

“ROADS ARE REGULARLY INSPECTED, ACCORDING TO THE COUNCILS”



The road surface can break down around drains and manhole covers



It's unlikely you'll encounter a pothole this deep on the open road

ROAD SURFACES

In Britain, your Highway Authority, usually a County Council, has a duty to keep the highway safe. Yes, we know that Britain's roads are full of potholes and dangerous defects, but these roads are carefully and regularly inspected according to the councils. This is done monthly or more frequently for main roads and twice a year for minor roads.

So what should you do if you get caught by a carriageway defect?

The same rules apply if it's a lost load from a lorry, a pothole, a diesel spill, antifreeze or any other hazard on the highway.

1. Get what evidence you can of the scene. Mobile phone pictures may not be perfect, but they will do. Take the details of any witnesses. These are essential. Above all, stay calm. If you are f-ing and blinding away, you will alienate most of them.

2. Call the police - get them to attend the scene (if possible, usually they can't be bothered). That's something you'll not be too keen on if you're not running a street legal bike - another reason for keeping it legal. Get them to note the defect on the road.

3. If you get carted off to hospital, get a reliable mate to photograph and measure the defect for you.

4. Call White Dalton on 0800 783 6191, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. One of their senior lawyers will call you back. They like to get to the defect for photos.

The rest of what White Dalton do they want to keep to themselves - they use pretty uncompromising tactics against local authorities and don't particularly want to broadcast them.

IT'S ALL ON THE SURFACE

MUD, MANURE AND DIESEL: IT'S ALL OUT THERE

Here's what to do: If you come off your bike because of a surface pollutant, mud on the highway, cow shit, diesel or anything else which is likely to have been deposited either by a road vehicle or a known person, get straight in touch with White Dalton. If you knew who put the offending material on the highway you can sue them or their insurers.

Farmers tend to put up a good fight, but the Motor Insurers' Bureau have a duty to compensate road users who are themselves insured (that is really important) where they have suffered injury as a result of the negligence of an untraced road user.

A couple of years ago, a number of perfectly good claims were being refused by

the Motor Insurers' Bureau, which White Dalton took to appeal and had a very high success rate.

Even if your current Solicitors are telling you that you don't have a claim, get a second opinion from the real experts in this field before giving up.



Where there's lorries, look for diesel. They don't do it on purpose