

9/2/2019/165
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY LANQUEDOC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, STELLENBOSCH

Prepared for

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By

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**FEBRUARY
2000**

Executive summary

Only a handful of stone tools were located during a baseline archaeological study of Langedoc, Stellenbosch.

The proposed Langedoc housing development comprises 500 additional residential units.

A very diffuse scatter of Middle Stone Age tools were located on an extensive sheet-washed gravel slope in the south-eastern portion of the study area.

Some MSA flakes were found associated with gravel and cobble spoil dumps, as well as in or close to gravel borrow pits, in the western portion of the site.

A few flakes were also located in some of the gravel tracks, which cut across the site.

A concrete weir across a small stream in the middle of the eastern boundary of the study site is not considered to be historically significant.

The archaeological remains located during the Langedoc study are in a severely disturbed context, and have been given a low significance rating.

The impact of the proposed Langedoc housing development on archaeological sites is considered to be low to negligible.

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites during implementation of the project is considered to be low.

With regard to the proposed Langedoc housing development in Stellenbosch, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required.
- No further detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Council Plans Committee.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultant (Pty) Ltd has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake an archaeological study of Lanquedoc, Stellenbosch.

The proposed Lanquedoc housing development envisages 500 additional residential units.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed development, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed development is illustrated in Figure 1. The study site is 60.9 hectares in extent.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The approach used in the baseline archaeological study entailed a foot survey of the proposed housing site.

Archaeological visibility in the western portion of the study site is high, where the area has recently been burnt.

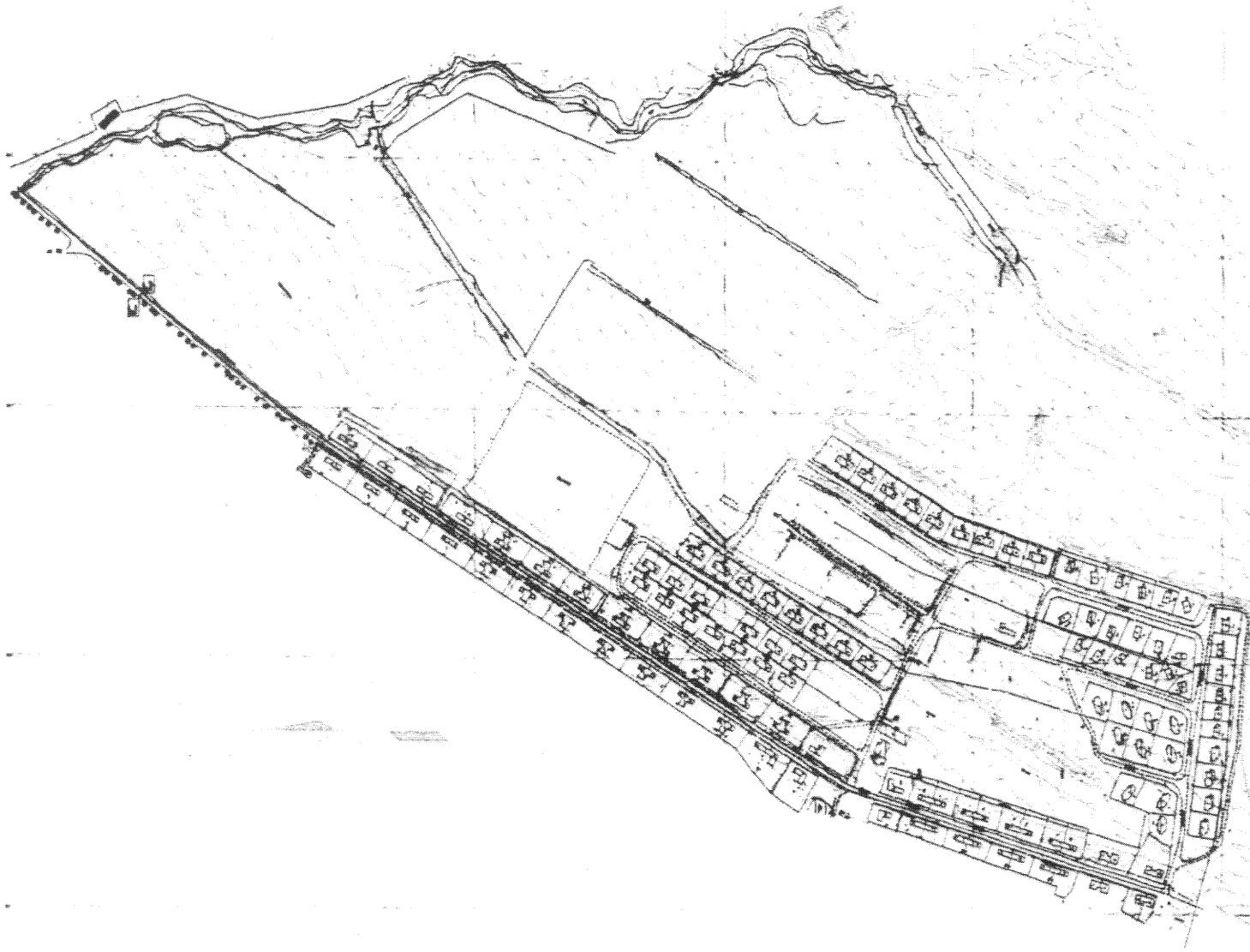


Figure 1. Archaeological study, Lanquedoc housing development, Stellenbosch: study

The eastern portion of the study area is well vegetated, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A very diffuse scatter of Middle Stone Age¹ (MSA) tools, comprising mainly unmodified flakes were located on an extensive, sheet-washed gravel slope in the south-eastern portion of the study area. The material is in a severely disturbed context.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

A few MSA flakes were found associated with the gravel spoil dumps, as well as in or close to some gravel borrow pits, in the western portion of the study site.

A few flakes were also found in some of the gravel tracks that cut across the site.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

A concrete weir across a small stream in the middle of the eastern boundary of the study site is not considered to be historically significant.

6. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the planned Languedoc housing development on archaeological sites is considered to be low to negligible.

The probability of locating significant archaeological sites during implementation of the project is also considered to be low.

7. CRITERIA USED IN THE EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The criteria used in the evaluating the importance of archaeological sites includes the following:

- the state of preservation of the site;
- the range and density of cultural material present on the site;
- the type of site; for example cave, shell midden, open air site;
- the approximate age of the site;

¹ A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

- rarity of occurrence; and
- regional, national and international importance

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the planned Languedoc housing development in Stellenbosch, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. No further detailed studies are required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Council Plans Committee.