

Severe weather bulletin – 8 February 2019

We do everything we can to keep traffic moving on priority roads and we are open about the fact we cannot grit every road in Lancashire. Even if we had the resources needed we couldn't grit them quickly enough to make a real difference.

No council does this. It is important people understand there are limitations to the service we can provide.

That is why we ask residents to take steps to make sure that when severe winter weather strikes they are prepared and able to manage.

What we do

- The county council is responsible for over 4,300 miles of roads of which approximately 1,800 miles are part of Lancashire's 'Priority Road Network' for salting and snow clearing.
- It can take our gritters up to four hours to grit one route and even longer in severe weather conditions. This means sometimes we can't grit as often as we would like.
- When low temperatures are forecast we grit the roads as a precaution before the frost forms, usually during the evening or early hours of the morning. Remember weather forecasts are only a guide and our local knowledge and expertise is vital in deciding what to do.
- Despite our best efforts, winter weather can still make roads treacherous and there is no guarantee that roads will always be completely free of ice and snow. Take extra care.



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More about the work of our gritters



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Update	North Lancashire (Lancaster, Wyre, Fylde)	Central & South Lancashire (Chorley, Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire)	East Lancashire (Burnley, Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, Pendle)	
Where we have gritted in the past few days	Friday 8 Feb	Friday 8 Feb	Friday 8 Feb	
	AM	• No action taken	AM	• No action taken
	PM	• No action taken	PM	• No action taken
	Thursday 7 Feb	Thursday 7 Feb	Thursday 7 Feb	Thursday 7 Feb
	AM	• No action taken	AM	• No action taken
	PM	• No action taken	PM	• No action taken

	Wednesday 6 Feb	Wednesday 6 Feb	Wednesday 6 Feb
	AM • No action taken	AM • No action taken	AM • No action taken
	PM • No action taken	PM • No action taken	PM • Selected priority routes treated
	Tuesday 5 Feb	Tuesday 5 Feb	Tuesday 5 Feb
	AM • No action taken	AM • No action taken	AM • No action taken
	PM • All priority routes treated	PM • Selected priority routes treated	PM • No action taken
	Monday 4 Feb	Monday 4 Feb	Monday 4 Feb
	AM • No action required.	AM • No action required.	AM • No action required.
	PM • All priority routes treated.	PM • All priority routes treated.	PM • All priority routes treated.
	Sunday 3 Feb	Sunday 3 Feb	Sunday 3 Feb
	AM • No action required	AM • No action required	AM • No action required
	PM • All priority routes treated.	PM • All priority routes treated.	PM • All priority routes treated.
	Saturday 2 Feb	Saturday 2 Feb	Saturday 2 Feb
	AM • No action required	AM • No action required	AM • No action required
	PM • All priority routes treated	PM • All priority routes treated.	PM • All priority routes treated.
Lowest temp recorded	Saturday 2 February -7.6 degrees	Saturday 2 February -6.4 degrees	Saturday 2 February -7.1 degrees
Countywide Salt usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 721 tonnes • November 627 tonnes • December 2,267 tonnes • January 8,455 tonnes 		
Latest forecast	<p>The first of the rain associated with 'Erik' moved in overnight, becoming more persistent at times through the morning, more especially across Cumbria and N Lancashire where some heavier outbreaks are likely. Together with the rain will come freshening S to SW winds though these should be below disruption levels. The rain should be clearing eastwards by early afternoon with the winds easing a little as brighter skies move in for the remainder of the day. The rain across Cumbria and N Lancashire has, however, maintained the green 'Area of Concern' on this morning's Flood Guidance Statement with a low likelihood of minor impacts from either river or surface water effects.</p> <p>As for the winds the latest thinking is that after the temporary easing during Friday afternoon, a belt of appreciably stronger W to SW winds (involving a greater degree of exposure for the Northwest) will move in during the course of Friday evening and overnight, lasting into Saturday before eventually moderating during Saturday afternoon. The stronger winds and greater likelihood of impacts are expected across the N of the region and yesterday's blanket wind warning for the Friday-Saturday period has now been updated.</p>		

Firstly, the warning area now extends from Cumbria as far south as Merseyside with Cheshire removed. Secondly the validity period has been reduced to between midnight and 1400 on Saturday. The strongest gusts (up to 55mph inland and perhaps up to 70mph on exposed coasts and on higher ground) currently look like coming through towards the back end of tomorrow night and the first part of Saturday morning with possible impacts to road/rail transport (trees down, cross winds affecting HGVs on the M6 over Shap etc) and perhaps extending to local power outages.

Doubtless the sea fronts along the west coast will be rather inhospitable places on Saturday morning. Along with the stronger winds early Saturday will come a period of rain, focussed on Cumbria and only adding to the testing conditions on the roads.

Stay up to date - visit our website or follow us online for all the latest gritting updates, winter weather advice, driving hints and tips, advice on keeping warm and well, school closures and more.