
Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Bowring Park and Golf
Course
Ref: P.2087.24

Date: October 2024
(See revision dates below)

Rev	Date	Details

P.2087.24

Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Of

Bowring Park and Golf Course, Roby Road, Huyton, L36 4HD

For

One Day

14th October 2024

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P.2087.24.E04 Baseline Conditions

Appendix 2 – Drawings: Proposed Site Layout
P.2087.24.E05 Proposed Habitats

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents an assessment study of effects on biodiversity in connection with the proposed development at Bowring Park and Golf Course, Roby Road, Huyton, L36 4HD.

This report calculates 'biodiversity units' using DEFRA's Statutory Biodiversity Metric, February 2024 and following the methods set out in the *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024*. The units are calculated based on the area (or length), condition and distinctiveness of habitats found on the site. Pre-development and post-development biodiversity values are calculated and compared to identify any change in the biodiversity value of the site.

Mandatory biodiversity net gain is set out in the Environment Act 2021 and will apply in England and Wales as a requirement to demonstrate net gain as the result of a new development.

Based on the current proposals there will be a loss of (baseline 1.50, post intervention 1.44) **- 0.06 (-4.26%) habitat units** within the proposed development area, demonstrating that a net gain has not been achieved within the site in line with National Planning Policy (NPPF) and policy CS21 stated within Knowsley Borough Councils Local Plan 2016.

Post development biodiversity units with the proposed development site were calculated based on the proposals submitted by client One Day these and are available in Drawing P.2087.24.E05 Proposed Habitats within appendix 2.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

Ascerta has been instructed by One Day to carry out a Biodiversity Impact Assessment of the land at Bowring Park and Golf Course. The site is centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OSGR) SJ 42702 90404 and the What3Words reference is lined.keep.keen. This assessment has been prepared to support a planning application for the proposed development upon the site.

1.2 Ecological background

The proposed development site has been subject to Ecological surveys. The surveys undertaken at this site are detailed below:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

The site currently comprises developed land sealed surface *ub1*, buildings *ub15* and pathways *528*, broadleaf woodlands *w1h5*, modified grasslands *g4*, and bare ground *u-510*.

The site lies to the east of the M62 centred on OSGR: SJ 42573 90364 bound by recreational land (golf course) in the south and east, broadleaf deciduous woodlands and the M62 to the west, scattered trees and Roby Road (A5080) to the north.

2.0 Methods

2.1 Field Survey

A walkover survey of the site was conducted on 01/10/2024, when the habitat types and features of ecological interest were identified and mapped. An extended phase one habitat survey was undertaken along with a habitat condition assessment (*Natural England Farm Environment Plan (FEP) Manual, 3rd Edition, March 2010*).

2.2 Biodiversity Baseline Methods

To calculate a biodiversity baseline, this study used methods detailed within *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric*, February 2024 and following the methods set out in the *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024*. Initially, habitats were digitised in GIS using QField. Areas were measured in hectares and linear features in kilometres. The biodiversity unit value for each habitat was then calculated by multiplying the habitat area (or length) by its distinctiveness score and then by its condition score, both described below. The unit values for each habitat were then totalled to produce the biodiversity baseline. Linear habitats were assessed separately to areas.

2.2.1 Habitat distinctiveness

Habitats identified are entered into DEFRA's *Statutory Biodiversity Metric* which then assigns a pre-determined distinctiveness value. Habitat distinctiveness is a collective measure of biodiversity and includes parameters such as species-richness, diversity, rarity, and the degree to which a habitat supports species rarely found in other habitats.

2.2.2 Habitat Condition

The condition of the habitats present has been assessed during the site visits using *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024*.

The post-development biodiversity units were calculated using information from the proposals provided by client One Day, drawing number P.2087.24.E04 in Appendix 2. To calculate the post-development biodiversity units the habitat areas are multiplied by the distinctiveness and condition values and then divided by a multiplier based on the difficulty of creating the proposed habitat and the time needed to achieve the proposed condition. The baseline biodiversity units were then subtracted from the post development units to determine any change in biodiversity value of the site as a result of the development. The target condition of the habitats is based on guidance set out within the *Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024* which may require ecological input and/or guidance to ensure the target conditions are achieved.

Information and Data Used to Inform the Biodiversity Net Gain Calculation

The following information was used to inform the Biodiversity Unit Calculations. GIS layers of:

- The site;
- The habitats classified under UKHAB2 and baseline habitat condition; and
- Drawing Proposed site Plan and P.2087.24E05 Proposed Site Plan

3.0 Biodiversity Baseline

This section establishes the biodiversity baseline for the site based on the preliminary ecological appraisal of the proposed development site and the proposed compensatory site.

3.1 Biodiversity Baseline for habitats on site

The *Baseline Condition Assessment*, drawing P.2087.24.E03 at Appendix 1 has been used to identify five habitat area types within the development site. The phase 1 habitat categories have translated into UKHab habitat classification (*UK Habitat Classification User Manual* 2018) using the UKHab/Phase 1 translation tool within the *Statutory Biodiversity Metric* (February 2024) and following the methods set out in the the *Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024* and biodiversity scores have been calculated and assessed, as displayed in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

Table 1: Baseline Habitat Areas Biodiversity Calculation for onsite habitats

Phase 1/UK Hab Habitat	Total Area (ha)	Distinctiveness (score)	Condition	Biodiversity Score	Area retained
Urban-Developed land; sealed surface <i>u1/u1b5</i>	0.0788	V Low (0)	N/A Other	0	0.0788
Artificial unvegetated sealed surface <i>u1c</i>	0.0037	V Low (2)	N/A Other	0	0.0037
Woodland and Forest – other woodland broadleaved <i>w1h5</i>	0.1426	Medium (4)	Poor (1)	0.63	0.1326
Urban – urban tree	0.0651	Medium (4)	Moderate (4)	0.57	0.0651
Bare ground <i>u g4 510</i>	0.0261	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.05	0.0261
Modified grasslands <i>g4</i>	0.1149	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.25	0.1036
Total Site Area (Ha)	0.3761	Habitat Areas Biodiversity Units		1.50	0.3561

4.0 Impacts on biodiversity

4.1 Post-development biodiversity value of the proposed development site

Drawing P.2087.24.E05, Appendix 2, has been used to identify a single new habitat area. Habitat areas, distinctiveness and condition scores have been calculated and assessed and are displayed in Table 3 and Table 4 below.

Table 3: Post Development Habitat Areas Biodiversity Calculation for Onsite Habitats

Phase 1/ UKHab Habitat	Total Area (ha)	Distinctiveness (score)	Condition (score)	Biodiversity Score
Developed land – sealed surface u1/u1b5 / 528 (new)	0.01	0	0	0
Developed land – sealed surface u1/u1b5 / 528 (new)	0.01	0	0	0
Developed land; sealed surface u1/u1b5 / 528	0.0788	V Low (0)	N/A Other	0
Artificial unvegetated sealed surface u1c	0.0037	V Low (0)	N/A Other	0
Woodland and Forest – other woodland broadleaved	0.1326	Medium (4)	Poor (1)	0.58
Urban – urban tree	0.0651	Medium (4)	Moderate (4)	0.57
Bare ground	0.0261	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.05
Modified grasslands	0.1036	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.23
Habitat Areas Biodiversity Units				1.44

4.2 Change in biodiversity value

Based on the current proposals there will be a loss of **-0.06 (-4.26%) in habitat units** within the proposed development area demonstrating that a net gain has not been achieved within the site in line with National Planning Policy (NPPF) and Knowsley Borough Councils Local Plan Core Strategy 2016.

5.0 References

JNCC (2010), Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit. JNCC, Peterborough

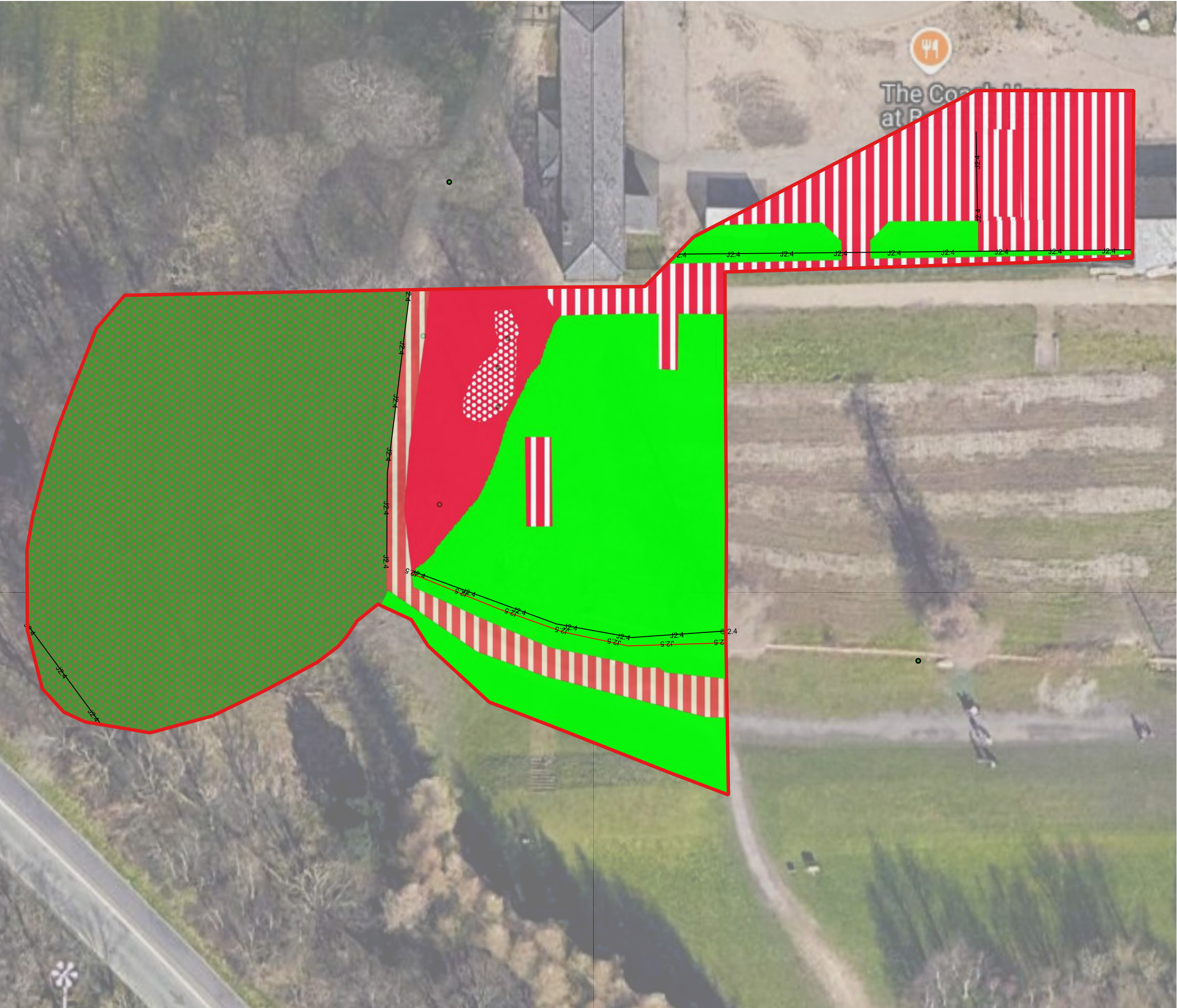
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2024). *Statutory Biodiversity metric: User Guide*. Natural England.

A – Natural England, B – Environment Agency, C – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, D – Treework Environmental Consultants Ltd, E – eCountability Ltd

UK Habitat Classification Working Group (2018). *UK Habitat Classification User Manual* at <http://ecountability.co.uk/ukhabworkinggroup-ukhab>

UK Habitat Classification Working Group (2018). *UK Habitat Classification – Habitat Definitions V1.0* at <http://ecountability.co.uk/ukhabworkinggroup-ukhab>

Appendix 1



Key

 Survey Area

Habitats Baseline

-  u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (mulch)
-  ub1-Developed land; sealed surface
 - buildings ub15 and pathways 528
-  g4-Modified grassland
-  w1h5 - woodland; broadleaved
-  u-510 -Bare ground
-  u - Scattered Trees -32

 612- Fence

 853- Wall

DO NOT SCALE.
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CLIENT:

One Day

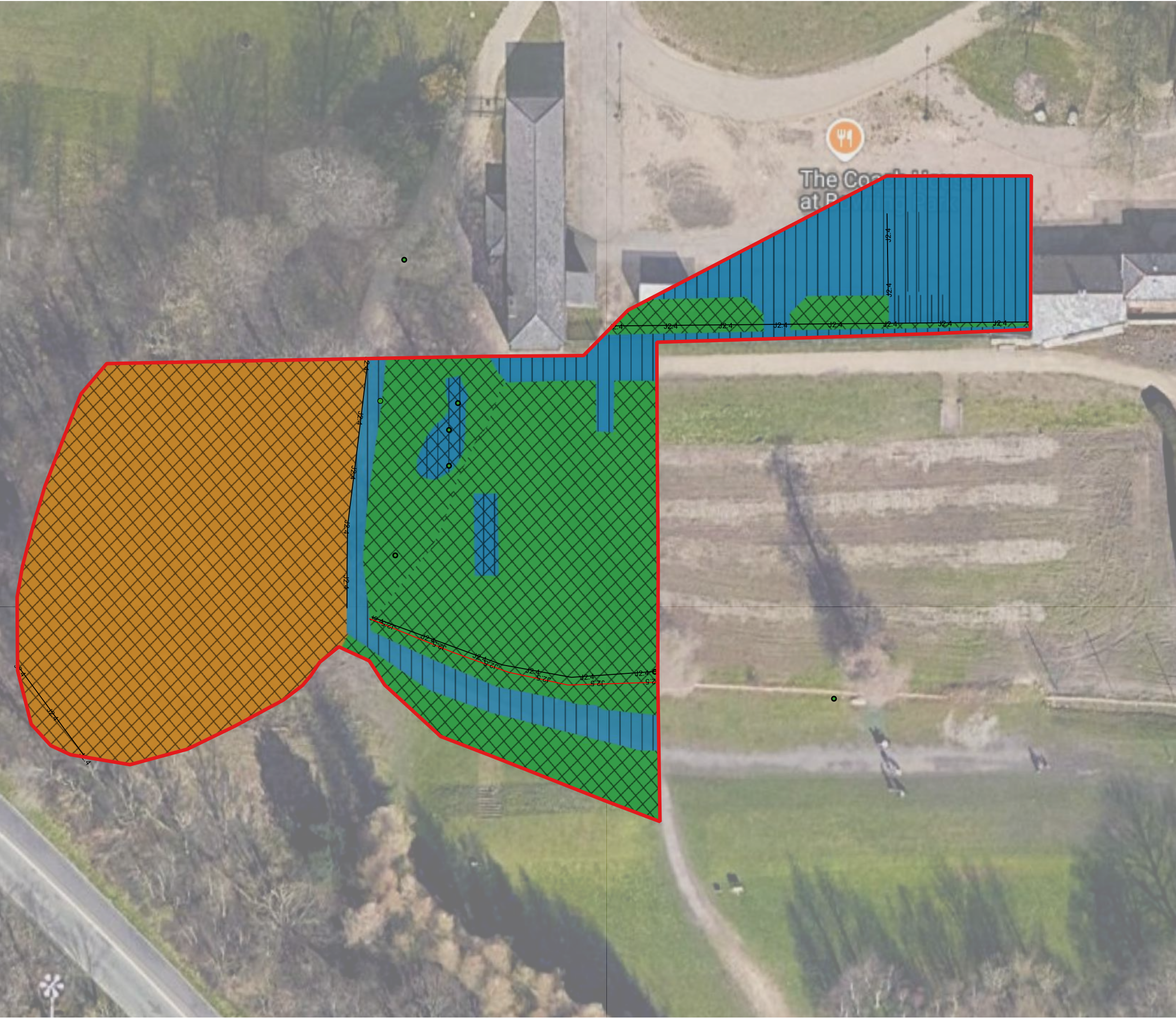
PROJECT:

Bowring Park and Golf Course

DRAWING TITLE:

Baseline Habitats

SCALE:	DRAWN BY:	DRAWING No:
NTS@A3	JS	P.2087.24.03
DATE:	CHKD BY:	REV:
09/10/2024	LK	-



Key

 Survey Area

Baseline Habitat Condition

 Poor

 N/A - Other

Baseline Habitat Distinctiveness

 Medium

 Low

 V.Low

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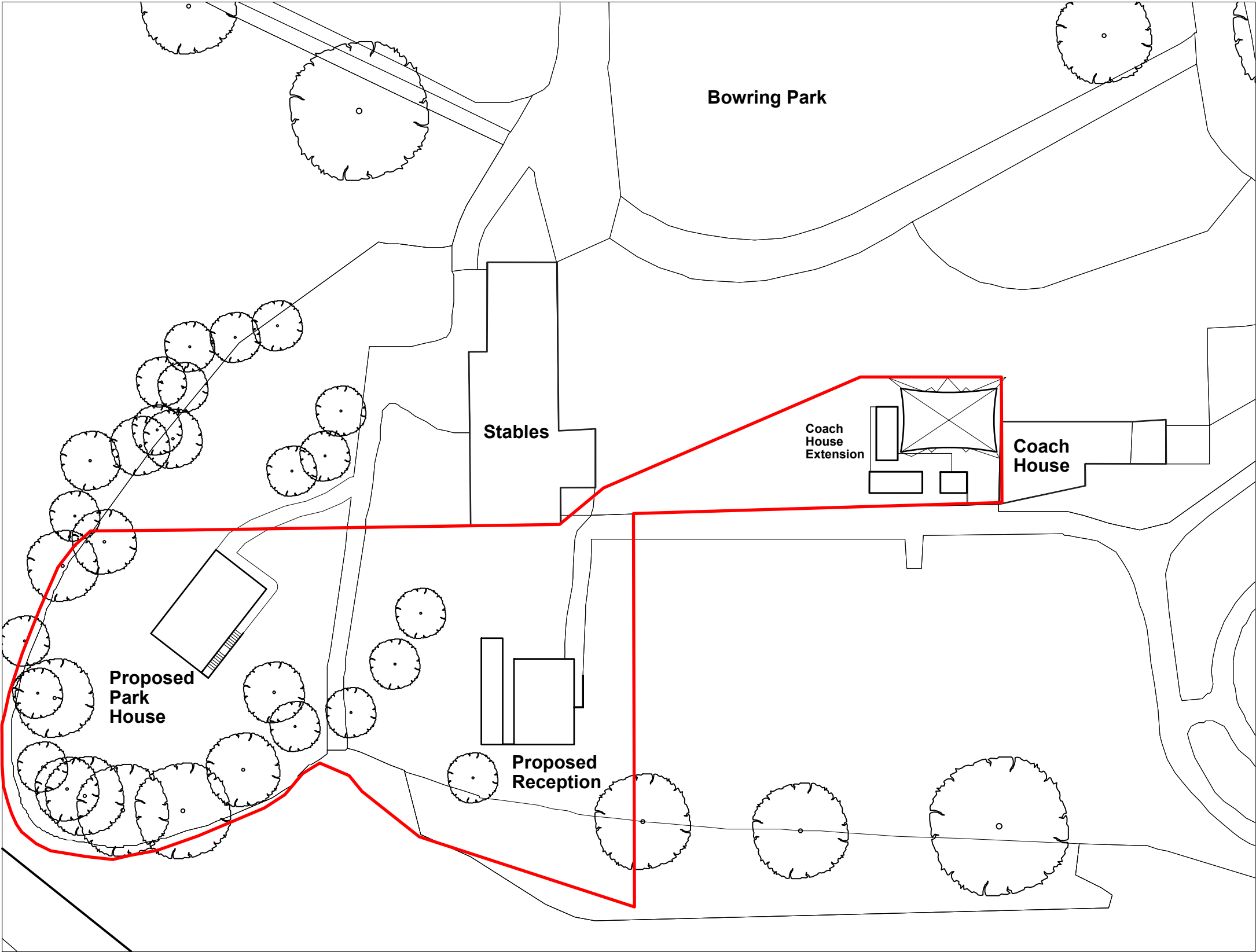
CLIENT:
One Day

PROJECT:
Bowring Park and Golf Course

DRAWING TITLE:
Baseline Habiata Condition

SCALE: NTS@A3	DRAWN BY: JS	DRAWING No: P.2087.24.E04
DATE: 09/10/2024	CHKD BY: LK	REV: -

Appendix 2



SCALE BAR 1:500



North

E-mail		
ROSINAHMCLEAN@GMAIL.COM		
Client		
ONEDAY		
Project Name		
BOWRING_PARK_RECEPTION_AND_PARK_HOUSE		
Drawing Title		
PROPOSED_SITE_PLAN		
Scale	Original Size	Purpose
1:500	A3	PLANNING
Date of First Issue	Author	
2024_06_12	R_MCLEAN	



Key

 Survey Area

Proposed Habitats and Plan

-  Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  Developed land; sealed surface
-  Modified grassland
-  Other woodland; broadleaved
-  Bare ground

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PROJECT:
Bowring Park and Golf Course

DRAWING TITLE:
Baseline Habiata Condition

SCALE: NTS@A3	DRAWN BY: JS	DRAWING No: P.2087.24.E02 / P.2087.24.E05
DATE: 09/10/2024	CHKD BY: LK	REV: -