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**Our reference: 2488701 D01- Baysgarth School - Ecological Constraints Walkover Survey
Rev00**

Dear Moya,

RSK Biocensus have been appointed by RSK Environment Limited to undertake an ecological constraints walkover on land at Baysgarth School, Lincolnshire (OS Grid Reference TA036216). This letter report presents the results of this walkover.

The proposed development is for the construction of a race track on the school grounds for the students to use and develop Greenpower electric race cars, as well as for sports use. The track will comprise a hard standing oval approximately 320 m in circumference, with areas for pit stops on one side. The development will be constructed on an area of school playing field comprising short mown grassland, a line of trees and hard standing. The proposed development will result in the removal of a single *Salix* spp. (Willow) tree on site.

Methods

The survey was completed on 2 April 2025 by Jonathan Scragg, a senior ecologist at RSK Biocensus and an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

The proposed development area is shown in Figure 1. The survey area comprised the land within the red line boundary (hereafter referred to as the 'Site') and was assessed for its suitability to support protected or otherwise notable animals that are likely to occur in the area - taking into account the geographic location, connectivity to natural habitats in the wider landscape, the nature and extent of habitats on the site, and the nature of the proposed development. Landscape features such as buildings and trees outside of but immediately adjacent to the site were also assessed, where these could be fully viewed from within the site.



A Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) of the trees present within and immediately adjacent to the site was conducted to assess their potential for supporting roosting bats in line with good practice guidance produced by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins, 2023)¹.

The habitats within the site were mapped following UK Habitat Classification methodology (UKHab, 2023)², to describe the broad habitat and dominant vegetation types present on site. The results of this UK Hab survey will be used to inform a separate Biodiversity Net Gain report.

With the exception of the GLTA, this preliminary appraisal as to whether protected or otherwise notable species might occur on the site does not constitute a full and definitive survey of any protected species group.

Results

Habitats

The site comprises a school playing field of short mown modified grassland (Plate 1), dominated by *Lolium perenne* (Perennial Ryegrass) and containing frequent *Plantago major* (Greater Plantain), *Trifolium repens* (White Clover), *Bellis perennis* (Daisy) and *Ranunculus repens* (Creeping Buttercup). A line of nine mature and semi-mature scattered trees runs along the eastern edge of the field (Plate 2 and 3), comprising *Salix* spp. (Willow), *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder), *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak) and *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse Chestnut). A strip of developed land, sealed surface (tarmac footpath) runs along the northern edge of the field (Plate 4).



Plate 1. Modified grassland.

Plate 2. Scattered trees.

¹ Collins, J. ed. (2023). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition). Bat Conservation Trust, London.

² UKHab Ltd (2023), UK Habitat Classification Version 2.01 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)



Plate 3. Scattered trees.



Plate 4. Developed land, sealed surface.

Protected and notable species

Birds

The row of scattered trees within the site offer suitable habitat for nesting birds.

Bats

The nine trees located on the site were assessed as having negligible potential of supporting roosting bats during the GLTA, all being in healthy condition and lacking any features that could be utilised by roosting bats, such as trunk cavities, split limbs, woodpecker holes or lifted bark. Several semi-mature *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore) trees were present adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, two of which were covered in dense *Hedera helix* (Ivy). The line of trees on site provides suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats, being connected to areas of parkland in the wider landscape to the north and west.

No other potential ecological constraints were identified during the walkover.

Evaluation and recommendations

It is recommended that the felling of the single Willow tree on site takes place outside of the bird nesting season of March to August inclusive. If this is not possible and felling is required to take place within this period, then the tree must be checked for the presence of nesting birds by a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) a maximum of 48 hours prior to felling, in order to confirm the absence of any active birds nests.

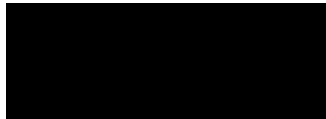
As the site is suitable for commuting and foraging bats, it is recommended that the proposed development results in no net increase in ambient light levels in the wider landscape. Any lighting incorporated into the operational design should be directed away from tree lines and designed to minimise light spill (the aim should be for zero lux).



Should more than two years elapse between the date of this walkover survey and the commencement of works on the proposed development, then a further ecological walkover should be conducted in order to confirm that the habitats and suitability for protected species on site have not changed in the interim period.

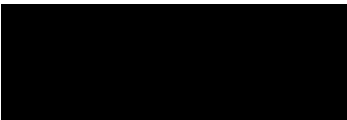
If you have any questions, please email at Jonathan.Scragg@RSKbiocensus.com.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Scragg BSc (Hons) ACIEEM
Senior Ecologist

Technical review by



Lewis Wright BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
Principal Ecologist



Figure 1 - Site Location.

Figure 2 - UK Habitats Map.



Legend:
 Site boundary

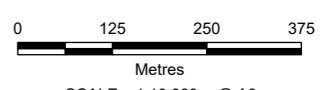


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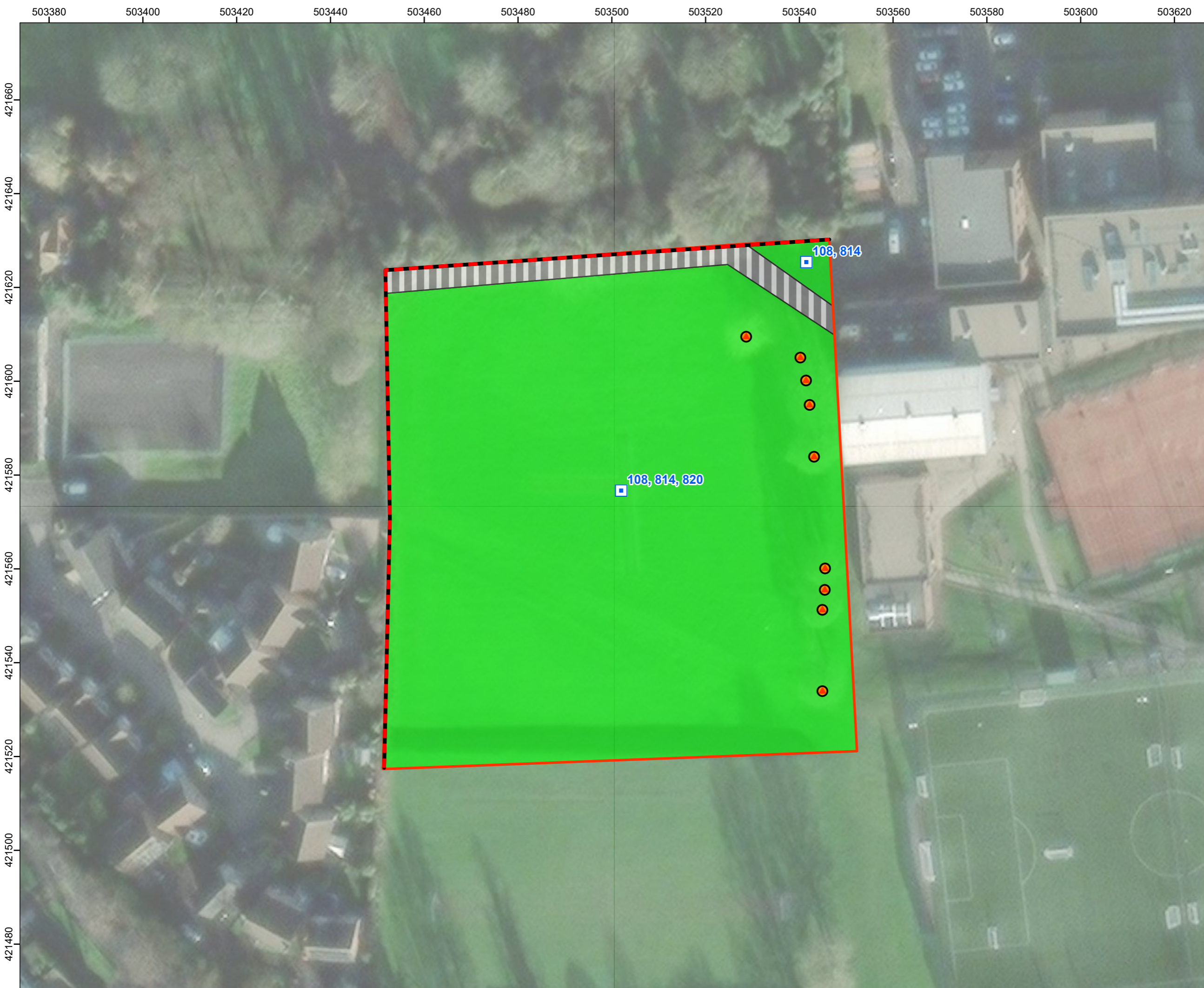
Bat Survey Baysgarth School



TITLE: Figure 1:
 Site Location Plan



REV 00



- Legend:**
- Site boundary
 - UKHab Habitat**
 - Modified grassland
 - Developed land; sealed surface
 - Fence
 - Urban tree
 - Secondary code

Code	Habitat Name
108	Frequently mown
814	Educational premises open space
820	Natural sports pitches



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TITLE: Figure 2:
UKHab Habitat Plan

