

Gloucestershire Highway's Winter Service helps keep roads free of ice and snow.

Find out more about this service and the steps you can take to be safer this winter.

What we do and where we salt

When there is a risk of ice or snow Gloucestershire Highways pre-salts 1,000 miles of the county's 3,300 miles of roads. This includes all A and B roads in the county and routes to emergency services such as hospitals and fire stations.

We call this our Primary Network and it is shown on the map overleaf.

Should time and resources allow, in severe weather conditions we may also salt a secondary network made up of the remaining main roads and regular bus routes running every two hours or more frequently.

We don't have a map showing our secondary route because it changes depending on severity and direction of weather and the time and resources available.

We clear snow and ice with the help of 33 gritters and stock piles of salt right across the county.

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page

We also have vital support from local community volunteers, including parish council appointed snow wardens and snow plough operators, who help clear snow and tell us about conditions on the local roads.

For 2011/12 winter season we have increased our winter resilience further by increasing our salt stocks with new salt domes at Cannop in the Forest of Dean and Stroudwater just off J13 of the M5.



New Dome in Cannop Depot

Are you using Gloucestershire's grit bins correctly?

Grit bins are provided in strategic locations on non treated roads, so residents and businesses can grit roads or pavements themselves if required.

These publicly provided grit bins must be used to clear public pavements and roads only. It is not for use on private property. If you are caught stealing grit for use on private property you may be prosecuted. We work closely with Parish/Town councils across the county and have provided local salt stockpiles to deal with local problem areas in bad weather.

When do we salt?

We salt when:

- Roads are wet and road temperatures are forecast at or below freezing.
- Hoar frost is forecast (moisture coming out of the air, forming on road surface then freezing).
- Snow is forecast.

We aim to treat our Primary Network in three hours, where possible avoiding rush hours.

We use the temperature of the road, not the air, to tell us whether we need to salt. That's why you sometimes find ice on your car windscreen but roads are not salted. However if you find ice on your windscreen, use this as an indication to take extra care driving.

What we do not do

- We don't salt the A417, A419 (Gloucester to Swindon including Crickley Hill), A40 (Over to Lea), M5 or M50 motorway. The Highways Agency does this.
- We don't salt footways. The salt and resources we have has to be focused on keeping roads open. As home and business owners you can help yourself by clearing the footway in front of your property.

See our tips later in the leaflet.



Self help: tips for clearing snow and ice

1. Get the right tools:

- Warm clothing, hat, gloves and appropriate shoes
- Some ordinary table salt (not grit from local grit bins)
- A shovel with a wide blade.

2. **Clear as snow falls:** This prevents build up and compaction which makes snow harder to shovel.

3. **No hot water:** This will melt the snow but replace it with dangerous black ice.

4. **First make a safe surface:** Make a line down the middle of the path, so you have a safe surface to walk on while you are clearing.

5. **Shovel it:** Simply shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

6. **Salt it:** Spread some ordinary table salt on the area you have just cleared to help prevent any ice forming.

7. **Sun it:** If there is sun use it to your advantage by removing the top layer of snow to allow the sun to melt ice underneath. Remember to cover with salt to help prevent refreezing overnight.

www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG_191868

Driving safer in winter

First of all, in wintry conditions ask yourself if your journey is absolutely essential.

If it is then visit www.roadsafety-gloucestershire.org.uk/driving for hints and tips on driving in snow and ice. Make sure you listen to weather and traffic reports on local radio stations too.

Remember

- Never assume a road has been salted or is ice free.
- Do not use grit from publicly provided grit bins to treat private property.
- In extreme cold temperatures salting will not stop ice from forming.
- It takes time and movement of traffic to activate salt to melt snow or ice.
- Rain or melting snow washes salt off the road, meaning ice can form again.
- Help yourself and others by clearing snow and ice outside your property.

Want to find out more about the technology behind our winter maintenance service? Visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/winter

Who to contact

For further information on winter maintenance in Gloucestershire:

Call **08000 514 514**

Visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/winter

Email highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Twitter [@gloshighways](https://twitter.com/gloshighways)

For information on roads during severe weather please listen to your local radio station.

Our roads this winter

Travel safety advice for Gloucestershire



Primary routes treated by the County Council



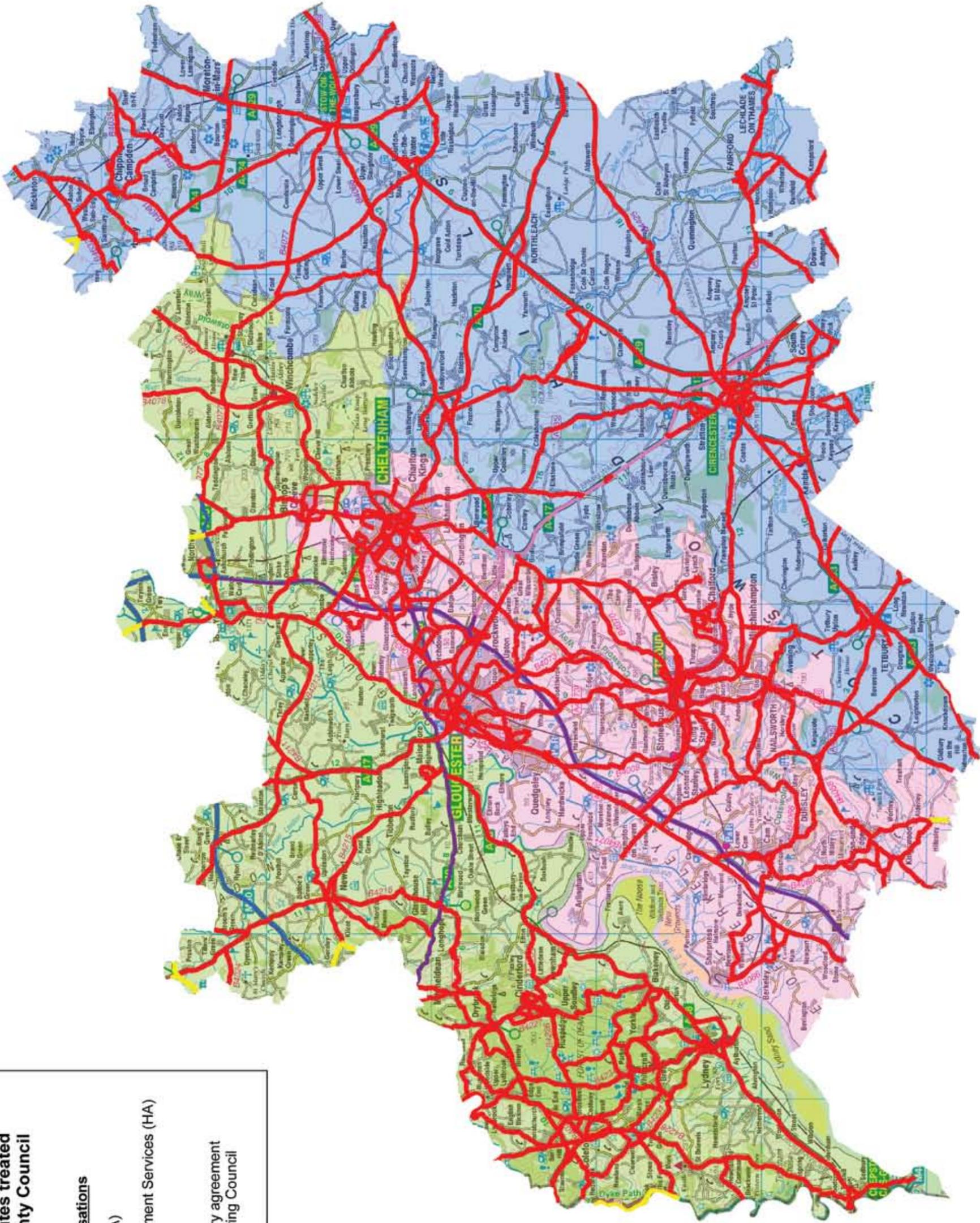
Other Organisations

InterRoute (HA)

Road Management Services (HA)

Amey (HA)

Cross boundary agreement with neighbouring Council



Key to Areas

West Area

Central Area

East Area