



ACT Heritage Council

## Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

*Heritage Act 2004*

### **20123. Aboriginal Places – Coree and Cotter River**

Block 35 (parts)

**District of Coree**

Block 18 (part)

**District of Cotter River**

This entry which was previously part of the old heritage places or the old heritage objects registers (as defined in the *Heritage Act 2004*), as the case may be, is taken to be registered under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Conservation Requirements (including Specific Requirements), as defined under the *Heritage Act 2004*, that are contained within this document are taken to be Heritage Guidelines applying to this place or object, as the case may be.

Information restricted under *the old heritage places register or old heritage objects register* is restricted under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

**Contact:** ACT Heritage Council c/o Secretary PO Box 144  
**Enquiries:** phone 02 6207 2164 fax 02 6207 5715

Lyneham ACT 2602  
e-mail [heritage@act.gov.au](mailto:heritage@act.gov.au)



Helpline: 02 6207 9777  
Website : [www.cmd.act.gov.au](http://www.cmd.act.gov.au)  
E-mail: [EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au](mailto:EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au)



ACT Heritage Council

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**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY  
INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER**

For the purposes of s. 58(2) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act* 1991, a listing for the following places has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council, for the purpose of including:

- **Aboriginal Places in the Districts of Coree and Cotter River, ACT (3)**

In an interim Heritage Places Register.

Copies of the listing are available for inspection at ACT Public Libraries and at all ACT Government Shopfronts.

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 144, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6207 7378 Facsimile: (02) 6207 2200

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**Gazettal Date: 23/08/2001**

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**IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACES:**

Districts of Coree and Cotter River, ACT: the places comprise 3 Aboriginal sites located within or adjacent to part of the Brindabella Transmission Line Easement.

The Canberra 1:10 000 scale Adjusted Grid Coordinate (AGC) locations for the places are held within a database of ACT site locations. The AGC grid coordinates are restricted information under s.82 of the Act.

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**FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACES**

The places comprise:

1. Locations where Aboriginal flaked stone artefacts have been recorded, any associated or potential archaeological deposit and their individually specified site buffer zones (as described in Schedule 2)

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

These sites are the products of a traditional way of life that is no longer practised within the ACT. The presence of artefact scatters in these localities demonstrates past occupation and use of the place by Aboriginal people. Stone was an extremely important element of Aboriginal culture, essential in the technological and day to day life of the population. Stone artefacts constitute an enduring record of Aboriginal technology and settlement patterns. The sites subject to this interim registration do not present individually outstanding qualities since their condition and integrity have been reduced by modern landuse activities. However, as part of a related body of evidence with potential to inform about a regional pattern of past Aboriginal landuse practices and settlement patterns, these sites are significant.

The ACT Aboriginal community considers that all archaeological evidence of the occupation of the ACT by Aboriginal people is significant for its demonstration of past Aboriginal land use.

The individual artefacts at the sites have scientific and educational potential for the study of Aboriginal stone technology. Their locational and descriptive information builds upon and complements the considerable body of archaeological research that exists for the Canberra region.

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**Conservation Policy and Specific Requirements:**

In accordance with s.54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, a series of specific requirements have been identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of these Aboriginal Heritage places. The specific requirements have been prepared to implement conservation policies and objectives developed for the places. Any actions that affect the conservation of the heritage significance of the places constitute 'development' for the purposes of the Act and approval will be required prior to undertaking the action. To undertake development without approval may be an offence.

**General Conservation Policy – All Sites:**

Aboriginal sites are to be conserved appropriately in accordance with their individual heritage significance, taking into account their Aboriginal and archaeological heritage values. Aboriginal sites and their components form an integral part of the landscape. The spatial relationships between sites as well as their geographic relationship to land constitute significant information with potential to inform about past cultural practices. The maintenance of records about sites and their geographic location is essential for the conservation of this information. Areas that have potential to contain Aboriginal heritage sites, including areas in which archaeological survey has not yet been undertaken, are to be managed in a way that permits the identification, significance assessment and conservation, where appropriate, of the Aboriginal cultural heritage resource.

### **Artefact Scatters (Open Scatters)**

Artefact scatters constitute identifiably dense occurrences of stone artefacts and represent geographic foci of Aboriginal occupation related to a range of activities. Scatters may form as a result of single intensive occupation events or build up over hundreds or thousands of years due to repeated use or occupation of an area. The current appearance and structure of an artefact scatter site will depend upon the impact of events, termed *formation processes*, that have affected the artefacts during and after their deposition. Formation processes include both natural and cultural factors including soil erosion and deposition, other natural disturbances, reuse of places by Aboriginal people and later European landuse practices. The heritage values of artefact scatters are based upon their Aboriginal and archaeological significance.

Their significance to Aboriginal people is primarily based on their provision of evidence of the occupation of land by their ancestors. Artefact scatters thus comprise a demonstrable link to place for contemporary Aboriginal people. Their archaeological significance stems both from their physical representation of past cultural practice and for their potential to yield information through research that will increase our understanding of the past. The potential research value accorded to sites depends in turn on a range of factors including the individual quality and quantity of artefactual content, the condition and integrity of the site structure, whether the artefacts occur *in situ* within cultural deposit, and whether original relationships between artefacts are likely to be discernible and meaningful. The significance of artefact scatters may be thus ranked from low to high according to their value to Aboriginal people, their archaeological value and their condition and integrity. Their significance to Aboriginal people may not necessarily, however, relate to or accord with archaeological significance assessments.

### **Artefact Scatters of Low Conservation Value**

Artefact scatters identified as having low conservation value are those sites with very few artefacts, with artefacts of a common type, with no associated cultural deposit and/or sites that have already been highly disturbed and where there is negligible potential for them to provide further information. Such sites may either be conserved *in situ* or be the subject of a program of archaeological investigation and salvage as recommended by the Heritage Council, after consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.

All Aboriginal sites are considered to be significant by the Aboriginal community. Aboriginal people generally express the desire for all cultural heritage sites to be left *in situ* wherever feasible.

### **Conservation Objective – record and retain where feasible, otherwise salvage**

#### **Specific Requirements – Artefact Scatters of Low Conservation Value**

- L1** Information regarding the description and specific location of the place shall be held in a database of ACT Aboriginal heritage sites.
- L2** Actions that would affect the conservation of the heritage significance of the place constitute 'development' for the purposes of the Act.
- L3** Works that improve or benefit the conservation of the heritage significance of the place are permitted. Proponents of such works shall advise the Heritage Council and consult with the relevant Aboriginal organisations about the proposal. The agreement of the Heritage Council must be obtained prior to works being undertaken.
- L4** Development proponents shall be aware that the presence of an Aboriginal heritage site or sites within a development area may impose constraint upon the development. The nature of the constraint will vary according to the assessed significance of the site/s and the potential heritage impact of the development. For *Artefact scatters* assessed as being of low conservation value the development constraint may range from nil constraint to a requirement to undertake further survey or investigation of a place, further recording of a place and/or collection of artefacts or other cultural materials.
- L5** The ACT Heritage Council shall advise the proponent of the degree of constraint, based upon the nature of the development and its potential heritage impact and the significance assessment of the site/s, and in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
- L6** Artefacts and/or any other identified significant fabric or components of the site shall not be removed, damaged, altered or disturbed without the prior agreement of the Heritage Council, in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.

- L7** Any further investigation of sites and/or collection of artefacts and/or salvage of site fabric or other cultural materials agreed to by the Heritage Council shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations, in accordance with a proposed methodology provided to and endorsed by the Heritage Council, in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
- L8** Salvaged or collected materials shall be archived by the Heritage Unit, pending establishment of an appropriate storage facility.
- L9** If collection or salvage is advised by the Heritage Council then, following completion of salvage works as advised by the Heritage Council only requirement L1 shall apply to the identified place.

**Artefact Scatters of Medium Conservation Value**

Artefact scatters identified as having medium conservation value include sites with high artefact numbers and/or density and/or with identified or potential associated deposit. They are also sites of common type and character. Sites of medium conservation value may either be conserved *in situ* or be the subject of a program of archaeological investigation and salvage. The investigation and salvage may include collection of artefacts, subsurface testing, excavation or other investigative techniques as recommended by the Heritage Council, after consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.

All Aboriginal sites are considered to be significant by the Aboriginal community. Aboriginal people generally express the desire for all cultural heritage sites to be left *in situ* wherever feasible.

**Conservation Objective – record and retain, where feasible, or salvage**

**Specific Requirements – Artefact Scatters of Medium Conservation Value**

- M1** Information regarding the description and specific location of the place shall be held in a database of ACT Aboriginal heritage sites.
- M2** Actions that would affect the conservation of the heritage significance of the place constitute ‘development’ for the purposes of the Act.
- M3** Works that improve or benefit the conservation of the heritage significance of the place are permitted. Proponents of such works shall advise the Heritage Council and consult with the relevant Aboriginal organisations about the proposal. The agreement of the Heritage Council must be obtained prior to works being undertaken.
- M4** Development proponents shall be aware that the presence of an Aboriginal heritage site or sites within a development area may impose constraint upon the development. The nature of the constraint will vary according to the assessed significance of the site/s and the potential heritage impact of the development. For *Artefact scatters* assessed as being of medium conservation value the development constraint may range from nil constraint to a requirement to undertake further survey or investigation of all or part of the place, further recording of a place and/or collection of artefacts or other cultural materials, subsurface testing, monitoring during development or salvage excavation, or a requirement to conserve a representative part of the site whilst carrying out further works on the remainder.
- M5** The ACT Heritage Council shall advise the proponent of the degree of constraint, based upon the nature of the development and its potential heritage impact and the significance assessment of the site/s, and in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
- M6** Artefacts and/or any other identified significant fabric or components of the site shall not be removed, damaged, altered or disturbed without the prior agreement of the Heritage Council, in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
- M7** Any further investigation of sites and/or collection of artefacts and/salvage of site fabric or other cultural materials agreed to by the Heritage Council shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations, in accordance with a proposed methodology provided to and endorsed by the Heritage Council, in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
- M8** Salvaged or collected materials shall be archived by the Heritage Unit, pending establishment of an appropriate storage facility.
- M9** If collection or salvage of all of the place is advised by the Heritage Council then, following completion of salvage works as advised by the Heritage Council only requirement M1 shall apply to the identified place.

- M10** The place may not be promoted for public use, interpretation or visitation without approval from the Heritage Council in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal groups. Any proposed educational and presentational uses of the place shall be considered by the ACT Heritage Council and relevant Aboriginal organisations on the basis of whether sufficient information is provided about their impacts and potential impacts upon the place.
- M11** Any proposed research that may potentially impact upon the heritage significance of the place shall be conducted in accordance with a research proposal endorsed by the Heritage Council after consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.

#### **Areas of Potential Aboriginal Heritage Sensitivity**

Areas of potential Aboriginal Heritage sensitivity or potential archaeological deposits (PADs) are generally areas defined in the course of professional field or predictive archaeological assessment. They include areas where sites or artefacts are identified as likely to occur, but where ground visibility precludes site or artefact detection or where field survey has not been undertaken. Knowledge of regional and/or local patterns of site occurrence and site formation processes is generally prerequisite for the identification of areas of archaeological potential. Further investigation of areas of archaeological potential may be required prior to or during development. Such further investigation may include sub-surface testing, monitoring or excavation. The significance of such areas will ultimately depend on the outcome of the further investigations.

All Aboriginal sites are considered to be significant by the Aboriginal community. Aboriginal people generally express the desire for all cultural heritage sites to be left *in situ* wherever feasible.

#### **Conservation Objective – record, retain, investigate, reassess**

##### **Specific Requirements – Areas of Potential Aboriginal Heritage Sensitivity**

- P1** Information regarding the description and specific location of the place shall be held in a database of ACT Aboriginal heritage sites.
- P2** Actions that would affect the conservation of the heritage significance of the place constitute 'development' for the purposes of the Act.
- P3** Works that improve or benefit the conservation of the heritage significance of the place are permitted. Proponents of such works shall advise the Heritage Council and consult with the relevant Aboriginal organisations about the proposal. The agreement of the Heritage Council must be obtained prior to works being undertaken.
- P4** Areas of potential Aboriginal heritage sensitivity shall be further investigated to assess their Aboriginal and archaeological significance prior to their development. Development proponents shall be aware that the presence of such a place within a development area may impose constraint upon the development. For *Areas of Potential Aboriginal heritage Sensitivity* the development constraint will occur in two stages. Initially the constraint may range from nil constraint to a requirement to undertake further investigative work such as additional field survey and/or subsurface testing. Any subsequent constraint will vary according to the assessed significance of any Aboriginal cultural heritage materials located within the area and the potential heritage impact of the development.
- P5** The ACT Heritage Council shall advise the proponent of the degree of constraint, based upon the nature of the development and its potential heritage impact and the significance assessment of the site/s, in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
- P6** Should further investigation determine that Aboriginal archaeological materials are present in the place of archaeological potential then records about the place shall be updated, and the Heritage Council shall be consulted about the appropriate management of the place. In providing such advice the Heritage Council shall consult with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.

<b>SCHEDULE 2</b>			<i>RESTRICTED INFORMATION</i>
<b>Site Description</b>	<i>Location</i>	<b>Specific Requirements (as per Schedule 1)</b>	<b>Precise Location (Canberra 1:10 000 Adjusted Grid Coordinates are restricted information)</b>
<p><b>Site UF 203</b> A scatter of 2 artefacts located on a forestry track. Recorded again in 2001 as highly disturbed.</p> <p>Recorded –Winston Gregson 1992; Mills 2001</p>	Block 35, District of Coree	<b>Artefact Scatter of Low Conservation Value – L1-L2-L3-L4-L5-L6-L7-L8-L9</b>	<p><b>Grid Reference (Restricted information)</b></p> <p>The location of the place is defined as the area within a circle of 25 m radius. The place is located somewhere within a circle of 50 m radius around the AGC reference.</p>
<p><b>Site UF 195</b> This site was first recorded in 1992 as an extensive open scatter of 23 flaked stone artefacts. The recorded artefacts were in a disturbed context, revealed in the surface of a forestry track running along a spurline. Artefacts were located along a 140 m length of the track. Undisturbed parts of the site potentially extend off track across the crest of the spurline. Recorded – Heffernan 1992; Mills 2001</p>	Block 35, District of Coree	<b>Artefact Scatter of Medium Conservation within a an area of Potential Sensitivity– M1-M2-M3-M4-M5-M6-M7-M8-M9-M10-M11 and P1-P2-P3-P4-P5-P6</b>	<p><b>Grid Reference (restricted information)</b></p> <p>The location of the place is defined as the area within a circle of 100 m radius around the AGC reference.</p>
<p><b>Site PC-OS-1</b> An open scatter of flaked stone artefacts located on the mid-slopes of a spurline above a creek. Artefacts were revealed in the surface of an unsealed track crossing the southern side of the spur. The site area has suffered previous impact from land clearance and vehicular access, however it was noted that there was some potential for undisturbed archaeological deposit to have survived in limited areas across the site. Recorded – Huys 2001; Mills 2001</p>	Block 18, District of Cotter River	<b>Artefact Scatter of Medium Conservation Value within an area of Potential Sensitivity– M1-M2-M3-M4-M5-M6-M7-M8-M9-M10-M11 and P1-P2-P3-P4-P5-P6</b>	<p><b>Grid Reference</b></p> <p><b>Map No.176-594</b> The recorded artefacts are within the area bounded by the following AGC coordinates: <b>(restricted information)</b></p> <p>The artefacts are also within a broader area of potential Aboriginal Heritage sensitivity bounded by the following grid coordinates: <b>(restricted information)</b></p>