

Langton Matravers Parish Council

Local Winter Maintenance Plan: Revised 16.11.2018

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BACKGROUND

The experience of the recent past winters highlighted the importance of co-operation between the various agencies and the value of the Parish Councils' roles within their communities. Langton Matravers Parish does not have a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with snow and ice, but we are in a good position to inform the principal authorities about local needs and we want to do whatever else we can do for our community.

Guidance has been published on preparing for winter events and on community resilience. This document draws from all of those in preparing The Langton Matravers Parish Winter Management Plan which sets out to clarify what the community can expect from the principal authorities and what the Parish Council has put in place so we can be better prepared to help ourselves. The plan will be reviewed annually.

Legal Advice

Throughout the country people have been hesitant to clear snow because of fears of litigation if someone should slip on the treated area. This contrasts strongly with winters of a few decades ago when the community would mobilise to clear footways.

1. Litigation

In a recent letter sent by the Ministry of Justice it stated that "The prospect of a person who volunteers to clear snow from a pavement being successfully sued for damages by a person who subsequently slips on the cleared area and is injured are very small".

A snow clearer does have a duty to clear with reasonable care so as not to create a new and worse risk.

Do's

- Follow the Parish Council Winter Management plan
- Move snow to a porous surface such as grass verge or garden
- Spread salt / grit evenly and at the appropriate spread rates (see Annex 9)
- Clear any excess salt or grit once the snow/ice has melted.

Don'ts

- Use water to melt snow and ice, if there is a risk it will refreeze
- Move snow to a location where it will create another risk such as another part of the pavement, road or where people are likely to walk.
- Use excessive salt, grit or other material so as to create a new or worse risk.

Full details of the "Snow Code" can be found at www.direct.gov.uk.

A snow clearer does have a duty to clear with reasonable care so as not to create a new and worse risk.

2. CONTACTS

The Coordinator of the Parish Council will take the lead in co-ordinating local resources during adverse weather. He will receive a copy of the Daily Decision issued by DCC and liaise with other key personnel and local contacts as to any actions to be taken.

Co-ordinator

- Takes a lead in co-ordinating local resources
- Receives the Daily Decision from DCC Duty Officer via the Parish Office (1st November to 31st March).
- Liaises with other key personnel and local contacts.
- Makes decision on triggering the implementation of the Winter Plan.

Mr Pete Christie
82 High Street
Langton Matravers
BH19 3HD
Tel. 01929 423592
(Email pete.christie@btinternet.com)

2nd Contact

Parish Clerk
Dr Mary Sparks
Parish Office
1A High Street
Langton Matravers
BH19 3EU
Tel. 01929 425100
Hm. 01929 439227
Email langtonmatravers@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
Home: marywdsparks@hotmail.co.uk

Email Contact for Daily Decision
marywdsparks@hotmail.co.uk

3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACCESS IDENTIFIED BY THE PARISH

Roads to be cleared by Cllr Loudoun (Farmer)

Three Acre Lane
Durnford Drove
Gypshayes
Acton approach road
Tom's Field Road
Capston Field

Pavements to Village Shop etc. to be cleared by volunteers.

4. SALT BINS

Salt bins are located at the following locations:-

- Top of 3 Acre Lane opposite Leeson House.
- Lower Steppes
- Bus Shelter at Steppes/Coombe Hill
- Crack Lane
- Below telephone box by Kings Arms, High Street.
- Turning Circle at Capston Field

These bins are filled during late summer by DCC. .

The salt supplied by DCC is for use on the public highway only.

Over salting damages the environment and the spread rate for hand salting should not exceed 20g/m² (this is about a tablespoon).

The Parish dumpy bag, to replenish the grit bins, is located at Wilkswood Farm. In the first instance the Parish Clerk should be contacted if a grit bin needs refilling.

5. PARISH VOLUNTEERS

Mr Paul Loudoun	Wilkswood Farm	Snow Plough	01929 425060
Ms. Bridget Mayes	Marshfields, 29 High Street	Shovel	01929 421753
Mr. M Kirby	New Lodge, Langton Manor Farm	Shovel	01929 422750
Ian Vaughan-Arbuckle	Island View, Mount Pleasant Lane	Shovel	01929 426956
Mr P Christie	82 High Street	Shovel	01929 423592

6. GUIDANCE ON SNOW CLEARING AND SALT SPREADING

Snow clearers have a duty to take reasonable care so as not create a new and possible worse hazard, such as piling up heaps of snow, blocking drains or leaving an area in such a condition as to make slips more likely.

Snow is easier to clear when it's fresh than when it has been compacted and frozen. Clearers should take care not to over exert themselves when clearing snow.

We ask residents to respect the Parish Council's responsibility to manage the supply of salt and to observe the guidance.

Pre-salting footways prior to snow aids its removal.

Do:

- Wear suitable clothing and footwear.
- Clear a 1.0m path along the footway ensuring not to create a worse hazard.
- Make sure that salt is accessible before commencing work.
- Keep the padlock and key safe.
- Clear snow as soon as possible to prevent any compaction.
- Pay particular attention to steps and steep slopes.
- Move snow to porous surfaces such as verges or gardens.
- Treat surface immediately with salt.
- Spread salt evenly at a rate of 20g/m² (tablespoon).
- Do not spread salt on private areas.
- Avoid applying salt to plants or grass.
- Return unused salt to the bin.
- Lock bin on completion of work.

Don't

- Use salt from public bins on private paths and drives.
- Use water to melt ice and snow if there is a risk it will refreeze.
- Move snow to a location where it will create another hazard.
- Block drives, paths or drains or pile snow against buildings.
- Use excessive salt, 20g/m² is sufficient

7. CONTACTS

To ensure effective communication between local councils and DCC Highways a single point of contact should be established. For DCC Highways the single point of contact is the Winter Service Manager whose contact details are listed below. The local councils are advised to establish their own single point of contact during the preparation of their Local Winter Management Plan.

By Phone: 01305 228130 Mob: 07771 746323

By Email winterservice@dorsetcc.gov.uk

By Post DCC Highways
Charminster Depot
Wanchard Lane
Charminster
Dorchester
DT2

Other information can be found on DCC's web site:
www.dorsetforyou.com/winter.

8. PARISH CONTACTS

A practical guide to the preparation of the Local Winter Management Plan.

Step	Action
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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Contact to coordinate local resources during adverse weather. |
|---|---|

	Mr Pete Christie 82 High Street Langton Matravers BH19 3HD Tel. 01929 423592
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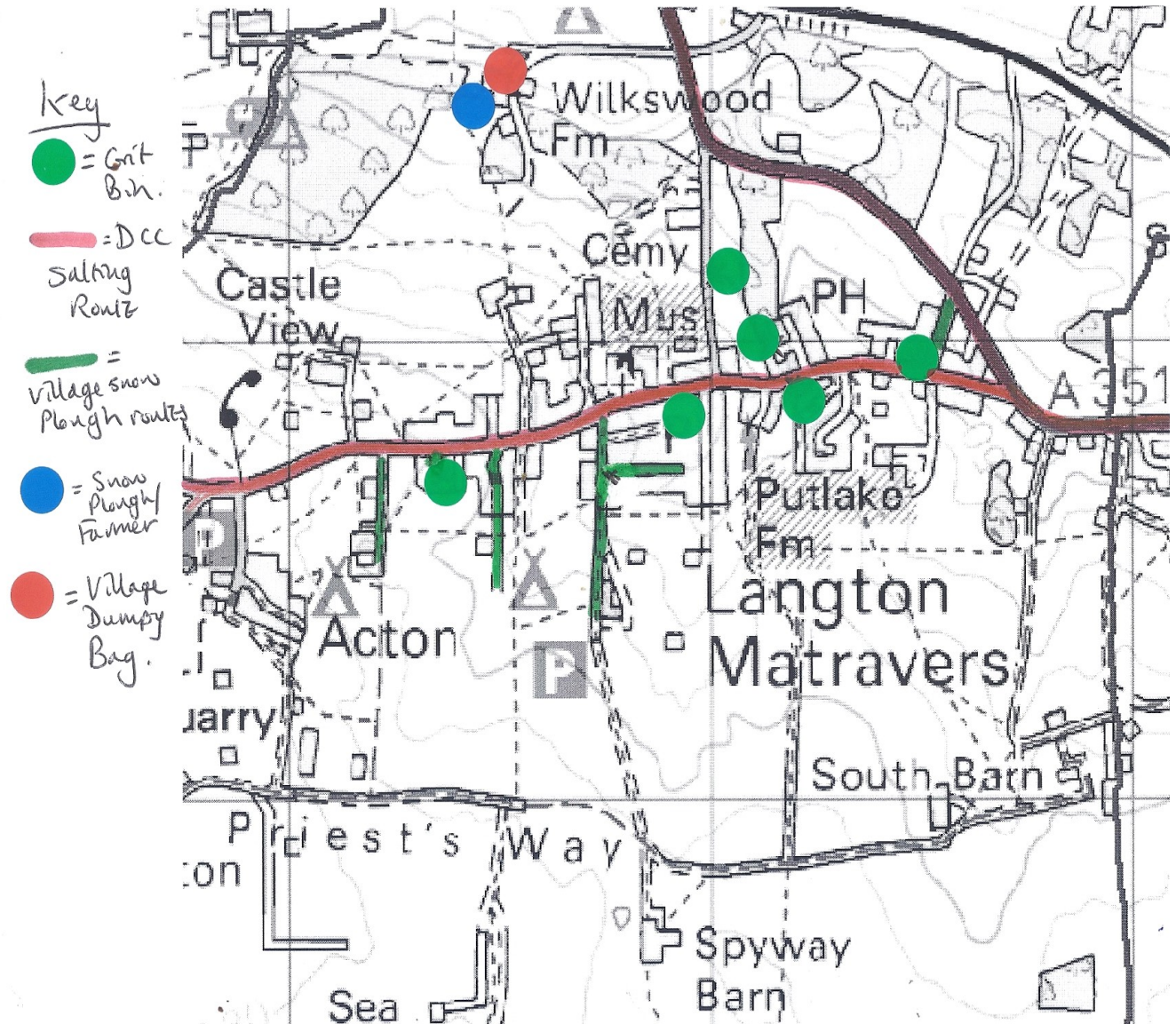
Their name and contact details should be listed in the Plan. Additional advice will be given to establish a suitable trigger for local councils to start implementing their plan. (see Annexes 7 to 10)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 | Email address to supply forecast data: Clerk |
|---|--|

	langtonmatravers@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
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	Home: marywdsparks@hotmail.co.uk
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9. PARISH MAP



10. COORDINATION

Once effective lines of communication have been established understanding each party's capabilities and limitations are essential to ensure coordination of efforts. Advanced knowledge of these capabilities aid a realistic attitude to what can be achieved and will prevent disappointment and unrealistic expectations. DCC's policy documents (see Annex 10) define clearly the level of service that can be delivered. The Local Winter Management Plan should also define when and what actions local councils will undertake during adverse weather. Additional advice will be given to establish a suitable trigger for local councils to start implementing their plan (see Annexes 6 to 10)

DCC's service includes

- Bulk purchase and storage of salt
- Filling salt bins and delivering bulk bags (where resources permit)
- Issuing farmers with snow ploughs (see Annex 6)
- Pre-treatment of selected roads (see Annex 3,4 & 5)

- Reactive treatment of roads when resources permit
- Monitoring local weather forecasts
- Issuing a daily decision based on the forecasts
- Provide advice and training (See Annex 7 to 10)

The daily decision is issued by email between 1st November and 31st March. If a council wishes to receive a copy their email can be added to the distribution list. Additional training can be given to individuals to assist with interpreting the information supplied.

Appendix 1

Glossary of Terms

Precautionary Salting Network

There are c.4,000km of roads within Dorset and whilst it would be convenient to spread salt on all roads during adverse weather realistically we have to prioritise which road we treat. The Precautionary Salting Network is c.1,100 km of roads which meet the criteria for inclusion (see Annex 4) and forms the network which is treated in advance of adverse weather. In addition to this network there is a Community Route Network which is only pre-salted when snow is forecast.

Priority Ploughing Network

This network is used during very severe snowfall when the resources available to DCC are not sufficient to keep all of the Precautionary Salting Network clear of snow and open to traffic. Once this network has been cleared and open to traffic then the Precautionary Salting Network is cleared.

Weather Stations

Currently there are 5 weather stations across the County (see Annex 7), by the winter of 2011/2012 there number will be increased to 9 to assist in the domain based decision making. These stations provide real time information on road surface temperatures, air temperature, dew point and precipitation.

Weather Domains

Dorset is divided into 5 weather domains (see Annex 8) to reflect the topographical and metrological differences across the County. The decision to treat the network is based on the individual forecasts for each of these domains. You will need to know which of the domains you are in to interpret the forecast and associated decision.

Weather Forecast Provider

Over the last few years DCC has employed the services of the Meteo Group to provide specific daily weather forecast of road surface temperatures and conditions across the County. The contract for this service is being re-tendered at this time (April 2011).

De-icing Road Salt

Salt is the preferred material used for treating the Precautionary Salting Network. When salt is spread on the road surface it combines with moisture on the surface or air to form a brine solution which freezes at a lower temperature than rainwater. Salt loses its effectiveness at temperatures below -8.0 degree Celsius.

Grit

Grit or sharp sand are used either as an alternative to salt or in combination. Grit can provide traction when spread on top of compacted snow or ice but has no melting capability.

Salt bins

Permanent roadside receptacle for the storage of salt or grit for use on the public highway, as a form of self help. Bins are not provided by DCC but will be filled with salt or grit when resources allow.

Bulk Bags

One tonne bags of salt have been delivered to councils where undercover storage has been provided. This salt has been made available for the councils to top up grit bins and to treat key areas during adverse weather (snow).

Spread Rates

The amount of salt applied to a surface varies depending on the forecast received. Typically.

- 10 grams of salt is applied to each square metre of road surface as a precautionary treatment when frost, hoarfrost or icy patches are expected.
- 15 grams per square metre is spread if widespread icy or ice following rain if forecast.
- 20 grams per square metre is spread at the formation of widespread ice.
- 20 grams per square metre is spread following a forecast of snow.
- 20 grams per square metre is spread following ploughing, subsequent applications are made with 50% salt / grit mix.

Precautionary / Reactive Treatments.

As the name suggests precautionary treatments take place before the predicted event to allow time for the salt to turn into brine. Reactive treatments such as snow ploughing can only take place once snow has accumulated.

Appendix 3

Criteria for Inclusion in DCC Precautionary Salting Network

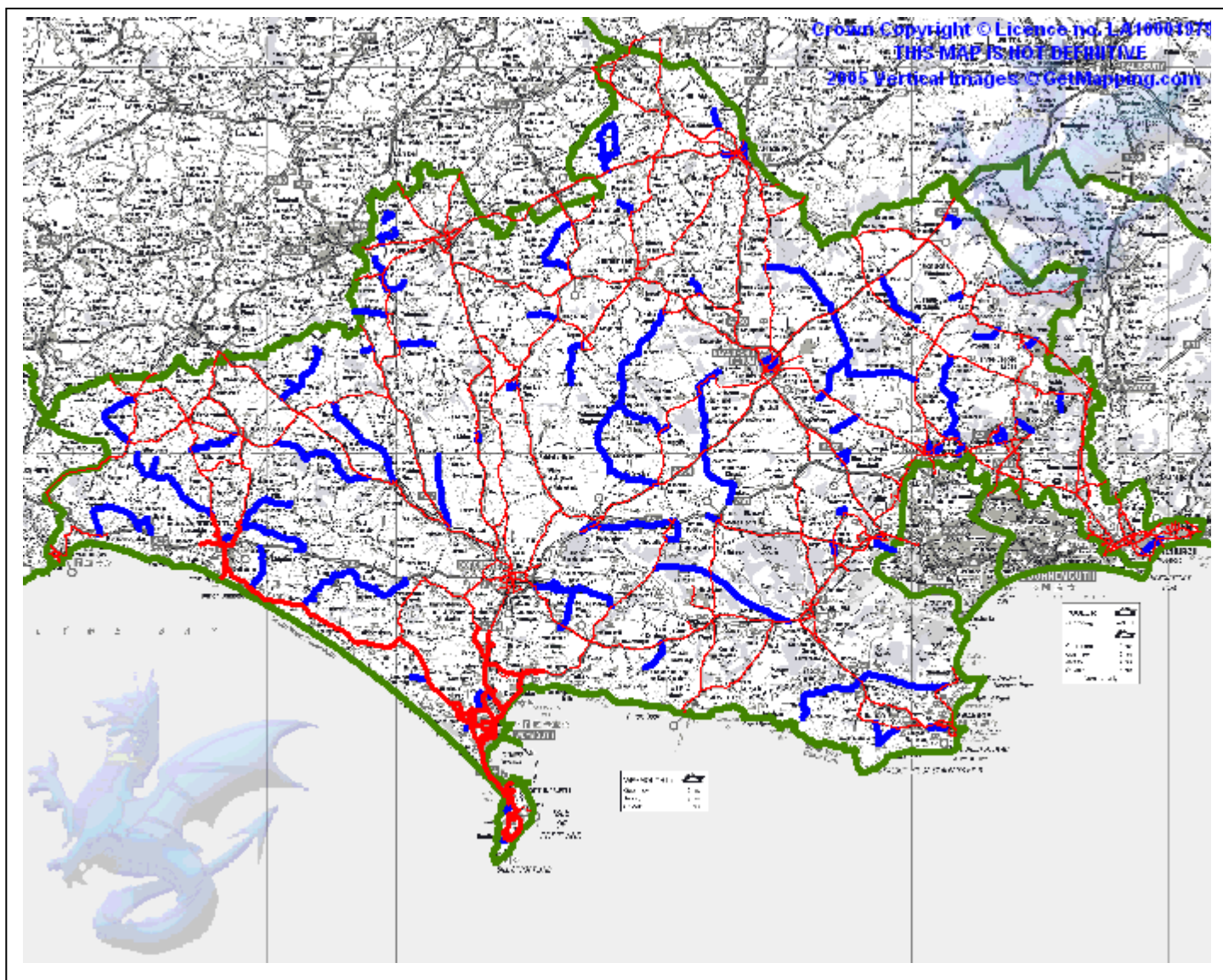
Precautionary Network – Carriageways

The precautionary salting network for carriageways consists of the Treated Network and satisfy one of more of the following criteria.

- District Distributors (A and B class roads)
- Important bus routes i.e. daily weekday service with a frequency of at least one bus per hour
- Access roads leading to large industrial establishments as defined by the Highway Network Manager.
- Access road to **large** educational establishments.
- Access roads to transport interchanges, emergency service depots.

Appendix 4

Precautionary Salting Network (Red), Community Routes (Blue)

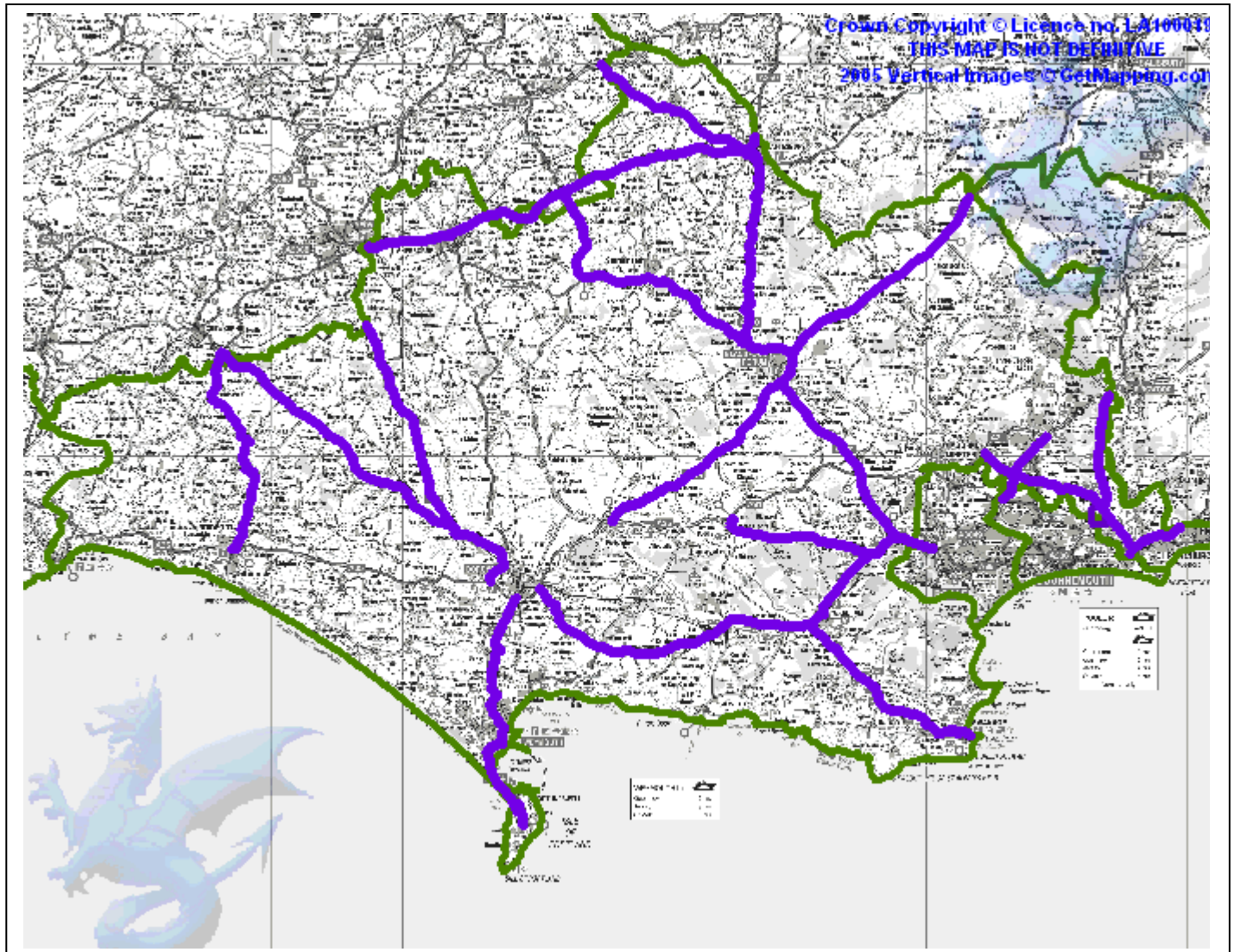


A zoomable map can be found on DCC's web site:

www.dorsetforyou.com/winter

Appendix 5

Priority Ploughing Network.



A zoomable map can be found on DCC's web site:
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Appendix 6

Farmers Snow Ploughs

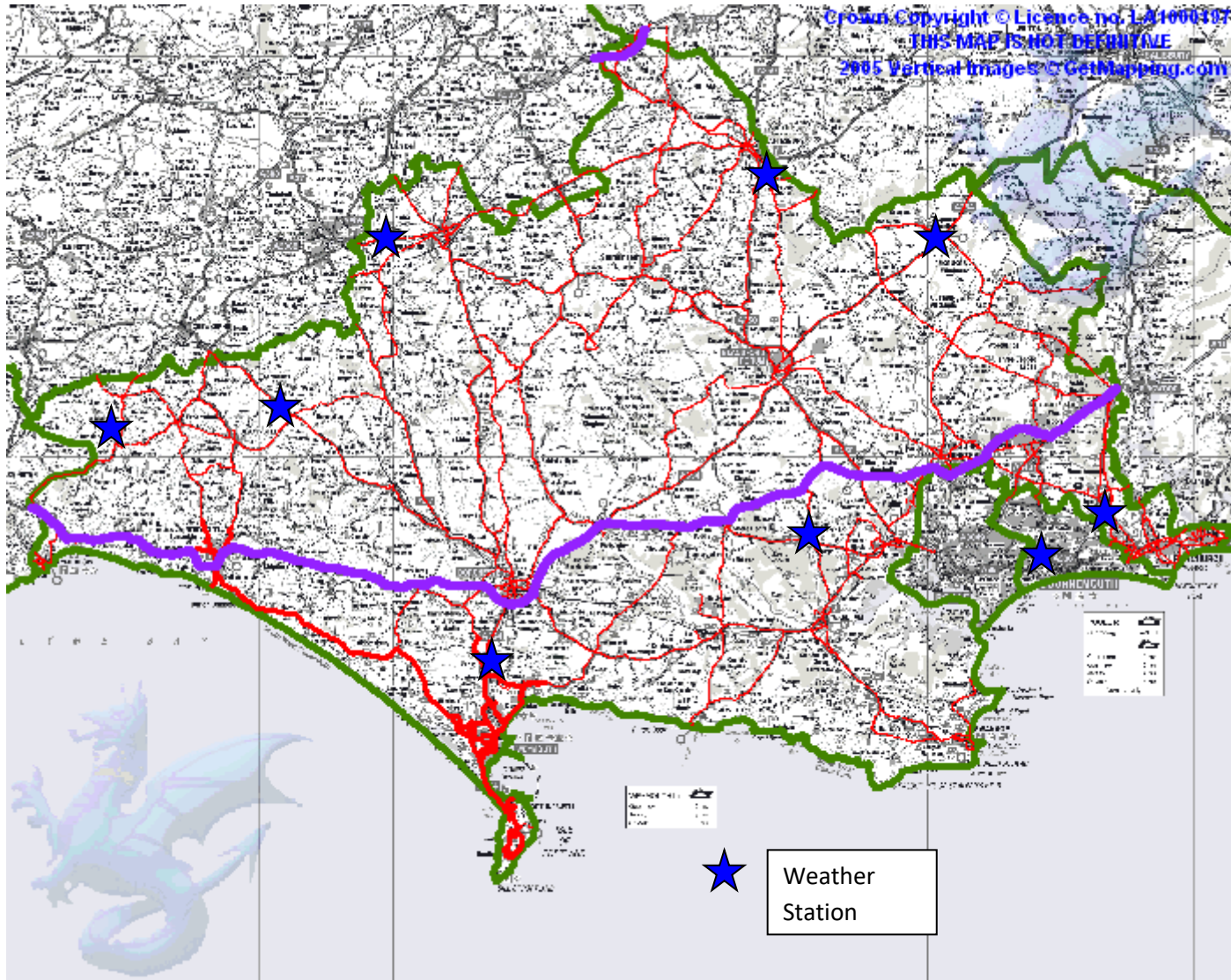
Currently the whole of the scheme is subject to a major review and full details will be included later.

In brief the new scheme will be in two parts.

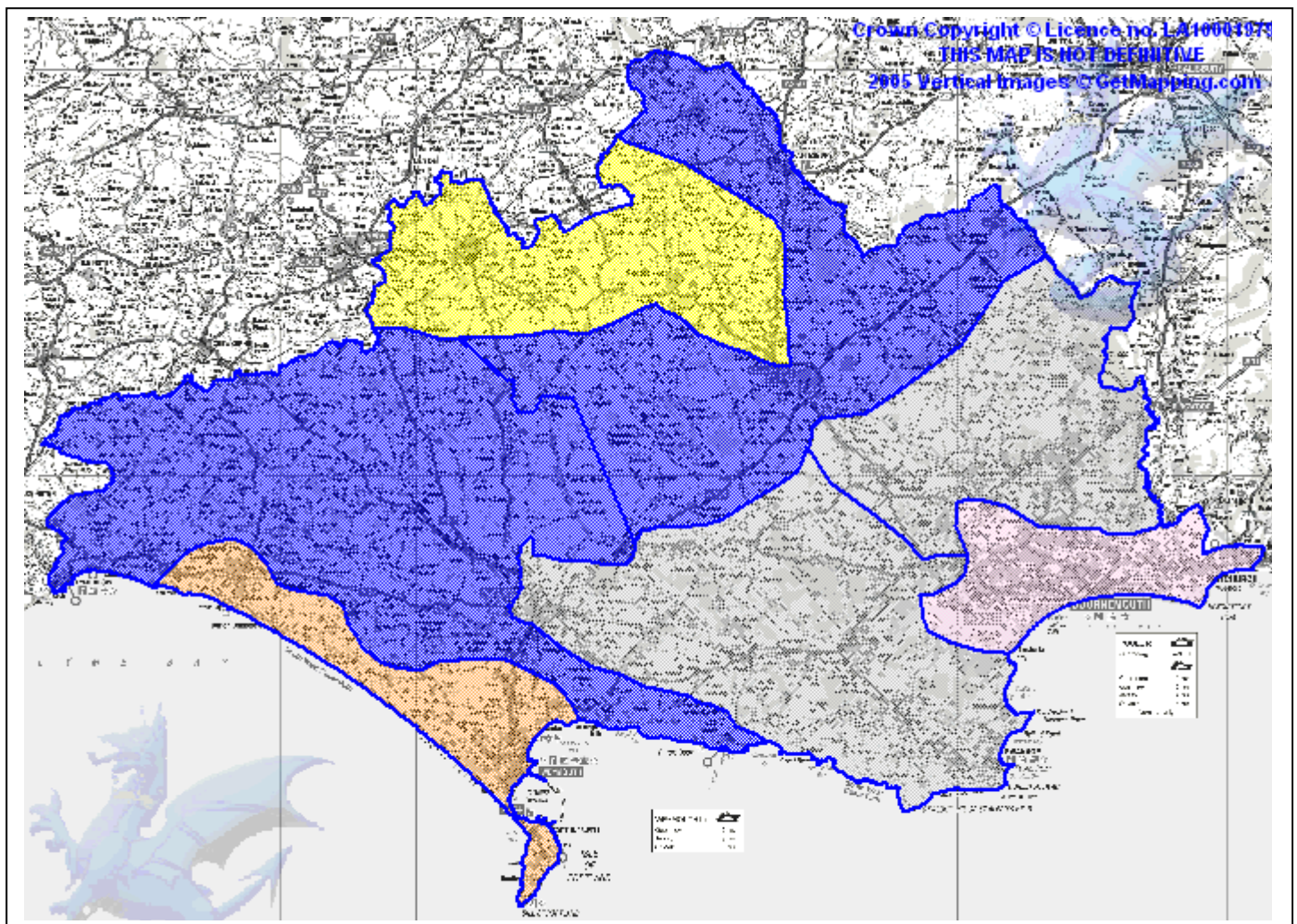
Firstly DCC will engage farmers / contractors directly to clear specific routes such as the precautionary salting network, priority ploughing network, community routes and other roads designated by the Highways Manager as conditions dictate.

The second part of the scheme will be instigated through the parish councils whereby they will arrange snow clearance of certain roads via volunteers. DCC will supply a plough as part of this scheme but will not carry out any maintenance, this will be the responsibility of the parish / volunteers.

Appendix 7
Weather Station map



Appendix 8
Weather Domain Map



A zoomable map can be found on DCC's web site:
www.dorsetforyou.com/winter

Appendix 9

Advice on Hand Salting

The photographs below illustrate some of the key features of effective hand salting.



Bulk bags. One tonne bags of salt or grit delivered to undercover storage.
Grit Bins. Located where hazards are present; gradient, junction, bend etc.



DCC recommends a spread rate of approximately 20 grams of salt or grit per square metre for hand salting. Although salt can be spread with shovels care is required to ensure over salting does not occur. Push along devices can be used to cover large areas quickly with an even spread and less waste.

- Before applying salt the snow must be removed, snow shovels are very effective for small areas.
- Plough attachments and gritting units are available for quad bikes and small grounds maintenance machines and these are suitable for larger areas.



20 grams of salt is a very small amount, you don't need a lot of salt to protect a footways. Over salting is damaging to the environment and a waste of a limited resource. You may not get your salt or bulk bags replaced if salt stocks are critical.

During precautionary salting for frost DCC uses just 10 grams per square metre.

Appendix 10

DCC's Winter Service policy

A full copy of DCC's Winter Service Policy can be found on DCC's web site:-
www.dorsetforyou.com.

DCC undertakes to do the following during adverse weather.

- Prepare an annual service plan approved by the cabinet member, which defines policy and practice.
- Monitor the daily forecast provided by our **weather forecast provider** between October and April and take appropriate actions. Issue a Daily Decision by email to all interested parties.
- Treat c.1,100km of the county road network as part of the precautionary salting network.
- Purchase and store at our 5 depots c.12,000 tonnes of de-icing road salt.
- Liaise with the Governments "Salt Cell" and actively participate in Mutual aid with adjacent Highway Authorities.
- Maintain a fleet of gritters and plough attachments between October and April.
- Fill road side salt bins prior to October each year.
- Deliver bulk bags of salt to parishes and towns where undercover storage has been provided prior to October each year. (This will be subject to review in 2012).
- Fund contractors to help us clear agreed local roads.

DCC does not undertake any of the following.

- To hand treat footways / cycleways / precincts as a precautionary operation.
- Treat private, 3rd party or non highway land.
- Refill salt bins or bulk bags when salt / grit supplies are critical.
- Fund farmers or contractors to clear additional roads over and above the agreed local roads without prior approval.