Common Permit Scheme
(East of England)
Why a Permit Scheme?

The New Roads and Street Works Act (1991) places a duty on highway authorities to co-ordinate activities (works) of all kinds on the highway.

The Traffic Management Act (2004) and the associated Regulations widened the NRSWA coordination duty to include other prescribed activities (works) that involve temporary occupation or use of road space.
Why a Permit Scheme?

The fundamental objective of a permit scheme is to create a common procedure to control all activities in the street.

It is essential that all activities in the highway are effectively co-ordinated and managed to ensure that traffic disruption and inconvenience is minimised ...

... whilst allowing promoters of those activities the necessary time and space to complete their work.
Permit Schemes in the UK

In Operation
Kent
London Boroughs
Northampton

In Application
Yorkshire
St Helens

In Development
Hertfordshire
Bedord (Borough)
Luton
Southend-on-Sea
Greater Manchester Boroughs
What is a Permit Scheme?

Permit schemes differ from existing powers for managing activities on the street in a number of key ways:

- Companies *book occupation* instead of giving notice;

- A Permit Authority can applying *conditions* to works to impose constraints;

- *Variations* to works will need to be requested and agreed;

- *Parity treatment* between highways authority Public utility works.
Conditions

The Permit Authority *(street works coordination)* can impose conditions as part of processing and subsequent approval of the Permit application, within the areas of:

- Timing and duration
- Traffic management provisions
- Environment
- Consultation and publicity
- Road space
- Methodology for carrying out activities

Conditions must be actively managed by the Promoter throughout the life of the permit and may be applied before works start, *e.g. consultation and publicity.*
The Common Permit Scheme

A common permit scheme involves a group of authorities, usually covering a particular area or sub-region, who agree to implement a functionally identical permit scheme.

The authorities involved in the Common Permit Scheme (East of England).
The Common Permit Scheme

The Common Permit Scheme will apply the scheme to all category roads across the authority’s network.

All of the authorities involved in the Common Permit Scheme want to ensure their duty is delivered across the entire network and the benefits to all road users is made throughout their journey, not just on the high volume strategic routes.

A cost to benefit analysis conducted for each authority within the group has determined both qualitative and quantitative benefits, with an overall cost to benefit ratio of between £3 and £7 for every £1 spent operating the scheme.
Implementation Timescales

Trial own-works permitting at least 3 months prior to a scheme commencing.

Timescales based on DfT guidance and authority project plans.