

## Traffic Management Act 2004

The Traffic Management Act was introduced in 2004 to tackle congestion and disruption on the road network. The Act places a duty on local traffic authorities to keep traffic flowing on their road network by giving them additional tools to better manage parking policies, moving traffic enforcement and the coordination of street works.

Whilst some parts of the Act are already in force, new parts of the Act affecting how works are undertaken in the highway are due to come into force on **1<sup>st</sup> April 2008**. Local traffic authorities will have powers to direct when works in the highway are carried out or where new apparatus is placed. It provides for a new noticing system for street works, or alternatively Permits consenting to work in the highway and associated fixed penalty notices and overrun charging schemes.

The Act will affect how and when Severn Trent undertake work in the public highway. The following sets out some of the key changes:

- A tightened regulatory framework within which utility companies - gas, electricity, water and telecoms - are permitted to dig up roads, giving authorities more powers to co-ordinate works effectively with the aim of minimising disruption.
- Amendment to the current noticing periods, as indicated below to provide increased opportunity for co-ordination of works in the public highway

Type of works	Previous Notice Periods	New Notice Periods
Minor < 3 days	Daily Whereabouts	3 days
Standard 4 to 10 days	7 days	10 days
Major > 10 days	1 month	3 months
Where Road Closure required	6 to 8 weeks	3 months
Temporary Traffic Orders	6 to 8 weeks	3 months

- Power for authorities to direct utilities not to carry out their planned works on particular days, and where appropriate, to tell them that their works should avoid certain routes where it is reasonable to do so. This may limit how and when the connection is made.
- Embargos may be applied on any more works in the highway taking place. There are certain exceptions such as a new connection, where the embargo will be 20 days. In these cases the utility companies could be directed, not only to resurface the parts of the road that they had dug up, but to resurface the entire lane or width of the road. This could impact on our timescales for completing our work in the public highway and result in additional costs to yourselves.
- Provides a more effective regime to be developed for inspecting the works carried out by utilities. The aim would be to target poor performance so as to improve the quality of works.

Severn Trent intends to comply fully with the new legislation and work in accordance with the Code of Practice.

The act is much broader than this note. Should you wish to discover more information on the Traffic Management Act please visit [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)