

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

Extra resources to fix county's potholes

The severe and extended winter weather prompted three or four times the usual number of pothole reports in March. However:

- At Full Council in May we were able to announce an extra £2.5m to be spent on pothole repairs, additional to the £3m investment previously announced in February
- An extra £2.6 million from the Government's Pothole Fund enabled Essex Highways to quickly mobilise ten extra pothole crews from our supply chain.
- And our £50m capital maintenance programme includes significant resurfacing schemes which also eradicate potholes on those roads repaired
- Since 1 January over 5,600 potholes have been fixed, but the massive challenge remains.

The surfacing season has begun...

Now that the weather has improved, the Council is investing £50 million in road surfacing this year. Surface Dressing is the major technique by mileage covered.

It quickly covers a lot of road with a new waterproof and skid-resistant top layer, preventing potholes for years. We also re-instate the white lines where necessary.

Helpful Tips

Explanations of all surfacing techniques and the programme map showing which roads are to be treated, can be found at:
www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing

There you can watch videos showing work in progress.



Winter test passed...

Essex Highways winter service was severely tested this year – but we were prepared and kept the main roads open. The public voiced some unrealistic expectations ('local roads not gritted', 'snow not instantly melted', 'didn't see any gritters out'; 'gritter was driving too fast down my street') due to unfamiliar conditions and lack of service understanding.

We responded with our use of @essexhighways tweets for the first time this season, to explain the service to 4000 followers



Helpful Tips

Our Winter Service runs from late October until April.

In early October we offer County Members a briefing about our Winter Service, so you can find out exactly what to expect and understand how we make decisions and deploy resources.

You can review which roads in your area we salt, which salt bins we maintain, and get helpful info on self-clearance of pavements, by visiting our [Winter Travel web pages and map](#).

We also offer a [Salt Bag Partnership](#) to all Parish/Town Councils in the ECC area. This provides a pallet of bagged salt for local communities to support themselves. We send out invitations to participate each May.

If you know of farmers who might be interested in standing by for winter service, they can contact us to discuss the practicalities on winter.service@essexhighways.org

Please remember that we are not responsible for gritting Highways England roads (A12; M11; M25; most of A120): Tel: 0300 123 5000

The A130 from Chelmsford to Rayleigh Spur is maintained by CountyRoute: 0845 351 1130



Did you know?

This winter our gritters spread 27,000 tonnes of rock salt, covering 212,336 miles, the equivalent of driving from Saffron Walden to South Korea, and back... 30 times.

- Our salting network of 2000 miles is 40% of our entire road network, and is one of the most extensive in England.
- Our fleet has 62 modern vehicles, which are GPS tracked and monitored at all times.

- Ploughs are fitted as needed.

During the 'Beast from the East' snow and ice from Sunday 25 February to Friday 2 March, we delivered:

- 744 gritting runs, covering 38,000 miles.
- Every main road on our gritting routes was treated 11 times, using 5,000 tonnes of rocksalt.
- We were also grateful for the services of 26 local farmers

