

WORKING IN PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

Before UK Power Networks (or our contractors) can open up or excavate the publically maintained highway to complete your connection, we have to apply in advance to the local authority.



This permission can be sought either by notice or, from January 2010, a permit (in most London boroughs and Kent – excluding Medway).

The Government has implemented the street works permit scheme to give councils more power to control and co-ordinate the works that take place on their roads. Anyone carrying out road works will need to apply for a Street Works Permit in advance and work to set conditions such as timing and co-ordination, or the amount of road space to be left available to road users during the works. If companies break the terms of their permit, for example by working outside the agreed permit time scales, they will be fined.

The difference between the new and existing scheme

There are certain differences between the new permit scheme and the existing notices scheme:

Opening Notice

The start and finish time of a notice can vary within defined parameters.

Permit to work

The start of a permit is fixed and if work does not start the permit can be lost. If the excavation crosses an authority boundary you may require both a permit and a notice.

Your local authority has the right to:

- Require a minimum notification period for work in the highway: this can be up to three months for permits and notices.
- Set conditions for what UK Power Networks is allowed to do on the site, such as hours of work.
- Set conditions for traffic management requirements.
- Refuse the permit request in certain circumstances. This could be when another company already has permission to work on the same street or adjacent roads on the same date.

The potential effects on your programme

Time

UK Power Networks will apply for a permit on your behalf after you have accepted the quotation and, if required, your transformer chamber has passed its inspection. 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 10 days' work, then a minimum of three months' notice is required.
- Four to 10 days' work, then 10 days' notice is required.

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

If the work requires a traffic diversion or road closure then a 'temporary traffic 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. For example, if we are carrying out work on a cable that runs through the

footway outside your site, we may need to create a temporary public pathway on the road.

Cost

Notices There is a single fee and subsequent fines if the conditions of the notice are breached.

Permit to work Depending upon the category of the street and the duration of the works, a permit fee will be payable. There are also costs associated with the application and variation of a permit once granted. Permits will specify traffic management requirements and the costs associated. In cases where work needs to be carried out in red routes, loading bays, bus stops or parking bays, these costs can be significant.

What we will do to help you

UK Power Networks will:

- Discuss the street works implications of your project before issuing the quotation to you.
- Discuss the implications of your project with the local authority to minimise disruption.

What you can do to support delivery

Where a project is the subject of a street works permit, changes to programme may result in the existing permit no longer being valid. In these circumstances, a variation needs to be applied for but the local authority can refuse this or set a time to complete the work. This could cause a significant delay to your project so, if there are any changes to your planned programme, please notify us as soon as possible.

Find out more

If you need more information about the Traffic Management Act permit to work or notice schemes, or if you want to find out where they apply, visit the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk