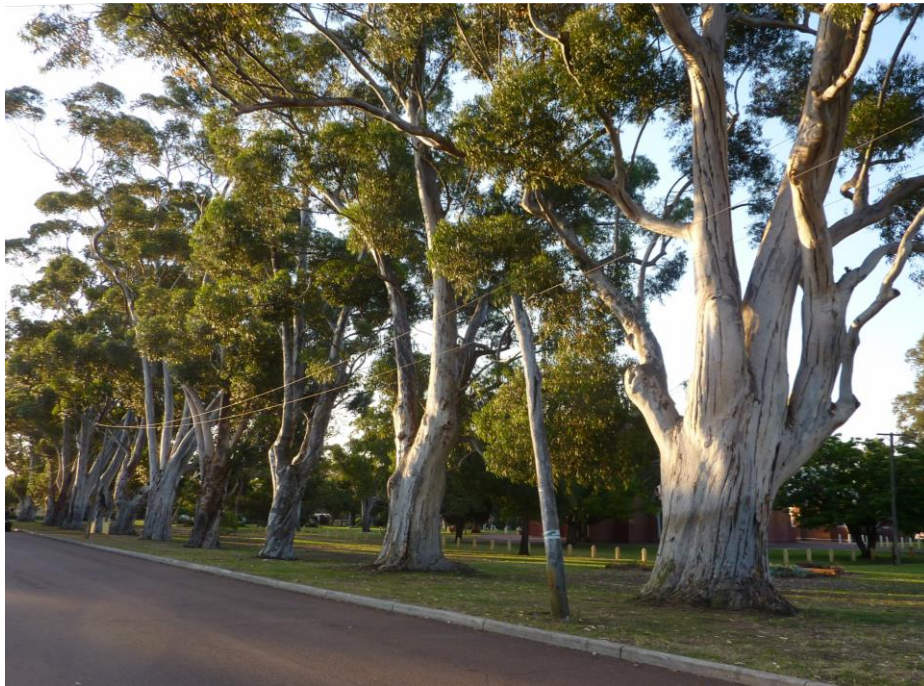




Guildford Association Inc.

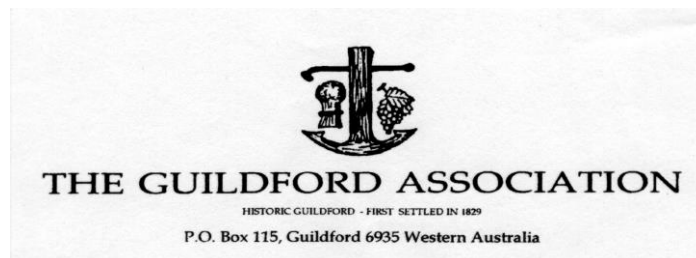
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Sugar Gum Trees- Guildford



Prepared by
Barbara Dundas
for the
Guildford Association Inc.

December 2009



This Heritage Assessment was commissioned by the Guildford Association Inc, as part of the *Year of the Sugar Gum* 2009, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Accord with the City of Swan and the Guildford Community, to protect and maintain *Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees*. It is hoped that this Heritage Assessment Document compiled by Historical Researcher, Barbara Dundas, will assist as supporting documentation to have the *Sugar Gums of Guildford* considered for placement on the State Register of Heritage Places. Placement on this Register is the only mechanism available to ensure the future protection of the trees by all levels of government.

A number of points were discussed by the Association in relation to this Nomination. It is felt these matters may assist the consideration for State Heritage Listing;

Ownership. All Sugar Gum Trees nominated fall under the jurisdiction of one land holder- the Local Government Authority - The City of Swan.

Classification. Classification of this number of plantings may best be handled by working with streetscapes, avenues or groups, rather than individual trees. The streetscape approach will enable removal or infill plantings when necessary, however, will give protection to the significant streetscape component.

Maintenance. All mature plantings included in the nomination having ongoing maintenance programmes in place, to limit liability risks and issues. Infill and new plantings are also maintained in parks and streets by the City of Swan.

Benefits of Classification Recognition of the Heritage Significance of these trees will identify them and guide future development and planting options, without incurring extra costs to the Local Government Authority. The City may also benefit from possible funding or grant assistance with project work, relating to these plantings with State Heritage recognition.

Support This nomination is supported by the City of Swan.

Future Directions There is a need to consider underground power in the main streets of Guildford to ensure present and future plantings do not incur the stress of harsh maintenance practice, necessitated by their co existence with overhead power. Planting strategies need to be developed through a detailed Conservation Plan or other landscape strategy.

The Guildford Association Inc. nominates the *Sugar Gum Trees of Guildford* for consideration for the State Heritage Register as the final part of the *Year of the Sugar Gum 2009*.

Ben Allen

Chair- Guildford Association Inc.

December 2009

Table of Contents

1.	DATA BASE No.....	1
2.	NAME.....	1
3.	LOCATION	1
4.	DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY	1
5.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.....	1
6.	OWNER.....	1
7.	HERITAGE LISTINGS	1
8.	CONSERVATION ORDER	1
9.	HERITAGE AGREEMENT	1
10.	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	2
11.	ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE	3
11. 1	AESTHETIC VALUE	3
11. 2.	HISTORIC VALUE	3
11. 3.	SCIENTIFIC VALUE.....	4
11. 4.	SOCIAL VALUE	5
12.	DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE	5
12. 1.	RARITY.....	5
12. 2	REPRESENTATIVENESS	6
12. 3	CONDITION	6
12. 5	AUTHENTICITY	7
13.	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	8
13. 1	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	8
13. 2	PHYSICAL EVIDENCE	18
13. 3	COMPARATIVE INFORMATION.....	18
13. 4	KEY REFERENCES.....	19
13. 5	FURTHER RESEARCH	20

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Plans of Distribution of Sugar Gums

Appendix B: Photographic Record of Sugar Gum plantings in main streets

Appendix C: Historical photos- Sugar Gums Guildford

**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
COMMISSIONED BY THE GUILDFORD ASSOCIATION INC
AS SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION FOR
THE SUGAR GUMS OF GUILDFORD NOMINATION TO
THE HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WA**

1. HCWA DATA BASE No. -----

2. NAME

Sugar Gum Trees (E. cladocalyx) of Guildford (1896 / 7- 1908, 2001, 2009)

3. LOCATION

The place includes *Sugar Gum Tree* plantings through out the town of Guildford, in main streets and reserves. Mature plantings are identified in maps in Appendix A.

4. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY

The place includes all *Sugar Gum Trees (E. cladocalyx)* within the boundaries of Guildford, as defined in the Guildford Conservation Policy (1992). It incorporates all mature and recent plantings of *Sugar Gum Tree* plantings as detailed in 2007 City of Swan Tree Survey: James Street (26) Johnson Street (16), Swan Street (50), Bank Street (2) Market Street (13), Meadow Street (17), Hill Street (7) Helena Street (4), Stirling Street (12) Victoria Street (7), Bank Street (2), Terrace Road (8) Stirling Square (60), Fauntleroy Park (5), Guildford Court House Precinct (3). The place also includes the plantings at The Recreation Grounds (not detailed in the report) and more recent planting since 2007. The total of *Sugar Gum Trees* in the Historic Guildford Town precinct are estimated to be approximately 250 trees.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

City of Swan

6. OWNER

City of Swan

7. HERITAGE LISTINGS

HCWA Data base Place No. _____

8. CONSERVATION ORDER

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Guildford Sugar Gum Trees (E. cladocalyx) are formal stands of municipal plantings of a non indigenous, South Australian tree species, planted in the late 1890s to early 1900s, throughout the town of Guildford Western Australia. These trees have cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

They are a rare and extant example of formal, municipal street and park plantings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, influenced by the City Beautiful Movement.

They represent a pattern of celebratory, formal plantings supported by the Forestry Department of Western Australia around the turn of the century.

They have strong associations with significant persons and events:

- John Ednie-Brown the newly appointed Conservator of Forests in Western Australia.
- Queen Victoria's *Diamond Jubilee* Celebrations.
- Plantings at the entry gates to the Royal Agricultural Show Grounds in Guildford.

They form landmark streetscapes within the town and parks of Guildford, giving the town a unique and distinctive colonial landscape character.

They are highly valued by the people of Guildford and the wider community for reasons of their historic, aesthetic and cultural associations.

They are the largest, formal, extant, municipal plantings of *E. cladocalyx* from the turn of the century in Western Australia.

They lend a strong, visually unifying element to the landscapes of the historic town of Guildford, through their scale and mass of planting.

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.3.4 Making forests into a saleable resource
- 4.1.2 Making suburbs
- 8.5.1 Associating to preserve traditions and group memories
- 8.9 Commemorating significant events and people
- 8.9.2 Remembering public spectacles

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlement
- 304 Timber industry
- 401 Government and politics
- 407 Cultural activities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE *

Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees (E. cladocalyx) form important landscape elements in the streets and parks of Guildford. The scale of these trees together with their contrasting cream trunks and deep green foliage create a visually unique and rich landscape. These avenues of trees, extant since the late 1890s demonstrate an aesthetic ideal of West Australian colonial street plantings. The extent of plantings throughout the main streets of the town, give a visual unity of scale and form that contribute to the unique character of the town.

(Criteria 1.1, 1.3, 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees are the largest, extant, municipal plantings of *E. cladocalyx* in Western Australia. Dating from 1896/ 7, they were part of an early programme of street tree plantings with some specimens donated by the Forestry Department of Western and others acquired from the Eastern States and later local nurseries.

(Criterion 2.1)

Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees are associated with significant events including the first *Arbor Day* plantings in Western Australia. Ednie-Brown encourage

* For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

children to develop an understanding of the importance of tree planting and donated trees to school from 1897 for *Arbor Day* celebrations. The trees also mark the period of the relocation of the rail line through the southern section of Stirling Square. In this period of civic pride and economic growth, the local government used this event together with Queen Victoria's *Diamond Jubilee* celebrations to redefine the main streets of the town and Stirling Square with tree plantings of *E. cladocalyx*.

(Criterion 2. 2)

Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees are associated with significant persons in particular, John Ednie-Brown, the founder of scientific and economic forestry in Australia and the instigator of forestry systems in South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Brown developed the first State Nursery near Guildford and grew a variety of trees that could withstand drought or could be used by the timber industry. *Sugar Gums* were promoted and grown at this nursery. He encouraged tree planting throughout the state, the development of the timber industry and an awareness of the importance of trees, by State donations of saplings and seedlings for significant events. Guildford Municipal Council obtained trees from the State Nursery for street and park plantings.

(Criterion 2.3)

Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees reflect the early awareness of importance of landscape design in the creation of formal planted avenues of trees. This philosophy of beautification followed the directions of park and city plantings supported by the Premier of John Forrest and promoted by John Ednie-Brown, Conservator of Forests in WA.

(Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees have the potential to yield information about the versatility, durability and longevity of this species as a street tree. The trees have been subject to extreme pollarding, road re alignment and root compaction. They are now undergoing a maintenance programme that is being observed across Australia. It has been noted that these trees have particular properties of being low maintenance and have an ability to withstand lopping, in that their secondary limbs have less propensity to sheer off than other species of eucalypt.

(Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees have been valued by Guildford and the wider community for historic, cultural and aesthetic reasons. The trees have been celebrated in poetry, letters and stories, and recorded in paintings. They have been described as iconic and defining the character of the town. In the 1950s, 1980s and again in 1999 the Guildford community have taken public action to defend and protect their trees, culminating in an unprecedented agreement reached with the City of Swan to protect, maintain and replant these trees in 1999. The Guildford community has commemorated the 10th Anniversary of this agreement with their declaration of *The Year Sugar Gum in 2009*. The community organised a range of activities and events to celebrate the retention of these trees over 12 months. These trees were planted to commemorate a revered person or for land mark and beautification reasons and have become revered in their own right by the Guildford and wider community. This has been clearly demonstrated by the community over 110 years.

(Criterion 4.1 & Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

These trees form a unique example of municipal plantings of *E. cladocalyx*, in age, scale and formality. The mature plantings are rare and extant examples of West Australian, nineteenth century streetscapes of exotic plantings of Australian origins.

(Criterion 5.1)

They form a defining feature of the town and extend along all the main streets, several parks and contribute to the unique historic character of the total landscape and town.

(Criterion 5.1)

They demonstrate arboricultural philosophy and practices of the past that are no longer used today (such as use of this tree for landmark street plantings for a monarch, and pruning techniques over time).

(Criterion 5.2)

They demonstrate a continuum of planting practice through the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

(Criterion 5.2)

They form an extensive, rare and extant an example of Australian ornamental trees, planted by Councillors of the Guildford Municipality, and influenced by the philosophies of the City Beautiful Movement.

(Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Whilst the Guildford streetscapes were planted with *Sugar Gum Trees* were representative of a period of planting and supported with the trees grown and distributed by the State Nursery, the scale and intactness of these *E. cladocalyx* tree plantings in streets and parks, is unique in Western Australia.

(Criterion 6.1)

The philosophy of the City Beautiful Movement was represented in the street plantings of many towns in Western Australia, however, Guildford has one of the earliest and most extensive of these municipal plantings using one dominant and unifying species.

(Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

The condition of the *Guildford Sugar Gum Trees* is outlined in the Arboricultural Reports commissioned by the City of Swan (2002, 2004, 2006 2008). The trees are generally in sound health with many showing increased vigour since the start of the maintenance programme in 1999. The avenue and group plantings extant, reflect the values of significance as noted above

The removal of these trees over time from Guildford's streets, has arisen more through infra structure works than because of problems of structural unsoundness. The trees have been subject to severe methods of pruning in the 1930s to 1950s. This practice has resulted in the trees becoming more susceptible to termite infestation. However, three arboricultural assessments completed in 1999, consistently identified only one tree as unsound and needing removal. Since this time the City of Swan has continued a programme of regular maintenance of all of *Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees*. A number of *E. cladocalyx* trees have been planted since 1999, two in Meadow Street to replace deteriorated trees and one to replace a tree in Fauntleroy Park, identified as a missing one of a pair of 1890s plantings at the Show Ground entry gates. Recent planting of *Sugar Gum Trees* has also occurred in Stirling Square.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Guildford's streetscape and parks retain varying degrees of integrity, relating to the planting of the *Sugar Gum Trees* in the late 1890s – early 1900s. These trees are part of a continuum of colonial plantings that remain extant throughout the town, however, their large scale and locations render them the most dominant, (visually and numerically) of the extant, colonial, streetscape plantings in metropolitan Perth. The integrity of the *Sugar Gum Trees* as significant streetscape elements, are threatened with the introduction of increasing intrusive elements i.e. new and diverse varieties of street trees and a failure to acknowledge historic planting traditions.

Stirling Square, James, Johnson, Market, Hill, part of Swan and Meadow Streets, retain a high to moderate levels of integrity. Feature plantings in Fautleroy Park- the entry gate plantings to the Royal Agricultural Show Grounds (c 1897) have been enhanced with a replacement planting of one of the missing *Sugar Gums* (2009). The presence of power lines has resulted in the removal of these trees on one side of most roads. Helena Street and Terrace Road have remnant extant plantings, which contribute to the total character of the streetscape and town.

These trees, as a collective, have the potential for long term viability with infill plantings to replace original stock.¹ They are trees that can withstand drought conditions and would best survive in conditions that do not place them under continual stress i.e. regular, severe pruning because of location under power lines. These trees would be sustainable plantings if the power in the main streets of Guildford could be located under ground, as is occurring in many suburbs today.

Overall the presence of all extant *Sugar Gum Trees* are significant to the integrity of the streetscapes and parks of Guildford. They form an integral, unifying and defining element of the historic town. Photographic records of *The Sugar Gum trees* are presented by streets in Appendix B.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The Guildford streetscapes with *Sugar Gum Trees*, as listed above, have a high to moderate degree of authenticity. The town retains a large number of extant *Sugar Gum Trees* planted between 1896 and the early 1900s. These trees represent an important period in the development of nineteenth century plantings methods and arboricultural practices. The height and scale of these trees give a unifying link to the historic town of Guildford, they contribute to

¹ Interview with Jeremy Thomas, Arborist, Botanic Parks and Gardens Authority WA, -noted that *E. cladocalyx* is a durable tree that can survive harsh conditions including drought. It suffers less from limb fall than many other eucalypts. It has proved to be one of the best Eucalypts for street tree planting in that it can withstand pruning- the strong scar tissue enabling new growth to regain considerable length over time. When placed under duress the tree can become vulnerable to termite infestations

the authenticity of Guildford as a nineteenth century village in an urban context, with nineteenth century plantings. The ongoing trend to plant 'fashionable' trees is leading to the erosion of streetscape values and may threaten the future authenticity values of the town and its streetscapes.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

E. cladocalyx is one of Australia's best known eucalyptus trees. Originally, they were only found in the southern Flinders Ranges, on Kangaroo Island and near Port Lincoln on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia.² The mature tree can reach height of thirty- five metres in ideal conditions. They are tall upright tree with smooth barked trunk, with cream, brown and orange tones. The dark glossy leaves provide a contrast to the creamy white ascending branches.

The common name of '*Sugar Gum*' used in the late nineteenth century in South Australia, was further popularised by Mr. Ednie-Brown, Conservator of Forests, in his discussions and promotion of the use of these eucalypts as a plantation tree and one that could be grown in semi arid and low rainfall areas in Australia. Cattle particularly enjoyed the sweet tasting immature foliage of these trees, which were later found to have a high level of the chemical compound glucoside.³ This sweet foliage was found to be highly toxic to ruminants and has resulted in the tree being viewed with caution by those grazing stock. The prolific white blossoms were also found to provide a substantial source of nectar for bees, and by attracting them could improve local pollination and availability of honey.

The striking foliage and majestic form of these trees resulted in considerable demand for them throughout colonial Australia in the late nineteenth century, for street trees and ornamental plantings. They were nostalgically portrayed by the Australian Impressionist art of the late nineteenth century as representing a unique Australian landscape form, by such artists as Hans Heyson of South Australia.

² Holliday I. & Watton G. *Gardiner's Companion to Eucalypts*. Lansdowne Publishing
2nd Ed.1997 pp 64-65

³ White mallee *E. anceps* (R.Br.ex Maid) Blakely Names : see Sugar Gum
www.pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/71900/Native_Trees_of_South_Australia_Part_3.pdf

Association with Significant Events

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

The *E. cladocalyx* or *Sugar Gum Tree* was planted extensively in Western Australia during 1897, to celebrate Queen Victoria's *Diamond Jubilee* (the 60th year anniversary of her coronation).⁴ The West Australian Conservator of Forests, Mr. Ednie-Brown, encouraged local governments to use tree plantings as a practical means of celebration and beautification by donating trees from the State Nursery from 1896.⁵

Towns and communities throughout Western Australia celebrated this event with balls, sports days, grand dinners. Many communities celebrated the *Diamond Jubilee* with their first *Arbor Day* celebrations in June 1897.⁶ School children at Government Schools also received a *Diamond Jubilee* commemorative medal and younger children (Infant School) received a special enamel mug.⁷ In Western Australia, Mr. John Ednie-Brown, as the new West Australian Conservator of Forests, promoted a programme of free distribution of trees from 1896,⁸ tree planting in schools for the State's first *Arbor Day* celebrations in 1897,⁹ and local government tree plantings to celebrate Queen Victoria's *Jubilee* celebrations and other occasions including beautification of a town.¹⁰ *Sugar Gum Trees* were popular and widely distributed through out the State. Small groups of these *Jubilee* tree plantings are extant in many country towns, around parks and railway stations, however, Guildford contains one of the largest collection of formal, municipal plantings of street and park trees from the turn of the century in Western Australia.

Arbor Day

The first *Arbor Day* in Australia was first celebrated in South Australia on the 20th June 1889 when five thousand school children marched to the Victoria Park Race Course and planted 757 trees.¹¹ These trees had been donated by the Conservator of Forests Mr. Ednie- Brown, who had promoted the concept

⁴ *West Australian* 18.6.1897 p 5g

⁵ *Annual Progress Report of the Woods and Forests Department* WA Government 1897-1898 SRO Perth WA Cons 855 Item 1898/102

⁶ *West Australian* 18.6.1897 p 5g

⁷ *West Australian* 18.6.1897 p5

⁸ *West Australian* 19.8.1896 p 6b

⁹ Jubilee Distribution of Trees in the *West Australian* 20.7.1897 p5c

¹⁰ Jubilee Distribution of Trees in the *West Australian* 20.7.1897 p5c

¹¹ *The Adelaide Parklands National Heritage Nomination*. Place ID 105758 Supporting Comments p1 www.adelaide-parklands.org/pdfs/1a_NH_Nominations_Comments.pdf

of an Arbor Day to teach recognition of the effects of deforestation and afforestation. This was the beginning of the environmental movement in Australia. *Arbor Day* was also called Conservation Day.¹² The first *Arbor Day* in Western Australia was combined with Municipal Jubilee celebrations in July 1897. This day has continued to be commemorated annually, as a day to teach children to value and respect the importance of trees. Guildford retains a living connection with this first *Arbor Day*.

Associations with Significant Persons

Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria was England's longest serving Monarch in 1897. During her reign, the British Empire expanded and many new colonies were settled. The royal birthdays, coronations and visits were celebrated by the colonies across the world including Western Australia. *Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees* are fine examples of the type and form of landscape plantings created around the time of Queen Victoria's *Diamond Jubilee*.

Mr. John Ednie-Brown (1848-1899)

Mr. John Ednie-Brown was born in Scotland in 1848, left school at 15 years of age and worked with his father a Deputy- Surveyor of Woods and Forests, with broad arboricultural expertise. It was here, that John Ednie-Brown developed a love and knowledge of trees. He visited North America in 1871-1872 and was appointed Conservator of Forests in South Australia in 1878. He was noted for his important writing *A Treatise on Practical Tree Culture in South Australia*.¹³

In South Australia, Mr. Ednie-Brown experimented with raising trees suitable for growing in areas of limited rainfall. He studied arboricultural practices in other colonies. Brown used the successful Indian practice of raising seedlings in 5 inch lengths of bamboo.¹⁴ This practice enabled the transport of seedlings without damage to the roots, between 150 and 200 of the tubes could fit in a small box for relocation. This method was found to be most successful for raising eucalypt trees such as the *Sugar Gums*, which were transported through out Western Australia.

Appointed as Conservator of Forests in Western Australia in 1896, Ednie-Brown developed a temporary State (tree) Nursery near Guildford and continued his programme of growing seeds for public plantings, in forests,

¹² *The Adelaide Parklands National Heritage Nomination*. Place ID 105758 Supporting Comments p1 www.adelaide-parklands.org/pdfs/1a_NH_Nominations_Comments.pdf

¹³ Brown John Ednie Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria Australian National Herbarium <http://www.anbg.gov.au/biography/brown-john-e.html>

¹⁴ *West Australian*, 18.9.1896 p 5a

parks and country areas. The Nursery was relocated to Drakes Brook in 1897.¹⁵ Brown promoted the use of Pine, Palm and Sugar Gum trees. The latter became popular for ornamental plantings in, Queen Victoria's *Diamond Jubilee Year* of 1897.¹⁶ Ednie- Brown died in Cottesloe in 1899. He left a landscape legacy and community interest in trees that is extant today in Guildford.

The Sugar Gum Trees of Guildford

Early Street Tree Plantings

The first documentary evidence of street tree planting in Guildford was found in the Council Minutes of 1874.¹⁷ There is little doubt that street tree planting would have occurred prior this time. In 1871, the town of Guildford gained municipal status; it also acquired the power to levy taxes through licensing and weights and measures. This new source of revenue provided opportunities to support beautification of the town and other service needs. Labour from the convict depot, when available, was limited to road and bridge works. In 1874, the streets and central square were being planted with unspecified ornamental trees to beautify the town.¹⁸ Photographic records show the Cape Lilac (*Melia azederach*) had been used in the streets of Guildford prior to this time.¹⁹ In 1884, Guildford resident Mr. Sadler, requested permission to plant olive, almond and cape lilac trees on his street frontage. The Council advised they would accept any of these trees but especially recommended the large leafed white mulberry at a distance of 14 - 15 feet from the side of the street.²⁰ In these early years, street trees were planted to be functional and utilitarian. Durability and availability were determinants of street plantings in this period, rather than fashion dictates.

Street Trees Planting s 1890s-1900s

The 1890s were to herald a decade of wealth and progress, a product of the increased population and prosperity of the gold rushes in WA. The street plantings mirrored the new opulence and wealth of the Guildford.

¹⁵ *West Australian* 29.9.1897 p 7a

¹⁶ *West Australian* 7.1.1897 p 4b; *West Australian* 29.9.1897 p 7a

¹⁷ *Guildford Municipal Council Minutes* 3.9.1874 SRO Cons 1110 Item 1

¹⁸ The oldest surviving Guildford Municipal Council Minutes dating from 1874 note: 'The Council continues planting of trees along the main streets starting at Mr. Johnson's corner' (Johnson Street) ... and suitable trees were obtained for Stirling Square (1 3.9.1874, 1.7.1874 Cons 1110 Item 1). The trees are not specified, however, in a letter to the Editor in the *Swan Express* of 19.8.1953 an elderly resident born c1892 describes playing as a small child in the big gum trees opposite the Stirling Arms Hotel, giving possible credence to the unsourced statement in the *Centenary Book on Guildford*- Gibbons L. 1929 that some of sugar gums may have dated from the 1874.

¹⁹ Photographic records in Burke M. *On the Swan* UWA Press 1987 pp 178,228.

²⁰ *Guildford Municipal Council Minutes* 6.4.1882 SRO Cons 1110 item 1

community, they were now planted for ornamentation as opposed to functionality.²¹

The development of the Fremantle to Guildford railway, as the first stage of the Eastern Railway in 1881 was start new development in the town ship. The excitement and expectation of the railway was short lived, when in 1880, Morrison MLC and Guildford resident, noted that the second stage of the line to Chidlows Well, was to pass through Stirling Square.²² This proposal by the Commissioner of Railways, was vigorously opposed by the Guildford Council.²³ With the strength of specific legislation and wide community support, the Commissioner was required to divert the railway along the mid line of the main street, James Street

By 1892, there had been growing discontent about the location of the railway in James Street, it posed more than just a noisy inconvenience and was described as a source of danger.²⁴ Through the Legislative Council, James Morrison, again lodged a petitioned, this time to have the railway re routed through Stirling Square,²⁵ a position endorsed by Guildford Municipal Council. The resumption of land for the new rail route, created new boundaries for the square and altered street reserves, it was also seen as an opportunity for beautification of the town. By 1896, the Guildford Council was exploring the most desirable trees for planting the new reserves²⁶. After consulting with the Bureau of Agriculture, they determined that the best street trees were available from the Eastern States and placed orders^{27 28} for *Sugar Gums* with Newman and Sons of South Australia:²⁹

The Guildford Municipal Council's desire to beautify the town was not new, however, but found vigour and support in the ideals of the City Beautiful Movement. This was exemplified in the words of Councillor Guppy:

*" I must return to my own true love of beautifying the town. I have at all times advocated street tree planting. In all civilized countries it is recognized that the tree planting acts more beneficially on the health of a population and the maintenance is amply repaid by the enhancement of beauty to the town."*³⁰

²¹ *West Australian* 9.7.1896 p 7b

²² Bourke M J *On The Swan* UWA Press 1997 pp 235- 245

²³ *West Australian* 20.5.1881 p3 a

²⁴ *West Australian* 19.11.1892 p 6e

²⁵ WA Parliament, *Parliamentary Debates* Vol. V (1893- 2nd session) pp 215-216.

²⁶ *West Australian* 9.7.1896 p7

²⁷ *Guildford Municipal Council Minute Books* 18.6.1896, 2.7.1896 SRO Cons Item 12

²⁸ *West Australian* *ibid* 15.9.1896 p 6c

²⁹ Richards O. *Conservation Study Stirling Square Guildford WA* for the Shire of Swan and State Planning Commission 1989 p26

³⁰ *Guildford Municipal Council Minute Books* 11.4.1896 SRO Cons 1110 Item 12

In 1896, 450 trees were planted in Victoria, James and Meadow Streets and Terrace Road.³¹ In August and December that year, further ornamental trees were ordered.³² With a growing revenue and a ready access to water from the town's artesian bore (1897),³³ the council proceeded to extend their programme of street beautification with extensive of tree planting. The Guildford Municipality received trees from the State Nursery, however, found they were so small that they could not be planted in new streets and had to be used for infill plantings.³⁴ Larger trees were obtained from private nurseries. Little James Street was renamed Victoria Street in recognition of the *Jubilee* year and was planted alternately with oak and ash trees.³⁵ This was an unusual planting form in Guildford, although a fashionable style in Europe in the late nineteenth century.

Mr. Ednie- Brown, through the Forestry Department, provided seedling trees to many schools and councils from the State Nursery. Guildford received 60 such trees for its school children and 200 for the Municipality for its Jubilee celebrations in July 1897.³⁶ By 1898, the *Sugar Gum Trees* were favoured by the Guildford Municipality for ornamental planting in streets. They ordered 150 pepper trees and 150 Sugar Gums from the Newman and Sons Nursery of Adelaide.³⁷ Trees were planted in both sides of Johnson Street, one side of Terrace Road and James and Swan Street.³⁸ ³⁹ Oaks and poplar trees were replaced with unspecified trees near Barkers Bridge in Meadow Street.⁴⁰ *Sugar Gum Trees* were planted in Swan Street (1902), Hill Street (1904),⁴¹ and alternately between the existing plantings of Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*) in James Street.⁴² *Pittosporum* trees were also planted through the narrower Bertie, ⁴³ Hugh and Waylen Streets, in 1907.⁴⁴ The last documentation of *Sugar Gum Tree* plantings occurred in 1908, this was possibly infill planting following the removal of the Trees of Heaven in James Street, which were no longer considered desirable. ⁴⁵

This practice of pollarding (severe pruning to about 3 metres) of the *Sugar Gums* and other large street trees was considered by Council in 1902. Lopping was deemed a necessary practice, as the height of the large street trees came

³¹ West Australian 16.11.1896 p 5 i

³² West Australian 15.9.1896 p6 c

³³ West Australian 8. 7. 1897 p 9 b

³⁴ Guildford Municipal Council Works Committee 17.4.1897, 23.8.1897 SRO Cons 1110 Item 12

³⁵ Guildford Municipal Council Works Committee 14.6.1897 SRO Cons 1110 Item 12

³⁶ West Australian 20.7.1897 p 5c

³⁷ Guildford Municipal Council Minute Books 2.6.1898 SRO Cons 1110 Item 1

³⁸ Guildford Municipal Council Minute Books 2.6.1898, 16.6.1898 SRO Cons 1881 Item 1

³⁹ Guildford Municipal Council Works Committee 18.6.1898 SRO Cons 1110 Item 12

⁴⁰ Guildford Municipal Council Works Committee 18.6.1900 SRO Cons 1110 Item 12

⁴¹ Guildford Municipal Council Minute Books 15.9.1904 SRO Cons 1110 Item 6

⁴² Guildford Municipal Council Minute Books 7.1900 SRO Cons 1110 Item 5

⁴³ Guildford Municipal Council Minute Books 10.11.1902 SRO Cons 1110 Item

⁴⁴ Guildford Municipal Council Works Committee 20.11.1907 SRO Cons 1110 Item 12

⁴⁵ Richards O. *Conservation Study Stirling Square Guildford WA* for the Shire of Swan and State Planning Commission 1989 p26

into increasing conflict with the overhead communication lines (telegraph and later electric wires). This practice continued for over 20 years and resulted in a trunk and branch formation that gave the *Guildford Sugar Gums* a particularly statuesque form.

Whilst *Sugar Gums* were planted extensively in Western Australia at the turn of the century, they usually planted in focal areas of a town (railway stations or parks), however, in Guildford they were planted throughout the town. The gums grew to become a significant and defining feature of the town, forming a tall central spine of greenery down James Street and a feature on the wide street reserves of Market, Hill, Meadow and Swan Streets and Terrace Road. The trees formed a border to Stirling Square and provided a central avenue leading to St Matthew's Anglican Church.

These trees became part of the recognizable charm and character of Guildford's colonial streetscapes. (See Photos 23 and 24 in Appendix C)

Interwar Street Tree Plantings.

In this period, street tree plantings were generally respectful of existing landscape character. There is no record of further planting of the *Sugar Gums* trees in this time. Trees were replaced for functional reasons (condition, adverse impacts on power lines or climatically unsuitable); some were replaced to define streetscapes. The plane trees in Terrace Road were planted in 1930, to define the boundaries of Guildford Grammar School; they replaced earlier Sugar Gum plantings and created a unique deciduous precinct. In 1931, this avenue of trees was extended to the sharp bend in the road near the present tennis courts. Plane trees were also planted in small numbers in Fauntleroy, Peel, Attfield and Helena Streets in 1915.⁴⁶

The pine trees that once lined the railway reserves were removed between 1918 and 1940. Cape Lilac trees were removed from most of Meadow Street. The Pittosporum trees in Waylen Street were replaced with Kurrajong and Box Brush trees. The east end of Swan Street (now Water Street), East Guildford Railway Station Reserve and Helena Street outside the Primary School, were planted with Erythrina or Flame Trees. The Works Committee determined that whilst infill planting of these trees could occur they did not support further plantings of these particular trees.⁴⁷

Jacaranda trees were planted in 1946 around the new Town Hall and its gardens⁴⁸, a small number were planted in a limited area on the opposite side of the road in James Street.

⁴⁶ Richards O. *Conservation Study Stirling Square Guildford WA for the Shire of Swan and State Planning Commission* 1989 p 27

⁴⁷ *Guildford Municipal Council Works Committee* 11.8.1949 SRO Cons 1881 Item 7

⁴⁸ *Guildford Municipal Council Minutes* 1946

The majority of the *Sugar Gum Trees* in Guildford were retained through this period; they remained the dominant landscape feature of the main streets and town, in both specie, visual impact and in number of plantings.

1950s- Threats To Guildford's Sugar Gum Trees

In September 1950, the Guildford Council was shocked to learn of the State Electricity Commission plans, to erect a 66,000 volt power cable through the northern road reserve of James Street. These plans would lead to the loss of all the *Sugar Gum Trees* on James Street between the Bassendean Bridge and East Street. The Council resolved to protest against this proposal.⁴⁹

Community opposition to this plan resulted in the SEC rerouting the power to the south side of the road, thus retaining these noted stands of *E. cladocalyx*.

Councillor F.M. Anderson wrote a poem that has been often quoted in the Guildford community-

The Gums of Guildford

*We know no laws, we have no King, just Nature's gifts are we,
To those below, who come and go and every bird and bee.
We ask no favours, other than, to line your portals fair,
And with Eucalyptus leaves to scent the friendly air.*

*Our graceful lines, our branches tall, our leaves so fresh and green,
Are gifts from God, that away and nod, like any graceful Queen.
So men below, we're glad to know our sanctuary in yours,
We'll look our best, so leave the rest to Mother Nature's cause⁵⁰.*

In September 1953, a proposal to widen James Street and remove 15 trees was presented to the Guildford Council.⁵¹ This work was to be funded by the Main Roads Department and required the removal of all the *Sugar Gum Trees* between Johnson and Meadow Streets. Mayor Hicks was shocked at the Council's decision to approve the plans.⁵² There was wide spread concern both in Guildford and the wider community. A petition was presented to Council⁵³ and residents wrote to the papers and council. Mrs. J. Hamersley

⁴⁹ *Swan Express* 26. 9. 1950 p1c

⁵⁰ Anderson F. M. in Gibbons L. *The Story of Guildford* produced by the Guildford Municipality 1951 p5.

⁵¹ *The West Australian* 26.8.1935 p2 b

⁵² *Swan Express* 27.8.1953

⁵³ *The Swan Express* 24.19.1953 p1b, c.

hoped the efforts of ratepayers would be successful in saving the beautiful gums of James Street.

*" These must be the finest specimens in the metropolitan area and their removal will not only be felt by those who grew up with the trees but also by those who pass through the town".*⁵⁴

Other residents argued the removal was an unnecessary destruction of one of the outstanding natural landmark – the soaring stately gums of Guildford⁵⁵The Guildford Town Clerk argued the trees would undermine the new traffic lanes when constructed, could threaten public safety and should be replaced with smaller specimens set back on the road reserve.⁵⁶ In November 1953, fifteen *Sugar Gum trees* were removed on the northern road reserve for street widening and a new central median strip. This was the first substantial loss of *Sugar Gum Trees* in Guildford in half a century, however, the remaining gum trees in James Street and throughout the town were retained. The trees continued to form a recognizable and valued feature of the town.

1980s &1990s Public Controversy on the Future of the Sugar Gum Trees

In the late 1980's, community ire was raised when the Main Roads Department removed a *Sugar Gum* near the intersection of James and Johnson Streets.

In January 1999, the Guildford community was again shocked to learn of the planned removal 10 of their signature trees in the main street, a public meeting was organised for the 16th of that month.⁵⁷ This public meeting sought the retention of the trees and an ongoing maintenance programme.⁵⁸ In April 1999, Council officers sought additional information and advice from 3 arborists.⁵⁹ The officer's report to Council in July, interpreted the arborists' views and recommended the removal of 25 trees because of structural instability and poor condition.⁶⁰ The community responded immediately⁶¹. Young people camped in the branches of the trees, local shops displayed

⁵⁴ *The Swan Express* 2.10.1953 p

⁵⁵ *The Swan Express* 24.9.1953 p 4e

⁵⁶ *The Swan Express* 15.10.1953p

⁵⁷ *The Swan Express* 12.1.1999 p9

⁵⁸ Sugar Gum James Street Guildford Item 7.4 *Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council City of Swan* 7.4.1999

⁵⁹ Sugar Gums James Street Guildford Item 7.4 *Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council City of Swan*. 7.4.1999

⁶⁰ Sugar Gums James Street Guildford Item 12.2 *Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council City of Swan* 14.7.1999

⁶¹The Guildford association's flyer *What the Consultants Actually Said* detailed the community objection to be the inconsistencies between expert opinions the officer's recommendation and Council's decision. Only one tree had been consistently recommended for removal, maintenance work was recommended for the remaining trees.

signs of support. About 200 people from all over the metropolitan area camped or gathered around the *Sugar Gum Trees* in James Street. A petition was presented to Council on July 19 requesting a Special Electors Meeting. In a press release from the City of Swan, dated 23rd July, the decision of immediate removal was modified to immediate pruning and the removal of the 15 trees delayed, pending the outcome of a proposed Electors Meeting in August.⁶²

Strong community support for the trees was paralleled by widespread support from the West Australian public and international environmental activist David Bellamy, who visited the camp.⁶³ Ten days after the July 14th decision of Council, the Mayor agreed to meet with the community representatives. A notice of rescission was submitted to the Chief Executive Officer and the matter of the *Sugar Gum Trees* was returned to the Council agenda.⁶⁴ Council presented a bench to the people of Guildford, as gift in the *International Year of the Tree* and in recognition of the accord on the future of the *Sugar Gums*.⁶⁵ At the Council meeting of August 25th, the future of the *Sugar Gums* was debated. The issue was contentious and councillors were equally divided in their voting on retention or removal. The Mayor's casting vote determined that the trees would be retained and an ongoing maintenance plan developed.⁶⁶

Since 1999, an ongoing maintenance programme has been conducted on the *Sugar Gum Trees* through out the town. Reports have been produced bi annually.⁶⁷ Many trees have shown improved vigour, whilst some have shown a decline. The three arboricultural reports of 1999 made various recommendations about future planning for the *Sugar Gum Trees* in James Street. Recommendations varied from removal of the jacaranda trees and reinforcement plantings of *E. cladocalyx* to complete removal and replanting the streetscape with a new avenue of *Sugar Gum Trees*.⁶⁸

The Arbor Centre gained the contract for maintenance of the mature *Sugar Gum Trees* and produced reports detailing 67 trees in Stirling Square,⁶⁹ 68 Domestic Plantings (in main streets and parks)⁷⁰ and 25 trees in James Street.⁷¹ The total of 160 trees does not represent the total plantings in the town and this assessment recommends that recent plantings that should be included in any future listings. The Guildford Association has also requested

⁶² City of Swan *media release*-22.8.1999

⁶³ Guildford Community Sugar Gum Coalition Press Release- *Good Interim News for Guildford's Sugar Gums*. Un pub .doc. 23.7.1999

⁶⁴ Sugar Gums James Street Guildford Item 12.2 *Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council* City of Swan 25.8.1999

⁶⁵ *The Midland Reporter* 17.8.1999

⁶⁶ Sugar Gums- Guildford Item 12.2 *Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council* City of Swan 25.8.1999

⁶⁷ Arbor Logic was commissioned by the City of Swan to conduct maintenance of these trees. They produced reports in 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2008.

⁶⁸ 3 Arboricultural Reports prepared for the City of Swan May 1999.

⁶⁹ Arbor Logic *Stirling Square Sugar Gums- Guildford* prepared for the City of Swan November 2004.

⁷⁰ Arbor Logic *Domestic Sugar Gums- Guildford* prepared for the City of Swan September 2004.

⁷¹ Arbor Logic *James Street Sugar Gums Guildford* prepared for the City of Swan November 2004

Council develop a Significant Tree Register and tree planting plan to acknowledge the important historic nineteenth century landscape form.

The Guildford Association Inc. nominated the *Sugar Gums* for placement on the State Register of Heritage Places in 1999, however, the nomination did not progress to the stage of assessment.

Current Situation

In 2009, the Guildford community celebrated their Accord with the City of Swan on the agreement to maintain and replant the *E. cladocalyx*, with a *Year of the Sugar Gum*. The Guildford Association Inc. organised community events, including children's poetry and art competitions,⁷² sundowner, campfire in the park and commemorative artwork in collaboration with the National Trust of Australia (WA) and the City of Swan.

Whilst the *Sugar Gum Trees* continue to form a dominant landscape features in Guildford, community groups have requested Council take positive action in developing a strategic planting plan to protect the integrity of the streetscapes. Such a plan would give direction to future planting patterns and species and management strategies for those involved in service or other works adjacent to the trees. It is relevant to note that there is no heritage recognition of the *Sugar Gum Trees* in Guildford at State or Federal level, and in consequence no statutory recognition or protection of these historic plantings. The *E. cladocalyx* in James Street alone, are listed on the City's Municipal Inventory- a document that was closed to further nominations for nine years.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Details of the physical evidence and condition of the *Sugar Gum Trees* in Guildford are presented in detailed arboricultural reports to the City of Swan⁷³ and in the City of Swan Tree Register (2007)⁷⁴. Street tree plantings in main streets are detailed in photographic records in Appendix B.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Comparative documentation on formal street tree and public garden plantings is limited. The HCWA database lists 135 entries under Trees, five of these are *Sugar Gum Trees* located on municipal streets and reserves. These include the *Sugar Gum Trees* in James Street Guildford. The other *Sugar Gum*

⁷² The Reporter 5.5.2009

⁷³ Arbor Logic *Stirling Square Sugar Gums- Guildford* prepared for the City of Swan November 2004.
Arbor Logic *Domestic Sugar Gums- Guildford* prepared for the City of Swan September 2004.

Arbor Logic *James Street Sugar Gums Guildford* prepared for the City of Swan November 2004

⁷⁴ *Guildford Street Tree Register* unpub. doc. prepared by the City of Swan 2007

plantings listed include; Brookton,⁷⁵ Merredin,⁷⁶ and Tambellup,⁷⁷ these are limited to small group or individual tree plantings. The Claremont plantings⁷⁸ are limited to one area, between Bay Road and Melvista Avenue. No extant municipal plantings of *E. cladocalyx* have been located, of a comparable scale and mass as those found in Guildford.

Lovekin Avenue in Kings Park, under the jurisdiction of the State Government, contains one of the finest avenues of *Sugar Gum Trees* in Western Australia with approximately trees.⁷⁹ These they were planted between 2 and 3 decades after the Guildford plantings. The Honour Avenue proposed and designed by Arthur Lovekin, member of the Kings Park Board, was planted with *Sugar Gums* in 1920. A further 300 trees in Lovekin Avenue were dedicated to fallen soldiers after the Second World War.⁸⁰ The Botanic Gardens of Kings Park are not comparable with Guildford's turn of century, municipal, landscapes; although both were influenced by City Beautiful philosophies and have commemorative plantings of trees.

There are four tree plantings listed on the HCWA Register of Heritage Places in 2009; only one of these is an avenue planting - of Morton Bay Figs in Dongara.⁸¹ Comparative documentation, although limited, has indicated that the size and mass of the *Sugar Gum Tree* plantings through the town of Guildford, are rare, municipal, colonial, landscape features.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Guildford Municipal Council and Works Committee Minute Books, 1874 – 1970.

City of Swan Minutes of Ordinary Council Meetings 1999-2006

Guildford Tree Survey, City of Swan Sept 2007

West Australian

Swan Express

Conservation Study Stirling Square

Arbor logic Reports to the City of Swan on Guildford's *Sugar Gum Trees* 2002, 2004, 2006

⁷⁵ HCWA Database - *Sugar Gum Trees Brookton*. Place No. 8831. 2.19.2009

⁷⁶ HCWA Database - *Sugar Gum Trees Tambellup*. Place No. 13507. 2.10.2009

⁷⁷ HCWA Database- *Sugar Gum, Peppercorn Trees & Gravel Pit Merredin*. Place No. 12373. 2.20.2009

⁷⁸ HCWA Database- *Sugar Gum Trees- Claremont*. Place No. 3429. 2.10.2009

⁷⁹ Interview with Jeremy Thomas, Arborist, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority WA 20.12.2009

⁸⁰ *History of the Honour Avenue, Kings Park* in The Aiming Post. Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA May 2001

⁸¹ HCWA Assessment Documentation *Morton Terrace and Port Leander Drive Moreton Bay Figs Dongara* 9.9.2003

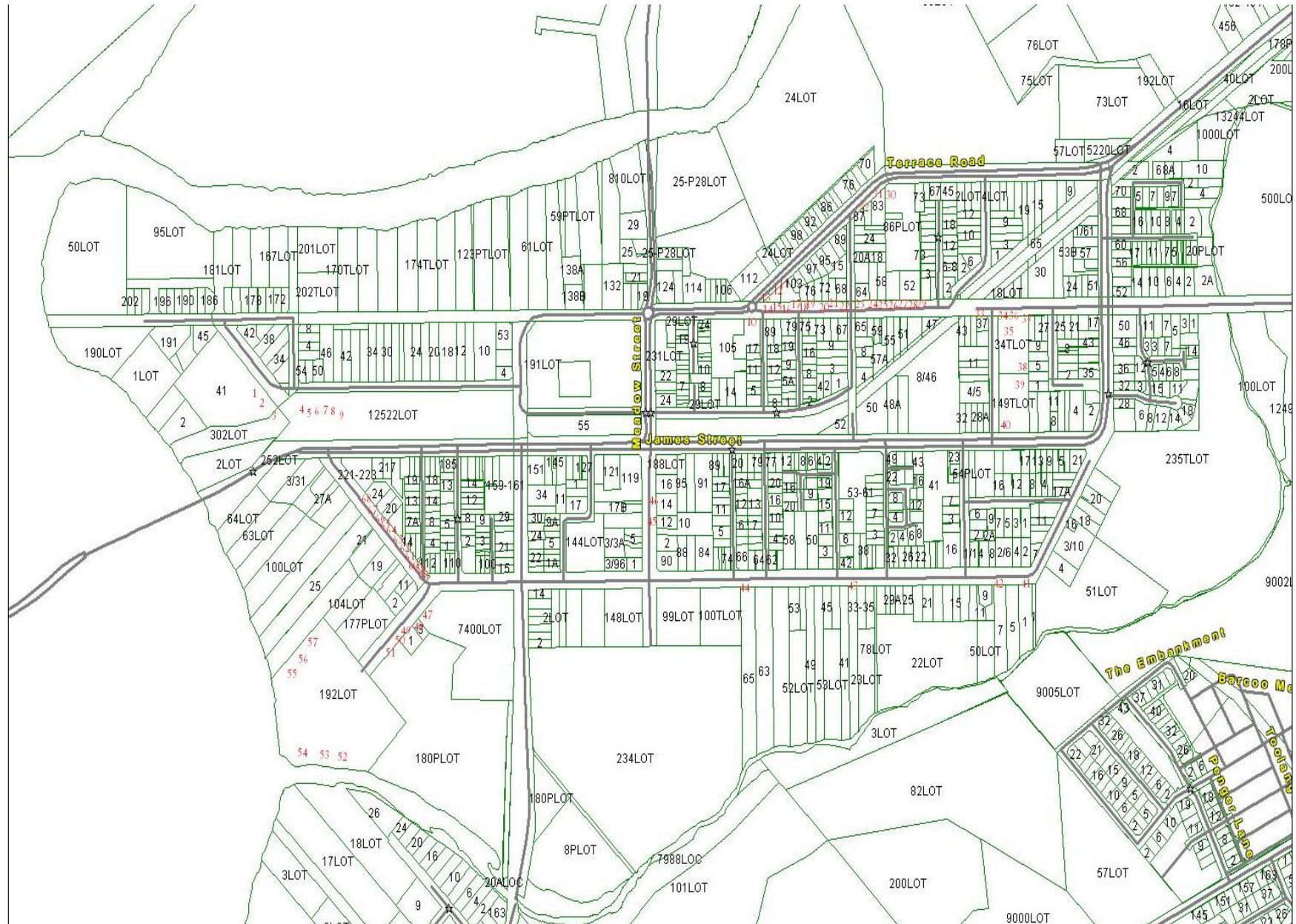
13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

There is a need for further research to develop a Conservation Plan for the street trees of Guildford, and in particular to develop an appropriate medium and long term strategy to guide future planning and plantings. Such a plan needs to include, or work concurrently, with planning strategies for street parking and future development of the railway and road reserves.

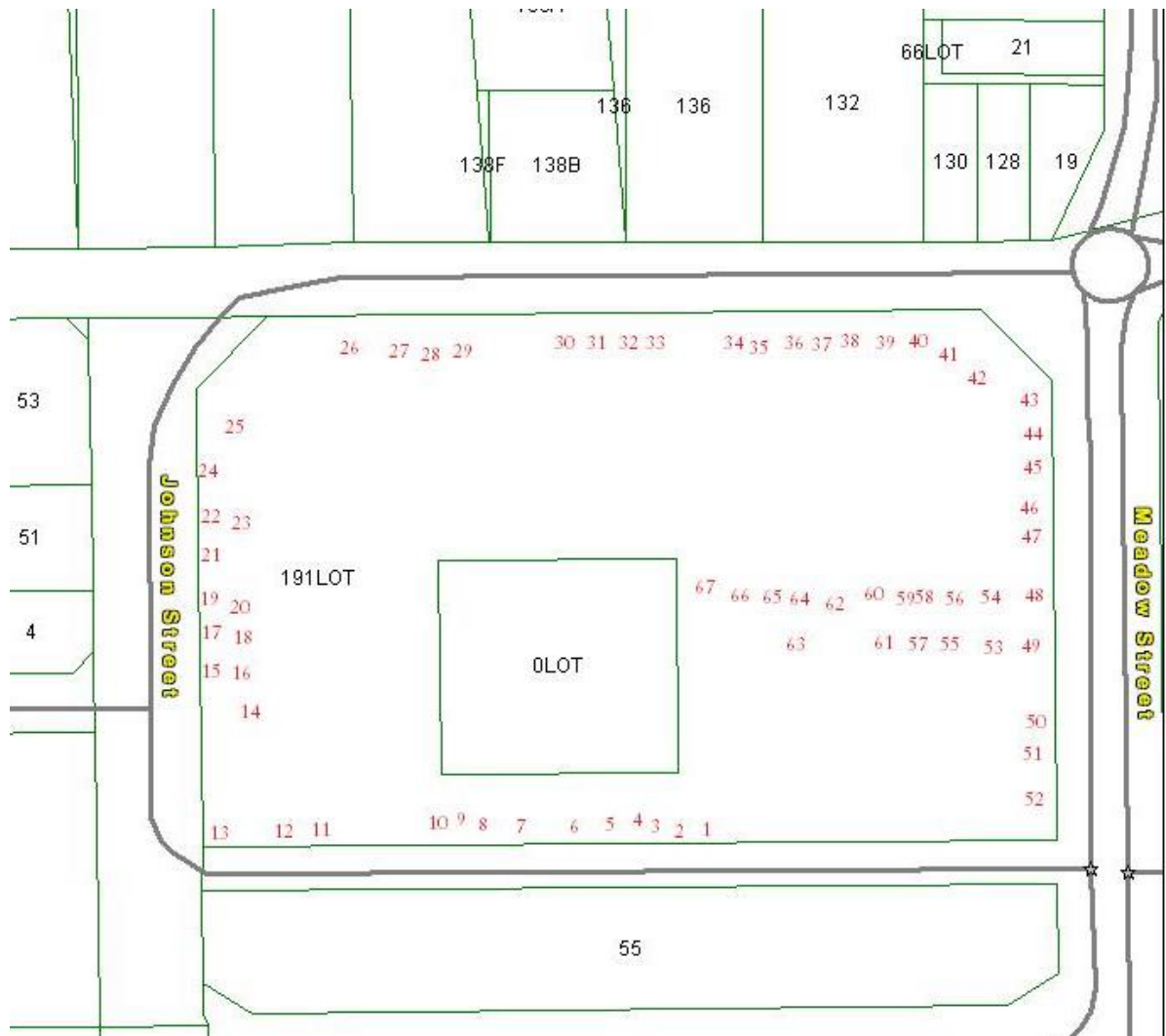
APPENDIX A

Plans of Distribution of Sugar Gums

- A1 Plan of Distribution of Domestic Sugar Gums in Guildford Streets and Parks (other than James Street and Stirling Square plantings).
- A2 Plan of Distribution of Sugar Gums in Stirling Square-Guildford



Source: Arbor Logic Arboricultural Assessment 'Domestic Sugar Gums' ~ Guildford, Prepared for City Of Swan, September 2004.



Source: Arbor Logic Arboricultural Assessment 'Stirling Square Sugar Gums' ~ Guildford,
Prepared for City Of Swan, November 2004.

APPENDIX B
Photographic Record of Sugar Gum Plantings
in Guildford's Streets & Parks.

APPENDIX C

Historical photos- Sugar Gums Guildford



Reproduced Courtesy E. Patton

Photo 23

Sugar Gums in James Street Guildford c1938.



Courtesy B. Dundas

Photo 24

Pollarded Sugar Gums- James Street c 1920.