

Government urged to pay up to ease £800m repairs backlog on Cambridgeshire's 'dangerous' roads.

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The government has been told it must cough up more funding to solve the “crisis” affecting Cambridgeshire’s roads, where an £800million backlog has created “dangerous” conditions and left road users fearful of what they will encounter.

MPs are putting pressure on the minister for roads to acknowledge that the county is particularly impacted by potholes and buckled surfaces because 40 per cent of its 3,000 miles of highways lie on peat and clay, which are prone to subsidence and more costly to repair.

These roads are really dangerous to drive on. My constituents are really frightened,” said Ian Sollom MP in the House of Commons. He called on the Secretary of State for Transport, Heidi Alexander, to “consider a special budget for peat-affected roads or at least consider adjusting the formula to take account of geological conditions”.

Ms Alexander accepted “certain parts of the country will have different challenges given their geology” and pledged to raise the issue with ministers.

A report to a Cambridgeshire County Council’s highways and transport committee revealed the maintenance backlog would cost £800million to clear.

And it confirmed that more than £500m of this relates to soil-affected roads.

It described these as “routes significantly affected by the sub-soil, which expands and contracts in response to changes in climate”, causing cracking and undermining the road structure.

The county council expects to spend £58.3million on highways maintenance in 2026-27, of which £31.7m comes from government funding, £20m from its own capital investment and the rest from other council funding and grants.

But this accounts for just 7.3 per cent of the backlog – and all the while, the roads are continuing to deteriorate and those with [temporary patched-up surfaces](#) are falling into disrepair again.

Following the exchange in the Commons, Mr Sollom, the Liberal Democrat MP for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire, said: “I know that people are frightened, fed up and spending far too much money on car repairs due to potholes and subsidence in our roads across Cambridgeshire. “Cambridgeshire County Council has had to repeatedly fix these roads for years, but the funding it receives from the government is massively stretched and doesn’t account at all for the unique geology of the terrain in Cambridgeshire.

“Built largely on fen soils, our roads are particularly [susceptible to deterioration](#) during wet weather and extreme heatwaves, and cost up to four times as much to maintain, with repairs lasting just a fraction of the time. I raised this directly with the Secretary of State for Transport, specifically in relation to the B1050 in Willingham – one of many peat-affected roads in the area which is currently in a dangerous condition.

“I will now be writing to the minister for roads, urging the government to recognise the crisis we are facing with our roads in Cambridgeshire, and pressing for action to address the pothole funding deficit.”