

## **Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 27150**

*Follow on request to 27060*

*1. Regarding Suffolk CC responsibility for road verges along the A137, can you be more specific about how much of the verge you are responsible for from the roundabout with A137/Wherstead Road/The Strand to the orange marker on the left hand side of the attached map. Is it 4 or 18 metres and is it definitely your responsibility?*

The extent of land adopted as highway is indicated on the attached plan in file named '27150\_Plan.pdf'. Extent of highway is shown as green shading. Please note that, the figure of 4 to 18 metres cited in the previous response was an indicative figure; depending on the topography, the verge width can vary at different points along a route; therefore, the plan provided is the best guide to the specific area of interest.



*I note your duty is to undertake routine carriageway safety inspections etc as detailed in your response, and the claim that there are no SPECIFIC legal requirements on how often trees should be inspected, however the majority of other County Councils do have Tree Safety Management Policies (eg Norfolk, Powys, Oxford etc ) with accepted best practice being to inspect trees along main routes such as the A137 at very specific intervals of between 12 - 24 months to ensure there is no risk to the public from dead/diseased trees.*

*2. I would specifically like to know what Suffolk Highways own policy is on this since I can't find it anywhere on your website. I note that with this category of road in urban areas, (Suffolk Highways Maintenance Plan May 21 v2.1 point 5.4 Trees and Hedges on page 17) that you encourage "proactive management of trees in the highway". This means that you do not wait for a concerned individual to report a dead tree, but that you periodically inspect trees to ensure they are not dead or dangerous.*

As the Highway Authority, part of our statutory duty is to undertake routine carriageway safety and footway inspections. As part of these inspections our officers survey everything within our highway boundary. Visual inspections of trees and vegetation are undertaken.

3. *Could you tell me who in Suffolk/Highways is responsible for initiating preventative inspections.*

The Highway Assessment Team undertake our statutory carriageway and footway safety inspections

4. *Could you please tell me the exact date, from your records, (before 12 March 2026) when the verge and trees in the area detailed on the above map were last inspected by anyone from Suffolk Highways/an arborist*

(Highways) – listed in file named ‘27150\_Report.pdf’ are the dates that monthly highways safety inspections were carried out at this location

and

5. *could I please have a copy of their report.*

See Q4

6. *Has there ever been an inspection of these trees?*

Visual inspections of the trees along the A137 are part of the monthly carriageway safety inspections.

#### Redacted Information

All information released in response to a Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or Environmental Information Regulation 2004 (EIR) request is deemed to be in the public domain. As such we must consider whether or not the requested information qualifies as personal information and should therefore not be released into the public domain.

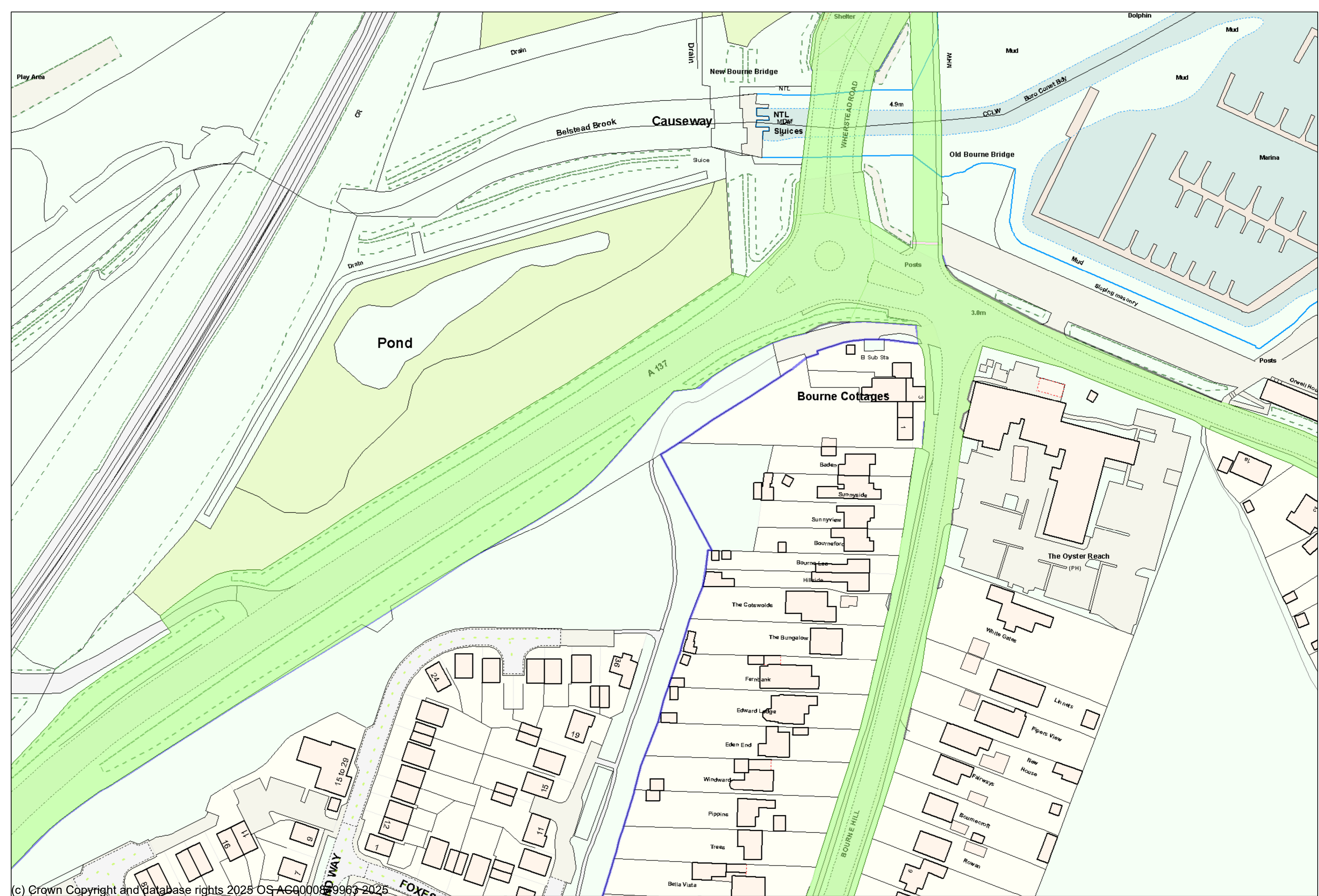
The council has determined that this is personal information and is therefore exempt from disclosure under **section 40** of the FOIA and **regulation 13** of the EIR.

The Council considered the following, including the possible consequences of disclosure for the data subjects concerned and their reasonable expectations as to the use of their data:

- expectations of the individuals concerned about personal information being put into the public domain;
- reasonable expectations - the data subjects concerned would have a legitimate expectation of privacy concerning their personal information and would not have anticipated this being put into the public domain;
- whether or not the requested information could be anonymised; and
- balancing the individual's rights and the legitimate interests - In past cases the Information Commissioner has weighed the individual's rights to privacy against the public interest in disclosure. There is no presumption in favour of releasing personal data.

This is an absolute exemption, which means that if the condition is satisfied there is no additional public interest test to consider.

In assessing fairness, the Council considered the likely consequences of disclosure of the requested information. Personal information should not be used in ways that have unjustified adverse effects on the individuals concerned. The council also considered whether such disclosure would be within the reasonable expectations of the individuals, given that any response to a request under the FOIA or EIR is deemed to be in the public domain. The council believes that in this instance it is not fair to disclose personal data and is therefore withholding the requested information under section 40 of the FOIA and regulation 13 of the EIR.



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**Inspections Done**

From 26/03/2025 To 31/01/2026

09/04/2026

**Nsg Ref:** 01511035 A137 FROM THE STRAND TO IPSWICH ROAD, WHERSTEAD

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 190785

**Frequency:** 1 Month

**Date Due:** 28/07/2025

**Done Date/Time:** 23/07/2025 ( 11:12

**Inspector:** [REDACTED]

**Defect Found:** No

**Description:**

**Next Due Date:** 28/08/2025

**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] at 14:30 on 23/07/2025

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 193388

**Frequency:** 1 Month

**Date Due:** 28/08/2025

**Done Date/Time:** 21/08/2025 ( 16:49

**Inspector:** [REDACTED]

**Defect Found:** No

**Description:**

**Next Due Date:** 28/09/2025

**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] at 17:51 on 21/08/2025

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 188411

**Frequency:** 1 Month

**Date Due:** 28/06/2025

**Done Date/Time:** 23/06/2025 ( 11:28

**Inspector:** [REDACTED]

**Defect Found:** No

**Description:**

**Next Due Date:** 28/07/2025

**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] at 18:00 on 23/06/2025

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 198853

**Frequency:** 1 Month

**Date Due:** 28/09/2025

**Done Date/Time:** 26/09/2025 ( 17:37

**Inspector:** [REDACTED]

**Defect Found:** No

**Description:**

**Next Due Date:** 28/10/2025

**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] at 17:51 on 26/09/2025

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 186522  
**Frequency:** 1 Month  
**Date Due:** 28/05/2025  
**Done Date/Time:** 02/06/2025 ( 17:23  
**Inspector:** [REDACTED]  
**Defect Found:** No  
**Description:**  
**Next Due Date:** 28/06/2025  
**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] at 17:23 on 02/06/2025

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 183322  
**Frequency:** 1 Month  
**Date Due:** 28/04/2025  
**Done Date/Time:** 24/04/2025 ( 16:32  
**Inspector:** [REDACTED]  
**Defect Found:** Yes  
**Description:**  
**Next Due Date:** 28/05/2025  
**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] at 16:49 on 24/04/2025

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 199599  
**Frequency:** 1 Month  
**Date Due:** 28/10/2025  
**Done Date/Time:** 23/10/2025 ( 16:17  
**Inspector:** [REDACTED]  
**Defect Found:** No  
**Description:**  
**Next Due Date:** 28/11/2025  
**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] at 17:41 on 23/10/2025

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 200643  
**Frequency:** 1 Month  
**Date Due:** 28/12/2025  
**Done Date/Time:** 29/12/2025 ( 15:06  
**Inspector:** [REDACTED]  
**Defect Found:** No  
**Description:**  
**Next Due Date:** 28/01/2026  
**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] at 16:34 on 29/12/2025

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 200104  
**Frequency:** 1 Month  
**Date Due:** 28/11/2025  
**Done Date/Time:** 25/11/2025 ( 16:14  
**Inspector:** [REDACTED]  
**Defect Found:** No  
**Description:**  
**Next Due Date:** 28/12/2025  
**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] **at** 16:25 **on** 25/11/2025

**Activity Type:** CSI Carriageway Safety Inspections **Survey no:** 201102  
**Frequency:** 1 Month  
**Date Due:** 28/01/2026  
**Done Date/Time:** 23/01/2026 ( 19:13  
**Inspector:** [REDACTED]  
**Defect Found:** Yes  
**Description:**  
**Next Due Date:** 28/02/2026  
**Last Updated By:** [REDACTED] **at** 19:15 **on** 23/01/2026

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Action Number	Action Type	Asset Type	Location	Completed Date/Time	State	Inspection Due	Due Date
122059	Highway Safety Inspection	Footway	A137 From The Strand To Ipswich Road, Wherstead, Suffolk		Recorded	18/04/2027 23:59	18/04/2027 23:59
114562	Highway Safety Inspection	Carriageway	A137 From The Strand To Ipswich Road,Wherstead, Suffolk		Recorded	28/04/2026 23:59	28/04/2026 23:59
78442	Highway Safety Inspection	Carriageway	A137 From The Strand To Ipswich Road,Wherstead, Suffolk	30/03/2026 09:31	Completed	28/03/2026 23:59	28/03/2026 23:59
14050	Highway Safety Inspection	Footway	A137 From The Strand To Ipswich Road,Wherstead, Suffolk	07/04/2026 09:21	Completed (No Observed Defects)	18/04/2026 23:59	18/04/2026 23:59
14049	Highway Safety Inspection	Carriageway	A137 From The Strand To Ipswich Road,Wherstead, Suffolk	24/03/2026 01:25	Completed (No Observed Defects)	28/02/2026 23:59	28/02/2026 23:59