

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
MONTAGU COUNTRY ESTATE: PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT: ERF 4432 & PORTION OF ERF 1
MONTAGU
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for:

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Executive summary

Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed Montagu Country Estate, on Erf 4432 and Portion of Erf 1 Montagu, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the subject properties, involves the construction of 276 apartments, as well as a clubhouse, a health centre, a restaurant and convenience centre.

Erf 4432 (the existing Montagu Golf Course) is zoned as Nature Area, while Portion of Erf 1 is zoned as Private Open Space.

The combined extent of the proposed development (35.86 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Mr Henry Aikman has completed the required Notice of Intention to Develop (NID) checklist for the proposed development.

The proposed site (forming part of the existing Montagu golf course) is situated about 3 kms from Montagu, to the east of the Touws River road (R318), leading out of the town.

The portion of Erf 1 which is to be developed as a township is vacant but has a rough track through it leading to a shooting range. Sheet erosion and slope wash (forming large dongas) is extensive over the bulk of the property. A portion of the site also appears to have been used as a dumping site.

Several, very low density scatters of Stone Age tools were located over the affected property, but these occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

One large scatter of Later Stone Age tools, about 60-70 m in extent, occurs about 200 m north of the golf course, and about 30 m west of an old (abandoned) munitions storage facility, on an extensive series of sheet-washed slopes, in Portion of Erf 1. The scatter appears to be located just outside the north western boundary of the affected site, although the precise location of the boundary is unclear. The archaeological remains occur in a fairly severely disturbed and degraded context.

The archaeological heritage remains have been graded medium to low local significance.

With regard to the proposed development of Erf 4432 and Portion of Erf 1 Montagu, the following recommendations are made

- Later Stone Age artefact scatters must be collected as a reference sample.
- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Dr A. Jerardino 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants, on behalf of LLS Corporation (Pty) Ltd requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed Montagu Country Estate, on Erf 4432 and Portion of Erf 1 Montagu, in the Breede River Winelands Municipality, in the Western Cape Province.

The proposed rezoning and subdivision of the subject properties, involves the construction of 276 apartments, as well as a clubhouse, a health centre, a restaurant and convenience centre.

Erf 4432 (the existing Montagu Golf Course) is zoned as Nature Area in terms of the Montagu Zoning Scheme, while Portion of Erf 1 is zoned as Private Open Space.

The combined extent of the proposed development (35.86 ha) falls within the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment as required by Section 38 of the South African Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

The aim of the study is to locate and map archaeological heritage sites and remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed project, to assess the significance of the potential impacts and to propose measures to mitigate against the impacts.

Heritage consultant Mr Henry Aikman has completed the required Notice of Intention to Develop (NID) checklist for the proposed development (Aikman 2006)

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to undertake a site visit and desk top survey;
2. to identify and map archaeological resources on the site;
3. to determine the importance of any archaeological resources; and
4. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed site.

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the proposed site is illustrated in Figure 2.

The subject property (forming part of the existing Montagu Golf Course) is situated about 3 kms from Montagu, to the east of the Touws River road, leading out of the town. It is overlooked by the Bergsig Township to the west of the road, and is north of the Montagu industrial area. The bulk of Erf 4432 is totally transformed.

The portion of Erf 1 (currently the town commonage) which is to be developed as a Township is vacant, but has a rough track through it leading to a shooting range. The commonage was originally used by the community for grazing of domestic animals (Aikman 2006). Sheet erosion (forming large dongas), most likely a result of overgrazing, is widespread over the bulk of the property and the surrounding area. A municipal cemetery abuts the eastern boundary of the site. A portion of Erf 1 also appears to have been used a dumping site. Natural vegetation covers a large part of Erf 1. From an archaeological perspective the receiving environment is severely degraded and disturbed (Figures 3-5).

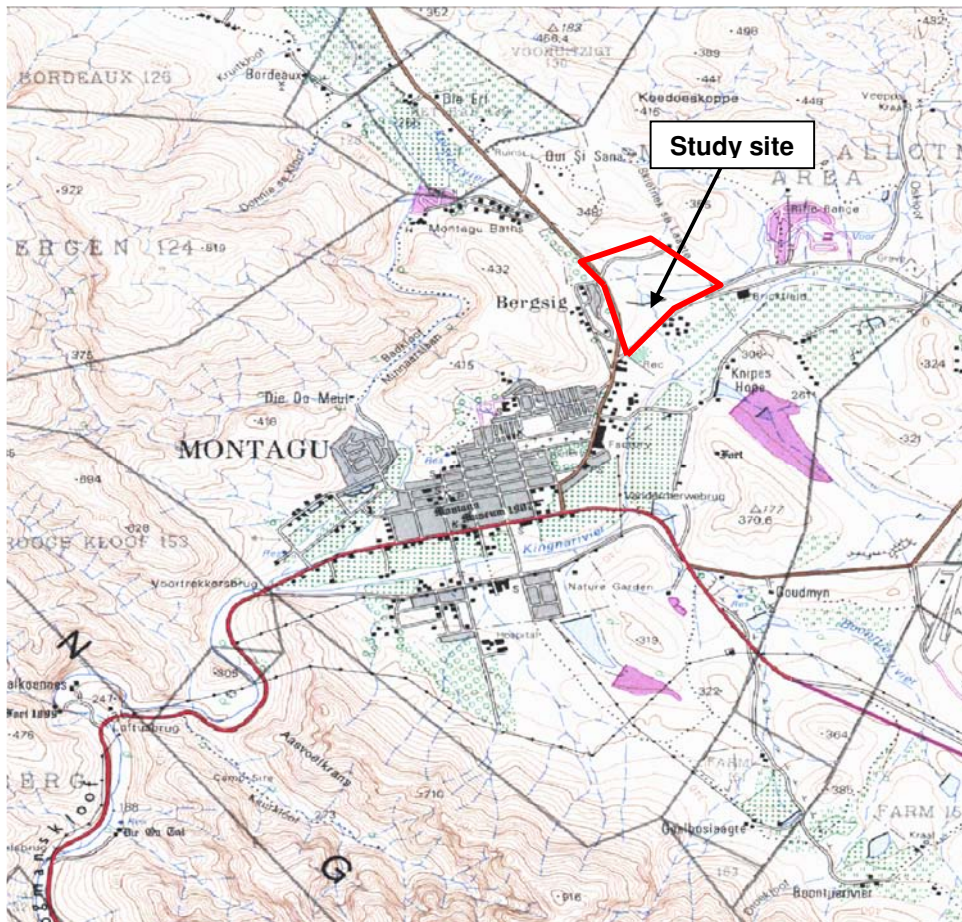


Figure 1. Locality Map (3320CC Montagu)



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site.
Note: The property boundary is only an approximate



Figure 3. View of the site facing south east



Figure 4. View of the site facing east toward the shooting range



Figure 5. View of the site facing west from the shooting range

4. STUDY APPROACH

4.1 Method

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of the proposed site (refer to Figure 2).

Archaeological heritage sites/remains were recorded and given a co-ordinate using a Garmin Gecko 201 GPS unit set on map datum WGS 84.

Isolated archaeological finds have been documented, but have not been assigned GPS co-ordinates, unless they include formal tools such as handaxes, pottery, etc

A desk top study was also undertaken.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 4th of September, 2006.

4.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no major constraints or limitations associated with the study although a large part of Erf 1, is covered in natural vegetation, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

4.3 Identification of potential risks

The proposed development will likely impact negatively on relatively important (but disturbed) Later Stone Age artefact scatters in the north western portion of Erf 1.

Unmarked human burials may also be uncovered or exposed during bulk excavations and earthworks.

4. 4 Results of the desk top study

The most important pre-colonial archaeological heritage site in the study area is Montagu Cave, a Middle Stone Age (MSA) site excavated by C. Keller (1973). This cave is located in the mountains above the town. Stone tools, modified ochre, plant and animal remains were found in the MSA cave deposits.

Early Stone Age (ESA) and MSA tools have also been documented alongside the R62 between Ashton and Montagu (Kaplan 2002).

Relatively large numbers of MSA as well as Later Stone Age (LSA) tools have also been documented alongside the R62 between the Montagu and Barrydale (Kaplan 2005).

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources (NHR) Act requires that "...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

Section 36 (3) of the HHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

6. FINDINGS

ME 1 (GPS reading S° 33 46 068 E° 20 07 907)

One large scatter of Stone Age tools, about 60-70 m in extent, occurs about 200 m north of the golf course, and about 30 m west of an old (abandoned) munitions storage facility, on an extensive series of sheet-washed and eroded slopes, in Erf 1. The highly degraded slopes, forming the upper reaches of a drainage line, appear to drain into a wetland system and dam at the bottom half of the affected property, alongside the golf course. The tools are spread quite thinly and unevenly over the surrounding environment. The scatter appears to be located just outside the north western boundary of Erf 1, however, although the precise location of the boundary is unclear (refer to Figure 2). Part of the scatter may (and probably does) fall within the affected site.

About 40-50 Later Stone Age tools, mainly in quartzite, were counted in the immediate surrounding area. A few tools in quartz were also noted. The tools comprise mainly flakes (including flake blades) and chunks. No cores or formal tools were documented. A few larger Middle Stone Age tools in quartzite, including several faceted flakes and a partially retouched flake, were also found.

The archaeological heritage remains occur in a severely disturbed and degraded context.

The archaeological heritage remains have been graded medium to low local significance.



Figure 6. ME 1. View of the site facing south. The golf course and Bergsig Township is located in the foreground



Figure 7. ME 1. View of the site facing south east. The shooting range is in the top left hand corner of the plate

Several very low density, scatters of Later Stone Age tools were also located over the remainder of the property, on the surrounding sheet washed and eroded slopes, in a severely disturbed and degraded context. The tools are all in fine-grained quartzite

The archaeological heritage remains have been graded low local significance.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed development, will very likely impact negatively on Later Stone Age artefact scatters in the north western portion of the proposed site (i.e. ME 1).

Archaeological impacts will likely be felt during both the Construction Phase and Operational Phase of the proposed project.

Unmarked human burials may also be uncovered or exposed during construction activities

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Montagu Estate development of Erf 4432 and Portion of Erf 1, Montagu, the following recommendations are made

- Later Stone Age and Middle Stone Age artefact scatters (i.e. **ME 1**) must be collected as a reference sample. For such a collection to take place, a permit will be required from Heritage Western Cape, the delegated Provincial Heritage Authority.
- Should any human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during excavations and earthworks for the proposed project, these should immediately be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Mrs Mary Leslie 462 4502), or Heritage Western Cape (Dr A. Jerardino 483 9692). Burial remains should not be disturbed or removed until inspected by the archaeologist.

9. REFERENCES

Aikman, H. 2006. Montagu Country Estate: proposed residential development: Erf 4432 and Portion of Erf 1 Montagu. Heritage statement: prepared in compliance with Section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act: Notice of Intention to Develop (NID). Report prepared by Aikman Associates Heritage Management Tulbagh.

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