



Cambridgeshire
County Council



Cambridgeshire's EV Cable Channel Trial

Pre-launch All Member Briefing

23.03.2026



cambridgeshire.gov.uk

To cover



- Trial background
- Trial summary
- Trial process
- Trial costs and funding
- Kerbo Charge channel – overview and product details
- Q&A

Trial background



- What is an EV cable channel (EVCC)?
 - Trailing cables across the highway is not permitted.
 - Enables electric vehicle (EV) charging for residents with no driveway.
 - Secures the EV charging cable in a 'channel/gully' installed into the pavement.
- Why are we doing a trial?
 - H&T committee approval in March 2024.
 - Need to test process and product.
 - Need to understand the impact on the highway and public safety.
 - Ensure cost neutral to CCC.
 - Test in a limited trial before deciding whether to make business as usual offer for residents.



Kerbo Charge cable channel

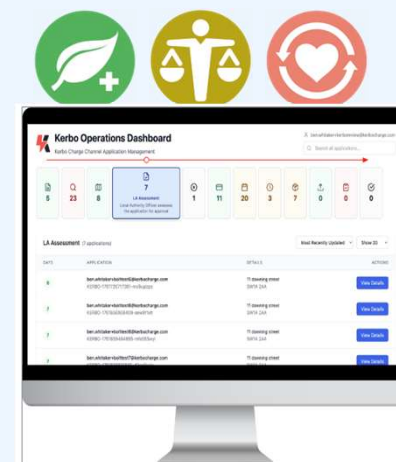
EVCC trial - summary



- Two phases:
 - Phase 1: 50 installs (10 per district)
 - Phase 2: 200 installs (40 per district)
 - Assess end of phase 1 for any significant issues – aiming for a smooth and quick transition to phase 2.
- Approved supplier – Kerbo Charge
 - Agreed channel and supplier specification with CCC officers.
 - Procurement and legal support.
 - Using regulatory powers as Highways Authority - accepted criteria for apparatus in highway.
 - Expression of Interest exercise Dec/Jan 2025-2026 including specification.
 - Pass/Fail assessment – one eligible supplier met published criteria.
- Timescales
 - Aiming to launch in April.
 - Phase one – approx. 6 months.
 - Phase two – launch Autumn/Winter 2026.

EVCC trial – the process

- Supplier managed approach
 - Resident applies to Kerbo Charge directly.
 - Kerbo Charge fully manage the application and installation process – via Kerbo Klik.
 - Kerbo Charge will do assessment for eligibility and technical review.
 - Kerbo Charge appoint contractor – NRSWA (New Roads and Street Works Act 1991) approved company.
- CCC process licences
 - S178 licence – permits resident to lay the cable across the highway via a cable channel.
 - £190 fee paid by resident – issued by Highways Development Management Team.
 - Sets conditions of use – liability, insurance requirements, correct usage, daily cleaning and reporting of issues.
 - S171 licence – permits the works on the ground.
 - Cable channel becomes a Council Highways asset – we will be responsible for maintenance.
 - £295 fee covered by government grant funding - £0 cost to resident.
- CCC monitoring and evaluation
 - Assess costs and processes – staff capacity and covering costs.
 - Feedback from residents – experience of process and product.
 - CCC - Any significant issues or concerns with process or product.
 - Report back to H&T Committee end of Phase 2 – recommend to make BaU offer?



Trial costs and funding



Item	Cost	Paid to
S178 licence agreement	£190	Cambridgeshire County Council
S171 licence agreement	£295	Cambridgeshire County Council (applied for by the approved supplier/contractor)
Supply and installation of EV cable channel	approx · £1,000	Approved EV channel supplier
Planning permission for EV chargepoint (if required)	£262	Local planning authority
Supply and installation of an EV chargepoint	approx · £1,000 - £1,500	EV chargepoint supplier
Approximate total cost	£2500- £3,000	

- EV Pavement Channel Grant:
 - Awarded £253,246 for Cambridgeshire.
 - £500 reimbursement to resident for cable channel.
 - £295 S171 licence fee covered – so £0 cost to resident.
- EV chargepoint grant scheme:
 - From 1st April, up to £500 towards purchase and install of an EV charger.

Total cost approx. £1,500-£2,000

- Benefit of lower home electricity tariffs still attractive.

Kerbo Charge channel - overview



Easy to insert & remove your cable
Insert and remove your cable in 30 seconds. The patented design opens and closes like a zip.



Ultra slim
Our electric vehicle charging gully is designed to be discreet and blend in with the surrounding pavement.



Zero trip hazards to worry about
The lids self-closes and can withstand 15 kN pressure, equivalent to an articulated lorry driving over the top.



Slim and shallow cable channel

- ✓ Contour flexing design
- ✓ One hour installation time



Patented self closing lid design

- ✓ Self closing lid to eliminate trip hazards
- ✓ UV stable with >25 year expectancy
- ✓ Low carbon and 100% recyclable

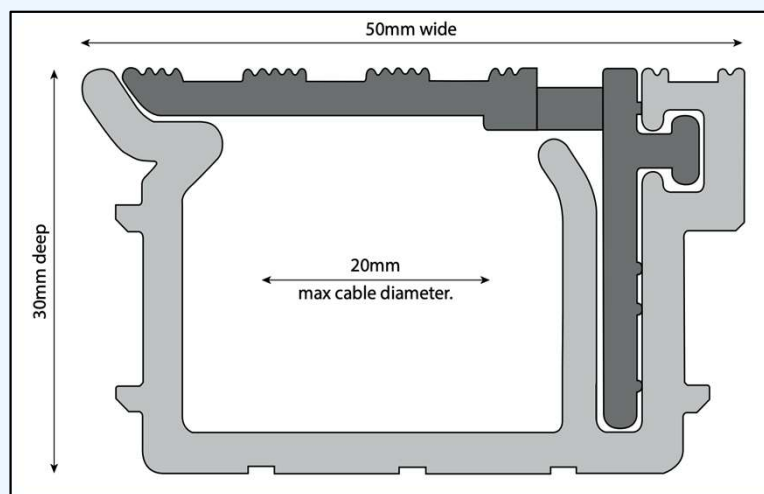


Safe for all foot and vehicle traffic

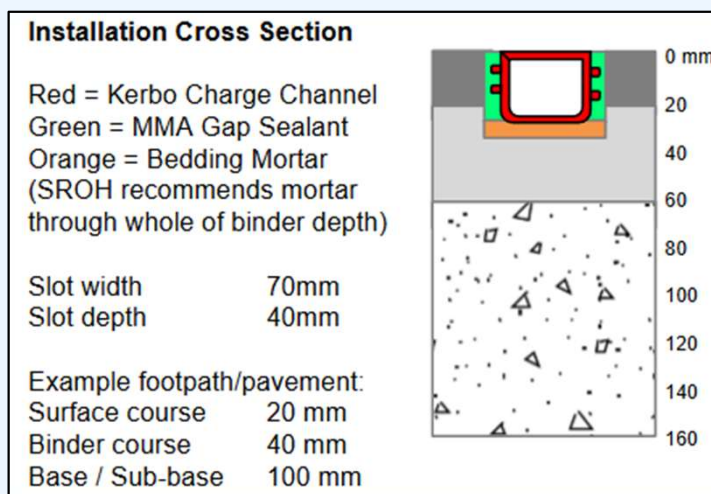
- ✓ Tested by BSI to EN 1433
- ✓ Slip tested to EN 16165
- ✓



Kerbo Charge channel - installation



Product design drawing



Installation cross-section - showing 40mm depth of cut

Contact details



- If you have any queries, or receive queries or reports of issues from the public – please email electricvehicles@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
- If there is an immediate safety issue - report the issue/defect:
 - By phone [0345 045 5212](tel:03450455212) (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday), or
 - The Police on 101 (outside of these hours)

Discussion / Q&A



Q: Is the cable removed when not in use?

- Yes, when not in use the charging cable must be removed from the cable channel.

Q: Is the channel durable enough if cars or lorries drive or park on it?

- Yes, it is tested to British Standards and should withstand the weight of a car or lorry if driven over or parked on.
- It is made of uPVC, a high-strength thermoplastic.

Q: How do we let our residents know if they may want to join the trial?

- Residents can visit our website for more information. This will be updated with details of how to apply when it goes live - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/electric-vehicle-charging/electric-vehicle-cable-channel-trial>. Applications will be assessed on a first come first served basis. Parish Council's cannot apply on behalf of an individual.
- In the meantime, residents can email us at electricvehicles@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to register their interest. We will notify all residents on the register before launching. **Action: CCC Officers** to consider providing a briefing note for residents who may be interested but do not currently know about the trial offer.

Q: Can you have two channels across neighbours, or can they share one?

- Channels could be provided alongside each other as long as the individual earthing arrangements are known to avoid an issue called 'simultaneous contact' which creates a possible electrocution risk.
- There are also charger sharing apps available.



Q: Streetworks and utilities



- The channel is shallow and above the depth you would usually find utilities. Statutory undertakers can dig underneath with the channel in situ, or remove and reinstate if needed.

Q: What is included in the price of the cable channel, and is it viable?

- The £1,000 cost for the cable channel includes labour for install and insurances, materials for install, the channel itself (approx. £379 for 2m length, and admin time for processing and assessment, inclusive of VAT)
- Recovering the cost of the channel takes approx. 1 year, dependent on frequency of charging.
- The convenience of charging from home is also a big attractor.

Q: Is it possible to share the channel?

- Yes it is possible and there are charger sharing apps available if residents want to do this.
- **Action: CCC** to consider adding information on sharing apps on the website.
- The resident who signs the S178 licence will be liable for any other person who uses the channel.

Q: How can residents apply?

- Residents will apply straight to Kerbo Charge.
- Our webpage will be updated with a link and details of how to apply, and registered contacts will also receive an email notification prior to launch.

Q: Do residents need to purchase an EV charger separately?

- Yes, this process is for the EV charging cable only. However, information is available through Kerbo Charge to help residents if needed.

Q: Do we specify the type of charger needed?



- There are different types of chargers available and some offer agile charging such as vehicle to grid. +
- **Action: CCC** to consider informing residents of the EV chargers available, and the benefits some offer that supports wider goals.

Q: As the channel will become a highways asset, is there a sinking fund for future maintenance?

- There is a 10 year product guarantee.
- For the trial phase, there will be some money left of the £190 licence fee.
- If the offer was to become business as usual, we would need to decide on the frequency of the licence renewal and the cost of this. Some of the cost can be used for future maintenance.

Q: Will residents be able to use it if they cannot park their car regularly outside their house?

- We make it very clear this may not be a suitable option in locations where parking is very contested. Residents need to make an informed choice whether this is the right choice for them.
- No parking is provided, and all parking restrictions must be adhered to.
- Cars can be parked a couple of meters either side up or down from the cable channel as the EV cable can usually extend further. Cables must be neatly laid along the kerbside in such instances.
- Average users will only need to charge a couple of times a week, dependent on use.
- Trials in other locations haven't seen significant parking issues.

Q: Have you considered how this solution can be installed in new planning developments?

- In the first instance, we would look to design out the need for this solution.
- Kerbo Charge are working with housebuilders and government legislation is considering EV charging needs in new developments.



Q: Is it correct that the resident pays for the channel but then doesn't own it?

- Yes, the channel will become a highways asset upon installation and the S178 licence is issued.



Q: Does the licence need to be renewed after 2 years?

- Yes, the licence as part of the trial period only lasts for 2 years and will need to be renewed.
- As part of the trial evaluation we will determine the correct period and cost for the licence going forward.

Q: Can a small terminal be installed on the kerb to make it easier?

- This trial is testing a cable channel solution, which temporarily secures the EV cable from the charger to the car on the kerbside.
- There are some alternative solutions that bury the cable permanently underground and a charging 'socket' at the kerbside. This solution is not currently being trialled in Cambridgeshire.

Q: How would you deal with slabs?

- The cable channel can be installed in slabs – please refer to images in the slide deck.