

# Permitting Scheme for Street Works – Issues & Opportunities

Limitations and Opportunities  
January 2026 Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

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Tracy Beverley Head of Network Management  
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# What is Street Works & the Permit Scheme?

## **Street Works**

**Works carried out on the highway by utility companies (gas, water, telecoms, electricity)**

**Governed by the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA)**

## **Permit Scheme**

**The regulatory framework that requires anyone planning works on the highway to obtain permission.**

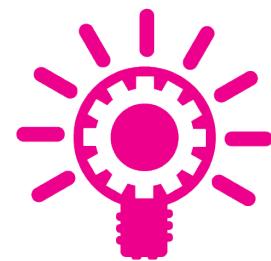
**BHCC operates a Permit Scheme under Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.**

**Applies to all works promoters (utilities, contractors, BHCC internal teams).**

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**Be confident**



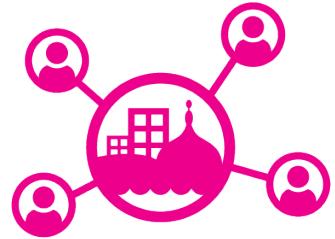
**Be innovative and creative**



**Be diverse and inclusive**

BHCC permit scheme introduced 2015  
Prior to this no effective coordination or planning of works on the highway, simply notified of works.

# Objectives of the BHCC Permit Scheme



Be connected

Reduce disruption to business and residents

Improve overall network management

Enhanced coordination of works

Encourage partnership & collaboration

Reduce duration of work on busiest streets

Promote forward planning



**Making it easier for people to move around the city**

# Key Features of the Permit Scheme

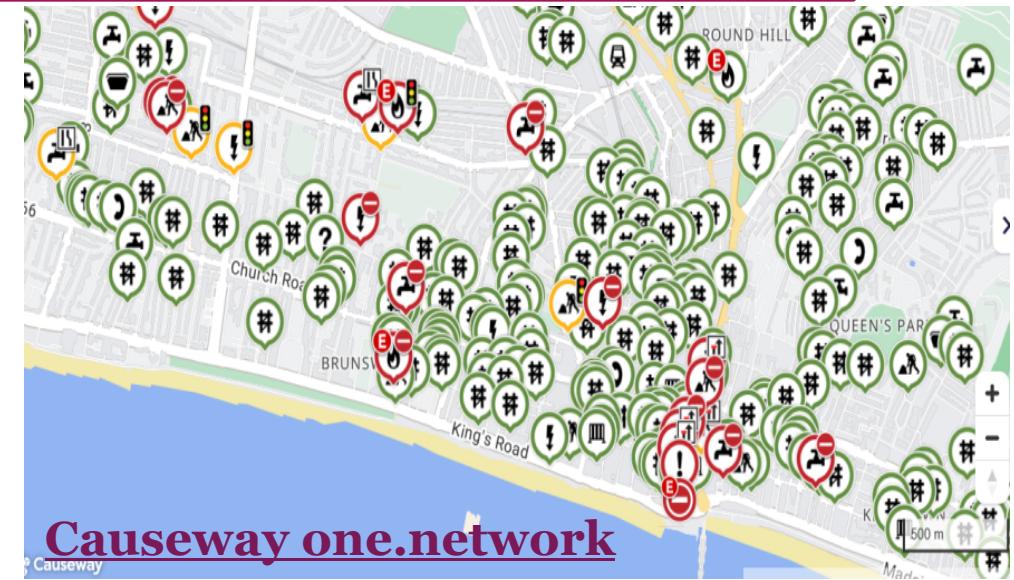
Permit Application

Permit assessed and granted or rejected

Permit issued with conditions

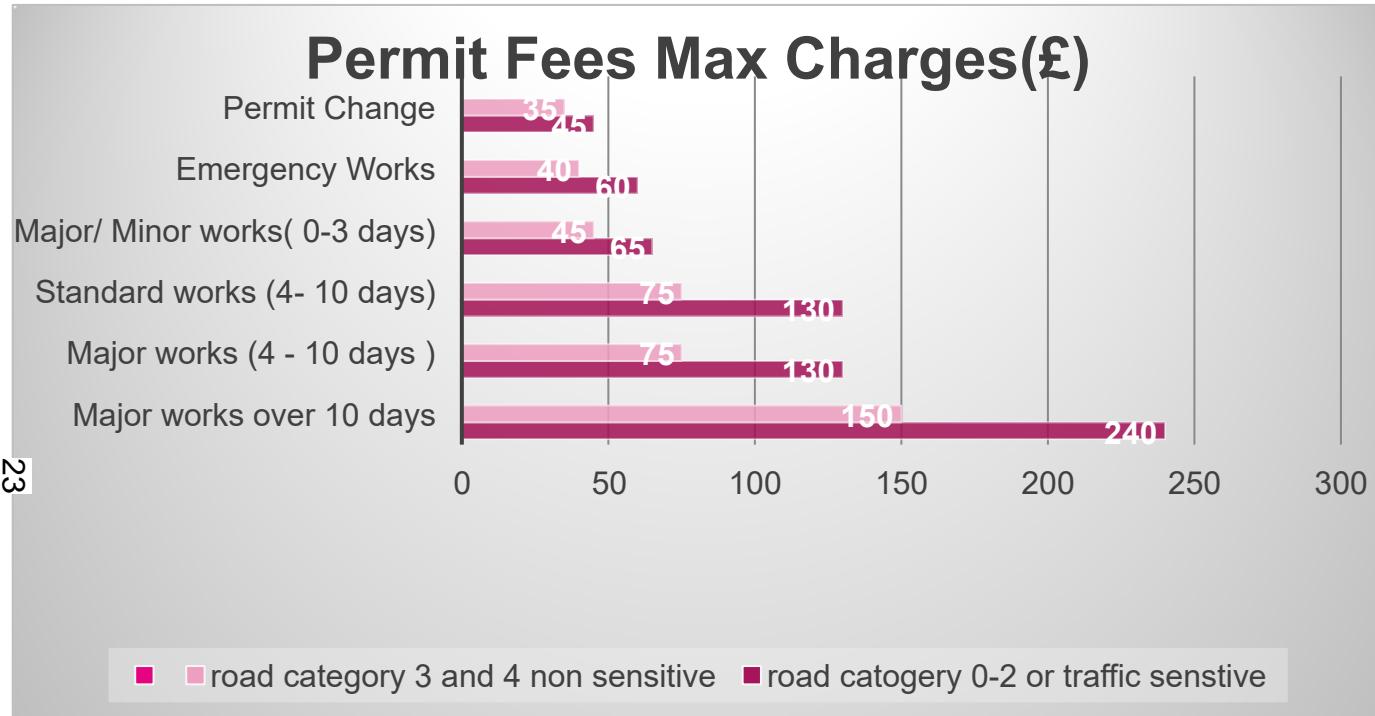
- **Electronic Permit Applications** via **Street Manager** (national DfT system) and **one.network**.  
BHCC receive **about 20,000** applications per year.
- **Advanced notice** periods depending on the type of work
- **Permit conditions** tailored to reduce impact (e.g. time restrictions, traffic management)

Utility Name	Number of Overruns
Openreach	9
Southern Gas Networks	7
Southern Water	75
UK Power Networks	10



**Fixed Penalty Notice(FPN)** It is an offence to work on the Public Highway without a permit. The max charge for this is **£500** (£300 if paid within 29 days). BHCC can also issue an FPN if the permit conditions are not met this is a max of **£120** (£80 if paid within 29days)

# Limitations of the Permit Scheme



Last year **3482** there were emergency works permits

Site inspections are carried out on all sites. Between Dec 24-Dec25 **6787** reinstatement inspections were carried out, **68** of these failed.

- Minimum application period between 10 days for major to 2 hrs after works start for emergency works
- BHCC must respond to all applications within 3-10 days
- No legal requirement for companies to consult but more conditions are being placed on utility companies.



# Looking forward -Opportunities

## Lane Rental Scheme

### **Current Permit Scheme** - Brighton & Hove Permit

Scheme manages 20,000 roadwork requests annually and must be cost-neutral, generating £800,000 yearly.

**Limitations of Current Scheme** - The existing scheme lacks financial incentives to **promote efficient** work or reduce traffic disruption during roadworks.

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**Proposed Lane Rental Scheme** - New scheme charges for works **in busiest 10% network** during peak times to encourage better coordination/ **forward planning, faster completion** and off-peak work.



Incentivises faster completion of works.  
BHCC emergency works average 20 days  
BHCC where LR operates 2-5 days

Promotion of Collaboration and forward Planning of works.

Reduces disruption to public and better publicity of works

Improve road quality and promotes innovative/ smarter ways of working

Generating income that can be used for transport projects.



Only 4 authorities currently operate Lane Rental inc.  
ESCC&WSCC

