

Permitted Development Guidance: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Charging at your home: off-street charging

Under the Highways Act 1980, Part IX Lawful and Unlawful Interference with Highways and Streets, it is illegal for any person to place or run a cable or wire along or across a public highway.

Having the cable trail from your home, across the pavement to your car will cause a safety hazard. If a passer-by injures themselves due to your cable, you can be held responsible. Furthermore, a cable across the ground can limit accessibility of the footway and can impact negatively on people with disabilities.

There is no instance in which you can trail your cable across the pavement, including the use of pavement drainage channels or a cable protector. Neither of these options are permitted as per the Highways Act.

Those who have access to off-street parking (e.g., a driveway or garage) can install a charging point in their home subject to several considerations. These considerations are set out in [Schedule 2, Part 2, Classes D and E of The Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(England\) Order 2015 \(as amended\)](#), also known as the GDPO. The GDPO states that planning permission is not required for the installation of a wall mounted electrical outlet or an upstand with an electrical outlet mounted on it for recharging of electric vehicles as long as the area is lawfully used for off-street parking.

If you have a front garden and want to create an off-street charging space for yourself, you need to follow the guidance for dropped kerbs, the need for an electrical vehicle charging point in itself will not be the determining factor for whether or not your proposal for a driveway falls within permitted development or will be successful in obtaining planning permission.

For installation of an electrical charging output (Class D - covers the erection of a porch outside an external door) to be considered as permitted development, the electrical outlet (and its casing) must not:

- Exceed 0.2 cubic metres
- Face onto and be within two metres of a highway
- Be within a site designated as a scheduled monument
- Be within the curtilage of a listed building.

For installation of an upstand with a mounted electrical charging outlet (Class E - covers the provision of buildings and other development within the curtilage of the house) to be considered as permitted development the upstand and outlet must not:

- Exceed 2.3 metres in height from the level of the surface used for the parking of vehicles. This limit is 1.6 metres where in the curtilage of a dwellinghouse or block of flats
- Be within two metres of a highway
- Be within a site designated as a scheduled monument
- Be within the curtilage of a listed building
- Result in more than one upstand being provided for each parking space.

For Class D and E, when the electrical outlet is no longer required as a charging point for electric vehicles, the wall (on which the outlet was mounted) or the land (on which the upstand was placed) must be returned to its previous condition (prior to the installation being carried out) as soon as possible.

If you are in a conservation area, and your charging point will be visible to the public, [you may need to seek planning permission](#). You will also need planning permission if your property is a listed building.