

# Permitting Scheme for Street Works – Issues & Opportunities

Limitations and Opportunities  
January 2026 Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

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

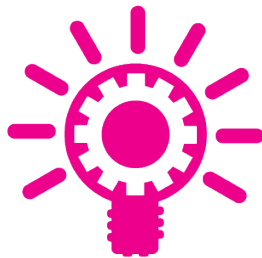
The regulatory framework that requires anyone planning works on the highway to obtain permission.

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

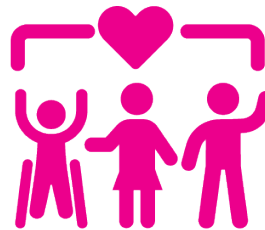
Applies to all works promoters (utilities, contractors, BHCC internal teams).



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

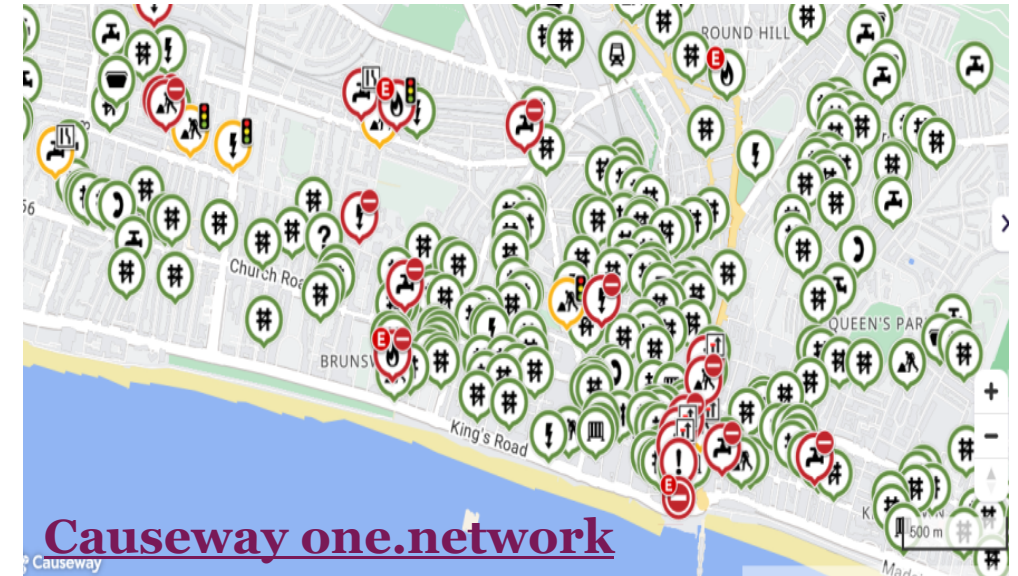
Permit issued with conditions

- **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)

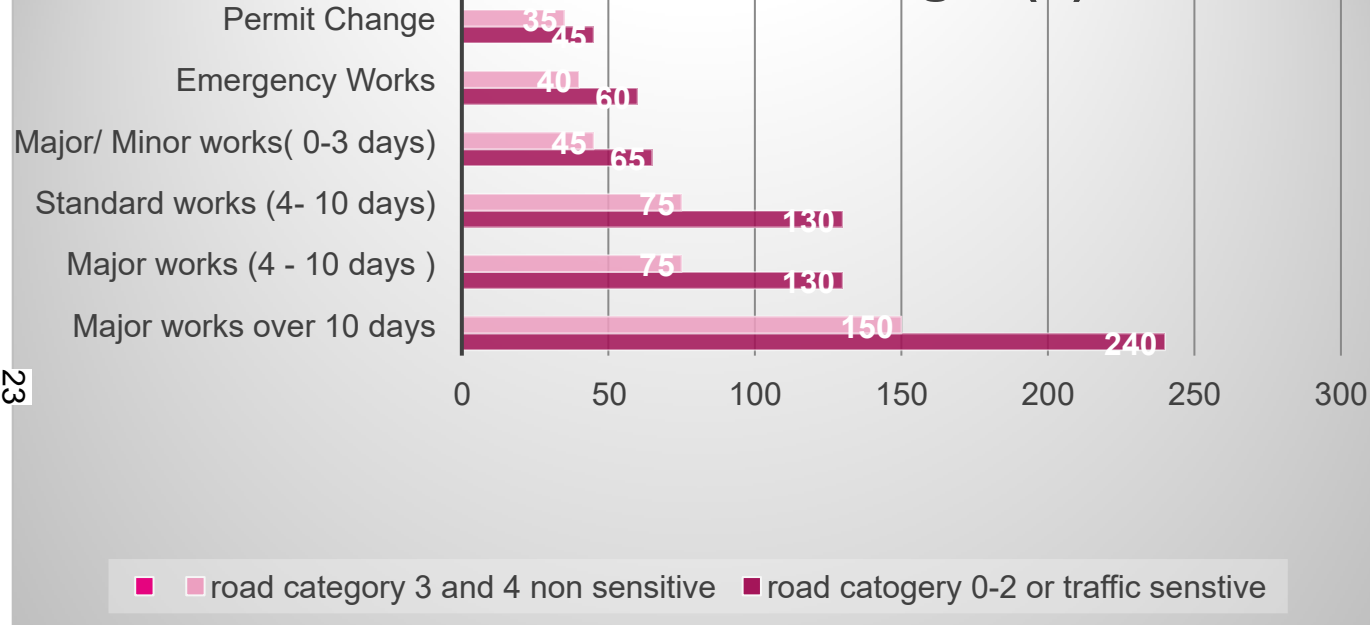


Utility Name	Number of Overruns
Openreach	9
Southern Gas Networks	7
Southern Water	75
UK Power Networks	10

**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

Permit Fees Max Charges (£)



- 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.

**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.**





# 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.

**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.



Be innovative  
and creative

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

