

Winter Gritting and Road Maintenance by LCC Winter 2020/2021

LCC carries out precautionary gritting and salting on 1,869 miles of Lincolnshire's roads and highways, including all major traffic routes and A and B roads.

A treated link is provided from each main village to each major traffic route and every primary and secondary school in Lincolnshire has a salted route to within 500 yards of its entrance and, in most cases, past its gates. Where possible, a treated link is provided to within 500 yards of all main NHS hospitals and all train and bus stations.

LCC also undertakes snow clearing when snow falls and settles to depths likely to cause disruption to transport, whilst the Highways Agency also carries out precautionary salting on all 52 miles of trunk roads in Lincolnshire, including on the A1, the A52 Grantham/Nottingham and the A46 west of Lincoln. No other roads will be treated apart from where roads are impassable due to severe snow conditions or during prolonged icy spells.

When will roads be gritted?

Between 1 October and 30 April each year, the council monitors 10 roadside weather stations 24 hours a day and uses Met Office forecasts to predict when action is needed to keep the roads safe. Once the decision is made to grit the county's roads, gritting takes place at various times to grit either before ice has set or once snow has settled so that it has the best chance of working.

How can I add a road to your gritting routes?

If you would like to request that a road be added to our gritting routes for the following year, submit your request to LCCHighwaysNorth@lincolnshire.gov.uk saying why you feel that road should be added to the gritting route.

Please note we are only able to review requests between April and September so that we can review the likely impact of any changes before winter begins.

Gritting pavements and footways

Whilst LCC cannot routinely salt footways, we do treat some priority footpaths during severe weather and work closely with a range of local organisations that help treat some footways themselves. Where resources are available to clear pavements, we prioritise the steepest and most well-used areas, whilst in lower priority residential areas and side streets we encourage residents to clear snow and ice themselves.

Advice on clearing snow and ice yourself

- Start early; it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow than compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it.
- Don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury.

Welton NEWS

- Be a good neighbour; some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property.
- If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels.
- Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on.
- Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming. Table salt or dishwasher salt will work but avoid spreading on plants or grass as this may damage them.
- Pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients.
- Use the sun to your advantage. Removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however, you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight.
- If there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives.

If I clear snow and ice myself, will I be sued if someone has an accident?

People using areas affected by snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful. If an accident did happen, it is highly unlikely you would be sued as long as you are careful and use common sense to make sure you do not make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before by, for example, throwing down hot water which would then re-freeze.

Grit bins

To help with clearing pavements and footways, LCC provides and refills almost 1,900 grit bins for the public, parish and town councils to use.

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council

In the event of a heavy snowfall, the PC will endeavour to clear the footpaths around the centre of the village to enable residents to access the shops, health centre and Co-op. If time and grit allow, other routes, such as those to the schools and village hall, will be cleared.