



GREYTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

GREYTON OAK TREE SURVEY

The survey was undertaken by Joe Kemp, on behalf of the Greyton Conservation Society, during September 2012 in order

- to give a comprehensive picture of the oak heritage on **public land** in the village and immediate surroundings
- to indicate where action needs to be taken by Theewaterskloof Municipality with regard to pruning, felling and protection
- to identify oaks that are older than 50 years, as shown on a 1961 aerial photograph

Oaks on **private property** fall outside the survey. However, it was custom in the olden days to plant oaks on the street boundaries of erven. These are included in the survey. Oaks in parks and along rivers are also included.

Only oaks under the genus *Quercus* qualified for surveying and are

- *Quercus robur* – english oak (e)
- *Quercus palustris* – pin oak (p)
- *Quercus nigra* – water oak (w)
- *Quercus canariensis* – algerian oak (a) – to be confirmed
- *Quercus rugosa* - evergreen oak (r) – to be confirmed

The common silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*) is not a true oak and is excluded because it is a category 3 plant and should be removed.

Definition of symbols/abbreviations used in the survey are as follows:

Loc / st no	Indicate position of tree relative to places or street number.
No+species	Number of trees at location and abbreviation of species as shown above
Size	s=small, m=medium, b=big
Pruning	g= gentle (for pedestrians and vehicles), m=mild, s=severe
Notes	show age older than 50 years, indicate trees to be felled and other indications

No oaks were identified along the streets of Heuvelkroon although there are a dozen or more on private property. Some majestic old oaks grace the banks of the Scholtz River in Bosmanskloof, but being part of Genadendal, were excluded from the survey.

The oaks on the Nel property bounded by Main Road and Vlei, Grey and Kloof Streets were not counted although some appear to be on the erf boundaries – see page 5 of the survey.

The number of oaks counted in the survey are as follows:

English oaks	419	72,6%
Pin Oaks	108	18,7%
Water oaks	44	7,6%
Others	6	1,1%
Total	577	100,0%

Amongst the English oaks there are 146 oaks older than 50 years. Some of them are dying and should be felled as proposed in the survey. The remaining ones should be protected by way of plaques. Permission must be sought to tamper with them in any manner whatsoever.

There is one evergreen oak on the market square and five Algerian oaks – one in front of the Moravian Hall, one on the corner of Main and Ds Botha and three in Disa Street.

The survey, as shown on the next 9 pages, was conducted mostly on foot and double-checked and is regarded as sufficiently accurate. An undercount of three percent is possible. Self-sown young saplings were neglected and should be felled where they are in the wrong places or are forming a cluster.

It is hoped that the survey will facilitate an understanding of the role oak trees played and still play in the historical, botanical and cultural landscape of Greyton. Although all the oaks are exotic plants and that the English oak is somewhat invasive it is important to protect and foster their legacy brought to our land by Jan van Riebeeck during the month of June 1656 (see his diary).

Please read the poems of American poet George Morris (1802-1864) titled "*Woodman, Spare that Tree*" and of the Afrikaans poet Jan FE Cilliers (1865-1940) titled "*Martjie*" for the importance of oaks on our cultural landscape.

JTK - 8 October 2012

