HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON
PARISH COUNCIL

BRIEFING NOTE

For consideration at Finance + General Purposes Committee – 4 April 2019

Latchetts Lane

1. The Committee is asked to consider a proposal to improve the surface of a section of the Lane, by configuring drainage and topping the surface.

2. The Lane is a Class G road (green lane) from St Georges Lane to a point north of Primrose Cottage, and from that point north to College Lane it is a public footpath (PROW). The length is used as a footpath/bridleway, connecting College Lane to St Georges Lane, and bisects the Parish Council's Hurst Meadows fields. The attached plans show the location and layout. The Council has access gates for pedestrians, either side of the Lane, into Hurst Meadows. This length of Latchetts Lane has also been identified as part of the local cyclepath network (Cyclepath Working Group meeting 19 June 2018, as reported to Council meeting 28 June 2018 – Minute C18/024.3) and the proposed network map is attached for information.

3. Maintenance of highways and rights of way are the responsibility of the landowner and the Highway Authority. It is understood that there is no claim on the ownership of the G-road section and it is presumed to be either public highway or Crown owned. The Highway Authority WSCC have recently expressed some interest in improving the access, including arranging for volunteers to clear vegetation.

4. The Committee is asked whether the Parish Council should partner with WSCC to generally improve the surface of the Lane from approximately the Hurst Meadows access points to the north end of the G-road, a distance of about 100m. This improved access would assist walkers around Hurst Meadows and also facilitate cycle use, although the extent of this would depend on the quality of the finished surface. This section of the Lane also connects the access points into Hurst Meadows and the existing public footpaths.

5. The potential downside is that by opening up the access, arguments might later be made for allowing vehicular access. It is understood that some adjacent landowners have expressed interest in development which might require access from the Lane. This is evidenced by the MSDC SHELAA report 25 Sept 2018 Site ref 283.

6. At this stage the extent of the works would comprise removal of a collapsed culvert, installing a ditch and making good the surface in some parts with MoT or similar. At this stage no costs have been obtained and further work is required to scope the scheme. The Council has £4,000 in the CAPEX budget 2019/20 (Cyclepath feasibility) and it is suggested that some or all of this amount could be directed to this project. If this was combined with WSCC funds, then a viable project might emerge.

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee RECOMMENDS to COUNCIL that the Latchetts Lane upgrading is included as a capital project, subject to partnership with WSCC.

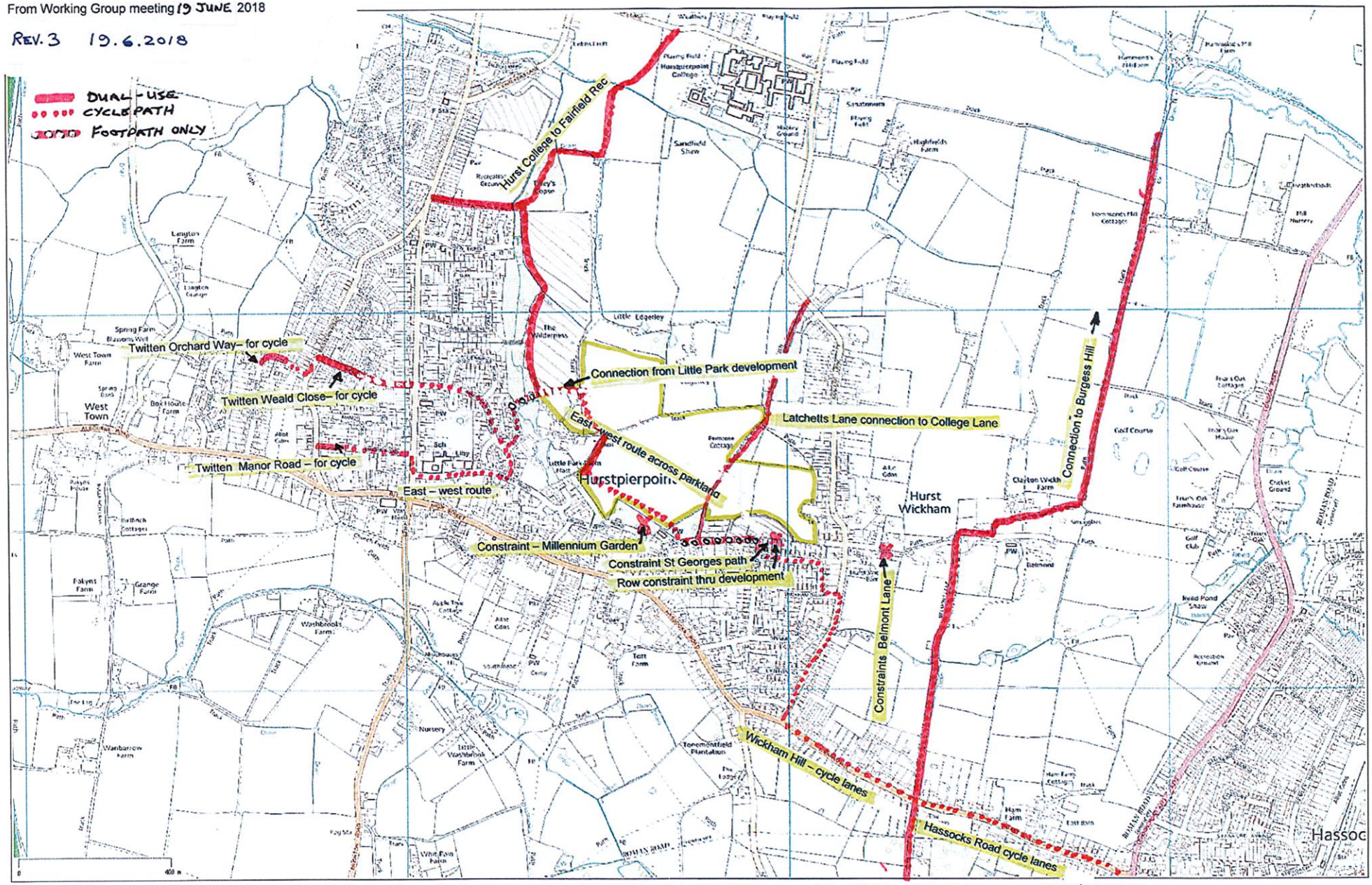
Stephen Hoyles
28 March 2019

CYCLEPATH
Routes for consideration

From Working Group meeting 19 JUNE 2018

REV. 3 19.6.2018

Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common CP



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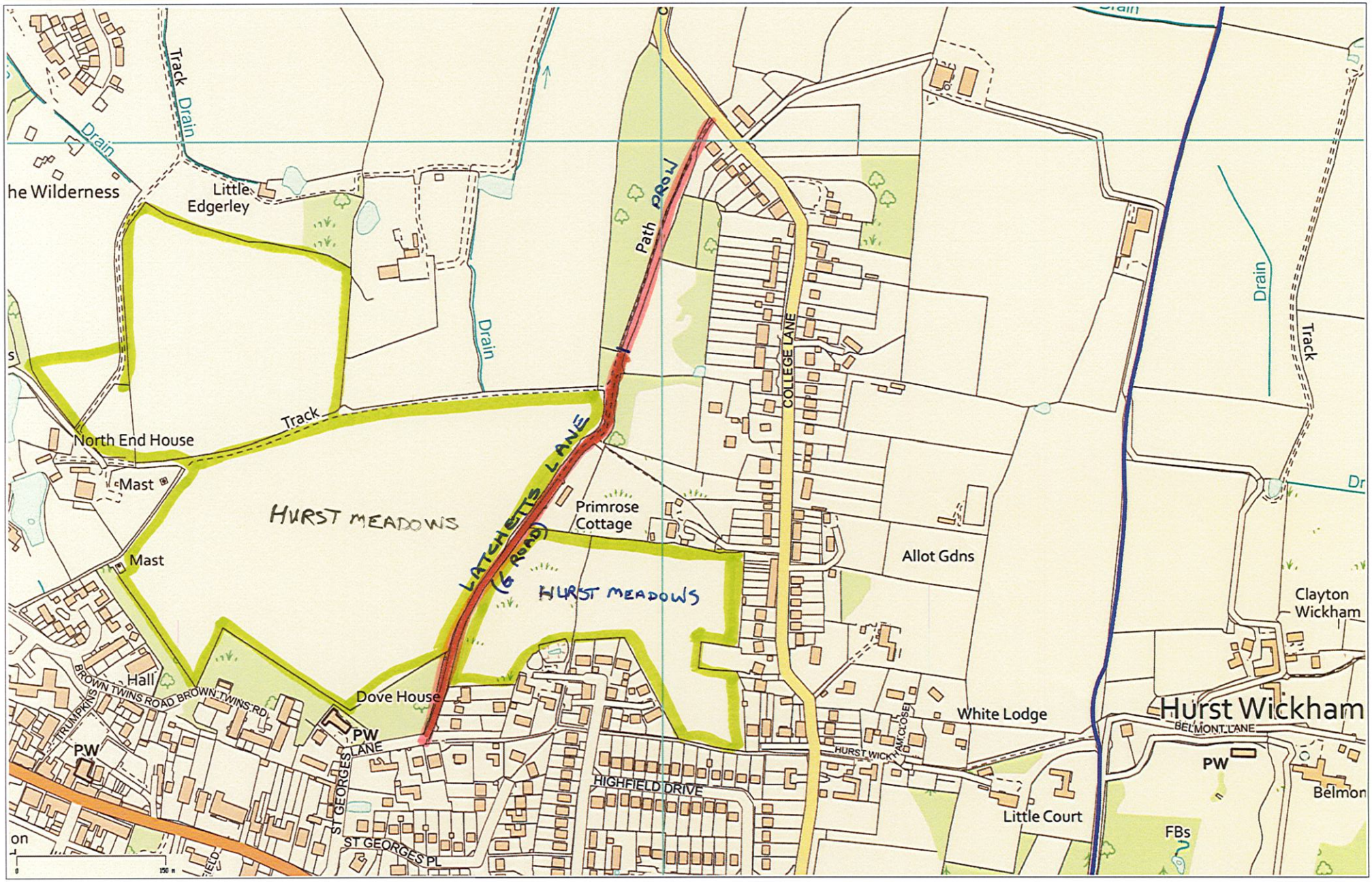

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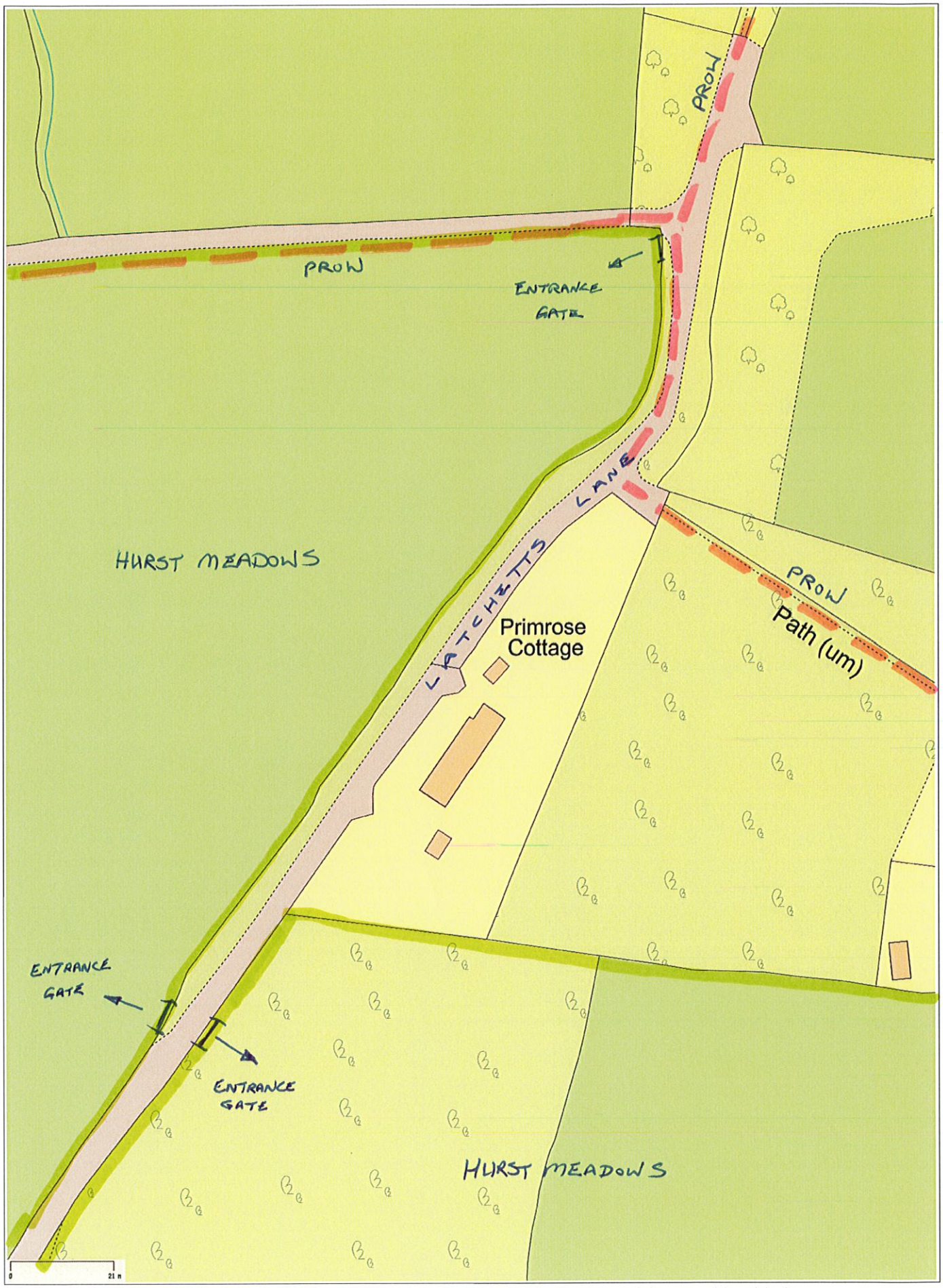

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