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Tree Report

1. Brief

To produce a tree report for the **Gospel Hall Trust**, as instructed by **JPM Architects,** China Street, Lancaster LA1 1EX as supporting evidence for a planning application for **New Gospel Hall Abermule.**

2. Scope of the Report

- To provide the location of the trees subject to removal and those marked for retention during the construction of Gospel Hall.
- To note the necessary area of protection for those trees scheduled for retention, known as the Root Protection Area.
- The report also notes tree faults, statutory requirements for highway protection and some recommendations for retained trees to maintain their amenity value.
- Habitat observation are noted where seen but this report should not be read as an authoritative environment survey.

3. Documents Provided

- Tree Dimension has received copies of the topographical plans from JPM Architects and an annotated plan 01 which has tree numbers marked.

- Powys County Council have provided a plan (Inset Map M 101, Powys Unitary Development Plan – due to copyright restrictions, this plan is not reproduced here – copies are available from the County Council or as a download[1]).

4. Background Information

- The PCC plan shows that the Gospel Hall site is outside the area covered by Unitary development restrictions. A telephone conversation with Kate Edwards of PCC confirmed that there are no trees subject to Tree Protection Orders at the Gospel Hall location.

- The JPM site plans provided show the space needed to facilitate access and building works and this would require the removal of trees 905 to 922.

[1] http://www-origin.powys.gov.uk/uploads/media/UDP_Inset_Maps_101_-_110_bi.pdf

5. Qualifications

The surveyor, Mike Kemp is qualified **NCH Arb.**

6. Copyright

7. Data collected

Trees measured were viewed from ground level only using **Visual Tree Assessment** (VTA). Metal tags were attached to the trunks at a a height of 2 m. Girth was measured at 1.5 m height. converted to Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). The root protection was then calculated. Trees in the hedgerow or along the river bank were recored only if exceeding 150 mm in diameter. Most hedgerows contain many more specimens. Woody plants include dog rose, elder, hawthorn and others. These have not been considered in the report but can be added into the landscape scheme as required to add some maturity to the scheme, but can otherwise be treated as expendable.

8. Site visit

28th June 2012 13:30 to 17:30
2nd July 2012 15:30 to 17:30

9. Site Description

East of Abermule, grid SO 165945
Alongside the B4368

The site is on the eastern side of Abermule. Its current use is stock grazing. The majority of the trees referred to in this report are on the north east side of this large field.

Trees 900 to 935 and 001 to 015 constitute an old hedge border between the main field and a dismantled railway line.. All of the trees appear to have originated from the hedge when regular maintenance ceased. These trees appear to have had no subsequent maintenance other than crown lifting for vehicular access on the field or for safe clearance of overhead power lines (T903 and T904).

There is also a row of trees along the side of the River Mule. This watercourse, on the north east side of the site is edged mainly by alder (T016 to T 029), typical of this situation. Their size indicates that they are older than the other trees – between 75 and 100 years. This group of trees do not appear to have been managed – this is indicated by the amount of ivy growth and the proximity to the river Mule. These trees are providing an undisturbed habitat at present and subject to appropriate management and protection, could continue to provide a useful resource for wildlife.

Diseased and faulty trees are commented on in the schedule. Any other felling works or surgery proposed are done so in the light of the potential hazard presented to users, should the trees be subject to mechanical failure. The list of maintenance works is neither in depth nor exhaustive

and is a preliminary to permission being granted. Further works may be necessary as the site is developed and the implementation of the landscaping is better understood.

Trees G1 and 935 need surgery to satisfy the statutory requirements of the Highways department of Powys County council. The requirement is for clearance above the carriageway of 5.1 metres.

10. Method of data Collection

The Visual Tree Assessment system (VTA) used

11. Schedule (including individual recommendations)

Number	Type	DBH	PRA radius (metres)	Age Class	Condition	Recommendations	Useful life
G 1	Hazel (Top corner) next to T935				Low branches overhanging main road: B4368	Cut Back From Highway	B
935	Ash	27	3.25	SM	Leaning towards road	Fell & remove	U
934	Sycamore			SM	Suppressed, squirrel damage	Fell & remove	U
933	Sycamore	15	1.80	SM		Retain	B
932	Ash	26	3.20	SM		Retain	A
931	Sycamore	6	0.7	SM		Retain	C
930	Ash	54	6.5	SM	Measured at 50 cm including ivy. Multi-stemmed tree. One section already broken and hanging in neighbouring tree. Infected *Inonotus dryadeus*	Fell & remove	U
929	Ash	28	3.35	SM		Sever ivy, retain.	A
928	Ash	30	3.60	SM		Retain	A
927	Sycamore	7	0.85	SM	Poor, suppressed specimen	Fell & remove	U
926	Ash	5	0.85	SM	Poor, suppressed specimen	Fell & remove	U
925	Ash	11	1.25	SM	poor suppressed specimen	Remove to enable 924 to thrive	U
924	Ash	22	2.70	SM		Retain & sever Ivy	A
923	Ash	27	3.35	SM		Retain & sever Ivy	A
922	Sycamore	6	0.85	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
921	Ash	32	3.85	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
920				SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
919	Sycamore	32	3.85	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
918	Ash	28	3.35	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C

917	Ash	28	3.35	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
916	Oak	28	3.35	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
915	Ash	22	2.70	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
914	Ash	27	3.25	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
913	Ash	45	5.40	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
912	Ash	31	3.70	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
911	Ash	22	2.70	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
910	Ash	31	3.70	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
909	Ash	3 x 10	3.60	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
908	Oak	12	1.45	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
907	Ash	25, 29, 29	9.90	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
906	Oak	28	3.35	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
905	Ash			SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
904	Ash	85	10.20	SM	Three stemmed trunk, DBH measured at 50 cm height just below crown break. Includes ivy	Sever ivy, thin and reduce weight of section extending towards the car park by 20%	B
903	Oak	31, 70	12.00	SM	Two stems. Old hedgerow tree squeezed below two sets of electricity wires. Has been regularly pruned by utility maintenance contractors to a reasonable standard.	Maintain contact with utility company so that this tree is maintained in good condition.	B
902	Oak	36	4.25	SM	Wound response to internal cracking evident on the north side, from 0.5 to 2.0 metres height. Has been heavily pruned by electricity supply contractors. Not worthy of retention.	Ask electricity utility company to authorise contractors to remove.	U
901	Ash	15, 15, 15	5.40	SM	Three stemmed from base. Poor form	Worth retaining, lightly thin crown by 20%	B
900	Oak	16	1.90	Y	Healthy young specimen	Retain	A
001	Elm	25	3.00	SM	Young	Retain	A
002	Elder	10	1.2	SM	Satisfactory But may not survive open setting	Coppice to re-sprout	B
003	Willow	42	5.05	SM	In good condition	Retain	A
004	Elm			SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C

005	Sycamore	21, 15	4.25	SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
006	Crab apple	12		SM	Earmarked for felling to facilitate construction	Fell and remove	C
007	Sycamore	8	1.45	SM	Sub dominant tree	Fell and remove For space for T 8	U
008	Field Maple	9	1.10	SM	Sub dominant tree	Retain	C
009	Sycamore	13, 11, 9	4.00	SM	Triple stemmed tree	Remove smaller stems. (No's 2)	B
010	Sycamore	15, 29	5.30	SM	Co-dominant stems	Remove smaller stem	B
011	Sycamore	4	0.85	SM	Two small subdominant stems	Remove to give neighbouring tree space.	U
012	Sycamore	16, 20	4.30	SM	Two co-dominant stems	Retain	B
013	Sycamore	10	1.20	SM	A poor, sub dominant specimen.	Fell & Remove	U
014	Ash	27	3.25	SM	Satisfactory condition	Retain	A
015	Elm	7	0.85	SM	Suppressed but satisfactory condition.	Retain	C
016	Thorn	8	1.45	Y	Satisfactory condition, provided useful habitat	Retain	C
017	Alder	60	7.20	M	Good condition, useful habitat	Retain	B
018	Elm	17	2.05	Y	Good condition, satisfactory habitat	Retain	B
019	Alder	80	9.60	M	multi stemmed, ivy covered, good habitat.	Retain	B
020	Alder	120	14.40	M	Ivy covered, in water course, good habitat	Retain	B
021	Alder	100	12.00	M	Leaning over water course	Retain	B
022	Alder	60, 50, 45	15.00	OM	Triple stemmed, high habitat value.	Retain	B
023	Alder	54	6.50	M	Large tree, leaning toward new development.	Retain, pollard to reduce existing risk of mechanical failure	C
024	Thorn	28	3.35	M	Including ivy. Double stemmed, smaller stem 15 cm diameter.	Retain	B
025	Ash	65	7.80	M	At top of bank	Retain	B
026	Alder	37, 37	8.90	M	Double stemmed	Retain	B
027	Alder	27	3.25	M	A poor specimen with no habitat merits pollard to 3M	Pollard to give space for replacement saplings, and the possibility of future habitat	C
028	Alder	36 average	15.00	M	Four stems	Retain	B
029	Alder	34	4.10	M		Retain	B

12. Other considerations

Highways

Group G1 and tree 935: recommendations relating to highways outlined in the tree schedule.

Glossary of terms

- **Root Protection Area**

An area equivalent to a circle 12 times the tree diameter at 1.5 m height within which there is no storage of material, construction works, vehicular compaction or change of levels. The area to be fenced off and marked are recommended in British Standard BS 5837: 2012

- **Visual Tree Assessment**

A non-invasive, visual method of examining the health and structural condition of individual trees. Areas examined are the condition of the roots, trunk, branch structure, crown, buds and leaves with an overall assessment of the general health and vigour.

- **Expected useful life**

A Trees of high quality, remaining expected life expectancy more than 40 years.
B Trees of moderate quality, expected remaining life of at least 20 years.
C Trees of low quality, expected remaining life of at least 10 years or young trees with a stem diameter of below 150 mm.
U Trees those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.

- **Age Classes**

Young	*Planted < 5 years < ⅓ normal life*
Semi mature	*apical dominance, normal growth increment, ⅓ to ⅔ normal life expectancy*
Mature	*Optimum crown dimension and stature*
Over-mature	*Past normal life expectancy, beginning natural decline*
Veteran	*Girth increment consistently decreasing, valued attributes such as large trunk girth and truck hollowing biological, cultural or aesthetic interest or trees that are old relative to others of the same species.*