

C A R M A R T H E N S H I R E C O U N T Y C O U N C I L

Winter Maintenance Plan Cyfeiriadur Cynhaliaeth Gaeaf 2011/12

**TECHNICAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
ADRAN GWASANAETHAU
TECHNEGOL**



D. Hughes
Head of Street Scene
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Stryd

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CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY AND ORGANISATION

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The County Council aims to provide a Winter Maintenance Service which, as far as is reasonably practicable, will permit the safe movement of vehicular traffic on the strategically important sections of the highway network and keep to a minimum delays and accidents due to adverse weather conditions.

2. ORGANISATION

2.1 Client Contractor Relationship

The County Council's Organisational Structure has combined all client and operational functions to form the Street Scene Section which is part of the Technical Services Department. The Section specifies the requirements and undertakes the operational response. Organisational responsibilities are documented in the Departments Quality Manual.

2.2 Carmarthenshire Technical Services Structure

For reasons of operational efficiency the County has been divided into two Divisions each under the management of an Area Manager with offices based at Carmarthen, Glanaman and Llanelli. The Head of Streetscene has overall responsibility for the County Road Winter Maintenance activities.

2.3 Trunk Road Structure

The National Assembly for Wales is responsible for Motorway and Trunk Road Maintenance in Wales, with three appointed County Councils acting as the following agents:-

SWTRA – South Wales Trunk Road Agency

MWTRA – Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency

NWTRA – North Wales Trunk Road Agency

Summary of Trunk Road Lengths in Carmarthenshire (Lane km)

ROAD	SECTION	Decision Maker	Operational Provider	Agent	
				MWTRA	SWTRA
A40	Pontwen to Llandovery A483 Jct Llandovery A483 Jct to Abergwili Abergwili to Black Bridge	Powys CC Carm CC SWTRA	Powys CC Carm CC Carm CC	8,940 40,431	46,035
A48	Pontabraham to Carmarthen	SWTRA	Carm CC		48,858
A477	St Clears to Castle Heli	SWTRA	Carm CC		11,048
A483	Pont Abraham to Llandeilo Llandovery to Sugar Loaf	SWTRA Carm CC	Carm CC Carm CC	13,057	21,345
	Total			62,428	127,286

The relevant Decision Making Service Provider for each route will be responsible for obtaining weather and road condition information and making decisions as to what treatment is required along the routes that they are responsible for. Once an action has been determined and passed onto the Operational Service Provider, it is his responsibility to ensure that the decision is passed down through the chain to the operatives so that the correct treatment is undertaken.

The National Assembly are currently reviewing the Winter Maintenance Section of the Trunk Road Maintenance Manual and charges will be implemented as we receive instructions.

3. WEATHER FORECASTING AND ICE PREDICTION SYSTEM

3.1 Winter Periods

Three distinct periods for winter maintenance are identified and are as follows:-

MARGINAL PERIOD	- Severe weather not expected.
LOW PERIOD	- Severe weather may occur.
HIGH PERIOD	- Severe weather reasonably expected.

(See Appendix No.2)

3.2 Weather Forecasting

Between 1st October and 30th April, the County Council subscribes to a weather forecasting service provided by the Meteogroup Office, a private weather forecasting organisation. The service takes the form of a 24 hour forecast transmitted daily at 1 pm with supplementary road danger warning updates and out of office hours consultancy facilities. Forecasts are given on a route basis and are relayed to the Area Offices.

During the first two weeks of October and the last two weeks of April the Meteogroup Office will issue Road Danger Warnings whenever high risk conditions are expected. These warnings are faxed to the Headquarters during office hours and then relayed to the Duty Officer in each area. During evenings and weekends the Duty Officer is contacted directly by the Meteogroup.

3.3 Ice Prediction System

The Department is also able to monitor data obtainable from weather outstations that have been installed on Trunk and Principal Roads in Wales. These outstations form part of the ICELERT Weather Monitoring System for the Principality and there are nine such outstations in Carmarthenshire Region at the following locations:

- a) At Synod Inn, on the Cardigan to Aberystwyth Trunk Road A487.
- b) At Red Roses, on the St. Clears to Pembroke Trunk Road A477.
- c) At White Mill, on the Carmarthen to Llandeilo Trunk Road A40.
- d) Llantood, on the Fishguard to Cardigan Trunk Road A487.
- e) Pumsaint, on the Llanwrda to Lampeter Road A482.
- f) Carmel, on the Cross Hands to Llandeilo Road A476.
- g) Nant-y-ci, on the Carmarthen to St.Clears A40 East Bound Carriageway.
- h) Erw Beili on the Llandovery to Builth Wells Road A483

Sensors installed at the outstations store and relay information on air and road surface temperatures, dew point, wind speed and direction, and presence of salt. The information is interrogated by computer through telephone modem links.

During Medium and High Periods the forecasts are transmitted by the forecasting service onto the VAISALA Bureau based in Birmingham. County staff can access this data via the ICECAST Software supplied as part of this service.

Links with the Ice Prediction System are provided to the weather forecasting organisations. The system is monitored 24 hours/day and County Council Duty Officers are alerted when critical situations are detected.

3.4 Staffing Arrangements

Two County Duty Officer are designated daily for the County and he may be called on a dedicated emergency exchange line by means of an automatic call forwarding system. Outside normal office hours, the County Duty Officer is responsible for deciding on the action appropriate to the circumstances on all County Roads and certain Trunk Roads. For the general public a county wide emergency telephone number will be advertised and available throughout the winter period.

A full page advertisement in the BT Telephone Directory Book will list the Public Emergency Telephone Number at Careline for all departments. This will be (01558) 824283. Staff from the County Council will inform the Duty Officer of any emergencies.

4. OPERATIONS

4.1 Procedure

Overall direction of the Winter Maintenance Operations is the responsibility of the Head of Street Scene with an Office at the Division's Headquarters at Pibwrlwyd. (Refer to Telephone Directory).

The gritting action for the Trunk Road Agency is distributed from the Control Room at Pibwrlwyd, to the Duty Officers. The gritting action for each Area is faxed to the Control Room before 15.00 hours each day. A 'Gritting Action sheet' is then completed and faxed to the Met Office, Emergency Services and the National Assembly.

A specification of Winter Maintenance requirements giving details of procedures and supervision arrangements has been drawn up and is available as a separate document.

The levels of action are as follows: -

- A. **Standby** of operatives at home to await call out. (Level 1).
- B. **Stand-to** of operatives at depot to await instructions (Level 2).
- C. **Patrol** - undertaken by drivers in gritting vehicles on specified routes to apply salt selectively as may be indicated by conditions e.g. icy patches (Level 3).
- D. **Pre-salt** undertaken by drivers in gritting vehicles to apply salt at the specified rate of spread for the complete length of the scheduled routes (Level 4).
- E. Applications of salt for dealing with **snow conditions**, combined if necessary with snow ploughing (Level 5).

A flow chart to illustrate the decision making and action process is shown in appendix 4.

In a widespread emergency, a Central Control room is manned at Parc Myrddin, Carmarthen, and the County Council's Major Emergency Plan is brought into operation.

4.2. SERVICE RESPONSE

The Winter Maintenance Service is dependant on the efficient spreading of salt from purpose built vehicles. The use of salt or grit or mixtures of both minimises the effects of ice and packed snow. Lying snow is removed by ploughing or physical loading. Carmarthenshire has an area of 934 square miles and its road network comprises Motorway, Trunk, County, Principal, Non Principal and Unclassified Roads. This network is primarily rural in character, but there is a significant urban element as well. Mileage details are as follows: -

	Length km		
Motorway (M.4)	5		
Trunk	188		
Principal (Class 1)	256		
Non principal (Class 2 & 3)	1600		
Unclassified	1488	Urban	Rural
Total:	3531km	650km	2881km

Pre-salting of Carriageways

First priority is given to trunk and other primary routes, followed by principal roads, roads leading to important industrial and military establishments, hospitals, ambulance stations, fire stations, inter-city stations, bus garages, important bus routes, important journey to work routes, slip roads, and known trouble spots. The total County pre-salt run covers 996km of carriageway, which is 30% of the County Network. (See Appendix Nos.5,6)

As a second priority, treatment is given to known trouble and accident spots (not on the first priority routes), other bus routes, (including school buses), other important travel to work routes, main feeder routes and shopping streets.

Reduced Service Provision

On the directions from the Director of Technical Services the Winter Maintenance Policy and Plan will give Duty Officers the flexibility to reduce service provision and withdraw certain aspects of the service at times where salt stocks are reaching a critical point and the forecast predicts further spells of cold weather.

Salting of Footways

Priority on Footways when required is given to main shopping areas, followed by busy urban areas including footways leading to essential industrial establishments, hospitals, important urban bus routes and schools, and known trouble spots such as steep gradients.

4.3 SNOW CLEARANCE

Snow Clearance of Carriageways

Top priority is given to trunk, other primary routes, and principal roads, followed by roads leading to essential industrial and military establishments, hospitals, ambulance stations, fire stations, inter-city stations and bus garages, selected bus routes, important travel to work routes, highways serving shopping centres, slip roads, single accesses to villages, hamlets, rural communities, schools and farms, and finally, residential roads.

Snow Clearance of Footways

When appropriate priority is given to main shopping areas, followed by busy urban areas including footways leading to essential industrial establishments, hospitals, important urban bus routes and schools, and known trouble spots such as steep gradients.

4.4 RESOURCES

TABLE 1. Plant/Vehicle Deployment

Plant/Vehicle	DIVISION WEST	DIVISION EAST
Rotary Ploughs (snow Blowers)	1	1
Straight Ploughs	14	8
Purpose built gritters	2	2
Demountable Gritters	6	5
Unibody	8	5

TABLE 2. Manpower Deployment

Occupation	DIVISION WEST	DIVISION EAST
Drivers (NVQ Qualified)	41	38
“ Out of Hours	41	38
Mechanics	3	5

TABLE 3. Salt Stocks

Area	Depot	State of	
		In barn (Tonnes)	Storage In open (Tonnes)
2	Carmarthen	2500	3300
	Crosshands	3000	2140
	Pencader		1000
4	Llandovery	4500	
	Total	10000	6440

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

STREET SCENE (CONTROL ROOM HQ)

OFFICE HOURS (Winter Mtce Control Room) 01267 224538
(Winter Mtce Fax) 01267 221406

OFFICE E-MAIL: TSWinterMaintenance@Carmarthenshire.gov.uk

WESTERN DIVISION (CILLEFWR DEPOT)

OFFICE TELEPHONE 01267 224800
OFFICE FAX 01267 225870

OUT OF HOURS (Western County Roads Duty Officer) 01267 238308

EASTERN DIVISION (GLANAMMAN DEPOT)

OFFICE TELEPHONE

Glanamman 01269 825385
Llanelli 01554 742149
Llandovery 01550 721985

OFFICE FAX

Glanamman 01269 826719
Llanelli (Trostre) 01554 775249
Llandovery 01550 721782

OUT OF HOURS (Eastern County Roads Duty Officer) 01558 824279

PUBLIC EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NO.

CARELINE (Outside Office Hours) 01558 824283

Call Centre (Daytime) 0845 658 0445

**CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**WINTER MAINTENANCE
PLAN AND DIRECTORY**

This document has been reviewed and approved by

Signed H.A. Evans Date 2/11/11

Network Manager
Technical Services Department
Pibwrlwyd,
Carmarthen,
SA31 2NH.

Signed D.A. Hughes Date 2-11-11.

Head of Streetscene
Technical Services Department
Pibwrlwyd,
Carmarthen,
SA31 2NH.

Signed [Signature] Date 2-11-11

County Councillor, Cabinet Member for Technical Services
Technical Services Department,
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Jail Hill,
Carmarthen,
SA31 1JP.

Signed [Signature] Date 3 Nov 2011

Director of Technical Services
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