

**HERITAGE SURVEY FOR THE PROPOSED HILLCOVE
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, PIETERMARITZBURG**

FOR LAURUSCO DEVELOPMENTS (PTY) LTD

DATE: 20 DECEMBER 2010

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Lauresco Developments (Pty) Ltd. to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed Hillcove development, Pietermaritzburg. The development is located between the Pietermaritzburg suburbs of Bellevue and Ashburton and is north of the freeway (fig. 1 - 2). The development is approximately 3km x 2.5km in size and occurs from the freeway to the Msunduzi River.

The proposed development occurs on the farm Bellevue 14681. This farm was first farmed in the mid-late 19th century. In the past, the affected area has been used for pasturage, afforestation, and sugar cane farming. Much of the land has thus been affected by agricultural activities (fig.'s 2 -3). The soil tends to be thin in the area and occurs above a thick shale geological layer.

The impacts on the area will be:

- House foundations
- Servitudes

Some of the affected area has been previously surveyed. In 1998, a preliminary archaeological survey was undertaken for Bellevue (Appendix B). In 1998-1999 the northern parts of the farm were surveyed and/or excavated for a Transnet pipeline, and then again in 2007 and 2010. The farmhouses have also been initially assessed by an application in the 1990s.

The survey located several types of heritage sites, however it is incomplete since archaeological visibility was very poor in some areas.

KWAZULU-NATAL HERITAGE ACT NO. 4 OF 2008

1) “33. General protection: Structures.—

- a) No structure which is, or which may reasonably be expected to be older than 60 years, may be demolished, altered or added to without the prior written

- approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- b) Where the Council does not grant approval, the Council must consider special protection in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- 2) The Council may, by notice in the *Gazette*, exempt—
- (a) a defined geographical area; or
 - b) defined categories of sites within a defined geographical area, from the provisions of subsection where the Council is satisfied that heritage resources falling in the defined geographical area or category have been identified and are adequately protected in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- 3) A notice referred to in subsection (2) may, by notice in the *Gazette*, be amended or withdrawn by the Council.
- 4) **34. General protection: Graves of victims of conflict.**—No person may damage, alter, exhume, or remove from its original position—
- (a) the grave of a victim of conflict;
 - (b) a cemetery made up of such graves; or
 - (c) any part of a cemetery containing such graves, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- 5) **35. General protection: Traditional burial places.**—
- a) No grave—
 - b) not otherwise protected by this Act; and
 - c) not located in a formal cemetery managed or administered by a local authority, may be damaged, altered, exhumed, removed from its original position, or otherwise disturbed without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- (1) The Council may only issue written approval once the Council is satisfied that—
- (a) the applicant has made a concerted effort to consult with communities and individuals who by tradition may have an interest in the grave; and

- (b) the applicant and the relevant communities or individuals have reached agreement regarding the grave.
- (c) **36. General protection: Battlefield sites, archaeological sites, rock art sites, palaeontological sites, historic fortifications, meteorite or meteorite impact sites.—**
- d) No person may destroy, damage, excavate, alter, write or draw upon, or otherwise disturb any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- (1) Upon discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite by any person, all activity or operations in the general vicinity of such material or meteorite must cease forthwith and a person who made the discovery must submit a written report to the Council without delay.
- (2) The Council may, after consultation with an owner or controlling authority, by way of written notice served on the owner or controlling authority, prohibit any activity considered by the Council to be inappropriate within 50 metres of a rock art site.
- (3) No person may exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb, damage, destroy, own or collect any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- (4) No person may bring any equipment which assists in the detection of metals and archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, or excavation equipment onto any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, or meteorite impact site, or use similar detection or excavation equipment for the recovery of meteorites, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

- (5) The ownership of any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site, on discovery, vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.” (KZN Heritage Act of 2008)

METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps. The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult the databases. These databases contain most of the known heritage sites in KwaZulu-Natal, and known memorials and other protected sites, battlefields and cemeteries in southern Africa. We assess early topographical maps as well as 1937 aerial photographs to determine the possible location of farm labourer’s graves and the age of built structures. I consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites. These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves
 - 1.5.3. Middens
 - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
 - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

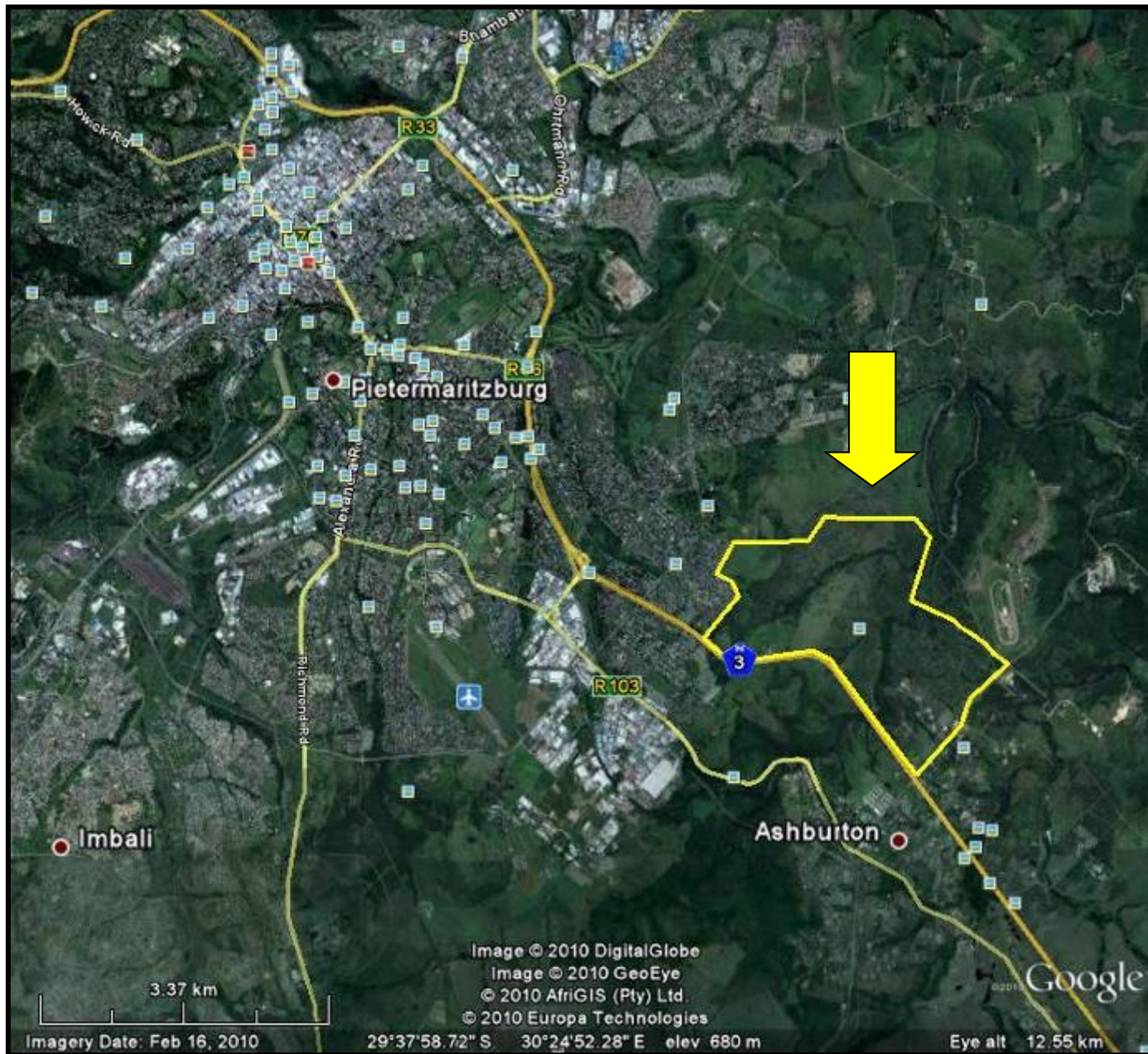
8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries

8.5. Living Heritage Sites

8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

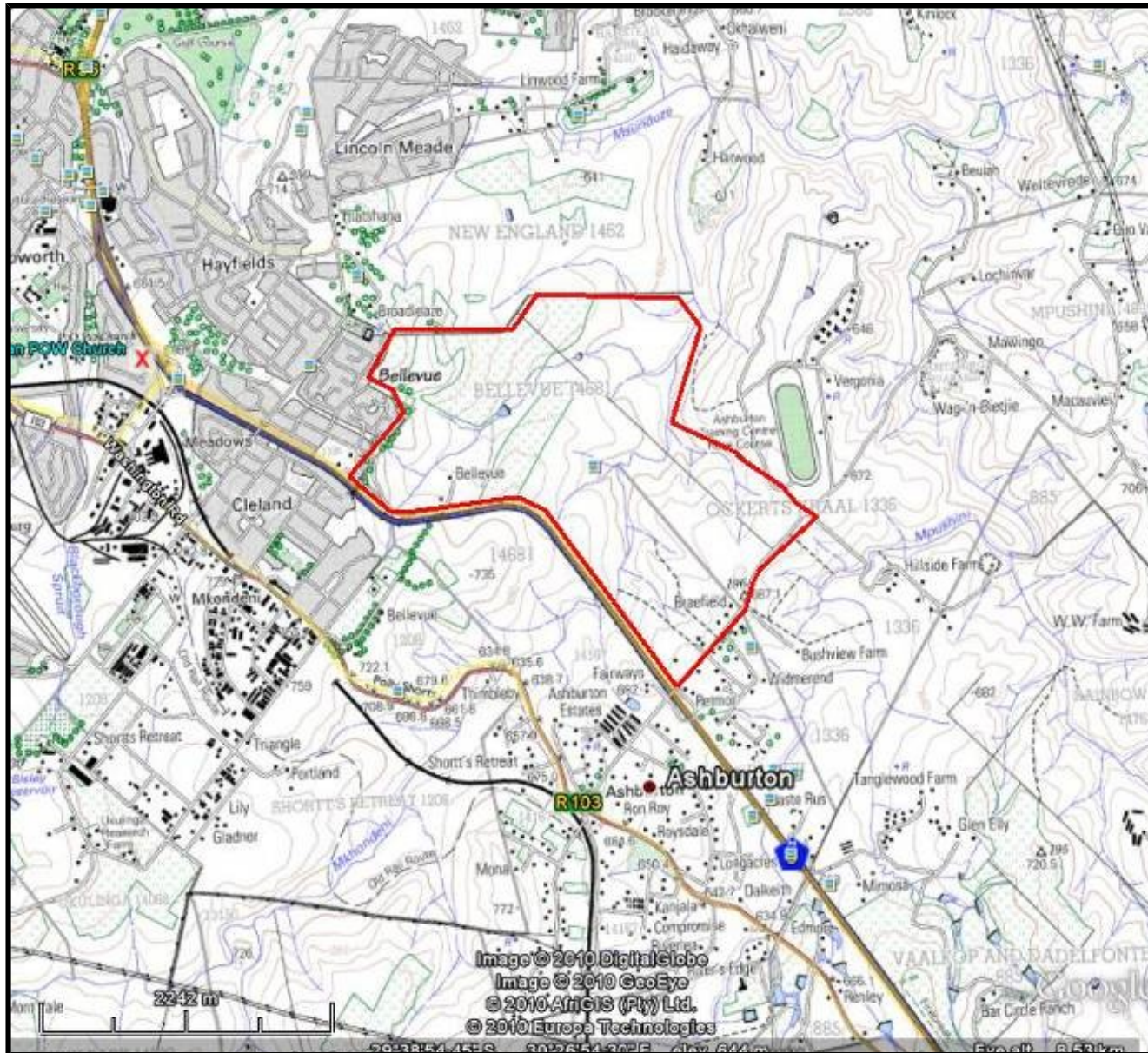
The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE AFFECTED AREA¹



¹ Outlined in yellow

FIG. 2: 2001 TOPOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW OF THE AFFECTED AREA²



² Outlined in red

RESULTS

DESKTOP STUDY

The affected area was preliminary surveyed in 1998 (Anderson and Whitelaw 1998 - see Appendix B). During this survey, there was a basic Deeds Office search, and a site visit. The site visit was pre-empted with a survey of the Natal Museum data records. It was noted that three sites occur in the area of Bellevue. The recommendation of the desktop study was that a survey be undertaken in winter when the grass was less dense.

The desktop study of the 1968 topographical map and 1937 aerial photographs show that Bellevue farm, and the labourers' houses were in existence by 1937 (fig.'s 3 – 4). These are all still visible on the current Google Earth maps. This implies that many of the buildings predate 1937, and are thus protected by the KZN Heritage Act of 2008. Furthermore, there is a possibility that graves may exist near the farm labourers' houses. The report by Anderson and Whitelaw (1998) did not note these labourers' houses as the aerial maps were not available at that time.

The survey could not clearly locate the labourers' houses, as the vegetation was too dense. This means that if graves did exist they would have been missed in the survey. There are two clusters of labourers' houses. The western cluster consists of approximately differing number of houses through time: 5 (1937), 8 (1968) and 6 (2010). The eastern cluster also consists of varying numbers: 2 (1937), 5 (1968), 0 (2010). The houses in 2010 are no longer in use.

Since some of the houses pre-date 1937, there are likely to be graves predating 1937, as it was then still common practice to bury people near the homestead. This practice later changed as formal cemeteries were enforced. If graves do exist in these areas, then a social impact study specifically geared towards human graves will be required. Since this is a sensitive issue, I would

suggest that a survey is undertaken when the grass has been burnt or in the mid-winter.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Three archaeological sites have been recorded in the general area; however only one of these occurs within the affected area and one may extend into the affected area.

2930CB 070

This site is a scatter of Late Stone Age stone tools that are in a secondary context.

Significance: The site is of low significance

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required, as the site has been sampled in 1998.

2930CB 068

The main part of the site occurs outside of the affected area; however, it probably extends into the development zone. The site consists of an extended scatter of Middle Stone Age flakes that are in a secondary context.

Significance: The site is of low significance

Mitigation: No further mitigation is required.

2930CB 067

This site occurs outside of the affected area; however, it is an example of what types of sites does occur in the area, and why I have noted some areas as being archaeologically sensitive. The site is an Early Iron Age (EIA) village associated with the Ntshekane phase of the EIA – AD900 – AD1100.

I excavated the site in 1998 as mitigation for a pipeline. Several complete vessels, stone lined pits, faunal remains and pottery sherds were recovered from these minimal excavations. This site is located on a hill that is very similar to the hill to the east of the Bellevue farm buildings. A similar site may thus exist on that hill.

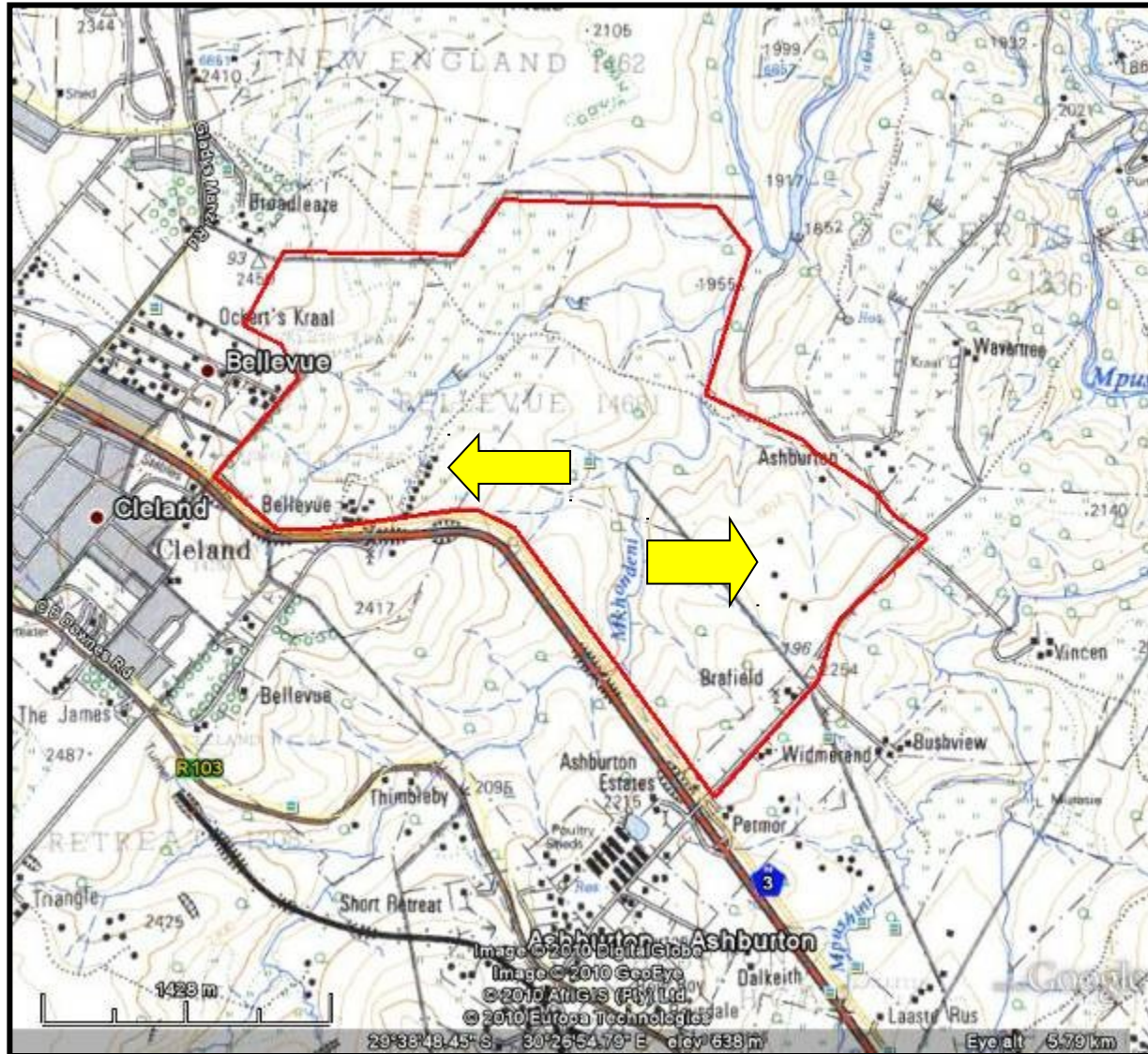
ARCHITECTURAL SITES

The land around Bellevue Farm and Ockerts Kraal was first registered in 1853. One of the more notable owners was that of the founder of The Natal Witness, David Dale Buchanan. There have been several owners and subdivisions of this land resulting in several buildings being erected. A detailed architectural report, with pictures, is given in Appendix A.

There are two shale barns at the Bellevue farmstead. Both shale barns appear to predate 1937; however, the one barn has been modified more recently. The two silos are probably related to the shale barns. The original brick barn may pre-date 1950; however, it has also been extended more recently.

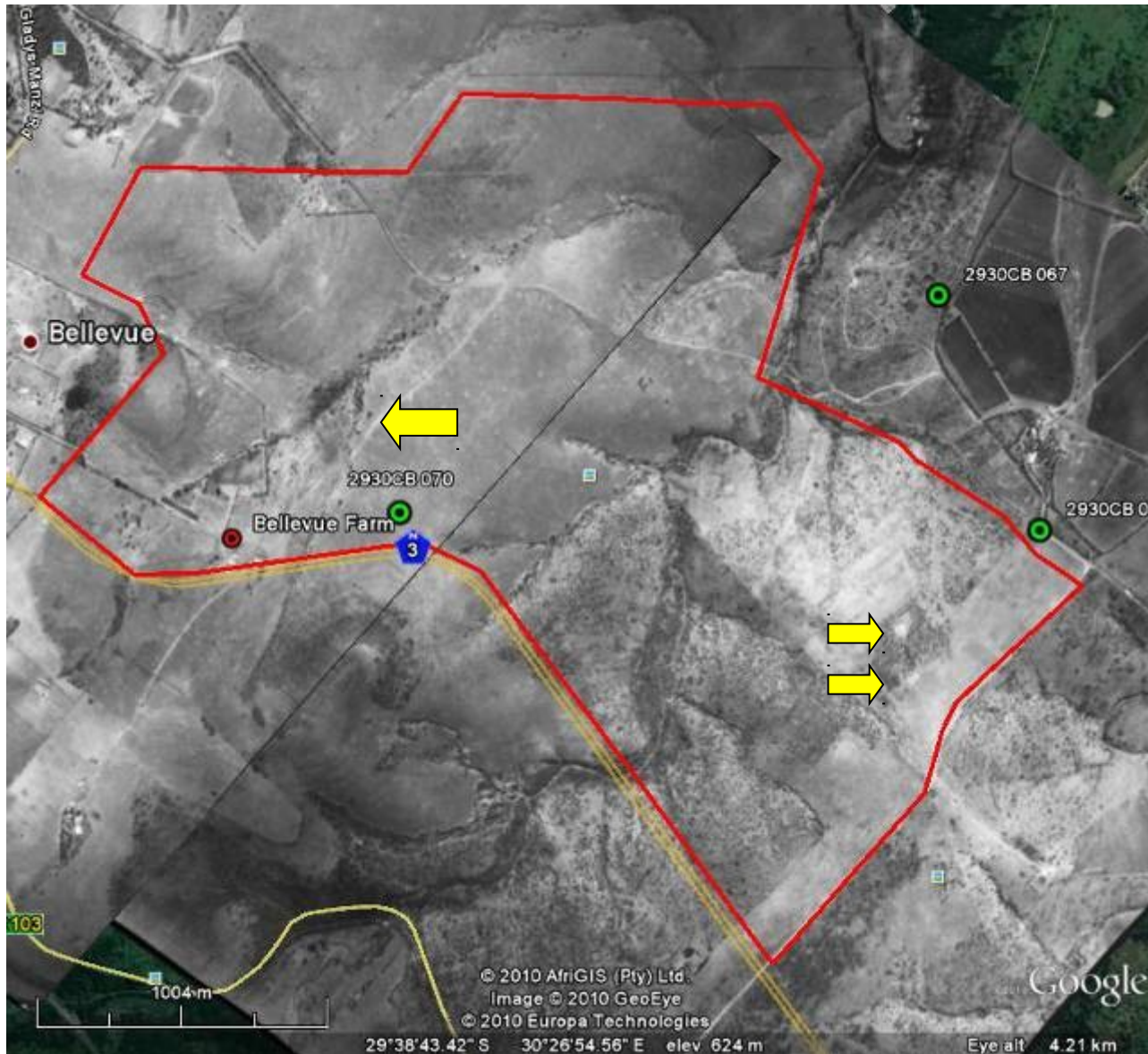
The main farmhouse post dates 1937, and dates between 1943 and 1965. It is currently in a state of disrepair. The other two houses appear to be more recent in age.

FIG. 3: 1968 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE AFFECTED AREA³



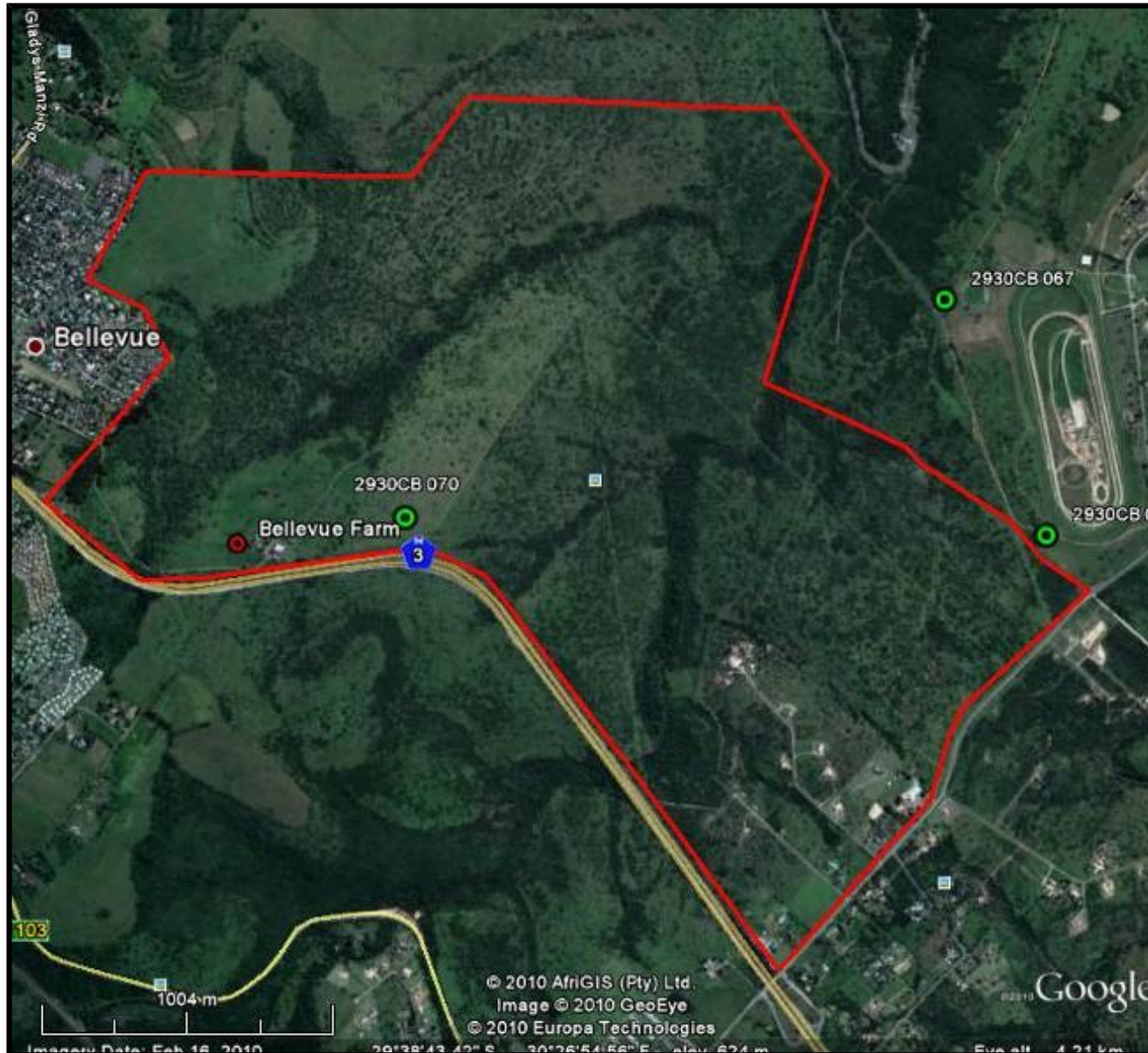
³ Yellow arrows indicate labourer's houses

FIG. 4: 1937 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE AFFECTED AREA⁴



⁴ Yellow arrows indicate labourer's houses

FIG. 5: LOCATION OF HERITAGE SITES IN THE AFFECTED AREA



Significance: The main farmhouse is of low significance and the developer may apply to destroy this building. The silos and barns, are however of medium to high significance due to their architectural merit and topophilia. The silos and barns are a landmark for people driving to/from Pietermaritzburg and thus they have social relevance.

Mitigation: The farmhouse building has some raw materials that could be used for renovating other historical buildings in Pietermaritzburg. This building, with the other recent houses, may be demolished. It was suggested that the materials be donated to Amafa KZN, as part of their raw material bank. The barns and silos should be renovated and used as part of the building plans for the development. These may be re-used as offices, for example.

PALAEONTOLOGY

Dr. G Groenewald states:

“The site of the development falls on Dwyka Tillite and possibly Pietermaritzburg Shale in part of the site.

As far as I know, the Dwyka Formation has not yet produced fossils from this area, although it does contain fossils of a very important vertebrate called Mesosaurus. If excavations are less than 18m deep I do not think any examples will be found as the weathering will be extensive. Trace fossils are sometimes associated with shallow water shales - looking much like the outcrop picture you sent me. If any fossil bone material [is] recorded the developer will have to appoint a qualified palaeontologist to confirm the find and then rescue the fossils under a SAHRA permit.

The Pietermaritzburg Shale Formation is a deep wear deposit and it is unlikely that any significant fossils will be found in this formation“(pers. com. email 14/12/2010).

SENSITIVE AREAS

Due to the dense vegetation, some areas could not be adequately surveyed. These are areas that have not been ploughed and most likely would have some form of heritage site if the evidence of nearby sites were extrapolated to this area. I also base the sensitivity of these areas from my experience of working on several projects in the nearby areas. Figures 6 – 7 indicate the location of these sensitive areas.

There are also two areas of concern, and these pertain to potential human graves. Figures 3 – 4 indicate that labourers’ houses existed in the affected area before 1937. Graves of that age would be closer to the surface, or even sunken, by now, and I would not have been able to observe these graves given the current dense vegetation. I suggest that these two areas are resurveyed at a later stage, preferably once the grass has been burnt. In this way, I would be able to make a more reliable observation and conclusion. I believe this is essential, since construction may be halted if graves are located at that stage.

The process of grave removals is a complex one that requires community consultation, advertisements, several permits, and finally reburial. Moreover, those graves older than 60 years require a qualified archaeologist to undertake the entire process. This process is summarised as follows⁵:

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), and KZN Heritage Act of 1997 and 2008, graves older than 60 years (not in a municipal

⁵ Information supplied by SAHRA, and it applies to KZN, although falling under the KZN Heritage Act.

graveyard) are protected. Human remains younger than 60 years should be handled only by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the Human Tissues Act. Anyone who wishes to develop an area where there are graves older than 60 years is required to follow the process described in the legislation (section 36 and associated regulations). The specialist will require a permit from the heritage resources authority. The process is as follows:

- Determine/ confirm the presence of the graves on the property. Normally the quickest way to proceed is to obtain the service of a professional archaeologist accredited to undertake burial relocations. The archaeologist will provide an estimate of the age of the graves. There may be a need for archival research and possibly test excavations (permit required).
- The preferred decision is to move the development so that the graves may remain undisturbed. If this is done, the developer must satisfy SAHRA/KZN Heritage that adequate arrangements have been made to protect the graves on site from the impact of the development. This usually involves fencing the grave(yard) and setting up a small site management plan indicating who will be responsible for maintaining the graves and how this is legally tied into the development. It is recommended that a distance of 10-20 m is left undisturbed between the grave and the fence around the graves.
- If the developer wishes to relocate or disturb the graves:
 - A 60-day public participation (social consultation) process as required by section 36 (and regulations - see attachment), must be undertaken to identify any direct descendants of those buried on the property. This allows for a period of consultation with any family members or community to ascertain what their wishes are for the burials. It involves notices to the public on site and through representative media. This may be done by the archaeologist, who can explain the process, but for large or sensitive sites, a social consultant should be employed.

Archaeologists often work with undertakers, who rebury the human remains.

- If as a result of the public participation, the family (where descendants are identified) or the community agree to the relocation process then the graves may be relocated.
- The archaeologist must submit a permit application to SAHRA/KZN Heritage for the disinterment of the burials. This must include written approval of the descendants or, if there has not been success in identifying direct descendants, written documentation of the social consultation process, which must indicate to KZN Heritage's satisfaction, the efforts that have been made to locate them. It must also include details of the exhumation process and the place to which the burials are to be relocated. (There are regulations regarding creating new cemeteries and so this usually means that relocation must be to an established communal rural or formal municipal cemetery.)
- Permission must be obtained before exhumation takes place from the landowner where the graves are located, and from the owners/managers of the graveyard to which the remains will be relocated.
- Other relevant legislation must be complied with, including the Human Tissues Act (National Department of Health) and any ordinances of the Provincial Department of Health). The archaeologist can usually advise about this.

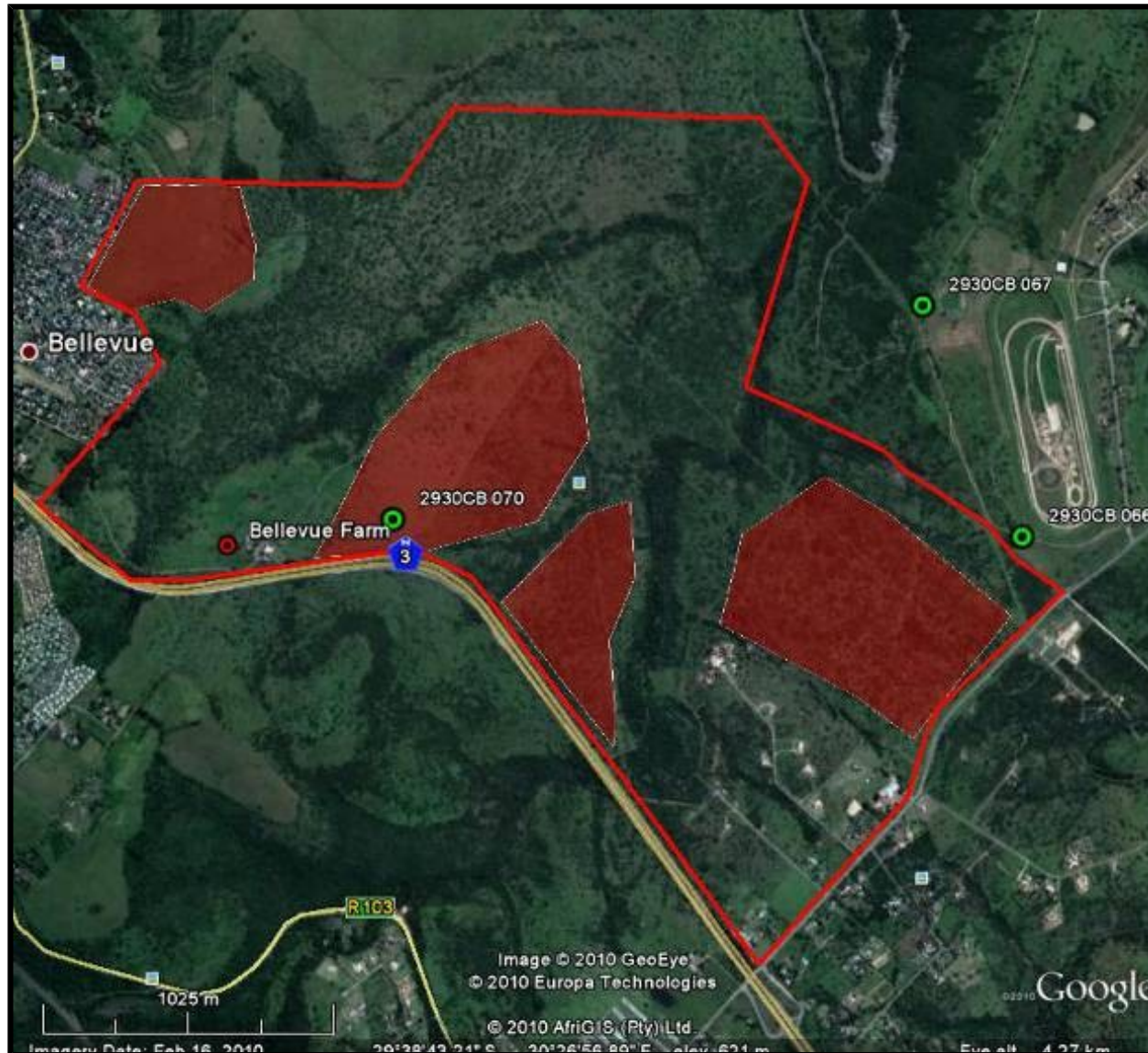
MANAGEMENT PLAN

The known archaeological sites are of low significance and no further mitigation is required. The developer will need to obtain a permit for the destruction of the two archaeological sites.

The farm buildings are of various ages and some are significant. The significant buildings, i.e. the barns and silos, should be protected and incorporated into the development. The main farmhouse is of low significance and the development will need to apply to KZN Heritage, Built Environment, for a demolition permit. The alternative is to renovate the building, with the barns and silos, as part of the development. I suggest that an archaeologist is on site during any earthmoving activity in the area of the farm buildings so that historical rubbish dumps may be sampled or excavated.

The sensitive areas will need to be resurveyed at a later stage. I cannot make a decision regarding these areas until there is adequate visibility. This is most important for the two areas of potential graves. If graves are observed then the development will need to decide if the graves are to remain *in situ* or if they will be reburied. This decision would be facilitated by the social impact study. If graves do occur in the affected area, they would probably require an archaeologist and an undertaker.

FIG. 6: LOCATION OF SENSITIVE AREAS IN THE AFFECTED AREA⁶



⁶ Shaded red = sensitive areas

FIG. 7: LOCATION OF SENSITIVE AREAS IN THE AFFECTED AREA



CONCLUSION

Umlando was contracted to undertake a heritage survey of the proposed development of Bellevue 14681, Pietermaritzburg. The survey was undertaken in early December 2010, and unfortunately, the vegetation was too dense to make a proper assessment of four areas, of which two areas are of potentially high sensitivity due to possible human graves. The rest of the land was surveyed along the paths and cuttings, was previously surveyed, or has been extensively ploughed since the late 19th century.

The four sensitive areas will need to be surveyed at a later date once the vegetation has thinned out or burnt.

The existing farm buildings have varying significance. The farmhouses are of low significance and post-date 1943 (or 1965). The barns and silos predate 1937 and are thus protected by legislation. The suggestion from the architect is that these buildings should be retained and incorporated into the development. These buildings are also part of the social landscape in that they are landmarks.

It is unlikely that the development will affect any palaeontological material.

**APPENDIX A
ARCHITECTURAL REPORT**

**Short desktop assessment of the farmstead situated on Portion
1 of the farm Bellevue 15321, Pietermaritzburg**

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Fig: Showing site from north (Author 2010)

Introduction and methodology:

Debbie Whelan of Archaic Consulting was requested by Gavin Anderson of Umlando Archaeological Tourism and Resource Management to prepare a short desktop report on the heritage value of the buildings forming the Bellevue Farmstead located at Bellevue, east of Pietermaritzburg. The intention was the completion of a first phase Architectural and historical Impact Assessment with the intention of total demolition of the structures extant on the property. Please note that there was a time and budget limitation on the production of this report.

A site inspection was carried out and the buildings assessed and photographed. The buildings directly affected by the 60 year clause in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Heritage Act No 4 of 2008 were identified as the old shale barns and associated silos, the old brick barn and the main house. Discussion of the other buildings on this site younger than 60 years of age is not covered by the scope of the brief.

Short history of farm based on the land registers

The farm was located as being situated on portion 1 of Ockerts Kraal 1336 which formed the basis for the land register investigations. The original grant was in 1853 to Gerhardus Jacobus Rudolph, who created Subdivision 1 in 1857 which was sold to Arend de Kock. This was further subdivided and in 1866 the Remainder was registered in the name of David Dale Buchanan, an advocate and the founder of the Natal Witness. He sold the Remainder to the Natal Bank in 1874. The property was then transferred to John Arnold in 1878, Percy James Peckham in 1917, Norman HD Ferguson in 1943 and then in 1965 partitioned by Norman Henry Daniel Ferguson to form a new farm known as Bellevue1321 through consolidation.

Evaluation of structures



Fig 1: Site layout showing buildings of concern

Fig 1 above shows the site layout and the structures of concern. It is related to Fig 2 below, in that the latter is the aerial photograph from 1937 showing the farmstead as it stood then.

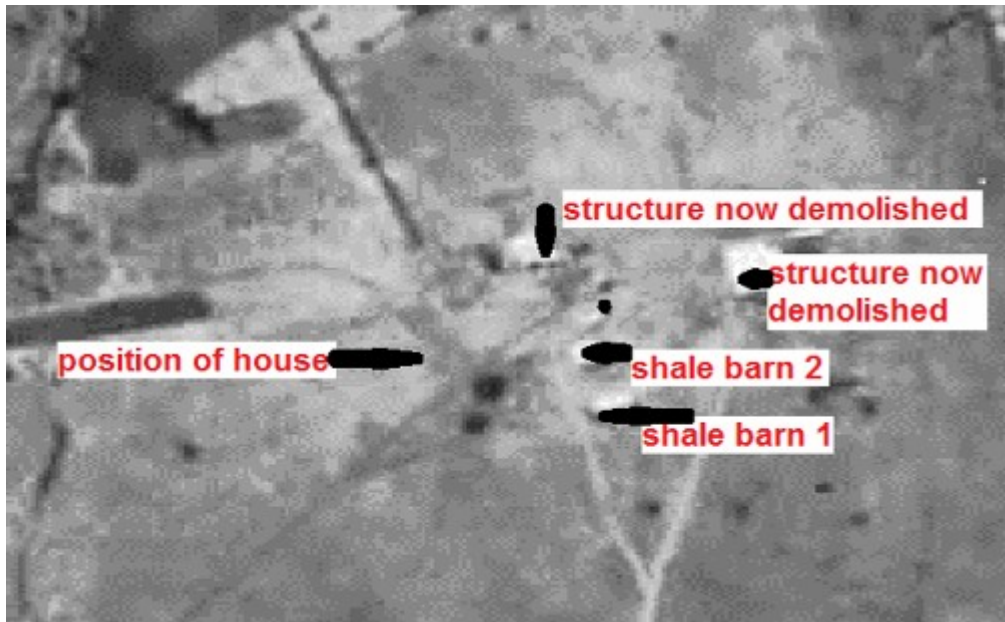


Fig 2: 1937 aerial photograph showing the barns and two demolished structures

Old shale barns 1 and 2 and the associated silos

The 1937 aerial photos are diagnostically uncertain, but the two barns appear to be extant. There is no sign at this photographic resolution as to the presence of the silos, and it is suspected that these were constructed at a later date. The two silos are positioned between the barns.

Both of the barns are of mixed, though largely shale construction which situates them as vernacular buildings located any time between the middle years of the 19th century and 1937 when they are present on the photographs. Barn no 2 has been extended more recently to the north-west. The roof sheeting is old, and there is little diagnostic marking on the underside of the sheeting. However, the space between the barns was roofed in more recent times. Apertures below wall-plate level have been filled in with brick at some time.

In addition, an important feature of the site is the two silos. They form part of the architectural massing of the barns and create a topophilia on the site. For travellers along the N3, this farmstead is characterised by the barns and the silos, and forms a landmark along the road.



Figs 5 and 6: Showing grouping of silos, barns 1 and 2 and brick barn, and extended portion of barn no 1 with silo in foreground



Figs 5 and 6: The covered space between shale barns and Barn no 1 with a silo behind

Barns / silos	Local	regional	national	international
Architectural	low	low	low	low
Historical	medium	low	low	low
technical	low	low	low	low
scientific	low	low	low	low
social	High- landmark	low	low	low

Old brick barn

This structure is of painted brickwork in English bond under a corrugated sheeting roof. It is suspected that it dates to pre-1950. It forms part of a group together with the shale barns. It has certainly been extended to the north-west since its original construction.





Figs 7 and 8: Showing the old brick barn: the portion towards the trees is in English bond suggesting that this portion was pre- or immediately post- World War II.

Brick barn	Local	regional	national	international
Architectural	Part of a group	low	low	low
Historical	medium	low	low	low
technical	low	low	low	low
scientific	low	low	low	low
social	High- landmark	low	low	low

RECOMMENDATIONS: Given the age and scale of the shale barns it is recommended that these structures, together with the silos be reused in the new development. Since the brick barn is likely of an age, and part of an architectural grouping, its contribution to the topophilia of the site indicates that it too, should be retained and reused.

The main house

The house is a good example of a Natal Veranda farmstead building. It has a spectacular site looking down into the valley below and out towards Table Mountain. An important part of the site is the four large palm trees situated symmetrically on the terrace below the house.

It is of conventional construction under a low pitched corrugated sheeting roof. The windows are mainly stock steel items and there is little evidence of these being changed, suggesting that they are largely original windows. The floors are parquet, and the ceiling painted strip timber. There is an extensive veranda to the north and the west which is a state of disrepair. Simple pre-cast Tuscan columns support the veranda roof.

The house does not feature on the 1937 aerial photograph. It is suspected that it could have been constructed by the Ferguson family in either 1943 or later in 1965. It is currently unoccupied and needs much work for full rehabilitation. It is removed from the group of barns and has little relation to them.



Figs 9 and 10: The main house at Bellevue from the north-east and from the north-west

Main house	Local	regional	national	international
Architectural	low	low	low	low
Historical	low	low	low	low
technical	low	low	low	low
scientific	low	low	low	low
social	low	low	low	low

RECOMMENDATIONS: *Given the dislocation from the farmstead, the lack of association with buildings of landmark, and its minimal architectural, social or historical merit, it is suggested the demolition of this building could be considered an option.*

Other notes:



There is a pile of substantial timber beams suspected to originate from the farmstead lying next to the barns. It is recommended that these be donated to the Amafa Materials Bank for reuse in historic structures in need.

APPENDIX B

**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT FOR THE FARM
BELLEVUE 14681**

6 APRIL 1998

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PRELIMINARY CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT FOR THE FARM BELLEVUE

Environmental Design Partnership contracted the Institute for Cultural Resource Management (ICRM) to conduct a data-base search to identify archaeological and historical resources that may exist on the farm Bellevue, south of Pietermaritzburg. A preliminary site inspection of the property was also undertaken in early March 1998. Our terms of reference required us to provide a preliminary assessment of any archaeological and historical resources and to recommend mitigatory measures for these.

All archaeological and historical sites are protected by the National Monuments Act of 1969 which makes it an offence to alter in any way such sites without a permit from the National Monuments Council (NMC). As from 1 April 1998, the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act of 1997 will replace the current heritage legislation in KwaZulu-Natal. The new heritage compliance agency, Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali, may require an assessment of the impact of any development on heritage resources, where such an assessment is not required by other legislation. The NMC and its successor in KwaZulu-Natal (Amafa) may hold developers responsible for any damage accrued to a site in cases where they have deviated from the permit requirements. It is the responsibility of the developers to apply for a permit should development have a negative impact on archaeological or historical sites.

Deeds Office Search

A Deeds Office historical search was undertaken to determine the likelihood of there being graves, or any other currently significant sites which may require further mitigatory action, on Bellevue. The historical deeds search indicates that Bellevue became freehold land in August 1849. The land was granted to Mr J. Byrne (government grant #1462). Appendix A has the Deeds Office search results.

The results of the historical deeds search suggest that it is unlikely that there exist on Bellevue any cultural sites that have significance for communities living in the vicinity today. Furthermore, it is unlikely that any development of Bellevue will be hampered by land claims.

Archaeological data base search

The Natal Museum is the Regional Recording Centre for archaeological site data in KwaZulu-Natal. Recorded archaeological sites are mapped on a 1:50 000 map sheet and allocated a National Site Number. Each archaeological site has a site record form that lists the details of the site. From this database, and personal experience, an archaeologist can undertake a preliminary desktop assessment of an area. Few areas in KwaZulu-Natal have been systematically surveyed, while those sites on record were frequently recorded for specific research purposes.

Three known archaeological sites occur on the farm Bellevue and five sites occur on the adjacent properties. The three sites on Bellevue date to the Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age. This covers the last 1.5 million years of hominoid history in southern Africa. These sites are scatters of stone tools and are most likely in a

secondary context, i.e. they have been disturbed through natural processes and/or agricultural activity. While these sites are of low archaeological significance, two were recorded in the 1950s. It is ICRM policy to reassess sites that were recorded several decades ago since the criteria for significance change through time. Furthermore, these sites were not assessed in terms of a cultural resource management plan. I do not, however, believe that these sites are of high significance.

The mitigation required for these sites is:

- a reassessment of the two sites recorded in the 1950s,
- removal of a sample of artefacts from each site, should they prove to have a significant assemblage.

The archaeological sites located on the adjacent properties date to the Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age, as well as the Early Iron Age. The Stone Age sites are of low archaeological significance, while the Early Iron Age site is of medium-high significance.

The NMC regional office has no records of any historically significant structures on the farm.

Preliminary Site Inspection

A preliminary site inspection was conducted in early March 1998. Dense grass cover and other vegetation meant the inspection was, from an archaeological point of view, inadequate. Nevertheless, we located a single Middle Stone Age site, which is on the site of the proposed new offramp. In general, parts of Bellevue appear to have reasonable archaeological potential. However, terracing and other landscaping, which has affected part of the farm, will have had a negative affect on the integrity of any archaeological sites that may exist in these areas.

Conclusion

The farm Bellevue was briefly assessed in terms of its land ownership and archaeological value. The Deeds Office search indicates that Bellevue was Crown Land prior to the early 1850s, thereafter it was privately owned. The area is thus unlikely to be affected by land claim issues, or have cultural sites which may be of significance to people living today.

Three archaeological sites have been recorded on Bellevue. All are of low archaeological significance. At most, some of these sites may require sampling, should they be threatened by the proposed development. The preliminary site inspection and data base search indicates that additional Stone Age, as well as Iron Age sites, may occur on Bellevue. However, we found no evidence of archaeological or historical sites that would enforce a no-development option.

We recommend that a detailed archaeological survey of the property should be undertaken if the proposed development goes ahead. This should be done during the winter months when the vegetation cover is reduced.

