

Page last updated 06 January 2010

Appendix A
R+D Chee
26.01.10

Salting (Gritting)

For information on the

latest gritting situation visit the MGWSP website
(see their news section on the right hand side)

Which roads are salted?

The road network has been divided into 4 levels of a hierarchy in order to prioritise treatment of ice and/or snow.

The top 2 priority networks (P1 and P2), which generally comprise all A roads together with certain B roads and other roads, will receive precautionary treatment if ice and/or snow are forecast. Very occasionally, depending on the weather it may be necessary to treat only the top priority (P1) network, which are all of the A roads, before moving onto the P2 network.

- View a map showing P1 and P2 networks

The next priority network (P3) comprises certain links to villages not on the precautionary network, and certain bus routes and industrial estates.

- View a map showing P3 network

To view the area around a specific location enter the postcode in the top box on the left hand side of the web page and then click on "Find".

Where the forecast weather is that conditions are unlikely to improve for at least 48 hours, that is the temperature is unlikely to rise above freezing within that period, salting will be carried out on the Priority 3 (P3) network if Priority 1 and 2 (P1 and P2) networks do not require treatment.

On the remainder of the road network (P4) certain roads may be salted if spreaders and manpower are not required on higher priority roads.

You can download the "Safer Winter Driving in Northamptonshire" leaflet below:

- Winter Leaflet Text (PDF Format 3MB)
- Winter Leaflet Map (PDF Format 10MB)

Please note

Very occasionally salting arrangements will not go to plan, so you should never assume that a road has been treated but should drive in accordance with the prevailing conditions.

Please remember that the majority of minor roads will receive no treatment at all.

When are they salted?

The aim is to treat Priority 1 and 2 (P1 and P2) roads before the morning peak traffic time, though the target time for action otherwise depends on forecast and conditions.

We receive a daily specialised winter weather forecasting service based on local information from the ice prediction system and outstations around the county.

The forecast gives predictions of the possibility of freezing road temperatures, snow etc, and the time those conditions may occur.

In addition, throughout the winter season when temperatures are marginal inspectors patrol certain routes to check the accuracy of the forecast by measuring road surface temperatures. This enables decisions to be made if, or when salting is necessary.

Daily updates of the salting decision can be obtained by calling 01604 883488.

Salt bins

How many salt bins are in the county?

There are currently in excess of 1700 salt bins throughout the county. In areas not normally subject to precautionary treatment, at hilly, exposed locations and potentially dangerous road junctions.

How do we get ours restocked?

They are restocked with salt when needed. If you require your salt bin to be restocked please report it using our online streetdoctor reporting system or call 0845 601 1113.

Can we request a salt bin?

Requests for provision of a salt bin are assessed and the location judged against the following criteria:

- at sharp or difficult bends
- junctions where there is an approach on a gradient from the side road
- on particularly steep gradients elsewhere (of 10% or greater)
- at known problem sites
- not on roads included in the the precautionary treatment network

Can a salt bin be removed?

Often salt bins become the focus of vandalism or the meeting place for youths. If this becomes an unbearable nuisance, a request for the bin to be removed can be made.

The agreement of other residents in the area, often the local council, would be needed before the facility is withdrawn.

Are pedestrian routes salted?

In very severe weather conditions, especially when snow or ice may remain for some days, consideration is given, in priority order, to the treatment of pedestrian routes.

Cross-border arrangements

We have arranged reciprocal agreements with some adjacent Authorities whereby they will carry out precautionary treatment on certain roads in Northamptonshire and vice versa.

These roads are treated on the decision of the salting Authority and thus there may be a difference in the timing of the treatment.

This arrangement has allowed greater efficiency in the winter service operation and permits a more extensive network to be treated.



2009-2010
Road Safety

my
county
council

Safer Winter Driving in Northamptonshire

Winter Salting Network
2009 - 2010



Northamptonshire
County Council

Why We Salt

To make the County's roads as safe as possible and to reduce delays caused by bad weather and icy road conditions.

Where We Salt

This year NCC and MGWSP, the service provider, are enhancing the service to ensure more villages are linked to our priority routes.

A total length of approximately 1,128 miles of road receives precautionary salting. This is just under half of the total network in the county. The size of the road network, and the fact that it costs the County Council on average £32,000 to carry out one county network salting, means that the County Council cannot salt all roads.

Priority is given to those roads carrying the highest volume of traffic and where the risk of accidents is greatest.

In addition, certain local roads such as those serving industrial areas, shopping centres and some key roads in towns and rural areas are also salted.

In prolonged adverse weather conditions, that is where the forecast conditions are unlikely to improve for at least 48 hours and the temperature is not expected to rise above freezing within that period, additional roads will be treated provided that roads on the precautionary salting network do not require treatment. In the event of snowfall, roads will be cleared according to their priority status and need. The map in this leaflet shows the roads in Northamptonshire to be salted for the winter of 2009/2010.

1,128 miles is the distance from London to Rome

359 miles is a journey from Northampton to Edinburgh

24 hour cover is provided from October to April

It takes 3 hours to salt the priority routes with 27 gritters

This information is also available on the Northamptonshire County Council website.

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

The Motorways and Trunk Roads are the responsibility of the Highways Agency and their Managing Agent: – Aone+

Advice for Winter Driving

Check

- Local and national radio for travel information and weather forecasts, allowing extra time for your journey if necessary. **Heart Radio - 96.6FM and BBC Northants - 103.6 & 104.2FM**
- That your tyre pressures are at the recommended level and that the tread depth is correct.
- Don't forget your spare!
- That your lights are clean and in working order.
- That the wiper system is working effectively.
- That the washer-bottles are full and contain a suitable additive to prevent freezing.
- That your battery is in good condition, topped up and fully charged.
- Your anti-freeze is at the correct level. (Your garage can do this for you).

Before driving off

- Consider whether your journey is essential.
- Make sure that all your windows and mirrors are completely clear of ice and condensation.
- Carry a can of de-icer and a scraper in the car.
- Cars left outside overnight will benefit from their windscreen being covered over.

You

- Ensure you have "outside" clothing with you in case you have to get out of your vehicle.
- Watch out for vulnerable road users - you share responsibility for their safety.

Remember

- Do not travel too fast or too close to the vehicle in front. When ice and snow are present drive smoothly, avoiding harsh braking and sudden changes in direction.
- Keep in as high a gear as possible.
- Always use dipped headlights when visibility is poor due to rain or snow and when driving in fog.

See and be seen

- Allow yourself more time for a journey and in severe conditions only travel when it is absolutely necessary.
- It is better to travel a little further on a main road that has been treated than to use untreated minor roads.

Finally, even the most carefully organised procedures can suffer setbacks or mechanical breakdowns and as a result, very occasionally, some roads may not be salted.

Winter Salting Routes – 2009 - 2010

The seven months from October until the end of April are identified as the winter season for MGWSP to monitor and salt the county's roads as required. This is when all our crews are on standby to deal with the winter weather.

We receive weather forecasts from the Metro group and use local knowledge of the network to work out what the likelihood of frost or snow is. If necessary, we monitor the situation on an hour-by-hour basis before making decisions to send our crews out to salt the roads.

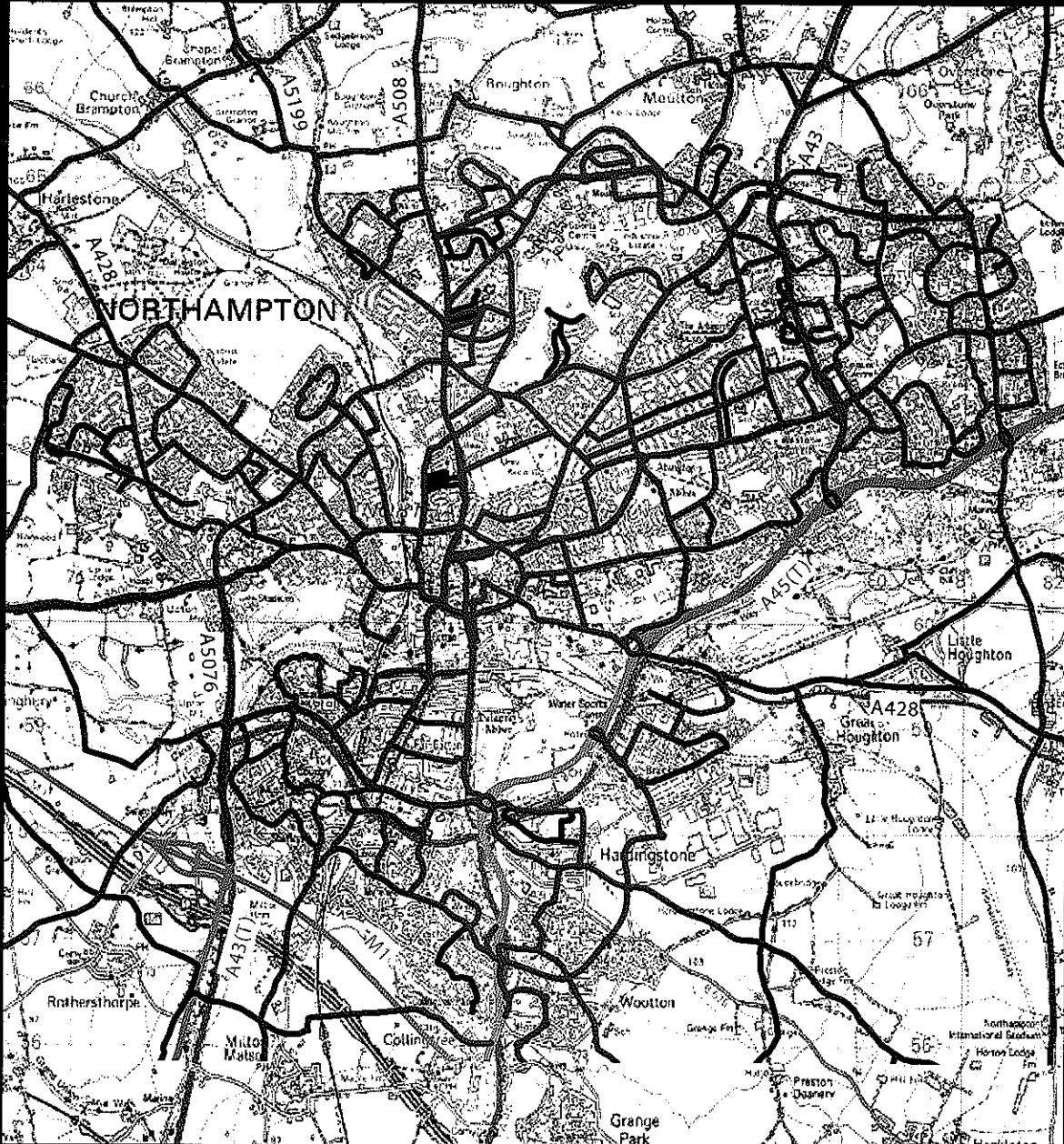
We receive a morning summary text at 6am each day and then receive a 24 hour forecast at about noon along with an evening update at 5.30pm. We don't just rely on forecasts though; we have five weather stations so that we can monitor the road conditions to make sure you can travel in safety.

We salt the highway network to help the safe movement of all highway users: buses, cyclists, motorists and pedestrians. Despite all of our efforts, winter conditions will still make roads treacherous even if they have been treated. Make sure you are aware of the conditions, reduce speeds and drive with caution. In severe weather, such as heavy snowfall, roads can become hazardous, blocked and inaccessible. It is vital to clear roads and we do this by fitting snow-ploughs to the fleet of vehicles.

Decisions on what action is to be taken are based on road temperatures rather than air temperatures, and salting is likely whenever road temperatures are 1°C or below. Salting is normally carried out after the evening peak traffic period or before the morning rush, because frost does not usually affect the road surface until late evening or early morning. Some roads within the county are salted by other authorities, (see map overleaf), and consequently the time of treatment may differ.

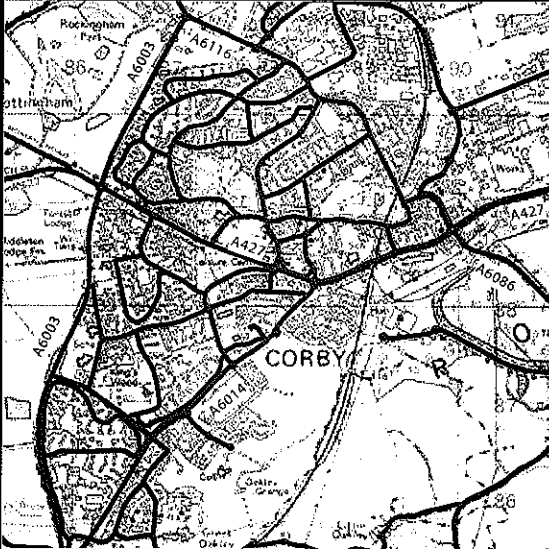


Northampton

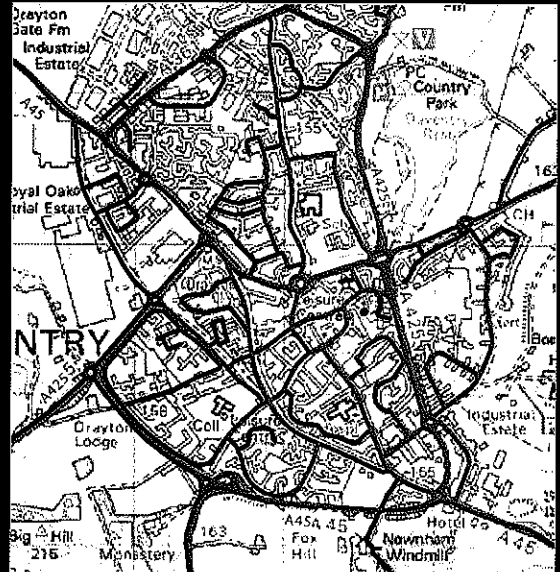


Please remember that the majority of minor roads will not be salted. You should never assume that a road has been salted and should always drive with care.

Corby



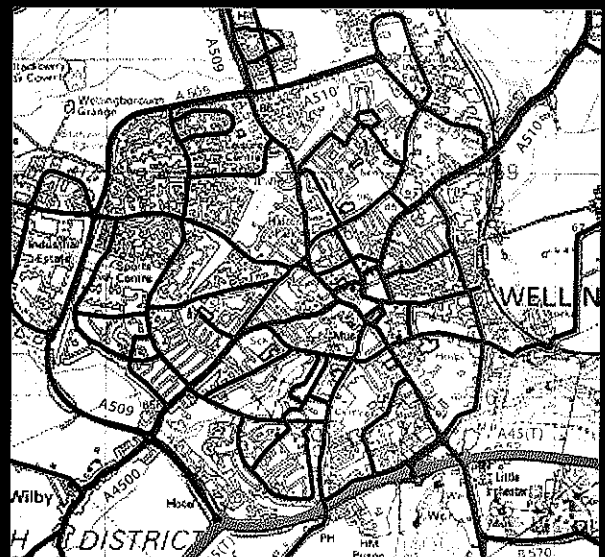
Daventry



Kettering



Wellingborough



**FOR DETAILS OF SALTED ROADS REFER TO THE MAIN ROUTE MAP
OR FOR DAILY RECORDED UPDATES ON SALTING DECISIONS
CALL 01604 883488**

Advice for pedestrians and cyclists

Pavements and cycleways are not routinely salted but, in times of prolonged icy weather or when snow remains on the ground, salting of some major pavements, e.g. main shopping areas, near hospitals etc is undertaken. This still leaves the majority of pavements in residential areas untreated.

The following points may help when you have to use the pavements and cycleways in wintry conditions:

- Consider whether your journey is essential.
- Always wear appropriate footwear. Smooth leather soles make walking treacherous in icy weather.
- If possible, delay your journey so that temperatures have had a chance to rise and the frost has melted.
- Avoid using pavements that are in the shade.
- Even a weak winter sun soon thaws out frost and ice.

Salt bins - why and where?

There are 1729 salt bins located across Northamptonshire, usually sited where there is a steep or hazardous hill, or sharp bends on a road, but do not receive precautionary salting. The bins are for public use to help keep the roads and pavements clear - but the salt is not intended for use on private drives. **If you find a bin which needs refilling please telephone Street Doctor on 0845 601 1113**





This leaflet has been produced with support from:



Northamptonshire
County Council

MGWSP

An inspirational partnership

MeteoGroup



VAISALA

DELIVERING ROAD WEATHER
INFORMATION TO NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

WORKING TOGETHER TO ASSIST THE SAFE MOVEMENT OF ALL
HIGHWAY USERS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

FOR DETAILS OF SALTED ROADS REFER TO MAP ON REVERSE
OR FOR DAILY UPDATES ON SALTING DECISIONS

CALL 01604 883488

Produced by MGWSP in partnership with
Northamptonshire County Council. October 2009
For further copies please telephone 0845 6011113



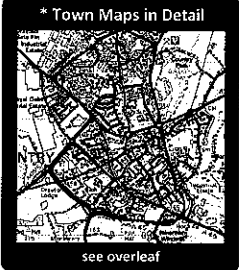
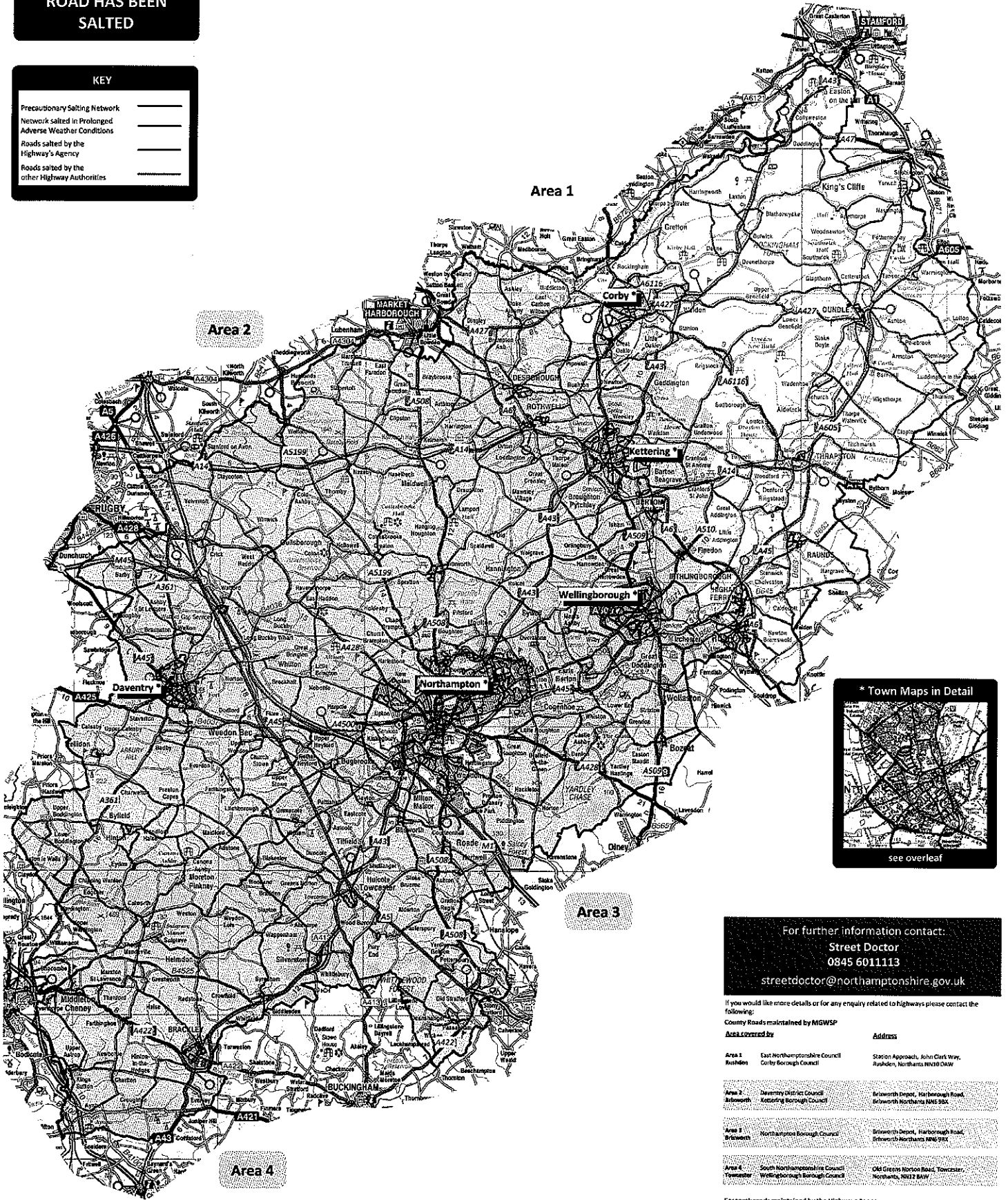
Recycled Paper

Northamptonshire Gritting Routes 2009 - 2010

NEVER ASSUME A ROAD HAS BEEN SALTED

KEY

- Precautionary Salting Network
- Network salted in Prolonged Adverse Weather Conditions
- Roads salted by the Highway's Agency
- Roads salted by the other Highway Authorities



For further information contact:
Street Doctor
 0845 601113
streetdoctor@northamptonshire.gov.uk

If you would like more details or for any enquiry related to highways please contact the following:

County Roads maintained by MGWSP

Area Covered by	Address
Area 1 Rushden	East Northamptonshire Council Corby Borough Council Station Approach, John Clark Way, Rushden, Northants NN10 0AW
Area 2 Brixworth	Daventry District Council Kettering Borough Council Belwether Depot, Harborough Road, Belwether Northants NN5 5BA
Area 3 Brixworth	Northampton Borough Council Belwether Depot, Harborough Road, Belwether Northants NN5 5BA
Area 4 Towcester	East Northamptonshire Council Wellingborough Borough Council Old Green Harrow Road, Towcester, Northants, NN12 8AW

For trunk roads maintained by the Highways Agency

Managing Agents: East Midlands Regional Control Centre
 Area 7: Aoner Nottingham 08443 728 382

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