Brow Field gate and access description (including arboricultural implications)

Overview
Create direct access to Brow Field from Northlands Lane. This will require removal of approximately 4.5m of hedgerow to the south of existing entrance to a neighbouring field (owned by another landowner), install 14 ft gate, and replace dry ditch/ grass verge in front of gate with additional hard-standing.

A plan is shown at Figure 1.

Reasons for hedge removal
Access to Brow Field is currently via two field gates immediately to the North / North-East. This requires tractors with trailers to go through the field to the north. This field belongs to a different landowner. We do have a right of access via this field. However, using the existing field gates is difficult because there is limited room to manoeuvre tractors and trailers into and out of the adjacent field. This issue will become worse as the trees planted in the adjacent field grow and the land in the SW corner of this field turns to scrub.

Arboricultural implications
This section of hedge is coppiced hazel. It was planted more than 30 years ago. However, it contains no mature trees, or rare species. Thus the arboricultural implications are minimal.

Within Brow Field approximately 100m of mixed hedgerow has been planted to separate the mixed orchard and wildflower meadow in the south-east corner from the remainder of the field. This more than offsets the hedgerow / habitat loss caused by the removal of 4.5 of hedge adjacent to Northlands Lane.

Highway and drainage
The hedge is set back from the road by about 6m at this part of the lane. The splays exceed 70m in both directions – see Figure 2. This substantially exceeds the minimum requirements.

Brow Field drains into the hedgerow /trees and field to the north - see the map below. The ditch immediately east of where the proposed gate will be sited is dry. There is no culvert under the existing field access immediately to the north to the ditch which runs northwards beside Northlands Lane. Even after very heavy rain, when Northlands Lane gets flooded (near East Wantley Cottage and south of the junction with Greenhurst Lane), the ditch in front of the proposed gate contains minimal water (10-15cm depth). Thus, no drainage issues will be created by filling the section of ditch in front of the gate.



Site photos

Hedge to be removed



Existing entrance into the field to the north

