

Main Salting Routes

The salted network in Northern Ireland is fairly extensive and the size of this map only allows us to show the main salting routes. Details of all our salting routes are available from our local offices (contact details below).

Headquarters:

Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB
Tel: (028) 9054 0540

Northern Division:

County Hall, Castlerock Road, Coleraine, BT51 3HS
Tel: (028) 7034 1300
After Hours (028) 7035 3202

Southern Division:

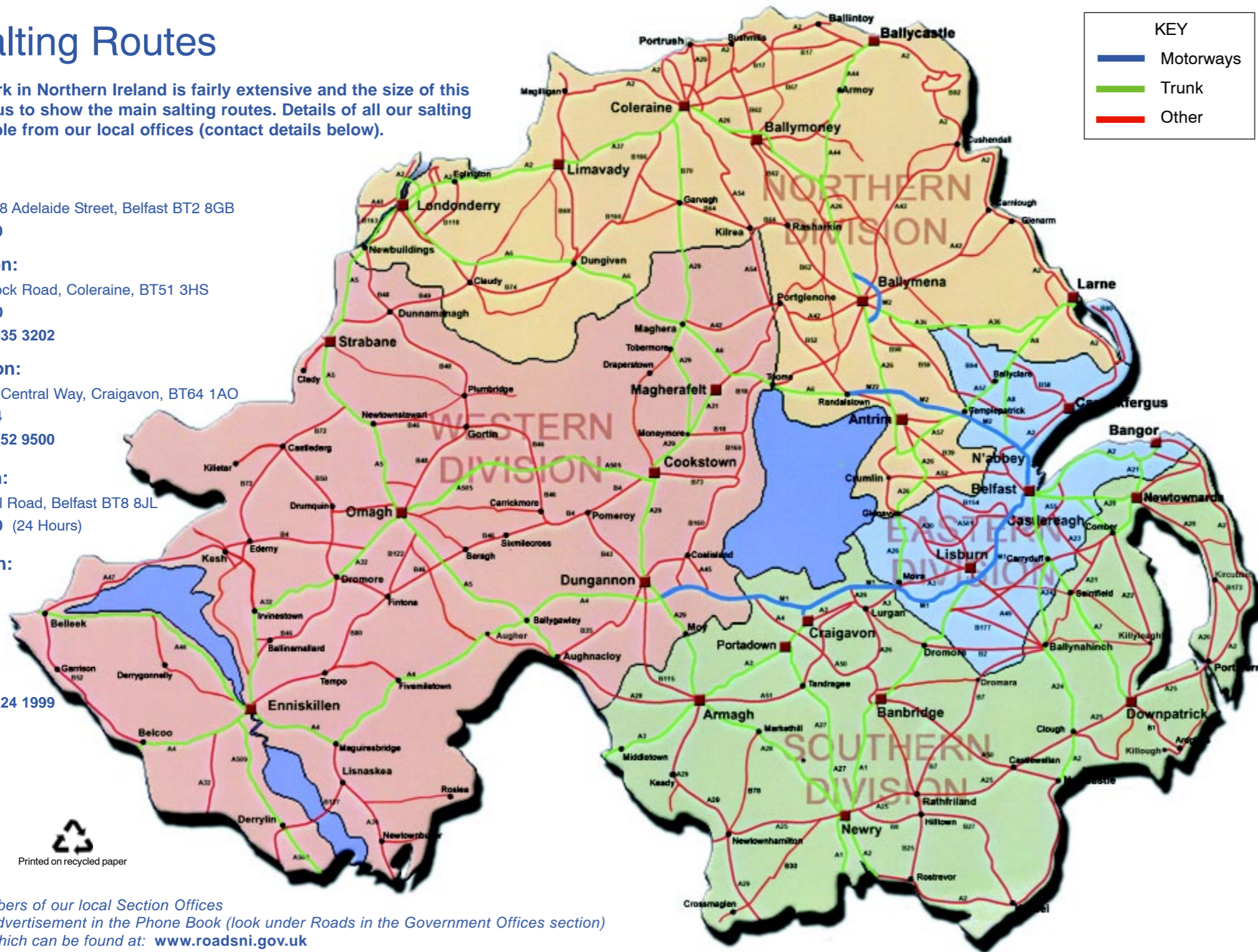
Marlborough House, Central Way, Craigavon, BT64 1AO
Tel: (028) 3834 1144
After Hours (028) 3752 9500

Eastern Division:

Hydebank, 4 Hospital Road, Belfast BT8 8JL
Tel: (028) 9025 3000 (24 Hours)

Western Division:

County Hall,
Drumragh Avenue,
Omagh,
BT79 7AF
Tel: (028) 8225 4111
After Hours (028) 8224 1999



KEY	
—	Motorways
—	Trunk
—	Other



Winter Service

Keeping Traffic on the Move



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The telephone numbers of our local Section Offices are in our display advertisement in the Phone Book (look under Roads in the Government Offices section) or on our website which can be found at: www.roadnsi.gov.uk

The aim of Winter Service is to help main road traffic move safely and freely in wintry conditions by spreading salt at the most effective times.

Introduction by the Met Office

We all love talking about the weather in Northern Ireland. Not that surprising really, as any visitor will tell you, we have some of the most varied and unpredictable weather in the world.

As a BBC weather presenter, I see at first hand how winter can be especially hazardous, giving rise to some pretty dangerous driving conditions. Thankfully in Northern Ireland snow is rare. Yet when it does come - more slushy, soaking and soggy rather than deep crisp and even - snow and icy conditions inevitably cause major transport disruption in some areas.

So, when severe winter weather hits, the best advice is to stay off the road. If you must drive it is more important now than ever before to be prepared and know what to do. This guide will help you.



Angie Phillips
BBC Weather Presenter

Play your part

- Prepare your car before the winter sets in.
- Limit your travel to essential trips only.
- Listen to your local radio station and weather forecasts for traffic news.
- Plan your route to avoid steep mountainous or lightly travelled roads.
- Leave early and expect any trip to take at least twice as long as normal.
- Make sure you bring a mobile phone if at all possible.
- Slow down and keep a safe distance behind the driver in front.
- Avoid quick acceleration or sharp braking.
- Do not obstruct winter service vehicles as they treat the roads.

Motorist Checklist

Additives:

Keep windscreen washer and radiator fluid levels full and make sure the water contains anti-freezing additive.

Battery:

Keep your battery fully charged.

Lights:

Make sure all lights are clean and working properly and always use your headlights when it's snowing.

Tyres:

Your tyres (including the spare) should have plenty of tread and be inflated to the correct pressure.

Wipers:

Keep wiper blades in good condition.

Windows:

Remove all snow and ice from your windows, doors, lights, mirrors, roof and bonnet before setting out.

When does salting take place?

- Winter Service season:** the season lasts from the end of October to mid April.
- Action:** engineers are available 24 hours a day to take decisions on the salting action based on forecast data and local knowledge.
- Forecasts:** the Met Office provides Roads Service with special weather forecasts.
- Constraints:** salt is not normally spread.
 - When raining, due to the risk of wash-off.
 - On dry roads as moisture is required for ice to form.
 - In the middle of the night as traffic is required to turn salt into de-icing solution.



Which roads are salted?

Resources are targeted on busier routes carrying most traffic.

- Almost 7000 km (4300 miles) of roads are salted, and our salting schedule caters for approximately 28% of the road network.
- Main through routes carrying more than 1500 vehicles per day (vpd).
- Other busy through routes with special difficulties carrying between 1000 and 1500 vpd (e.g. hilly areas).
- Buses in service (including school buses) receive special consideration, e.g. a 40 seat bus is counted as 40 vehicles.
- Links to small settlements containing 100 dwellings or more via the shortest route to the salting schedule.
- All other routes are normally not salted.
- On more lightly trafficked roads salt bins or grit piles may be provided for use by the public on a self-help basis.
- It costs nearly £80,000 every time we salt the network.

Heavy snow conditions

In deep snow we direct all our resources to clearing routes in priority order. It may be some time before we can get to the lower priorities.

- Motorway and trunk road network.
- The remainder of the salting network.
- The remainder of the public road network.

Try to ensure that your vehicle will not block access for winter service vehicles (abandoned and stationary vehicles are the main causes of obstruction).

Ice-free roads cannot be guaranteed

- Forecasts:** the Met Office cannot guarantee 100% accuracy in their forecasts.
- Salting time:** it takes up to 3.5 hours to salt a route so your journey may start or end on an untreated section of the route.
- Rain:** if it rains the salt may be washed away and ice may form.
- Driving:** in freezing conditions always drive with care, even if the roads have been salted.

If you get into trouble

- Stop somewhere safe and phone for help if you have a mobile phone.
- Stay with your vehicle until help arrives.
- Wrap up warm and drink plenty of fluids (no alcohol).
- Run engine to keep warm unless snow blocks exhaust.
- If you must leave your vehicle to get help make sure someone knows where you are going.

