

## **How We Manage Snow and Ice Clearing**

The Gardens Team provides a snow and ice clearing service to keep the roads, footpaths, steps and disabled ramps free from ice.

The service operates during the winter months.

Each day the Head Gardener monitors the weather and if necessary contacts the weather station for a local report. If snow or ice is predicted then arrangements are made to grit the campus that evening.

If however the forecast is incorrect and an emergency situation develops, the Security Department will contact the Head Gardener and a 'call out' procedure to staff is adopted.

The roads and car parks are gritted by a tractor mounted spreader, followed by a van to 'refill' as required.

Areas away from the road such as the paths, steps, bridges and any disabled ramps are dealt with by hand spreading from buckets.

The gritting undertaken the day/ evening before by the team is not always sufficient in cases when the temperatures are low enough for the salt to 'refreeze' or if it rains after application. If this happens then there may be insufficient time or manpower to deal with all the problems by 9am. However, the team target priority areas such as bridges for completion before this time.

The team works to a pattern around site and will get to all areas during the morning period.

The department holds a stock of 15 tonnes of salt, on average 3.5 tonnes will be used unless the weather is extremely bad.

When it is icy we request that staff remain patient whilst the team work to treat the site. Staff should be cautious and careful when walking and driving around site and speeds as low as 2mph are recommended if you suspect icy roads or car parks.