

Scottish Borders Council  
Technical Services

# Winter Travel

'A little care gets you there.'



# Winter Driving in the Scottish Borders

## The Service

Scottish Borders Council aims to assist road users in adverse winter conditions by providing a service which it considers reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles, using available financial and operational resources.

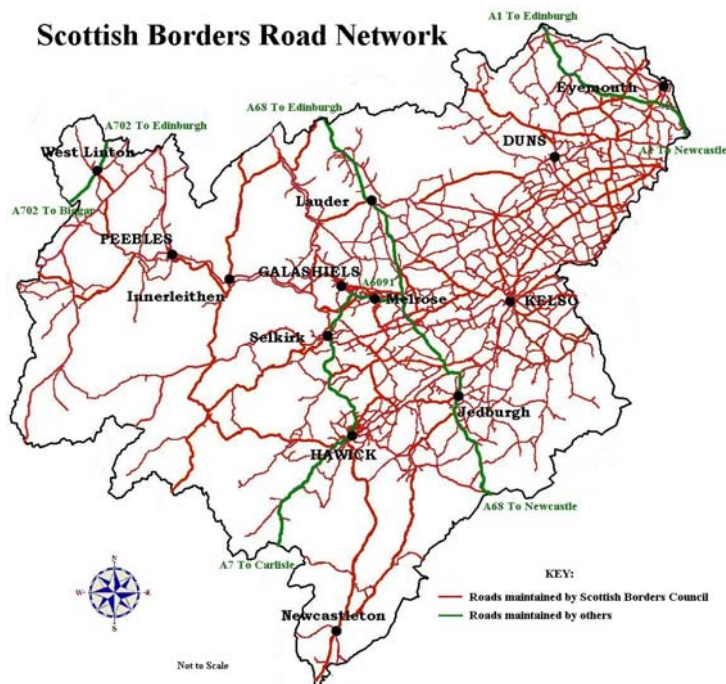
The map shows the network of priority routes that will be treated before ice forms or treated before morning traffic. These main roads, generally "A" and "B" roads, carry significant traffic or are, in some cases, school bus routes.

## Council Roads

The Council can be contacted on 01835 825076 regarding the Winter Service. It would be appreciated if your calls were restricted to essential or emergency enquiries on Council roads only. For legal reasons, the Council is unable to offer advice on Trunk Roads.

## Trunk Roads

BEAR Scotland maintain and manage Trunk Roads, including all aspects of the winter service. **Consequently, any query regarding Trunk Road Winter Service on the A1, A68, A7 (south of Galashiels), A6091 and A702 should be directed to BEAR on 0800 138 9903 or <http://www.se.bearsco.com/>.**



**Where ice or snow persists, treatments will progressively extend into the remaining road networks**

## Winter Driving

### Please take care when driving in Winter

It is impossible to treat all roads at once, so we adopt a sensible order of priority to keep traffic moving.

If conditions are severe, all the available resources will be concentrated in keeping the main roads open. If your road does not get ploughed or salted, please remember that main roads are kept open so that the vital emergency services can maintain access to hospitals, fire stations and other important facilities, before we can attend to your road.

Keeping the roads passable takes careful preparation by us all. In winter remember, **“a little care gets you there”**. We all, the Council and the general public, must play a part in ensuring that driving during the winter is as safe as possible.

### Plan Ahead

- Check the weather forecast. If it's bad, ask yourself “Do I really need to go at all?”
- Give yourself time. Leave earlier and don't hurry. Better to be late than not to arrive at all.

### Your Journey

- In bad weather, slow down.
- Keep a safe distance behind other vehicles.
- Watch other road users carefully and think ahead in case they suddenly run into difficulty.

Remember, even if the road is mostly dry, there can be places such as under trees where it can be wet and slippery without warning.

### Ice or Snow

Icy roads are probably the most dangerous. Everything you do must be done more slowly.

- Steer gently
- Stay in a high gear
- If you have to brake, use short, even applications, not heavy sustained pressure on the pedal
- Take special care crossing bridges
- At night, if you can see the stars, it's probably freezing
- Dawn and soon afterwards is also a dangerous time

**Getting caught out in severe snow can have serious consequences. If you can, stay at home.**

## **Pedestrians**

If you are out on foot, remember that roads, footways and footpaths are cleared of snow and ice in priority order. It may be some time before staff can treat your local footways and paths.

Remember to wear suitable footwear for the conditions.

## **Public Transport**

Be aware that your journey may be delayed by the conditions and plan accordingly.

## **Information**

Radio Borders and BBC Radio at Selkirk both broadcast road reports and weather information. Remember that the Council can no longer give information on Trunk roads.

This pamphlet was prepared by Scottish Borders council in consultation with

- Lothian and Borders Police
- Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade
- Scottish Ambulance Service