

Highways Report January 2026

As you are all aware a lot of rain has fallen this month, last week was the highest weekly rainfall in Somerset for 12 years. This has made getting out and monitoring the condition of the roads quite awkward. It did seem as though any convenient time that I could get out, it started to rain. Anyway, on Monday I was able to get out. The snowdrops are appearing all over the place, lovely, but regrettably so are the potholes. Here is my report;

Woolston Rd - just past the village shop opposite the Nurses Cottage there is a hole developing around the road gully.

Slightly further along on the same side the Road edge is crumbled away.

Even further along past the second Manor Farm entrance the area around the three manhole covers has been repaired but immediately past this a long snaking hole has developed.

There is a seam in the road and as it stretches toward Woolston holes are developing along this fault.

Ferngrove Lane - Just before the cottage a peculiarly rectangular hole.

Nearly opposite number 1 Ferngrove Cottage there is a hole to the edge that is deep enough to throw out the ballast in the substrate of the road.

Lodge Hill - Halfway up the hill two holes notable in that these are adjacent to a previous repair, again substrate exposed.

Further up the hill the surface is breaking up along a seam in the tarmac. Again notable that this is an extension of a previous patch repair. It is becoming apparent that these patch repairs are not effective as the fault just develops next to the repair. The joints created by these patches become the weak point and the water penetrates and breaks the surface up. Further again there is an area where there has been a broad patch of repair, which itself then has a narrower repair through it, the end of this patch is the edge of another hole, exposing the rock below.

On the right hand side there is a small deep round hole, notable for its yellow colour, seemingly a ham stone substrate here .

Junction with Cattle Hill Road - Two areas of concern, two holes in the centre of the highway and a larger deep hole on the left next to the white line delineating the junction.

Crockers Hill - Outside Parsonage Farm entrance extensive area of road edge is broken away. Further along about 30 metres before the bridge there is a deep tear shaped hole .

Galhampton House - Just prior to the Hearn Lane junction. Many holes, particularly at the left edge of the road, plus a previous repair that has come out at one end, not properly bonded when the patch was laid.

Frog Lane - Extensive length of road edge gone. Similarly after "RAG" there is another stretch of road edge crumbling away into the verge, perhaps accentuated by the tractor damage to the verge caused by recent hedge cutting.

After "Land orchard " bend there is a lot of damage to the verge and road edge next to a newly repaired area .

Just past Merrylands there are two, dare I say it, bog standard holes in the road surface .

Sandbrook Lane /Corkscrew Lane - Large hole near the junction, there is almost a stream coming out of the bank and it is obviously breaking the road up in this area.

The Cottage entrance Through to the Greenlands Drive - This road surface has numerous repairs and even more holes. Extensive deposits of gravel from the road spread on the top. Probably needs a resurface, unlikely in this financial climate.

That is the end of the road inspection report.

I feel the council policy of patch repairing is starting to unravel. It would appear that the patches themselves are becoming the start point for the next hole. Whilst we are advised that the repairs have a "guarantee" from Kier, the contractors, I find it difficult to understand how the council are going to administer this.

Cllr Chris Jose