MapThat – Report Generator

by David Crowther

https://www.llci.org/content/The-Local-Land-Charges-Register-and-CON29-Function-Including-Basic-History

One of the most common uses of Cadline's webGIS – **MapThat** – has been for undertaking spatial queries to help update **Local Land Charge** registers and to generate **Con29 Reports.** For many years our local authority clients have used MapThat to display layers such as Environmental Constraints, Listed Buildings and Historic Planning Applications to then run spatial queries against those layers, enabling them to generate their **Con29 Reports.**

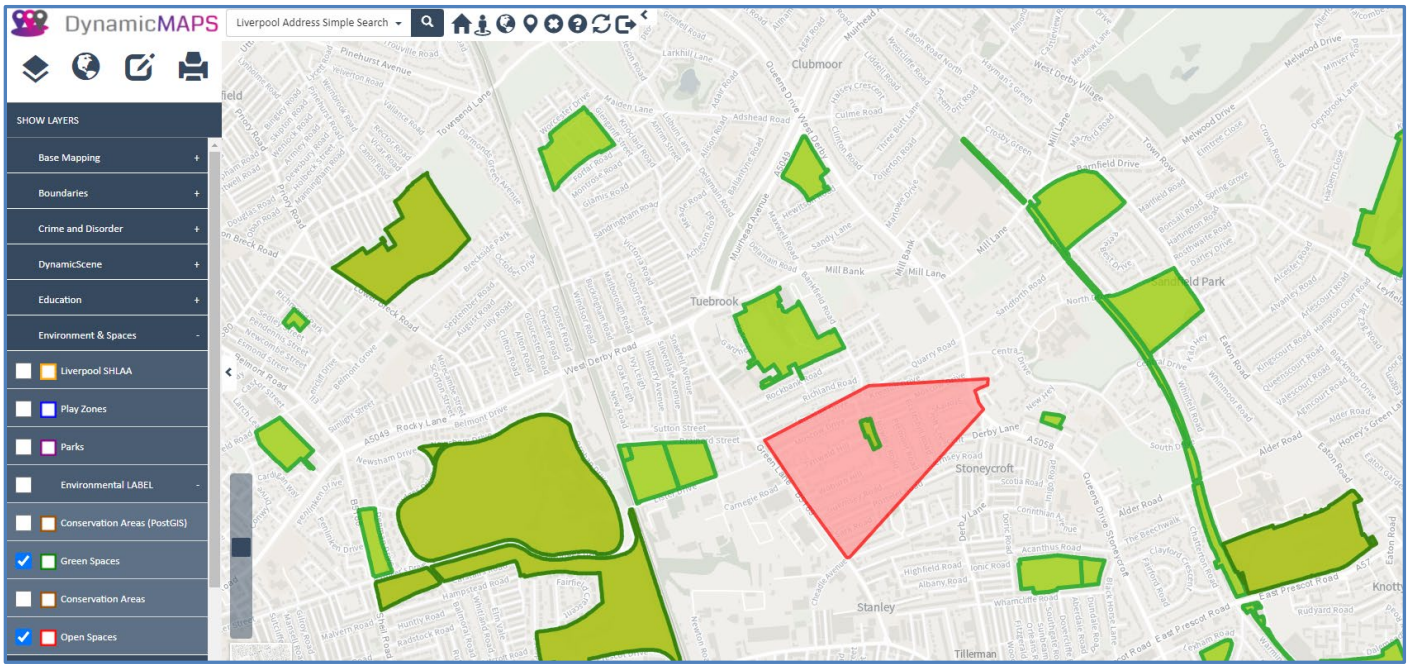
Working closely with our **Local Authority** clients we understood the time and effort that is required to run these searches manually. We reacted to this requirement and to enable increased efficiency within these business teams, we created the **Report Generator** tool for MapThat. The Report Generator tool allows our MapThat users to undertake these searches very quickly by simply drawing the area of interest and within seconds the Con29 Report is auto created, meeting all their legal requirements.

"Cadline's new Report Generator Tool facilitates the creation of comprehensive documents in a fraction of the time taken by our preceding system. The new tool can be easily configured to our requirements and is effortless to use. As such we would recommend it to others without hesitation. Thanks for this excellent solution."

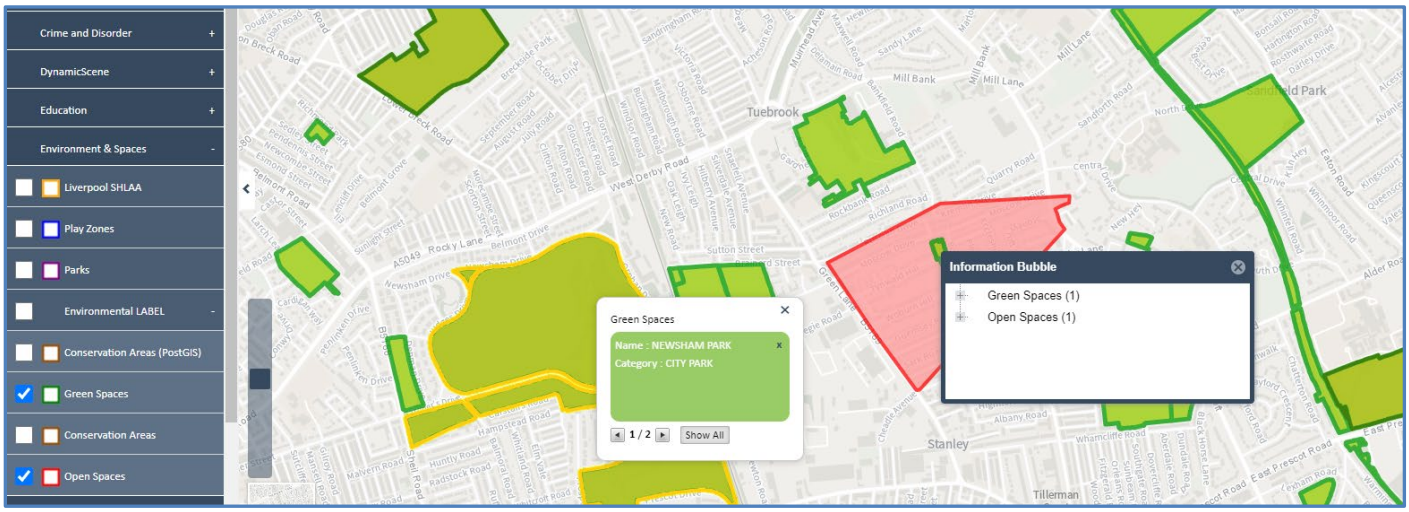
South Holland District Council

1 – Area Search Method

Within Cadline's webGIS – **MapThat** – we can very easily display any type of layer, including **Environmental Constraints**, Planning Applications, Contaminated Land, Flood Zones and Listed Buildings, as these are simply ticked from the **Show Layers** panel on the left side.



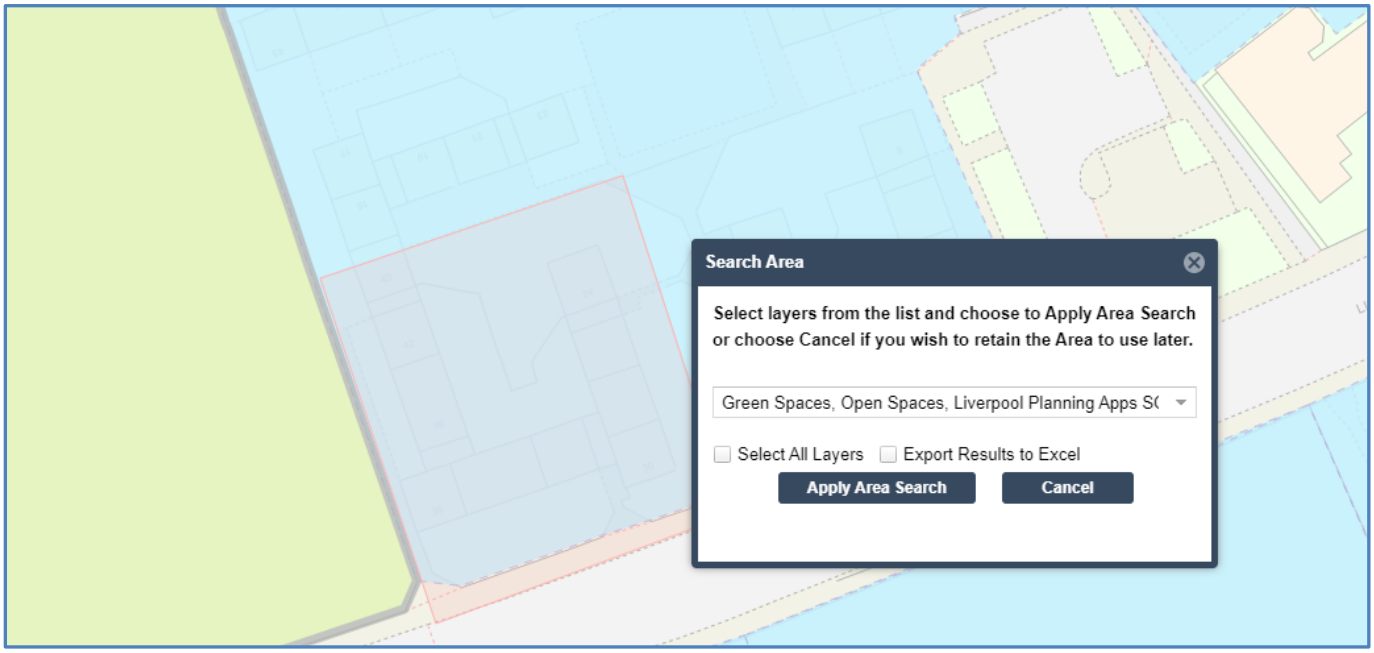
Using the **Information Bubbles** associated to each layer, users can manually interrogate these constraint layers.



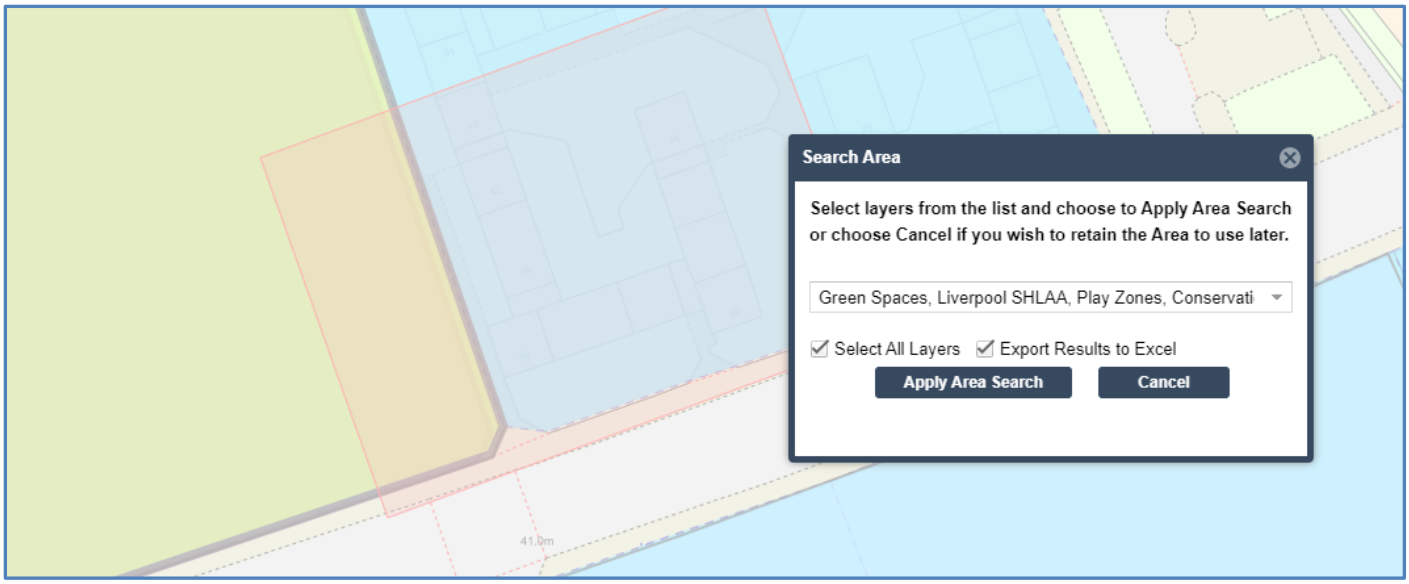
To understand what constraints may affect a **newly proposed** planning application, in order to then update your **Land Charges Register,** or to generate a **Con29 Report**, the MapThat user can simply draw the newly proposed boundary into the **Area Search** Tool.

With the **Area Search** tool, users can draw their proposed shape as either a **Point** (with radial buffer), a **Line** (with buffer) or an **Area** defining the extents of the boundary (including buffer if needed).

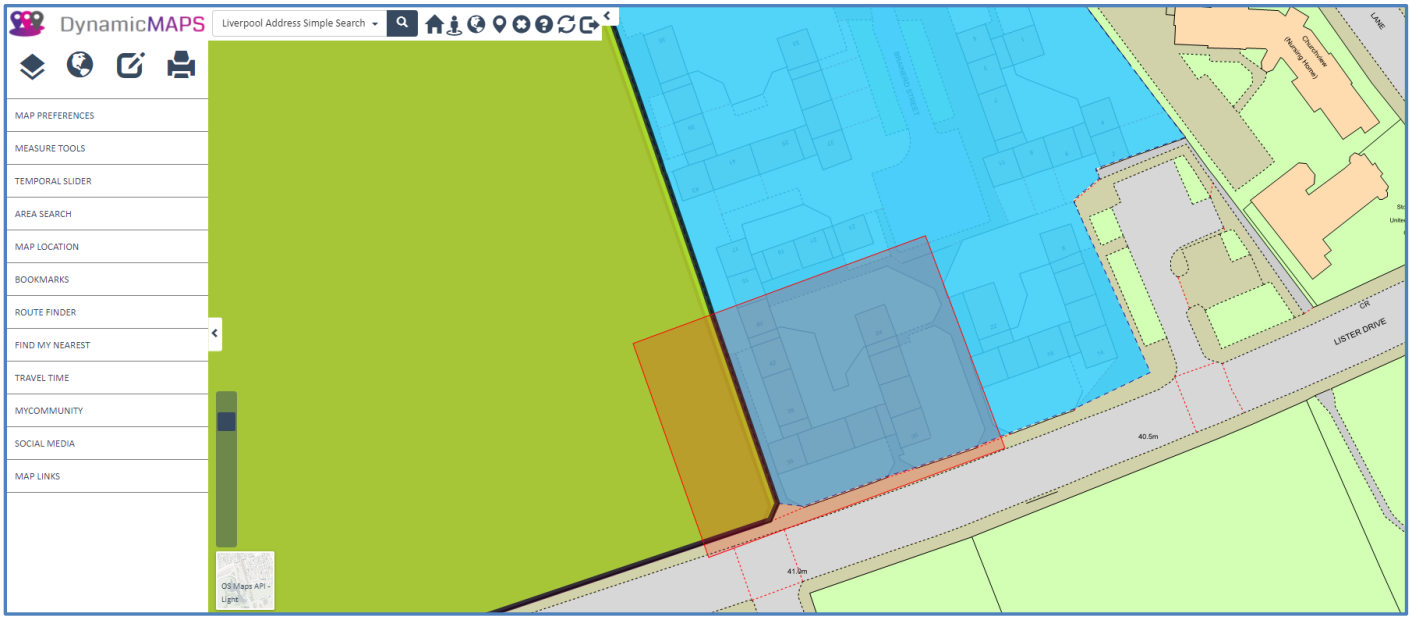
Once the outline of the proposed site has been digitised, the user **applies** the Area Search and then has the option to **choose the layers** to check against.



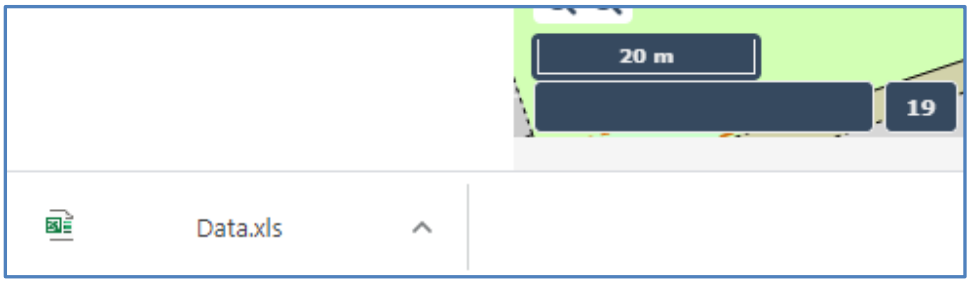
They can either select **individual constraints** e.g. Planning Apps, Listed Buildings, Open Spaces, Parks etc., or use the tick box to **Select All** the Layers currently being displayed. They then have the option to tick the box to then export the report to an **XLS file.**



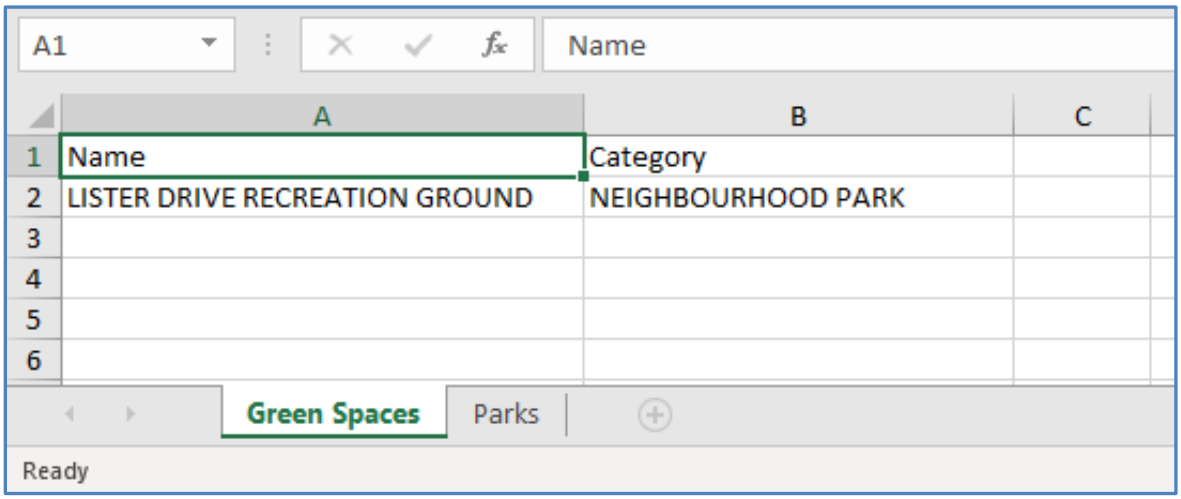
Within the map window, all features will be **filtered out** apart from any overlapping constraints which are left showing in the map.



In addition, because we ticked to export the results to Excel, a **download file** is ready and waiting for the user.



Once opened the Excel file will list all the **Constraint records** that overlapped the proposed site, with each layer's records shown on separate **worksheets**.

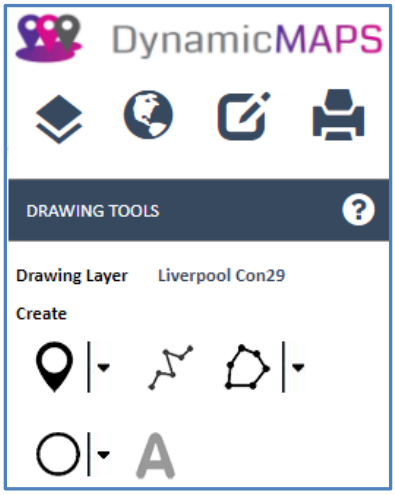


This method is great and very quickly allows MapThat users to run their Local Land Charge searches to easily identify any affected features. However, users will then need to **copy the results** which were downloaded into the Excel file into their own Con29 Reports and it is this part of the process that can be **very time consuming!**

2 - Using the Report Generator

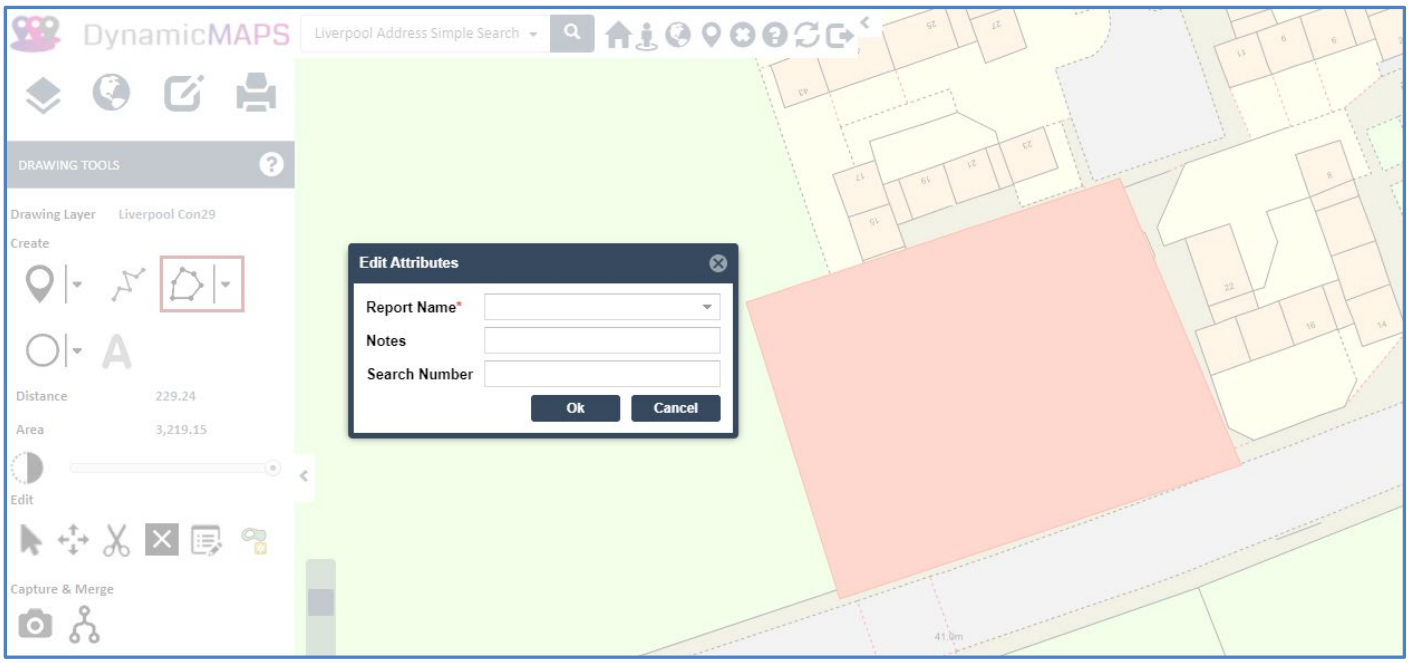
The new MapThat Report Generator Tool fills in the gap highlighted above and is where our clients have started to make their efficiency and **cost savings!**

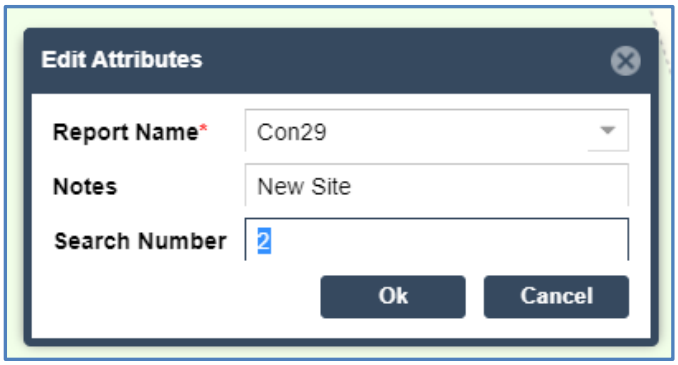
Instead of using the Area Search tool, the users simply **draw/digitise** their proposed site boundary as a feature in a new **Drawing Layer** – e.g. Liverpool Con 29.



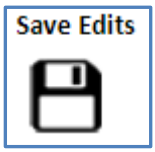
In this example we will use the **Polygon** drawing tool to again digitise a shape for the newly proposed planning application.

Once you have drawn the extents of the shape, the **Data Entry** form will auto open where you can choose the **Type of Report**, in this example we will run a **Con29 Report**, but you can setup as many report types as you wish. We will add a **Note** and insert a **Search Number** which is then auto added to the output report.

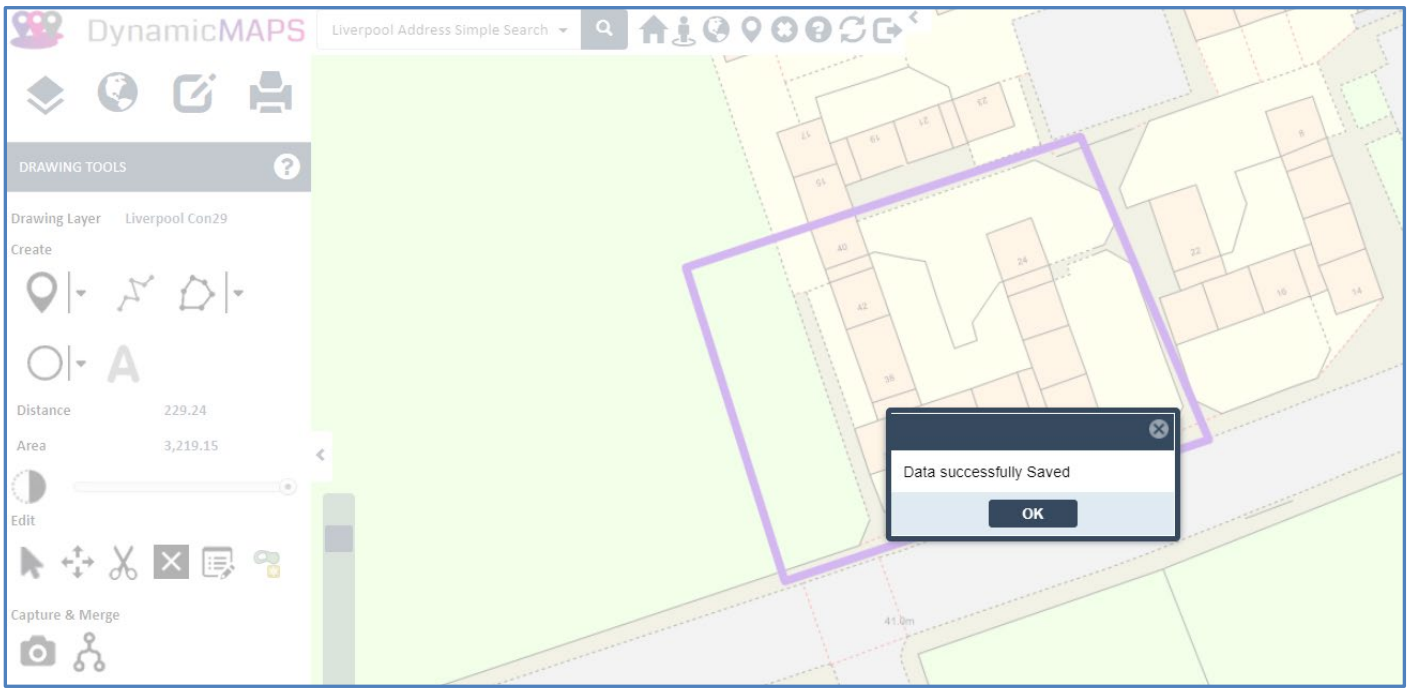




Having entered the details for the Report, choose **OK** and then **Save Edits.**

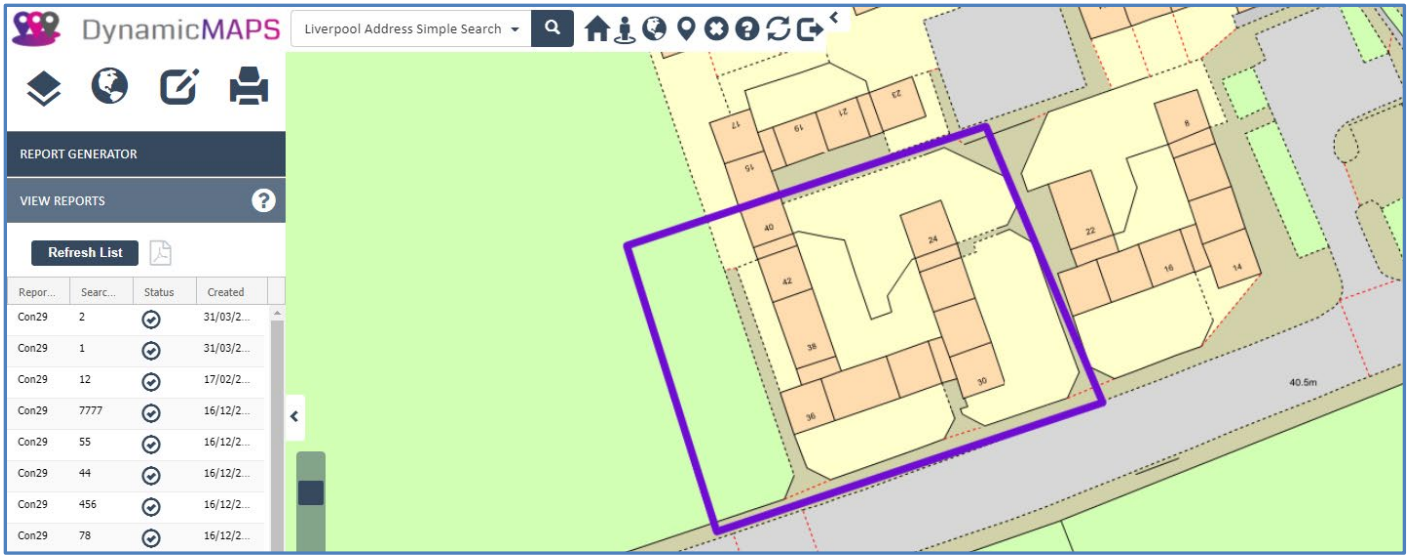


The new feature will have been added to the Con29 **Drawing Layer** and this is when the **magic happens!**

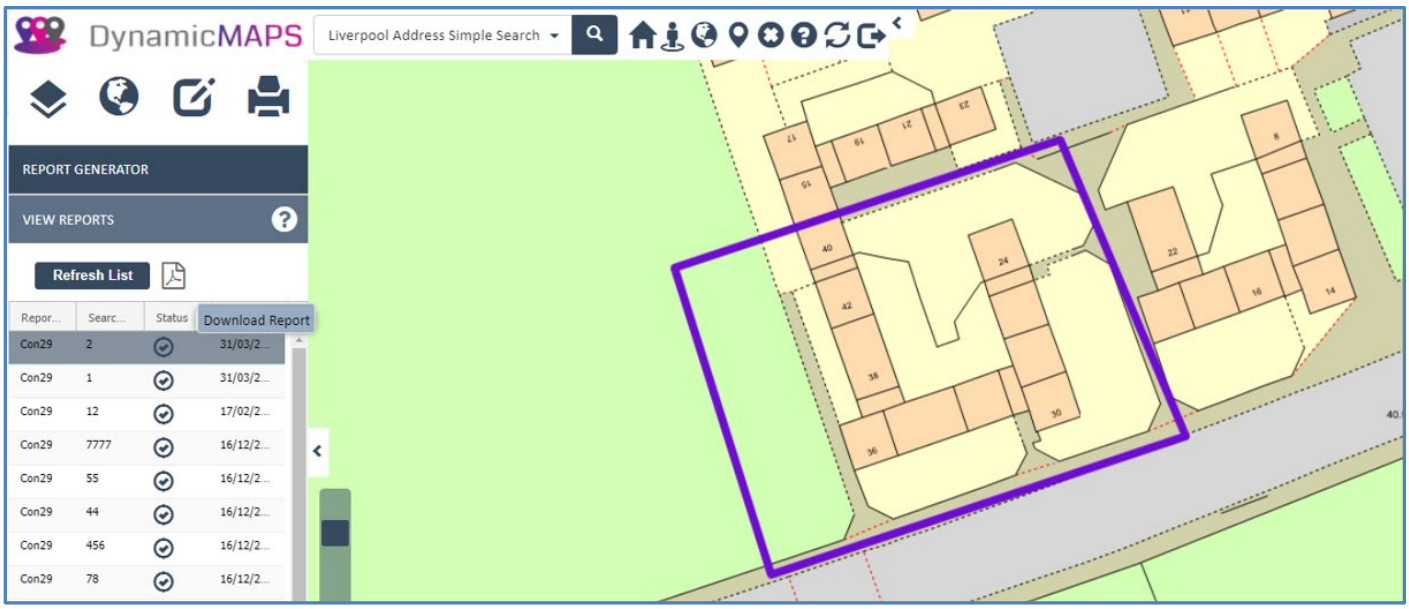


As soon as the server sees that a new Con29 feature has been added, it then runs the **spatial analysis** to check the constraints and layers that overlap the digitised feature. The user does not need to do anything, all this is done automatically by the server.

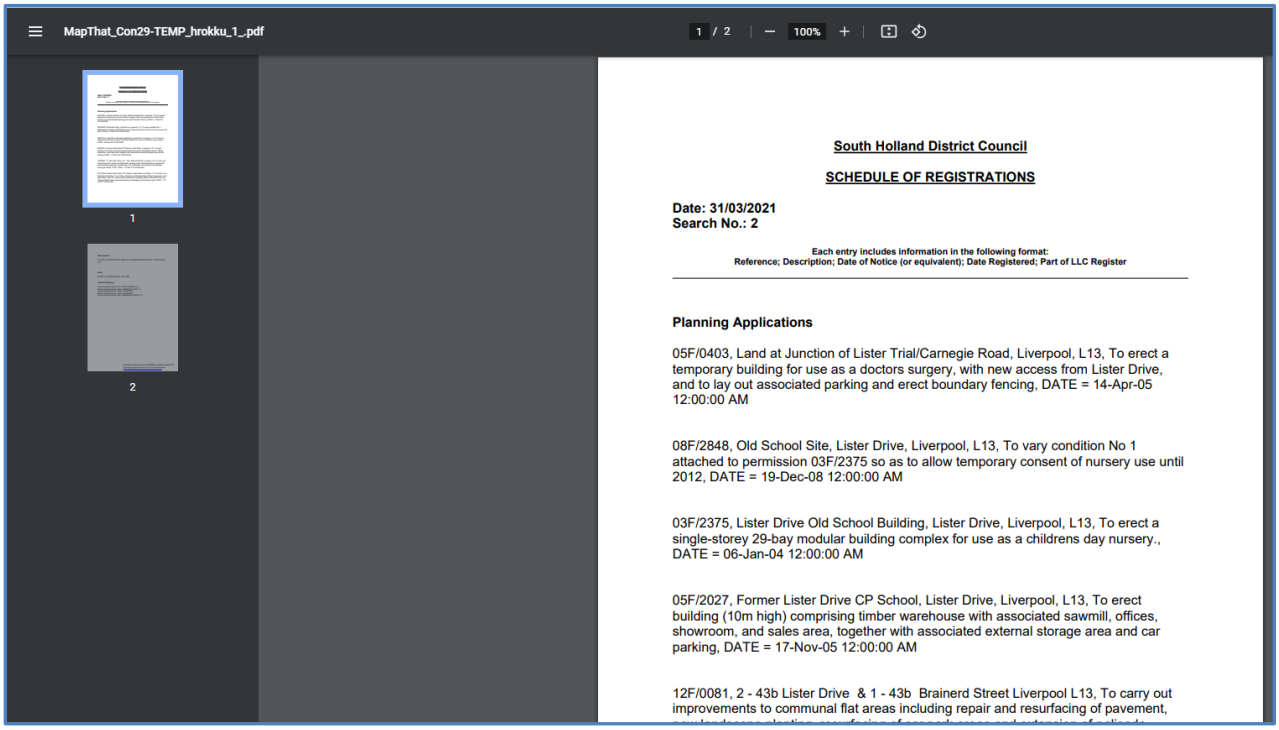
Within **seconds** the report is successfully ran and can be immediately viewed from the **Edit** > **Report Generator** menu in MapThat.



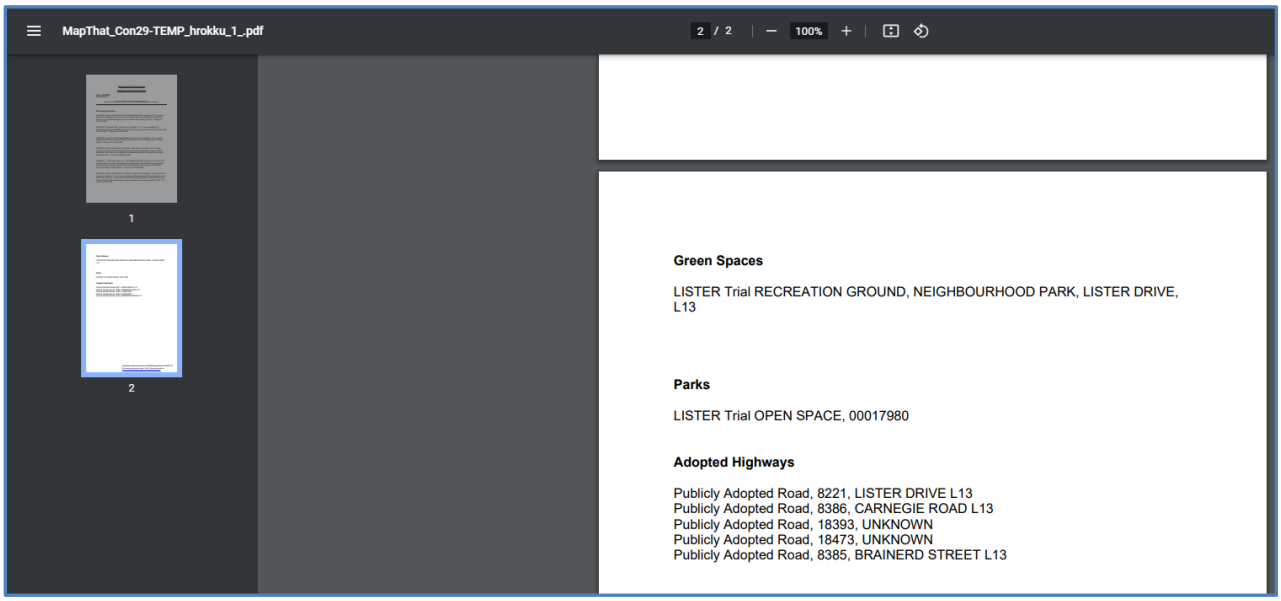
The Con29 Report will be ordered at the top of the list in the **View Reports** pane. If you select the report record and then choose the **PDF download** button, the report will open as a PDF.



The chosen Con29 Report then opens into a new window, which you can **print, email,** or download and **save** as needed.



Depending on how many constraint layers are being checked the Con29 Report may extend onto **multiple pages.**

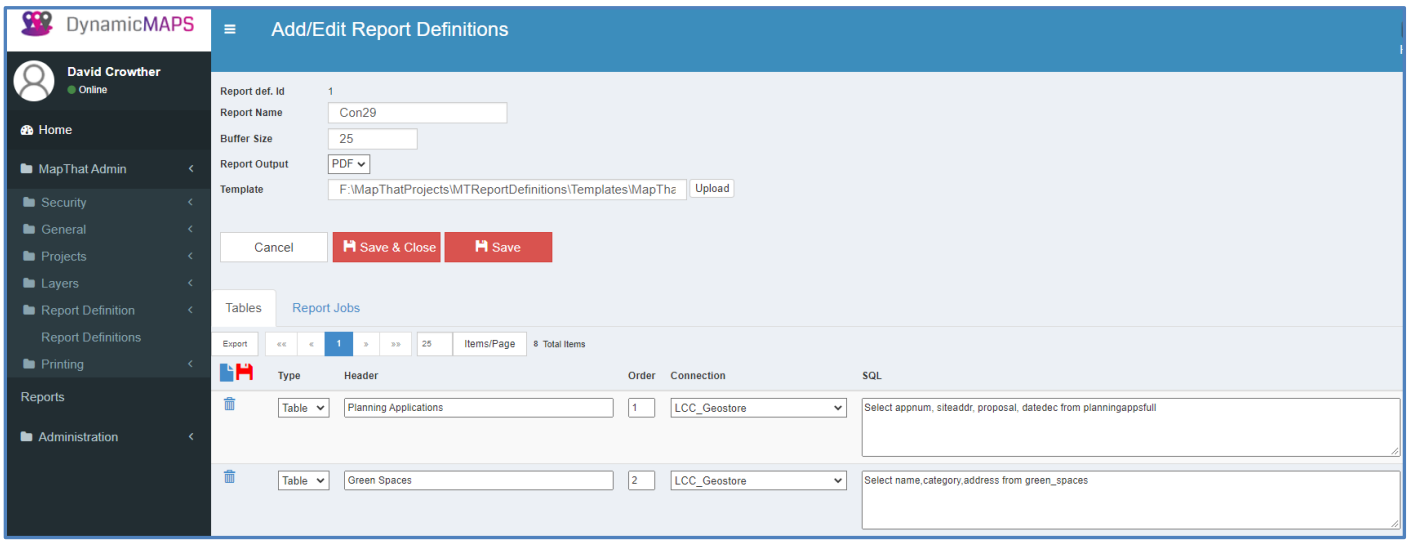


The format of your Con29 Report is fully **configurable**, with options to:

- Edit the main **Title** of the Report
- Add your own **static text**
- Insert **logos**, **headers** and **footers**
- Choose the **Layers/Constraints** that are being checked,
- Define the **order** of the layers and the **fields/columns** chosen to show in the output

There is also an option to add **buffer distances** to the boundaries digitised to extend the constraints checks as needed.

The **configuration** of the Report Generator Tool is undertaken by your **MapThat Admin User** who can configure as many Report types as needed.



This means that the new MapThat Report Generator tool is great to speed up creation of your Con29 Reports, but can also be used for other teams in your business to create **any type of spatial report** that you wish to **run quickly and consistently**!