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16 May 2022

To :

Attention : Jean Beater

email :

## **HERITAGE ASSESSMENT DESKTOP STUDY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT ON WAKESLEIGH RD, BELLAIR, DURBAN KZN.**

A study was made of aerial photographs, maps and records available without a “windscreen” survey.

Heritage resources in the area date from the mid 1800’s, such as farmhouses and railway related structures. Wakesleigh Rd connected Bellair (Sarnia Rd) with Cato Manor. Important residences and farms were located on Wakesleigh Rd.

The following buildings were identified as important buildings in Bellair in a survey in 1984 by Prof.Kearney:

- Bellair Railway Station – 1900 Heritage Landmark
- Residences at :
  - 193 Wakesleigh Rd
  - 143 Wakesleigh Rd (demolished)
  - 258 Wakesleigh Rd (Trevean) – 1881 Heritage Landmark
  - 45, 53, 59 and 69 Kenmare Rd
  - 52/70 Bedford Ave (in a ruin state)
  - 47 Corumbene Rd (restored as part of a complex)

The Old Main Line suburbs developed along the rail route to Pietermaritzburg. Bellair station is the closest station to Wakesleigh Rd. The town of Bellair and Hillary grew around the small stations and roads were built along this route and as off-shoots to the main route. Earlier farms in the area were assimilated into the “suburbs” and therefore adopted Bellair as their address. Residences were either large villas in large garden settings or small cottages on small plots nearer the station. More recent residential developments built since 1962 are not regarded as Heritage resources and will not need to be screened. If residential complexes have 60yr old (or older) structures incorporated into the complex then the whole complex falls under the requirements of the KZN Amafa Heritage Act.

The proposed widening of Wakesleigh Rd will impact the Northern side of the road through expropriation and demolitions, the extent of the impact on the Southern side is not determined. A total of 13 erfes with existing structures on the Northern side were noted from the research, of these it is estimated that 7 of these structures are over 60 years old. A total of 18 erfes with existing structures were noted on the Southern side of Wakesleigh Rd (age not confirmed).

The road bridge over the railway line is at the West end of Wakesleigh Rd where it intersects with Sarnia Rd. This bridge would have been constructed around the same time as the line was extended from Bellair to Hillary in 1903. The bridge is part of a group of railway structures on the “Old Main line”.

Another well-known landmark is “Trevean” a private residence at 258 Wakesleigh Rd. It was built for Cpt Hitchens in 1882, Hitchens was a business man and Minister for Railways and Harbours. It was declared a Heritage Landmark and is currently being restored. It is on the Northern side of Wakesleigh Rd and will be impacted by the development. The property is approached from Wakesleigh Rd through two pairs of Edwardian styled gate posts, the landscaped garden has beautiful stone structures as part of a sunken garden to the right of the driveway. Refer to Figures (8-13).

The proposed development will trigger an Amafa Built Environment permit application for most of the erfs alongside the route. Where the development affects a structure that is over 60 years old (including boundary walls) within the boundary of an erf, an Amafa permit will be necessary for demolition or alteration.



Figure 1 : Google Earth Image 2021 (proposed development)

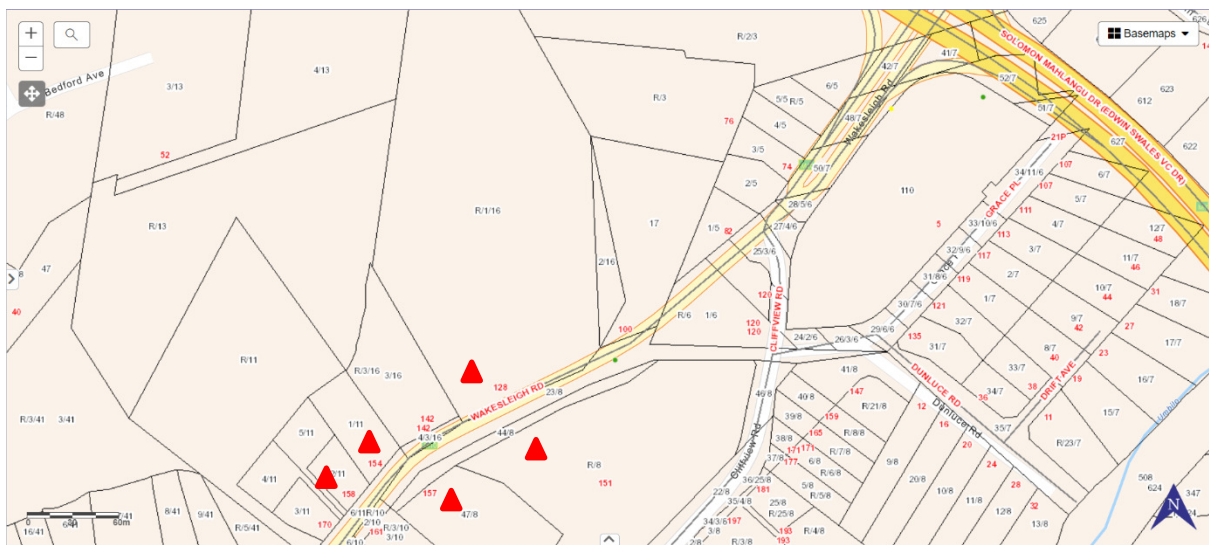


Figure 2 : Ethekwini GIS – structures identified (red)

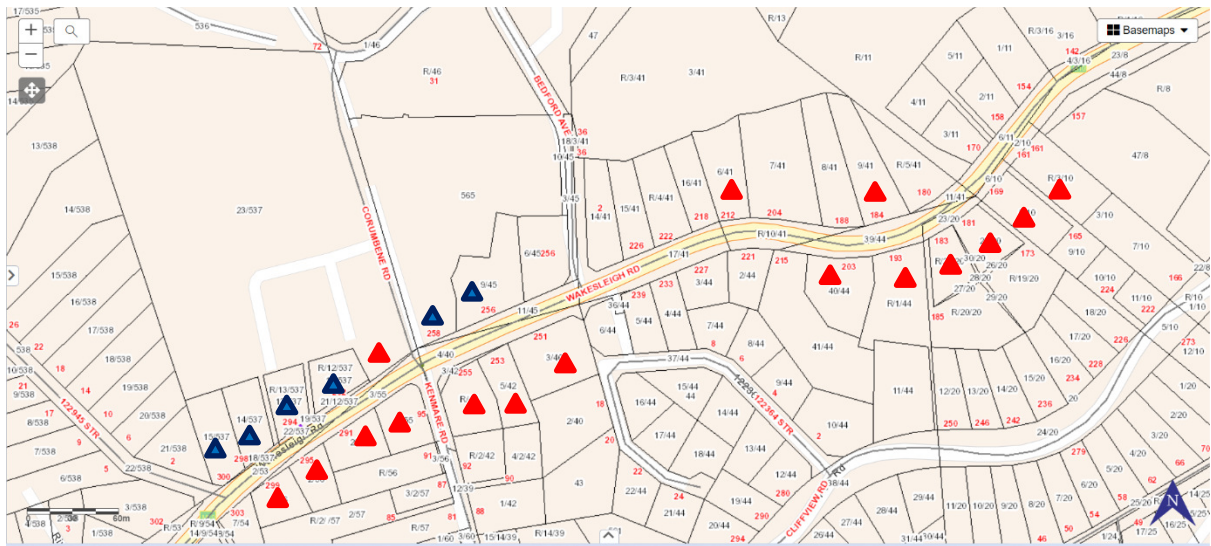


Figure 3 : Ethekwini GIS – structures identified (red) Heritage resources (blue)

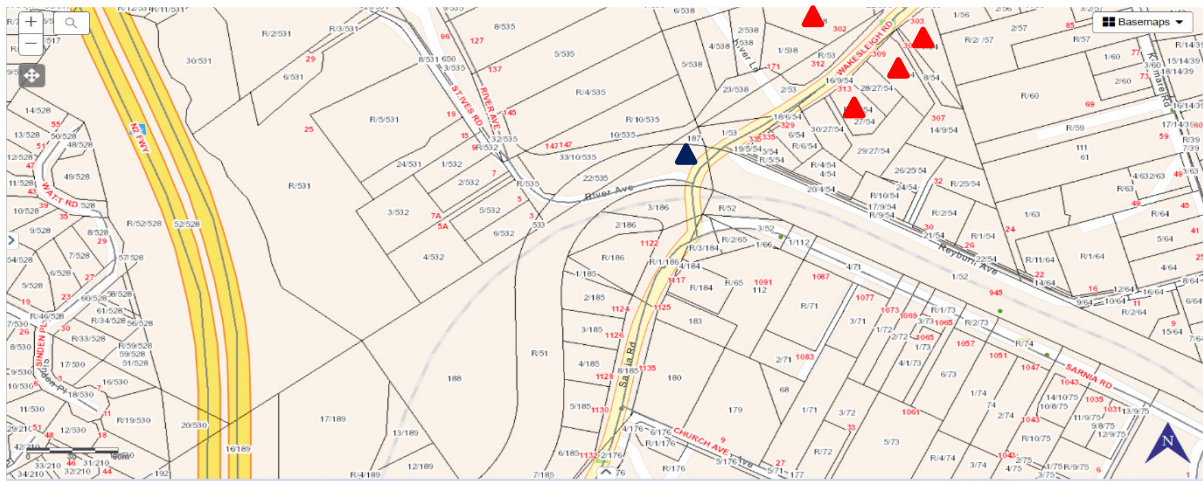


Figure 4 : Ethekwini GIS – structures identified (red) Heritage resources (blue)

Heritage Resources identified in the survey that will be impacted :

- 300 Wakesleigh Rd
- 298 Wakesleigh Rd
- 294 Wakesleigh Rd
- 292 Wakesleigh Rd (boundary wall)
- 258 Wakesleigh Rd
- 256 Wakesleigh Rd
- Railway overpass bridge

**Note : ALL properties' (of the entire development area) records to be checked to confirm the age of ALL existing structures (this was not completed in the desktop study as permission from owners is required)**



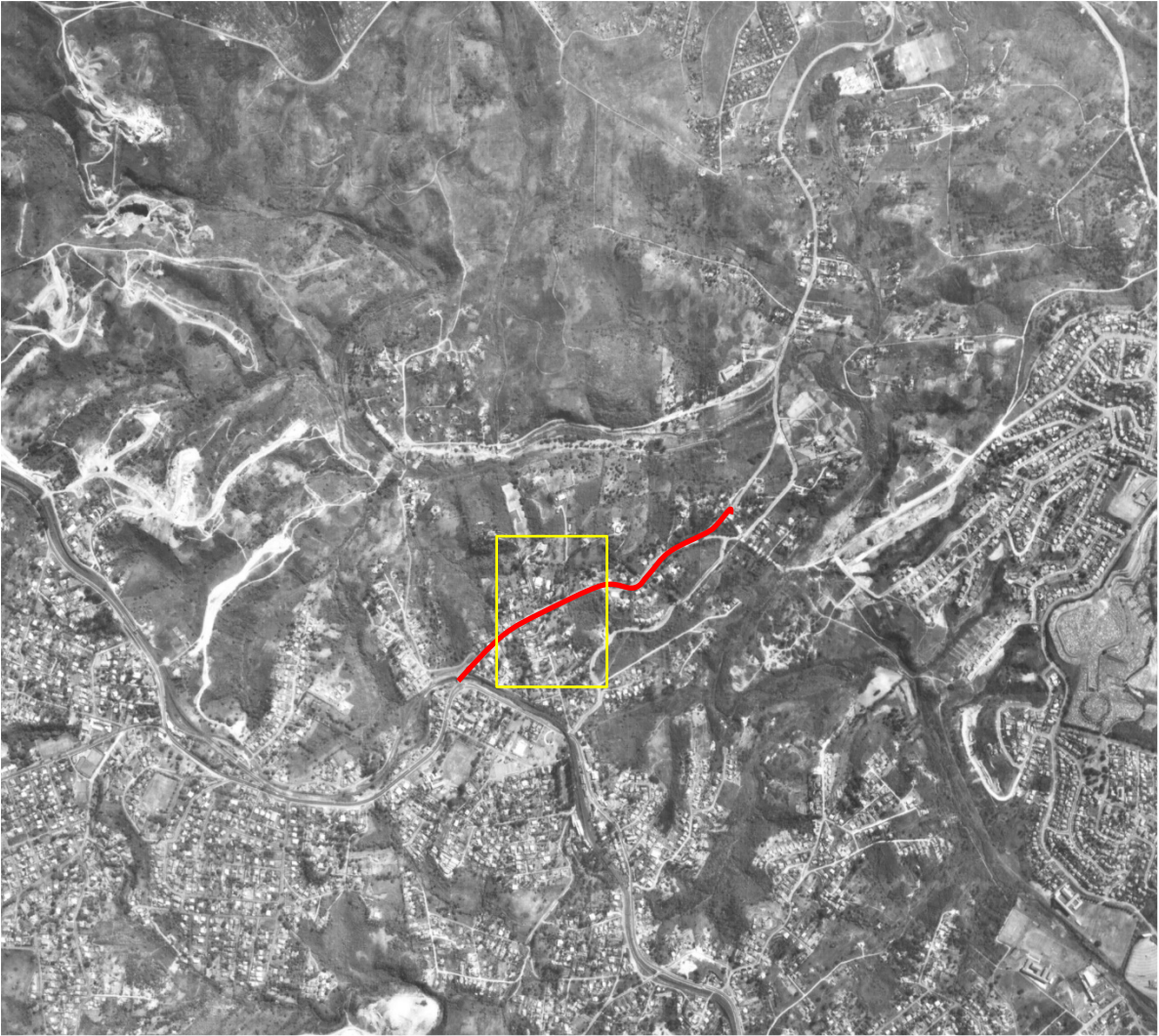


Figure 5 – 1968 aerial photograph



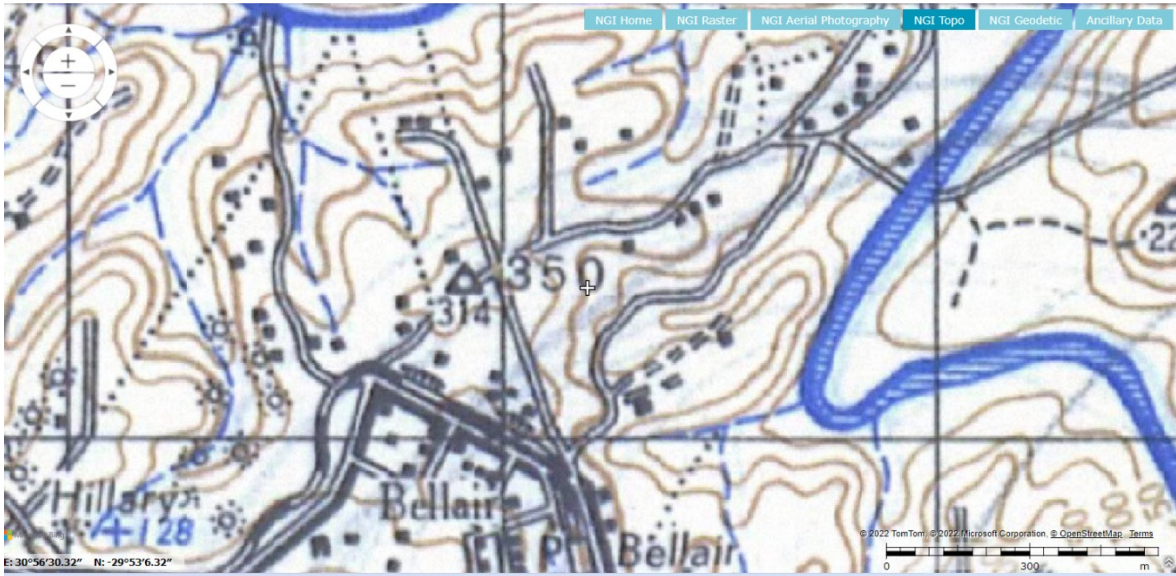


Figure 6 – Topographic Map +-1950

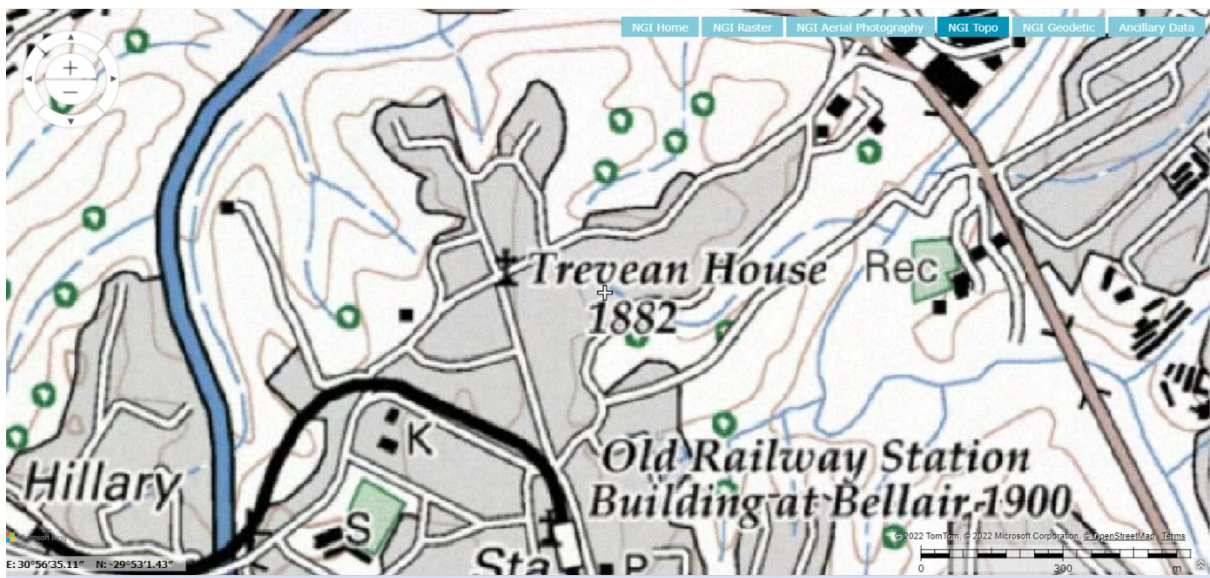


Figure 7 – Topographic Map +-1990







Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12  
Trevean at 258 Wakesleigh Rd – House, driveway, garden and gateposts



Figure 13