Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

TINGLE BRIDGE LANE, HEMINGFIELD.

MAP REF: SE 39524 01230.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN REPORT.

Ref No: **240830.**

Date: **19th August 2024.**

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Company No. 4401613.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. A planning application has been submitted for the development of Plot 1 on Tingle Bridge Lane with a new dwelling.

1.2. The Local Authority has asked for a Biodiversity Net Gain Report for the application.

1.3. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd was therefore commissioned to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment of the site to satisfy the above request. This has been undertaken using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric as the most appropriate to assess the site.

1.4. A site visit was carried out on 7th August 2024 to gather any relevant baseline information.

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2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.2. A baseline survey was carried out of the site to establish the baseline biodiversity value of the area. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.3. The survey area was walked where access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the primary habitat types throughout the survey area. All primary habitats are accompanied by secondary codes which are used to add further specific details where necessary. Each primary habitat and unique set off secondary codes will be shown individually in the appended annotated map.

2.4. The baseline survey was carried out by Derek Whitcher who has over thirty years' experience of surveying for wildlife and has run his own wildlife consultancy since 1998. He has extensive experience of a wide variety of survey techniques for a variety of species of protected wildlife supplemented by attendance on a wide range of training courses through CIEEM, FSC and BCT. As a member of CIEEM he is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership. He holds current Natural England survey licences for bats and great crested newts.

Natural England Bat Survey Licence Number	2015-13205-CLS-CLS.
Natural England Great Crested Newt Licence Number	2015-06792-CLS-CLS.

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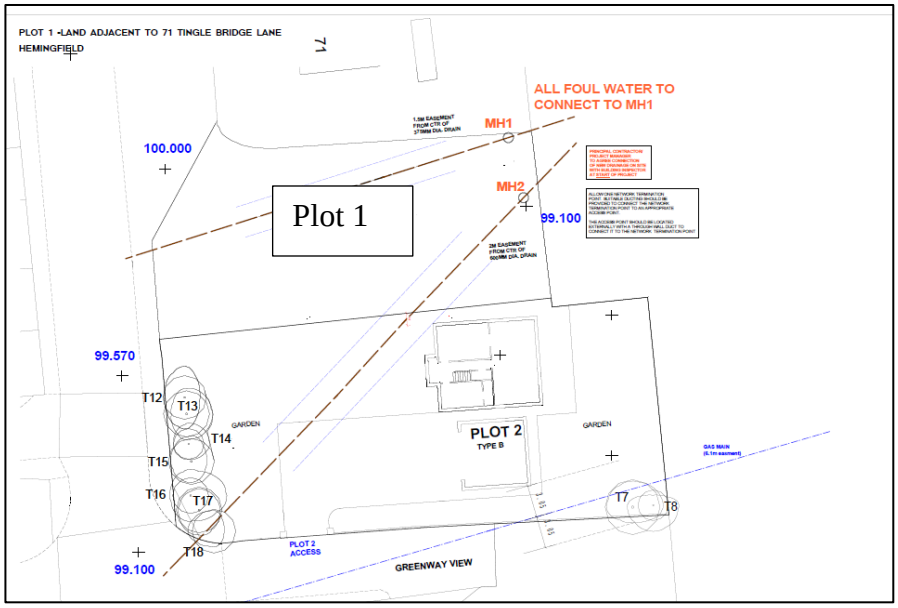
3. SITE DESCRIPTION.

3.1. The Survey Area.

3.1.1. The proposed development is located on the edge of the village of Hemingfield with existing dwellings north, south and west and with open grazing land to the east, as indicated by the white arrow on the aerial map below.

3.1.2. The aerial map below outlines the survey area. The site is an empty plot in an existing line of dwellings.

3.1.3. The drawing below shows the survey area, Plot 1.



3.2. Description of Habitats.

3.2.1. Appendix I of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying baseline habitats of the site. These habitats are: -

- u1f – Sparsely vegetated land.
- g3 – Neutral grassland.
- u1e – Built linear feature.

***3.2.2.* u1f – *Sparsely vegetated land*.**

3.2.2.1. The main habitat on the site is a large expanse of sparsely vegetated land where the previous building has been demolished. Regrowth is low and falls within the 10% to 50% cover for this habitat. Species present include perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), camomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*), triangle orache (*Atriplex prostrata*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), sun spurge (*Euphorbia helioscopia),* and hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*).

3.2.2.2. There is no condition assessment for this habitat.


3.2.3. g3 – Neutral grassland.

Secondary code 81 – Ruderal.

3.2.3.1. Along the northern and eastern sides of the site there is an area of dense vegetation. The predominant plant present is hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) and that creeps across much of the area. Also present are perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), camomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*), triangle orache (*Atriplex prostrata*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), great willow herb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), sun spurge (*Euphorbia helioscopia*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

3.2.3.2. The most suitable habitat label is other neutral grassland with the secondary code 81, ruderals.


3.2.3.3. The condition assessment for this habitat is provided in the attached Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments document. This habitat has a Poor result.

3.2.4. u1b5 – Built linear feature.

Secondary code: 612 – fence.

The site is surrounded by various types of fence, as shown below.

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4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT.

4.1. Baseline Biodiversity Value.

The below tables demonstrate the baseline units of the development area, calculated using the Statutory Small Sites Metric.

Area habitats:

Habitat Type	Area (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Vacant or derelict land	0.0514	Low	Poor	0.10
Other Neutral grassland.	0.0167	Medium	Poor	0.07
Total	0.0627			**0.17**

4.2. Post Development Habitat Creation.

4.2.1. Due to the small area of the site, there is very little scope to create any habitats towards a biodiversity net gain. In any case, all habitats on the site will be under private ownership of a residential dwelling with no guarantee of continued maintenance and retention of any habitats created.

4.2.2. The proposed habitats will be developed land, sealed surface and vegetated garden.

Area habitats:

Area Habitat	Area (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Developed land; sealed surface	0.0316	V.Low	N/A - Other	0.00
Vegetated garden	0.0365	V. Low	N/A - Other	0.07
Total				**0.07**

4.3. Biodiversity Net Gain Outcome.

4.3.1. Based on the above, the overall development will result in a Biodiversity Net Loss of 0.10 area habitat Biodiversity units, a decrease of 58.46%. There is very little

scope to deliver anything more on the site, and anything that is delivered on the site, will then be under private ownership and cannot be secured long term.

4.3.2. It is recommended that the clients discuss the ways in which this loss can be converted to a 10% increase by providing off site biodiversity.

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Prepared by:	
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Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 21st August 2024

5. REFERENCES.

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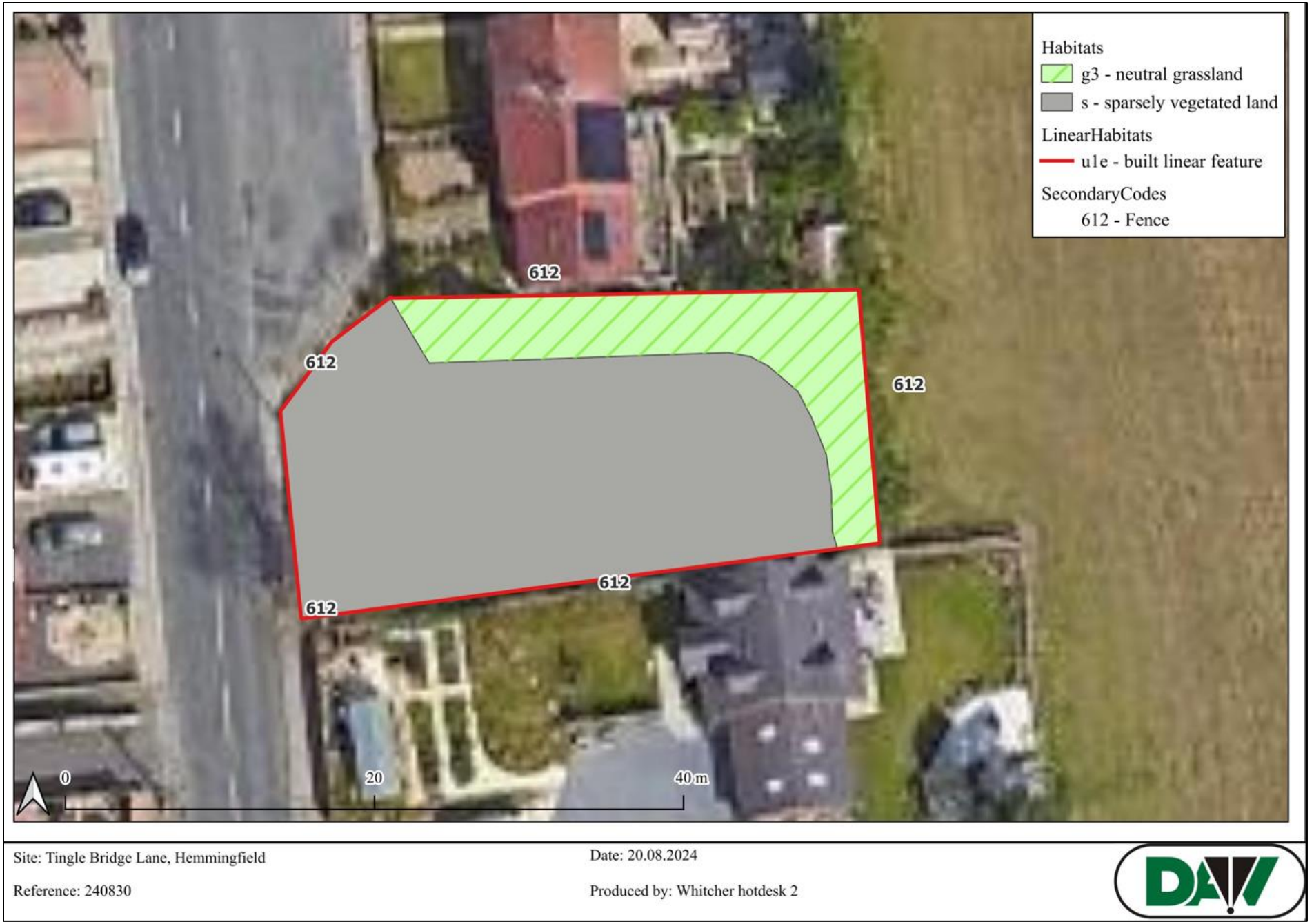
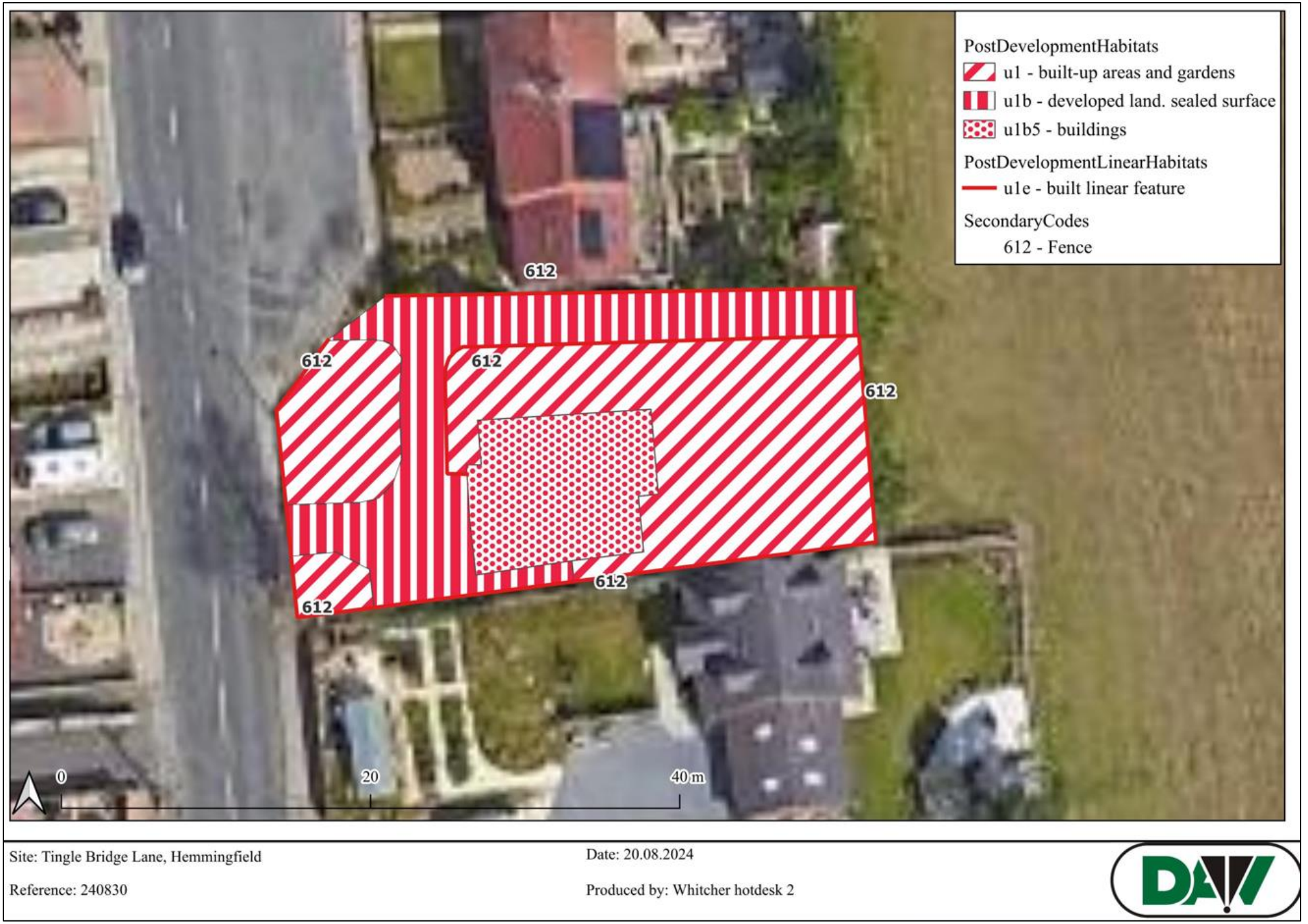
Appendix I. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA PRE DEVELOPMENT.



Appendix II. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA POST DEVELOPMENT.



Site: Tingle Bridge Lane, Hemmingfield

Reference: 240830

Date: 20.08.2024

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