What you can do to speed things up**
To reduce the effects of working in public highways please remember the following:

- Check and double-check that the details of your job are correct – particularly the date you want the work carried out
- Provide a clear programme of works to help us. Including letting us know if there is going to be anything which is likely to jeopardise the permits start date.

**Find out more**
If you need more information about the Traffic Management Act permits or notices, or to find out where they apply please visit the Department for Transport website at [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)