



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Local Winter Maintenance Plan

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BACKGROUND

The experience of the recent past winters highlighted the importance of co-operation between the various agencies and the value of the Town/Parish Councils' roles within their communities.

Blandford Forum Town Council (BFTC) does not have a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with snow and ice, but we are in a good position to inform the principal authorities about local needs and we want to do whatever else we can do for our community.

Guidance has been published on preparing for winter events and on community resilience. This document draws from all of those in preparing BFTC's Winter Management Plan which sets out to clarify what the community can expect from the principal authorities and what the Town Council has put in place so we can be better prepared to help ourselves. The plan will be reviewed annually.

Legal Advice

Throughout the country people have been hesitant to clear snow because of fears of litigation if someone should slip on the treated area. This contrasts strongly with winters of a few decades ago when the community would mobilise to clear footways.

1. LITIGATION

The Ministry of Justice has previously stated that "The prospect of a person who volunteers to clear snow from a pavement being successfully sued for damages by a person who subsequently slips on the cleared area and is injured are very small".

A snow clearer does have a duty to clear with reasonable care so as not to create a new and worse risk.

Do's

- Follow the Town/Parish Council Winter Management plan
- Move snow to a porous surface such as grass verge or garden
- Spread salt / grit evenly and at the appropriate spread rates (see Annex 7)
- Clear any excess salt or grit once the snow/ice has melted.

Don'ts

- Use water to melt snow and ice, if there is a risk it will refreeze
- Move snow to a location where it will create another risk such as another part of the pavement, road or where people are likely to walk.
- Use excessive salt, grit or other material so as to create a new or worse risk.

Full details of the "Snow Code" can be found at www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway.

2. CONTACTS

The Chairman of Blandford Forum Town Council will take the lead in co-ordinating local resources during adverse weather. The Town Clerk and Operations Manager (OM) will receive a copy of the Daily Decision issued by Dorset Council and liaise with the Chairman of Council and other key personnel and local contacts as to any actions to be taken.

Co-ordinator

- Takes a lead in co-ordinating local resources.
- Receives the Daily Decision from Dorset Council Duty Officer via the Town Council Office (1st November to 31st March). The forecast/decision is issued at lunchtime.
- Liaises with other key personnel and local contacts.
- Makes decision on triggering the implementation of the Winter Plan.

1st Contact

Chairman of Council – This role changes each year and the Councillor occupying the position can be found at the following link (with additional links to their contact details):
<https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/town-council/councillors>

2nd Contact

Town Clerk Mrs Linda Scott-Giles
Blandford Forum Town Council
Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane
Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD

Work Tel: 01258 454500
Mobile: 07812 939998
Email: linda@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

3rd Contact

OM Mr Jon Goodenough
Blandford Forum Town Council
Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane
Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD

Tel: 01258 454500
Mobile: 07971 090117
Email: jon@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

Email Contacts for Daily Decision: -

linda@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk and jon@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACCESS IDENTIFIED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

Blandford Camp

Black Lane

School

Access roads to The Blandford School, Archbishop Wake Primary School and Milldown Primary School.

Doctors Surgeries

Whitecliff Mill Street

Hospital

Milldown Road

Police Station

Peel Close

Ambulance Station

Sunrise Business Park

Dorset Council Homes for the Elderly

Castleman House

Fairfield Bungalows

4. VOLUNTEERS

Councillors will be available to assist caretaker/grounds staff with gritting Town Council venues.

5. GUIDANCE ON SNOW CLEARING AND SALT SPREADING

Snow clearers have a duty to take reasonable care so as not create a new and possible worse hazard, such as piling up heaps of snow, blocking drains or leaving an area in such a condition as to make slips more likely.

Snow is easier to clear when it's fresh than when it has been compacted and frozen. Clearers should take care not to overexert themselves when clearing snow.

We ask residents to respect BFTC's responsibility to manage the supply of salt and to observe the guidance.

Pre-salting footways prior to snow aids its removal.

Do:

- Wear suitable clothing and footwear.
- Clear a 1.0m path along the footway ensuring not to create a worse hazard.
- Make sure that salt is accessible before commencing work.
- Clear snow as soon as possible to prevent any compaction.
- Pay particular attention to steps and steep slopes.

- Move snow to porous surfaces such as verges or gardens.
- Treat surface immediately with salt.
- Spread salt evenly at a rate of 20g/m² (tablespoon).
- Do not spread salt on private areas.
- Avoid applying salt to plants or grass.
- Return unused salt to the bin.

Don't

- Use salt from public bins on private paths and drives.
- Use water to melt ice and snow if there is a risk it will refreeze.
- Move snow to a location where it will create another hazard.
- Block drives, paths or drains or pile snow against buildings.
- Use excessive salt, 20g/m² is sufficient

6. CONTACTS

For Dorset Council Highways the single point of contact is the Winter Service Manager whose contact details are listed below.

By Phone: 01305 251000

By Email: winterservice@dorsetcc.gov.uk

By Post: Dorset Council Highways, Charminster Depot
Wanchard Lane, Charminster
Dorchester DT2

Technical Officer for Blandford Area: Rolly Skeats / Paul Starkey

Other information can be found on Dorset Council's web site:
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather>

7. BFTC CONTACTS

For Blandford Forum Town Council the Chairman of Council is the principal contact to coordinate resources during adverse winter weather (contact details listed in Section 2). The Chairman will liaise with the Town Clerk and Operations Manager to determine what efforts can be made by the Town Council to facilitate access for the town's residents. Additional advice from Dorset Council for local councils to establish a suitable trigger to start implementing plans is attached (see Annexes 5 to 7).

8. GRIT BINS

The map on page 7 illustrates the locations of the grit bins in Blandford Forum.

Grit bins purchased by Blandford Forum Town Council and filled by Dorset Council:

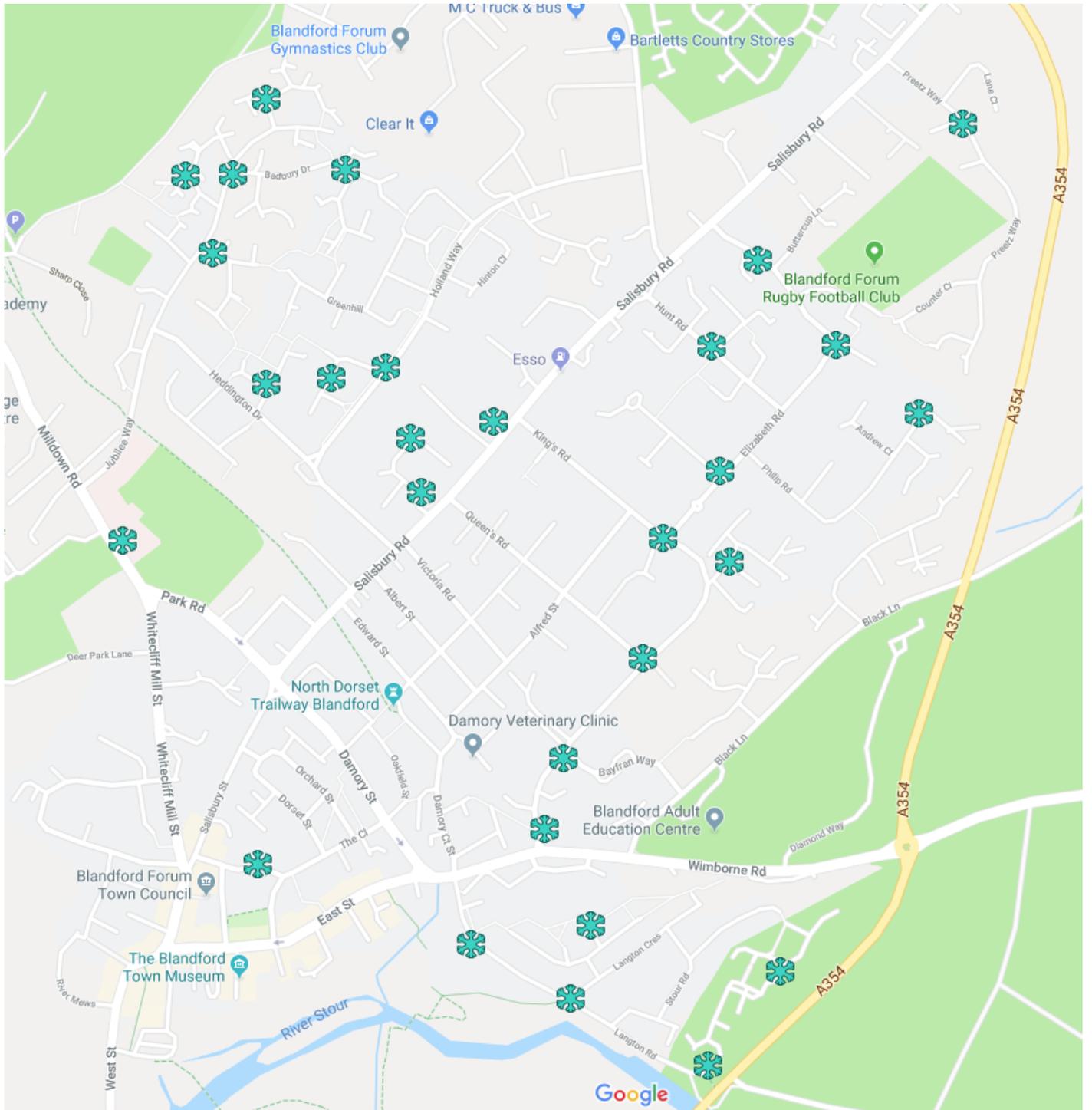
1. Top of Westbury Way
2. Bottom of Westbury Way
3. Langton Road/Meadow View
4. St Leonards Avenue/Bayfran Way
5. Queen's Road/St Leonards Avenue
6. Highfields/Wilson Park
7. Elizabeth Road/King's Road
8. Barnes Close/Elizabeth Road
9. Angus Close/Hunt Road
10. Philip Road (pre-2010)
11. Tudor Gardens
12. Buttercup Lane/Larksmead
13. Preetz Way
14. Cadley Close/Froxfield Road
15. Overton Walk/Hilcot Way
16. Medbourne Close
17. Ramsbury Close
18. Badbury Drive/Mortain Close
19. Eastleaze Road/rear of No.62
20. Woodhouse Gardens/Post Office
21. Windmill Road
22. Froxfield Road/Holland Way
23. Langton Road opposite Langton Crescent
24. Jubilee Way/Badbury Drive

These bins are filled during late summer by Dorset Council. The salt supplied by Dorset Council is for use on the public highway only. BFTC has displayed signs inside the lid of the bins stating that the contents is only for this use. Over salting damages the environment and the spread rate for hand salting should not exceed 20g/m² (this is about a tablespoon).

It is also hoped that, if necessary and subject to their stock levels, it may be possible to request access to Dorset Council's salt from its depot in Blandford.

Grit Bins not maintained by Blandford Forum Town Council

25. Peel Close
26. Peel Close, towards Salisbury Road
27. Salisbury Road, Dorset Council offices
28. St Leonards Avenue, Wimborne Road
29. Milldown Road, by Community Hospital



9. COORDINATION

Once effective lines of communication have been established understanding each party's capabilities and limitations are essential to ensure coordination of efforts. Advanced knowledge of these capabilities aids a realistic attitude to what can be achieved and will prevent disappointment and unrealistic expectations.

Dorset Council's service includes

- Bulk purchase and storage of salt
- Filling salt bins and delivering bulk bags (where resources permit)
- Issuing farmers with snow ploughs (see Annex 4)
- Pre-treatment of selected roads (see Annex 2, 3, 4)
- Reactive treatment of roads when resources permit
- Monitoring local weather forecasts
- Issuing a daily decision based on the forecasts
- Provide advice and training (See Annex 5 to 7)

The daily decision is issued by email between 1st November and 31st March.

APPENDIX 1 - GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Precautionary Salting Network

There are c.4,000km of roads within Dorset and whilst it would be convenient to spread salt on all roads during adverse weather realistically we have to prioritise which road we treat. The Precautionary Salting Network is c.1,100 km of roads which meet the criteria for inclusion (see Annex 3) and forms the network which is treated in advance of adverse weather. In addition to this network there is a Community Route Network which is only pre-salted when snow is forecast.

Priority Ploughing Network

This network is used during very severe snowfall when the resources available to Dorset Council are not sufficient to keep all of the Precautionary Salting Network clear of snow and open to traffic. Once this network has been cleared and open to traffic then the Precautionary Salting Network is cleared.

Weather Stations

Currently there are 9 weather stations across the County to assist in the domain based decision making. These stations provide real time information on road surface temperatures, air temperature, dew point and precipitation.

Weather Domains

Dorset is divided into 5 weather domains (see Annex 5) to reflect the topographical and metrological differences across the County. The decision to treat the network is based on the individual forecasts for each of these domains. You will need to know which of the domains you are in to interpret the forecast and associated decision.

De-icing Road Salt

Salt is the preferred material used for treating the Precautionary Salting Network. When salt is spread on the road surface it combines with moisture on the surface or air to form a brine solution which freezes at a lower temperature than rainwater. Salt loses its effectiveness at temperatures below -8.0 degree Celsius.

Grit

Grit or sharp sand are used either as an alternative to salt or in combination. Grit can provide traction when spread on top of compacted snow or ice but has no melting capability.

Salt bins

Permanent roadside receptacle for the storage of salt or grit for use on the public highway, as a form of self help. Bins are not provided by Dorset Council but will be filled with salt or grit when resources allow.

Spread Rates

The amount of salt applied to a surface varies depending on the forecast received.

- 10 grams of salt is applied to each square metre of road surface as a precautionary treatment when frost, hoarfrost or icy patches are expected.
- 15 grams per square metre is spread if widespread icy or ice following rain if forecast.
- 20 grams per square metre is spread at the formation of widespread ice.
- 20 grams per square metre is spread following a forecast of snow.
- 20 grams per square metre is spread following ploughing, subsequent applications are made with 50% salt / grit mix.

Precautionary / Reactive Treatments.

As the name suggests precautionary treatments take place before the predicted event to allow time for the salt to turn into brine. Reactive treatments such as snow ploughing can only take place once snow has accumulated.

APPENDIX 2 - CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN DORSET COUNCIL PRECAUTIONARY SALTING NETWORK

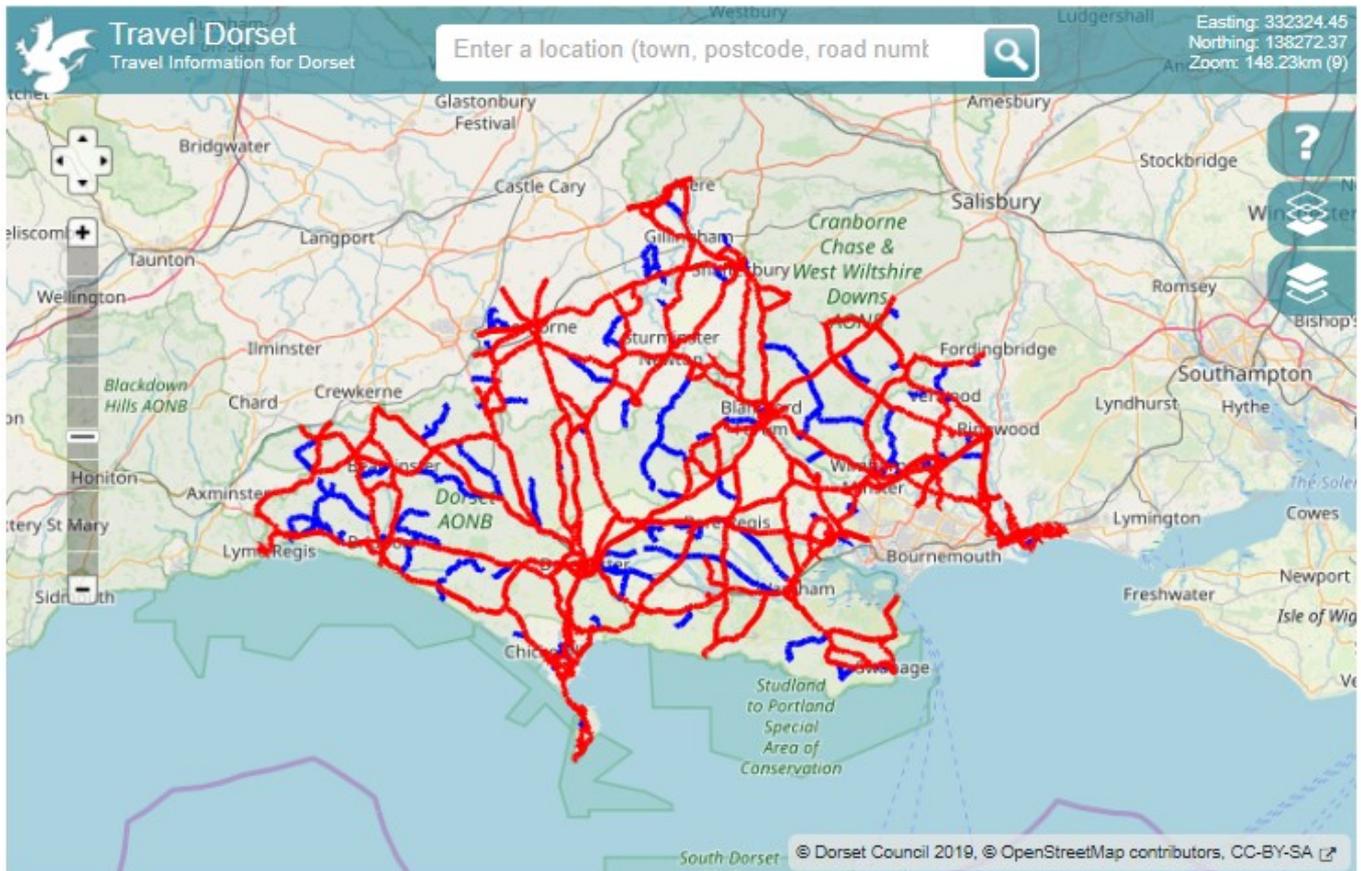
Precautionary Network – Carriageways

The precautionary salting network for carriageways consists of the Treated Network and satisfy one of more of the following criteria.

- District Distributors (A and B class roads)
- Important bus routes i.e. daily weekday service with a frequency of at least one bus per hour
- Access roads leading to large industrial establishments as defined by the Highway Network Manager.
- Access road to **large** educational establishments.
- Access roads to transport interchanges, emergency service depots.

APPENDIX 3 - PRECAUTIONARY SALTING NETWORK (RED)

COMMUNITY ROUTES (BLUE)



Salting network

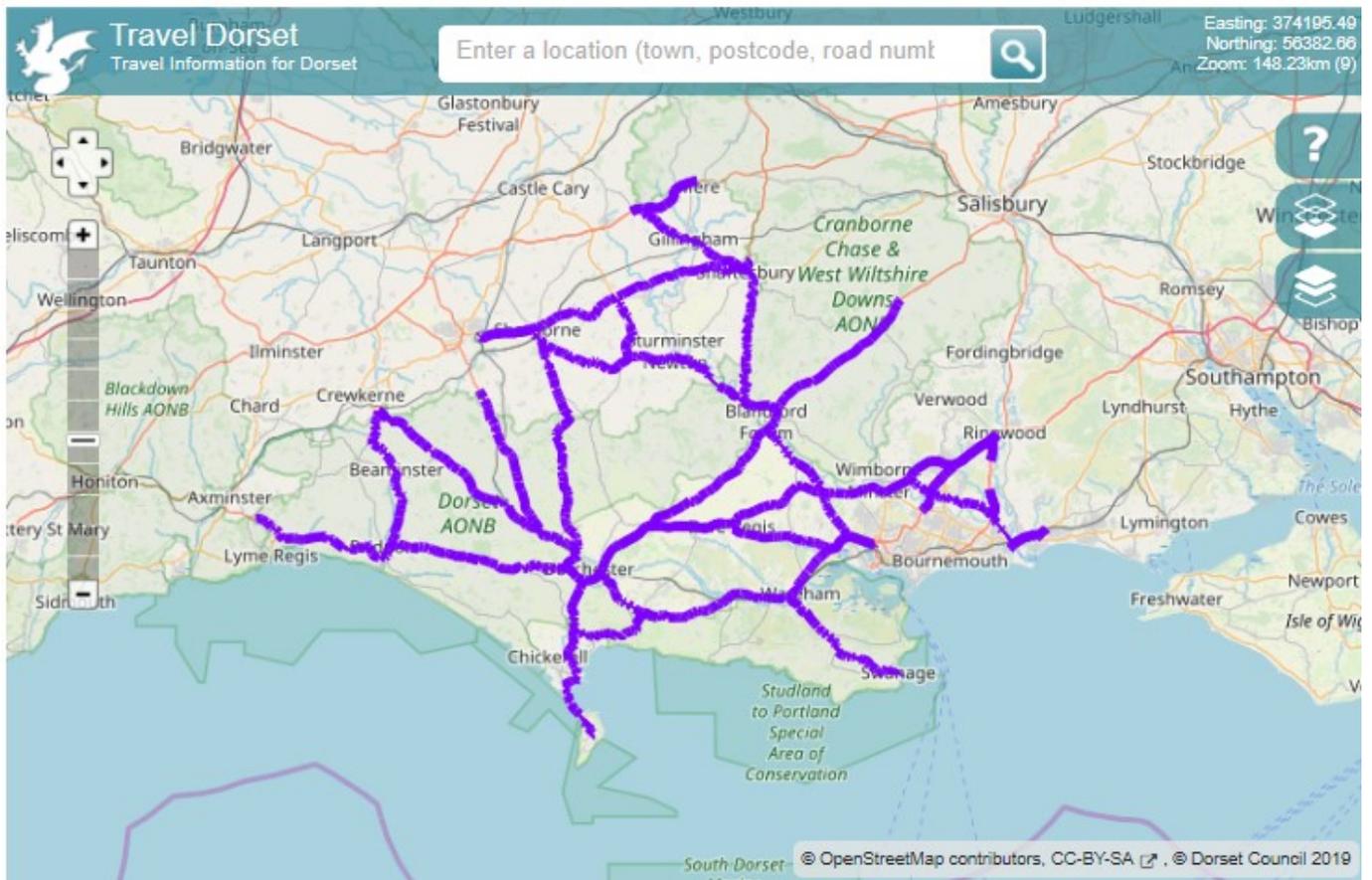
Dorset Council will treat the main salting network, consisting of 680 miles of road, when conditions are damp and road temperatures are forecast near freezing or before snow. The A31, A35 (west of Bere Regis) and A303 trunk roads are treated by Highways England.

Community links

A network of community links will also be salted when snow is forecast to connect more isolated communities to the main salted network. After snow has fallen Dorset Council will plough and continue to salt/grit these roads.

A zoomable map can be on: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/gritting

APPENDIX 4 - PRIORITY PLOUGHING NETWORK



Ploughing routes

During severe snow Dorset Council may need to fall back to priority ploughing routes to keep the main north-south and east-west roads open. Snow clearance on carriageways is carried out on a priority basis.

When snowfall is light, snow clearance will initially take place on the precautionary salting network.

During heavy and prolonged snowfall, Dorset Highways may need to focus resources on clearing and treating the priority ploughing network. Once this network is clear, resources will be directed to clear the rest of the precautionary salting network. This will be followed with clearing the community link routes.

Snow clearance of some minor routes is carried out by local farmers and contractors under agreement with Dorset Highways. Snow clearance on other minor routes will be carried out as resources permit, residential routes and cul-de-sacs will be left to thaw naturally.

Snow clearance on footways and cycleways will only be carried out by Dorset Highways if resources are available. Some towns and parishes will carry out clearing of priority footways, including shopping areas and other well used paths.

Priority Ploughing Network

- A37 - A31, Monkeys Jump to Somerset boundary
- A30 - Shaftesbury to Yeovil Somerset boundary
- A35 - Bere Regis to Holes Bay Roundabout
- A35 - Iford Bridge to Hampshire boundary
- A354 - Easton Square, Portland to A35, Tesco Roundabout
- A354 - junction A35 to Blandford
- A354/A350 Blandford Bypass
- A354 - Blandford to Wiltshire boundary
- A350 - A35 Bakers Arms to A31 roundabout
- A350 - A31 roundabout to A354 Blandford
- A350 - Blandford to Shaftesbury to Wiltshire boundary
- A338 - A31 Ashley Heath to Blackwater Junction
- B3073 - A35 to Blackwater Junction
- B3073 - Blackwater Junction to A31 Canford Bottom Roundabout
- A348 - A31 Tricketts Cross to Bear Cross Roundabout
- A352/A351 - Dorchester to Wareham to A35 Bakers Arms Roundabout
- A353 - A352 Warmwell Roundabout to Weymouth
- A3066 - Bridport to Misterton, Somerset boundary
- A356 - junction A37 to Misterton, Somerset boundary
- A352 - A37 Charminster to A30 Sherborne
- A3030 - A352 Sherborne to A357 Lydlinch
- A351 - Swanage to Wareham
- A357 - Blandford to Henstridge
- B3081 - Shaftesbury to Gillingham to A303

A zoomable map can be found on: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/gritting

APPENDIX 6 - ADVICE ON HAND SALTING

The photographs below illustrate some of the key features of effective hand salting.



Bulk bags. One tonne bags of salt or grit delivered to undercover storage.

Grit Bins. Located where hazards are present; gradient, junction, bend etc.



Dorset Council recommends a spread rate of approximately 20 grams of salt or grit per square metre for hand salting. Although salt can be spread with shovels care is required to ensure over salting does not occur. Push-along devices can be used to cover large areas quickly with an even spread and less waste.

- Before applying salt the snow must be removed, snow shovels are very effective for small areas.
- Plough attachments and gritting units are available for quad bikes and small grounds maintenance machines and these are suitable for larger areas.



20 grams of salt is a very small amount, you don't need a lot of salt to protect a footways. Over salting is damaging to the environment and a waste of a limited resource. You may not get your salt or bulk bags replaced if salt stocks are critical. During precautionary salting for frost Dorset Council uses just 10 grams per square metre.

APPENDIX 7 – DORSET COUNCIL’S WINTER SERVICE POLICY

A full copy of Dorset Council’s Winter Service Policy can be found on <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/gritting/road-salting.aspx>

DC undertakes to do the following during adverse weather.

- Prepare an annual service plan approved by the cabinet member, which defines policy and practice.
- Monitor the daily forecast provided by our **weather forecast provider** between October and April and take appropriate actions. Issue a Daily Decision by email to all interested parties.
- Treat c.1,100km of the county road network as part of the precautionary salting network.
- Purchase and store at our 5 depots c.12,000 tonnes of de-icing road salt.
- Liaise with the Governments “Salt Cell” and actively participate in Mutual aid with adjacent Highway Authorities.
- Maintain a fleet of gritters and plough attachments between October and April.
- Fill road side salt bins prior to October each year.
- Deliver bulk bags of salt to parishes and towns where undercover storage has been provided prior to October each year.
- Fund contractors to help us clear agreed local roads.

DC does not undertake any of the following.

- To hand treat footways / cycleways / precincts as a precautionary operation.
- Treat private, 3rd party or non highway land.
- Refill salt bins or bulk bags when salt / grit supplies are critical.
- Fund farmers or contractors to clear additional roads over and above the agreed local roads without prior approval.