



## Kent Permit Scheme

### Introduction

In July 2009, the Secretary of State gave Kent County Council approval to introduce a permit scheme into Kent. Kent Highway Services, acting as an Authority on behalf of Kent County Council, is intending to introduce a permit scheme as part of its commitment to 'keep Kent moving'.

### What is the Kent Permit Scheme?

A permit scheme has the potential to improve management of all works on local road networks and significantly reduce unnecessary disruption to road users. Within a permit scheme, anyone carrying out works in the road will legally need to apply to Kent Highway Services for permission, in advance of the works.

As an Authority, Kent Highway Services can choose to grant a permit, apply conditions to a granted permit or decline permission for work. Using these powers, *not available under existing schemes*, Kent Highway Services can improve the management of all works on the road network and thereby reduce unnecessary disruption to road users.

### What will a permit scheme give to Kent?

The Kent Permit Scheme is designed to encourage and deliver improved planning and preparation for roadworks, ultimately leading to:

- more effective execution of roadworks (*the right resources and equipment to complete the work*);
- better consideration to those who live near or travel through roadworks;
- safer roadworks sites (*incentives to belong to and meet standard of the Kent and Medway Considerate Contractor Scheme*);
- more innovative solutions, focusing on limiting disruption to the highway (*i.e. no dig techniques*);

Ultimately, the practical benefits of a permit scheme will lead to Kent's highways being available to the travelling public for more of the time, improving both journey times and reliability.

### When will the Permit Scheme Start?

The final stages of introducing a permit scheme into Kent will involve obtaining a legal Order from the Secretary of State to give effect to the approved scheme.

Kent Highway Services will also need to prepare to operate the scheme and ensure all the works promoters, who work within Kent, are aware of the permit scheme coming into effect.

To complete these steps and start a scheme successfully, the Kent Permit Scheme will come into force in January 2010.

[kent.permitscheme@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kent.permitscheme@kent.gov.uk)

