



Kirklees Winter 2016/17



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## What do we grit?

We look after **over 1,200 miles** of road network and we grit **55%** of this network.

We call these 'Priority Routes' and they consist of:

- **main roads;**
- **main bus routes;** and
- **steep roads that provide important links to main roads.**

These routes provide access for food and fuel deliveries and public transport as well as main routes to town and village centres.



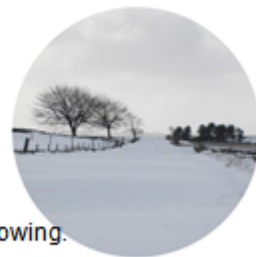
## What do we grit?

We aim to treat our priority network within two hours of starting to grit.

Kirklees grit 55% of the overall roads network which exceeds the national average of 30%.

We do grit as much of the network as we can (Secondary Routes) under the following circumstances:

- If there is standing snow that is predicted to stay.
- If it has stopped snowing
- If the primary network is clear



Our gritters remain on the primary network if it is snowing.

## What do we grit?

- Dewsbury and Huddersfield town centres - to help support businesses and the local economy.
- Smaller towns and villages- 60+
- Approaches to hospitals, health centres and residential/care homes.
- Access to activities that are important to people such as weddings, funerals, exams and other events - whenever possible.
- The main public car parks - under extreme conditions.



## When do we grit?

- We get a specialist forecast that we base gritting action on.
- Grit works best as a preventative treatment so we grit on a forecast for freezing temperatures.
- We aim to grit at 5am, before rush hour and again at 6pm, after rush hour (weather permitting).
- Gritters can get stuck in traffic like any vehicle which is why we time the grits as we do.



## How do we grit?

- We use a fleet of vehicles called 'uni-bodies' these use a special hopper of grit on the back and a calibrated spreader.
- We use rock salt which is known as 'grit' but is about 99% salt.
- Grit works by lowering the temperature at which water freezes. It relies on the action of vehicle tyres crushing to be effective.
- Grit is not always visible. It is much finer than it used to be.
- We begin with **25,000 tonnes** of grit in preparation for winter and this is stored throughout Kirklees at purpose built storage sites.



## Working with our partners

Other Streetscene teams, and teams from other council services, contribute towards the winter programme:

- Kirklees Direct staff are available to take calls from 8am to 5pm weekdays and during periods of extreme winter weather 8am to 4pm Saturdays and 9am to 4pm Sundays - **01484 414700**
- Kirklees Direct emergency helpline goes live in severe winter weather supporting vulnerable people. **01484 414888**
- Out of hours emergency situations such as damaged street lights, accidents, flooding or assisting the police for example. Kirklees
- Direct out of hours message will provide the number to use.
- Streetscene staff liaise with social/health care partners and public transport companies and hospitals to support their winter efforts in helping the vulnerable.



## Who works on winter?

Other Streetscene teams and teams from other council services, contribute towards the winter programme.

### Community gritting groups

We support community gritting groups who help vulnerable people by clearing roads and pavements locally to premises where elderly/disabled residents live/receive service e.g. luncheon club in church hall/mosque.

There are currently over 40 groups.

### NFU volunteer farmers scheme

We provide grit piles to farmers who agree to help clear lanes not on priority gritting routes supporting small communities and rural businesses.

Currently 22 farmers in scheme (Colne/Holme valleys).



Resilient communities



## Keeping people informed

- **Twitter** @kirkleeswinter
- [www.kirklees.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/winter)
- Snow warning signs at key places around Kirklees
- Count down to winter – key messages
- Winter check list and household emergency plan
- Avoiding disruption in winter
- Gritting action and night patrol information
- Videos and photos from across the region
- Useful hints, tips, help and advice.
- Winter driving tips.



## Keeping people informed

We promote the Snow Code - information on clearing snow and ice from pavements: [www.metoffice.gov.uk/get-ready-for-winter/out-and-about/the-snow-code](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/get-ready-for-winter/out-and-about/the-snow-code)

This website gives clear guidelines for people clearing their own driveways, and legal implications for people clearing pavements and other public areas.

We support schools by providing key messages for schools to include in newsletters for example, to help keep parents and carers informed.

We publish school closures on our website [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolclosures)

We publish road closures on our website which is updated frequently.



What individuals / groups / organisations can do for themselves



## Working together

We have a shared responsibility and there are almost half a million people in Kirklees who can all do their bit.

We have over 1,450 grit bins in Kirklees.

This grit is for use by residents on public roads and pavements, **not for private use.**

We have a programme to repair or replace damaged grit bins which we done by end of each October.

Further planned refills take place after severe winter weather.



## The unpredictable

In bad winter weather it is 'all hands to the pump' including involvement of many valued volunteers. We aim to raise awareness (via the website and other publicity) of what individuals / groups / organisations can do to help others by:

We carry out winter maintenance tasks in a certain order but in extreme or prolonged weather conditions, we may have to change our plans and focus on the things we can or need to do.

We have to prioritise what we do and react differently to each situation.



Community resilience

 Kirklees  
COUNCIL

## The unpredictable

In emergency situations, the council will work with health and social services to help get patients to hospital appointments and medical treatment that cannot be postponed.

Some weather conditions are extremely difficult to predict and there are times when we simply cannot do anything to help.



 Kirklees  
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## A final note on gritters and gritting

Cars parked inappropriately, or just abandoned can cause problems for gritters if space is too tight to get past.

Grit does not make it summer, roads are still cold and wet, often 'slushy' and driving behaviour should be appropriate to the conditions

Gritters are wide vehicles, especially with the plough attached, so they need plenty of room between parked cars.

If we cannot get the gritter along a road because parked cars are in the way, it will **not** be gritted.

There are challenging situations for grit, for example below -5°C grit becomes less effective.



## Working better together

The council has limited resources and restricted budgets but our staff are committed to providing the best possible winter service - **with your help and support.**