

**Attention:**  
*Herman Gildenhuis*  
*Exigo Sustainability*  
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# HERITAGE SCOPING ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED LC DE VILLIERS CULVERT UPGRADE PROJECT ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 0 OF THE FARM KOEDOESPOORT 456 JR, PRETORIA, TSHWANE MUNICIPAL AREA, GAUTENG PROVINCE

## 1. Background

Exigo Sustainability was commissioned to conduct a heritage scan on portions of the LC de Villiers Sports Complex in Pretoria, subject to an application for a Water Use License (WUL) and Environmental Authorization for the proposed LC de Villiers culvert upgrade project. The study area is situated within the boundaries of the Sports Campus of the University of Pretoria in Hatfield, Gauteng. This memorandum includes a brief historical background, site investigation, information and results, as well as heritage legislation and conservation policies. A copy of the memorandum report will be supplied to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and conclusions and recommendations contained in this document will be reviewed.

## 2. Project Description

The LC de Villiers Culvert Upgrade project study area is situated on the remainder of Portion 0 of the farm Koedoespoort 456 JR within the boundaries of the LC de Villiers Sports Campus of the University of Pretoria. The scope of the project directs that the proposed development is within a watercourse and as such, authorization under the NWA in terms of Section 21(c) and 21(i) will be required. The development entails the proposed upgrading of two culverts in the Hartbees Spruit along the entrance road of LC De Villiers Sports Grounds. The culverts are named as follows:

- **Culvert A:** Located closest to the entrance gate to the sports grounds and forms part of the tributary of the Hartbees Spruit;
- **Culvert B:** Located further east and forms part of the actual Hartbeest Spruit

In addition, minor upgrades to the access gate, the sidewalks and pedestrian and cycling lanes as well as the construction of transport bus bays are proposed.

These proposed upgrade elements occur along a road section of approximately 400m along South Street at the Sport Complex.

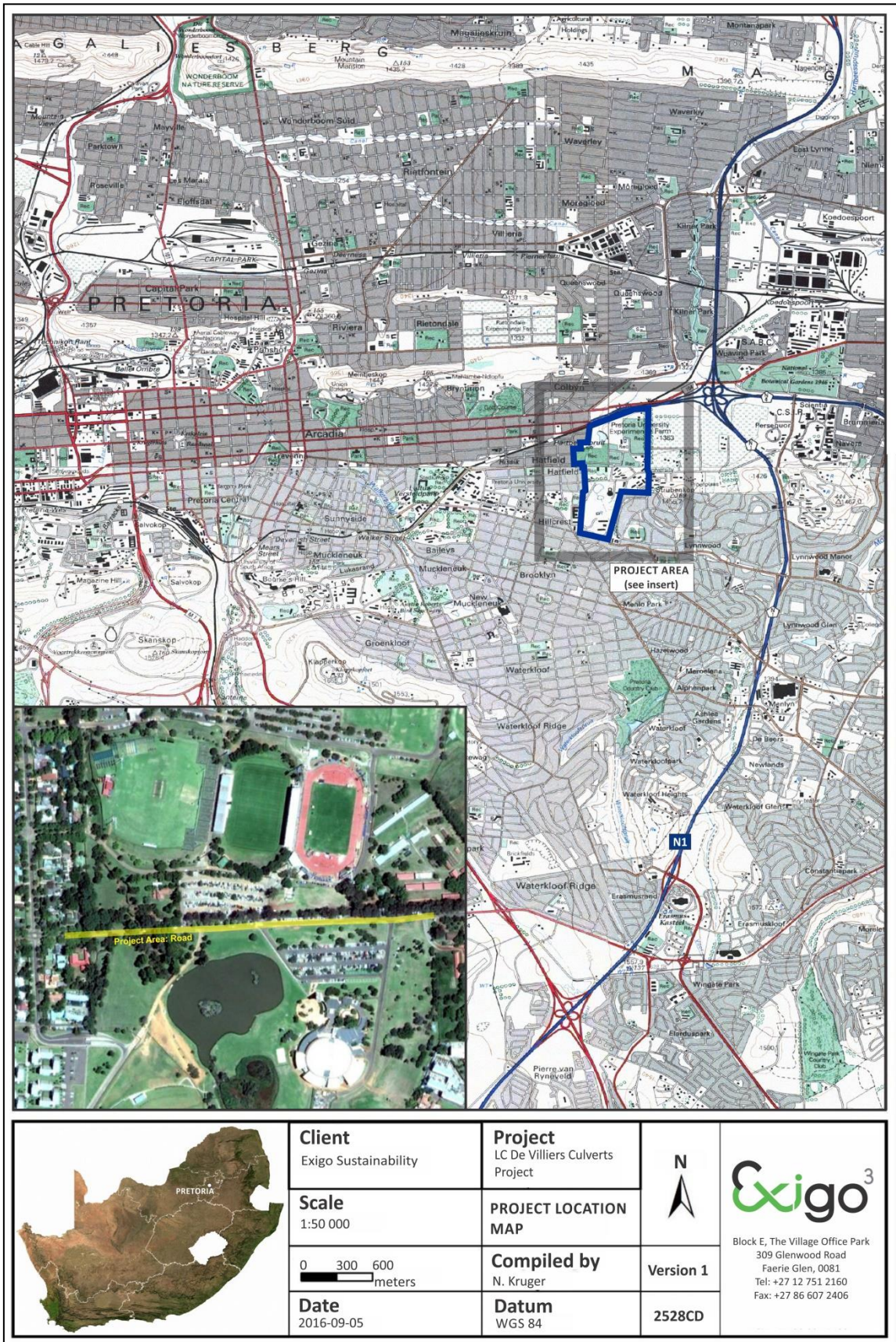


Figure 1: Geographical location of the LC de Villiers Culverts Project area in Pretoria (1:50 000 Map reference 2528CD).

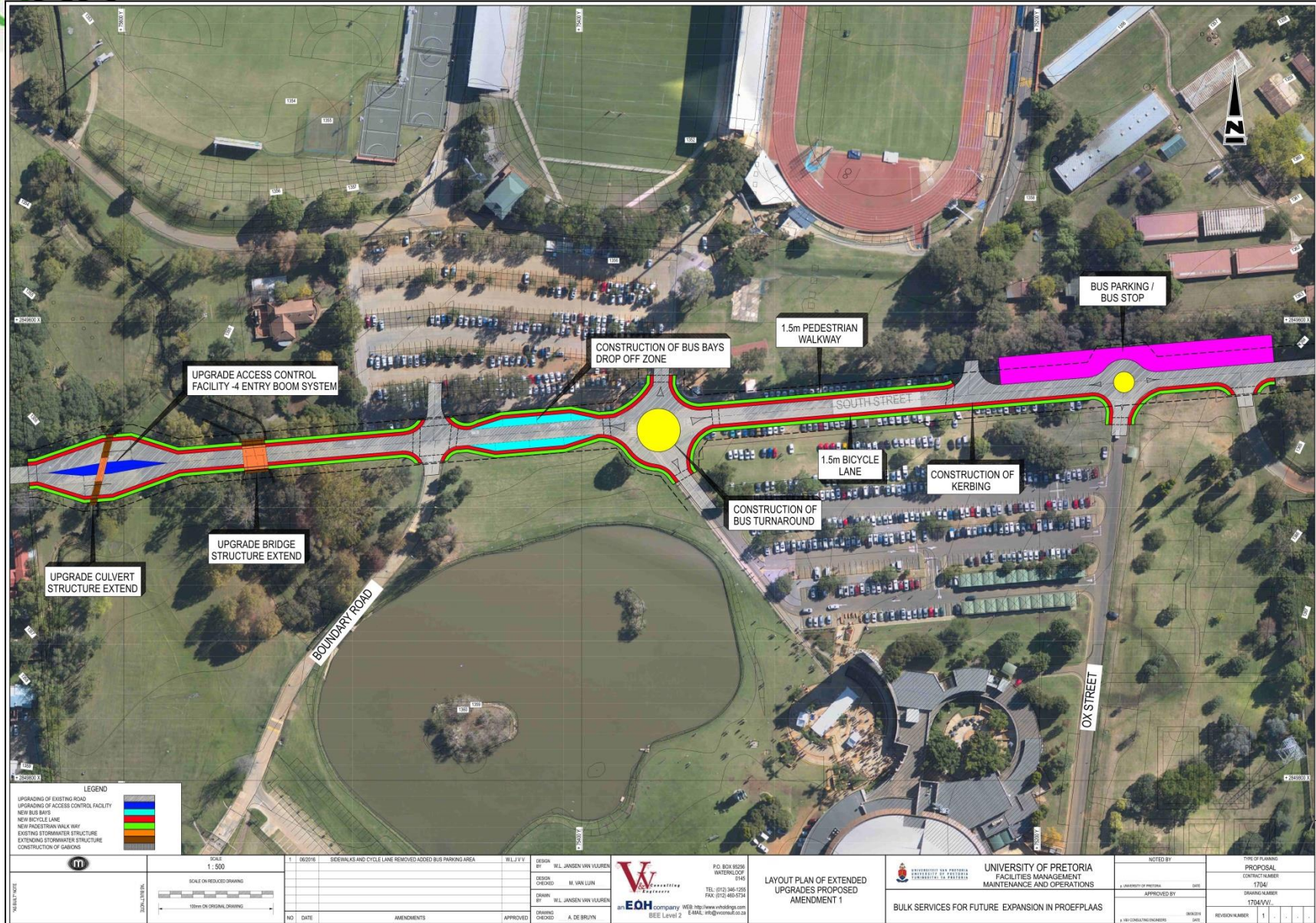


Figure 2: Aerial representation and plan of infrastructure components proposed for the LC de Villiers Culverts Project.

- **Current site status**

The LC de Villiers Culverts project area is located in a residential zone of Hatfield, a suburb of Pretoria. Here, the general surrounds have been transformed entirely by continued and consecutive infrastructure developments over many decades where homes, roads and sports grounds have been established. The project area follows South Street into the Sport Complex past rugby fields and the indoor training centre. A small river known as the Hartebeest Spruit runs along the western periphery of the Sport Complex with two significant dams occurring on the grounds. Lawns and grass cover as well as riparian trees and undergrowth occur along the riverbanks and across the property.



**Figure 3: View of the LC de Villiers Culverts Project, looking west along South Street.**



**Figure 4: View of an existing parking lot in the LC de Villiers Culverts Project area**



Figure 5: The Hartebeest Spruit and "Culvert A" in the LC de Villiers Culverts Project area.



Figure 6: View of a concrete bridge over "Culvert A" and the Hartebeest Spruit.



Figure 7: South Street and the location of a proposed bus stop for the LC de Villiers Culverts Project area.

### **3. Heritage survey and scoping**

The history of Pretoria is well known and the city holds a large number of sites of heritage interest. The immediate surroundings of the study area have been transformed entirely by continued and consecutive infrastructure developments over many decades. A heritage site scan was conducted in September 2016 by means of a foot and automotive survey in accordance with standard archaeological practice by which heritage resources are observed and documented. The site, general surroundings and the larger landscape was photographed with a Canon Digital camera. Real time aerial orientation, by means of a mobile Google Earth application was also employed to investigate possible sensitive areas during the scan. As most archaeological material occur in single or multiple stratified layers beneath the soil surface, special attention was given to man-made disturbances (where present) such as roads and clearings.

**During the survey, no areas of archaeological and historical potential were documented along the project area.**

### **4. Historical context**

The L C de Villiers Sports Grounds in Pretoria houses the Sports Campus of the University of Pretoria (UP) as well as the University's Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences experimental farm. The sport complex, named after Dr. L.C de Villiers who was a professor of geology at UP, was developed over 76ha of land that stands at 1500m above sea level. During the first part of the 20th century, sport facilities were catered for on the main campus at the site of the current Musaion and Aula musical facilities. Later, sport activities were relocated to the current L C de Villiers site which had up to then been used as residential properties and farmlands. Historical aerial imagery of the area indicates that the surroundings of sport grounds generally display little change over the past 40 years, except for the upgrade of infrastructure and the addition of buildings and a dam at the site (see Figure 10). From these images, it seems as though no structures or features of Historical origin occurred in the project area subsequent to the initial development of the sport grounds.

As noted above, the University's experimental farm is situated adjacent to the sport grounds, which is used to conduct field experiments for the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. Interestingly enough, this site previously housed the Koedoespoort Aerodrome and it was here where the aircraft Voortrekker first landed in the Union of South Africa on 17 March 1920 after its historical flight from London to Cape Town. The flight, which was piloted by Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre van Ryneveld and Flight Lieutenant Quintin Brand, took 46 days to complete. The site was declared a National Monument under old NMC legislation on 29 August 1980.



Figure 8: Archive map of the University of Pretoria main campus grounds at around 1930, indicating sports grounds which was later relocated to the LC De Villiers Complex.



Figure 9: The "Voortrekker" which landed at the Koedoespoort Aerodrome (currently part of the LC De Villiers Grounds) after its historic flight from London in 1920.



Figure 10: A comparison of aerial imagery dating to 2013 (top) and 1969 (bottom) indicating differences in the general landscape of the project area (indicated in red) over approximately 40 years.

### 5. Results: Impact Rating and Assessment

Generally, the value and significance of archaeological and other heritage sites might be impacted on by any activity that would result immediately or in the future in the destruction, damage, excavation, alteration, removal or collection from its original position, any archaeological material or object (as indicated in the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999)). Thus, the destructive impacts that are possible in terms of heritage resources would tend to be direct, once-off events occurring during the initial construction period. However, in the long run, the



proximity of operations in any given area could result in secondary indirect impacts. The EIA process therefore specifies impact assessment criteria which can be utilised from the perspective of a heritage specialist study which elucidates the overall extent of impacts. **Direct or primary effects** on heritage resources occur at the same time and in the same space as the activity, e.g. loss of historical fabric through demolition work. **Indirect effects or secondary effects** on heritage resources occur later in time or at a different place from the causal activity, or as a result of a complex pathway, e.g. restriction of access to a heritage resource resulting in the gradual erosion of its significance, which is dependent on ritual patterns of access.

**No heritage receptors or areas of heritage conservation priority were noted found in the project area and no impact to heritage resources is foreseen.**

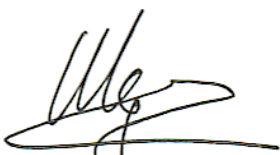
## 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Following a site inspection of the LC de Villiers Culverts project site the author of this Memorandum document recommends that the developer be exempted from further Phases of heritage and / or archaeological impact assessments, subject to Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment as set out by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) which states that:

*“When a property is either very disturbed (e.g. has been quarried or mined) or is very small and the archaeologist can see that it is highly unlikely that any archaeological remains will be found, a ‘Letter of Recommendation for Exemption’ from a full Phase 1 report may be supplied.”*

This recommendation is motivated on the following grounds:

- No heritage resources, archeological sites or historical features were observed in, or directly around the areas demarcated for upgrade for the LC de Villiers Culverts project.
- Surface features and possible subterranean deposits of prehistoric and historical value at the site have most probably been lost by historical, recent and current development activities at the UP Sports Complex.
- The general surrounds have been transformed entirely by continued and consecutive infrastructure developments over many decades where homes, roads and sports grounds have been established. This altered the built environment and cultural landscape to reflect a contemporary character which is not of historical value.



**Neels Kruger**  
Archaeologist

Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) - Registered  
Archaeologist & Cultural Resources Practitioner.  
BA, BA Hons. Archaeology (Pret.)

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## GENERAL LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999, section 38) provides guidelines for Cultural Resources Management and prospective developments:

**“38. (1)** Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as:

- (a) the construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- (b) the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length;
- (c) any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
  - (i) exceeding 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
  - (ii) involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
  - (iii) involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
  - (iv) the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority;
- (d) the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent; or
- (e) any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority,

must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.”

Consequently, section 35 of the Act requires Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA's) or scoping to be done for such developments in order for all heritage resources, that is, all places or objects of aesthetics, architectural, historic, scientific, social, spiritual linguistic or technological value or significance to be protected. Thus any assessment should make provision for the protection of all these heritage components, including archaeology, shipwrecks, battlefields, graves, and structures older than 60 years, living heritage, historical settlements, landscapes, geological sites, palaeontological sites and objects.

- It must also be clear that Archaeological Specialist Reports (AIA's), Heritage Impact Assessment Reports (HIA's) and included motivations and recommendations will be assessed by the relevant heritage resources authority (SAHRA). The final decision as to heritage resources conservation, mitigation and destruction rests with the heritage resources authority.