

## **State of roads around Elsdon**

Every road leading from Elsdon to any of the nearest towns and larger villages are beset with major problems. There are numerous causes for these including:

1. Blocked ditches
2. Collapsed or non-existent culverts
3. Water sitting on road surface:
  - a. Water seeps into tarmac
  - b. When it freezes, there is ice build-up which gritting does not alleviate
  - c. When the water freezes, it expands and breaks up road surface
4. Poor quality patching or resurfacing
5. Narrow roads unable to cope with the wider, heavier traffic of 21st century.

This means drivers of most vehicles using the roads around Elsdon are having to slalom across the road to avoid the problems and wrecking their vehicles.

Below are just some of the problems that have been identified by the Councillors of Elsdon Parish Council. All these routes are necessary for even just basic access to GP practices and all are main thoroughfares.

If you drive these roads and feel that they are in a bad state and require urgent attention the Parish Council encourage you to report the problems to Northumberland County Council. This can be done either online at

<http://mapreport.northumberland.gov.uk/potholes/>

or by telephone on 0345 600 6400 (Monday to Thursday 08:30 - 17:00 and Friday 08:30 - 16:30)

The Parish Council have reported these problems but it would appear it requires as many people as possible to report to increase the chances of action being taken. Please therefore take time to do so if these problems affect you.

### **To Otterburn, Bellingham & Hexham: B6341 Elsdon to Overacres**

- Pothole in the middle of road by the Larkes (road infill coming out)
- Pothole on north side of road just beyond Elsdon Gate (blocked ditch)
- Poor surface by field entrance just before Hemmel
- Water pouring across road by The Hemmel causing ice build-up (blocked ditch)
- Flooding at Soppit Lane – blocked ditch and collapsing culvert
- Flooding at Guilders Cleugh wood causing potholes and ice build-up (blocked ditch)
- Pothole by entrance to Colwell Hill
- Edges of road collapsing before Overacres.

### **To Rothbury & Alnwick: B6341 Elsdon to Hepple and beyond:**

- Billsmoor Foot potholes in the middle of the road
- Flooding just before Grasslees (no ditch)
- Flooding at gateway just after Grasslees (blocked culvert)
- Flooding just after Darden Lough lay-by (no culvert)
- Badly rutted road surface at Ovenstone (last resurfacing done with poor materials)
- Poor road surface from Coffee Bridge to Coquet Bridge just before Hepple
- Poor edges to road in many places between Elsdon and Flotterton.

### **To Newcastle: Raylees Road and A696 Ottercops to Knowesgate:**

- Single-track Raylees road narrowed by ditching spoil mounded up on the edge of the road - fewer opportunities for passing vehicles coming in the opposite direction. Also occasional hole.
- A696 from just before Ottercops Farm to just after Raechester: holes and ruts at various locations.

### **To Morpeth: Elsdon to Harwood Gate**

- Flooding and ice build-up between Todholes and Lonning (destroyed culvert at Lonning entrance)
- Gibbet to Harwood, holes everywhere with patching breaking up and collapsing road edges.
- This road appears not to be on a scheduled gritting route, probably because it falls between the gritting routes from two separate depots. It only seems to be gritted on request.