

Gritting

When and where does the Council grit?

The Council receives a specialised winter weather forecasting service provided by the Met Office. The forecast, received on a daily basis, gives predictions of the possibility of freezing road temperatures, snow etc, and the time those conditions may occur. For information about current weather conditions [go to the Met Office website](#).

The standards we endeavour to achieve for each priority category are as follows.

Priority 1: Main traffic network including Quality Bus Corridors

Roads should be kept open for traffic in normal winter conditions. The criteria will be:

- Generally ice will not be allowed to form on the road surface but if it does it should be treated promptly.
- Snow is not allowed to settle on the road surface, but if it does it must be removed promptly.

Priority 2: Main access routes to town centres

Roads should be kept open at peak traffic times during the day. The criteria will be:

- Generally ice should not be allowed to form, but if it does it should be treated as soon as resources permit after priority 1 routes.
- To be safe for traffic during the morning and evening peak traffic flows (07:00 – 09:00 hrs. and 16:30 – 18:30 hrs.).
- Snow is not allowed to build up on the road surface but if it does it should be removed as soon as resources permit after priority 1 routes.

Priority 3: Remaining bus routes and other distributor roads

Roads should be kept open at least during working hours. The criteria will be:

- Treatment should be undertaken, if resources permit, after Priority 2 to make the roads safe during the morning and evening peak traffic flows.
- Snow is not allowed to build up on the road surface but if it does it should be treated as soon as resources permit after priority 2 routes.

Priority 4: Designated footways

Designated footways should be kept reasonably safe for use by pedestrians during normal hours of use. The criteria will be:

- Snow and ice will be removed as soon as possible once resources become available after higher priority needs have been met.

Priority 5: Other specific locations

The specific locations will be treated and kept reasonably safe for all highway users exercising normal care subject to the availability of resources after higher priority needs have been met.

Highways Winter Maintenance Policy

[Download the Council's Highway Winter Service Policy](#) (5 pages, 34kb, pdf) for more detailed information.

Frequently asked questions

Do you provide grit bins?

There are currently 226 grit bins throughout the Borough in areas not normally subject to mechanical treatment, at hilly, exposed locations and potentially dangerous road junctions. Many of the bins are of a type and in a location that enable them to be in place throughout the year. The remainder are placed on site during mid to late October and removed early in April after the winter weather.

Requests for the provision of a grit bin are assessed and judged against a criteria. They are only provided if full justification can be shown. To request a grit bin contact Customer Services.

Can a grit bin be removed?

Often grit bins become the focus of vandalism or the meeting place for youths. If this becomes an unbearable nuisance, a request for the bin to be removed can be made. The agreement of other residents in the area would be needed before the facility is withdrawn.

Are pedestrians routes gritted?

In very severe weather conditions, especially when snow or ice may remain for some days, consideration is given, in priority order, to the treatment of pedestrian routes - footways and pavements in the following order:

- Town centre streets/main pedestrian routes
- Shopping frontages
- Busy pedestrian routes
- Steep sections of footway/footpaths
- Predominately elderly residents areas

How to contact us

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