URBAN

FABRIC

FRAMEWORK

NARRATIVE
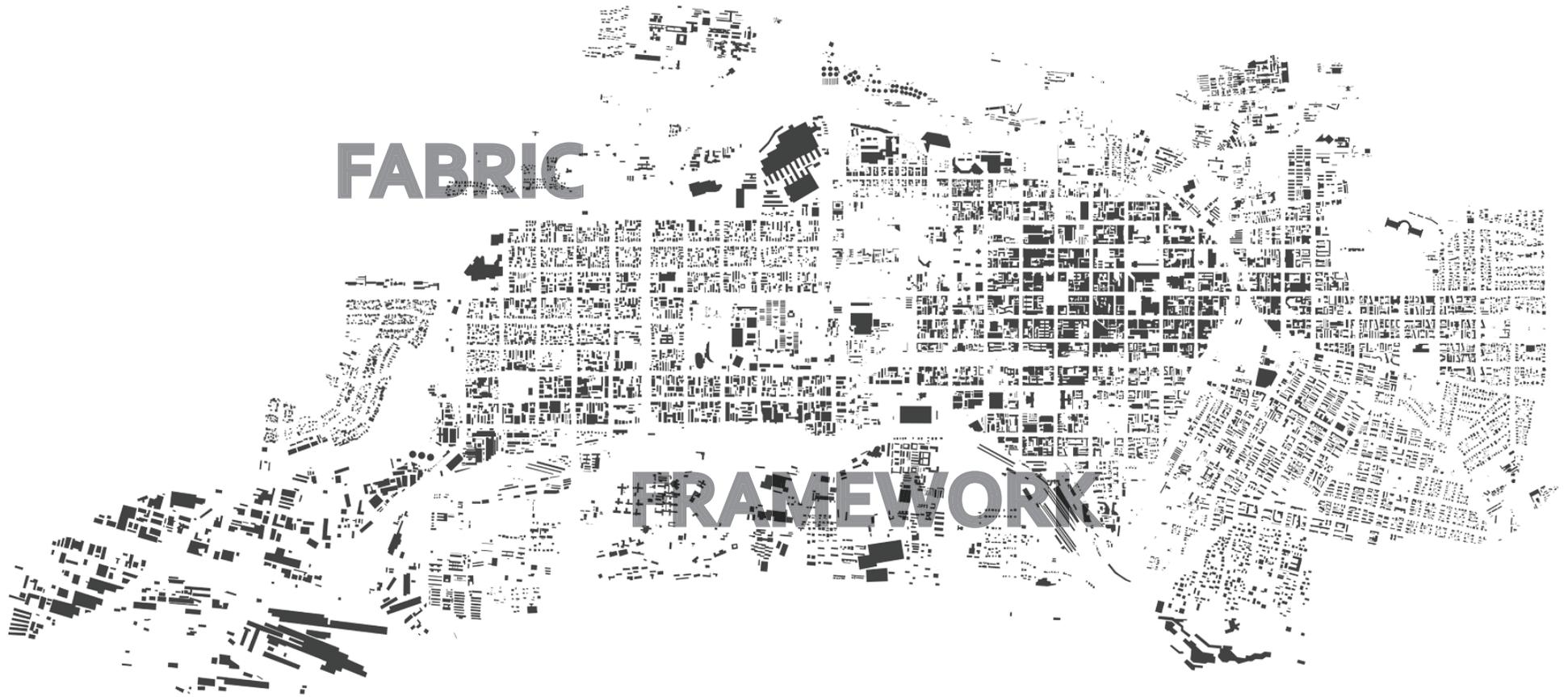
FRAMEWORK 04

The larger framework analysis and framework proposal for Pretoria to create a link between the north and the south through a narrative hiking/bike etc. trail along the hard landscapes and soft landscapes of Pretoria. This allows for a different experience of Pretoria.
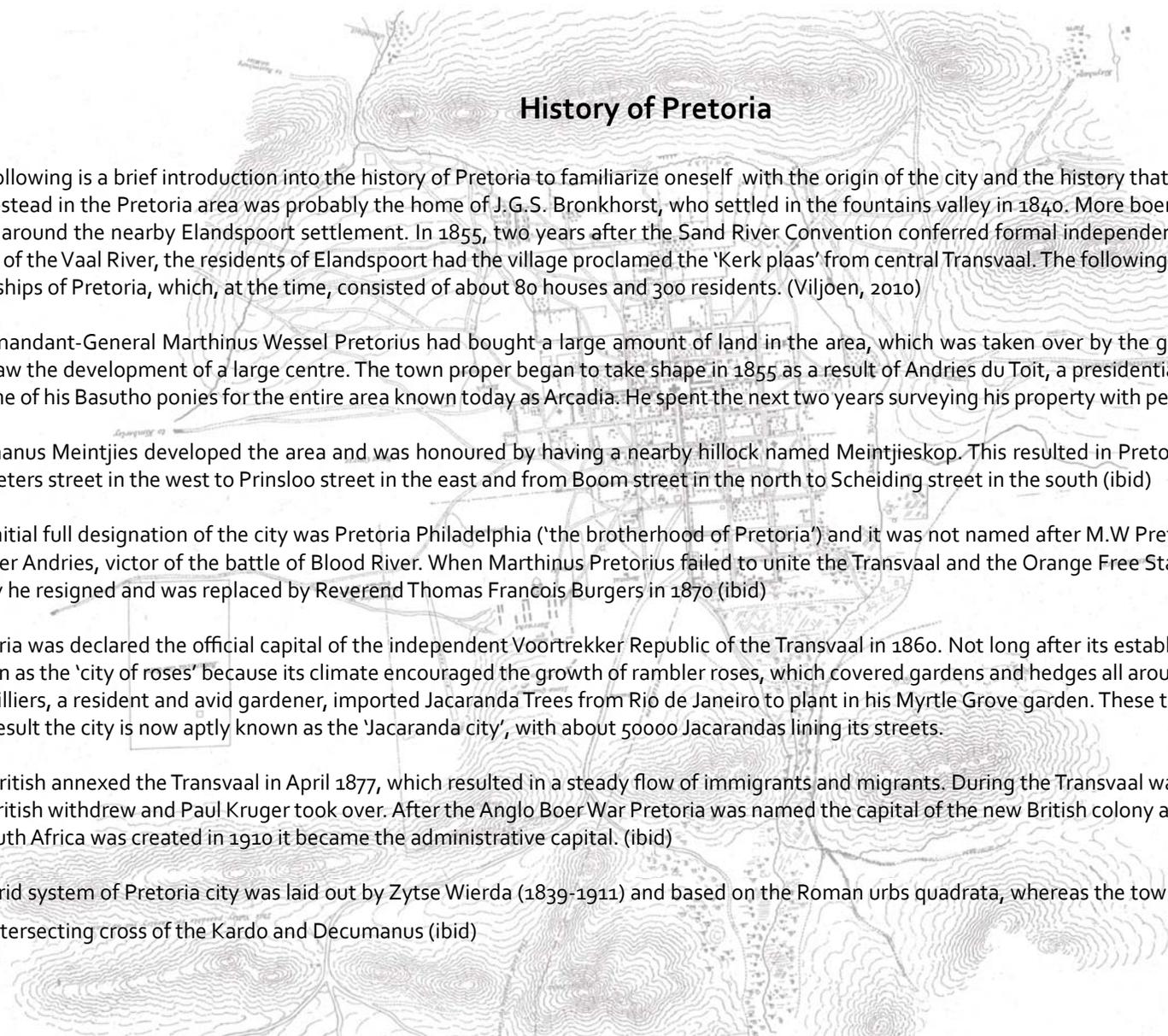
History of Pretoria

The following is a brief introduction into the history of Pretoria to familiarize oneself with the origin of the city and the history that follows it. The first homestead in the Pretoria area was probably the home of J.G.S. Bronkhorst, who settled in the fountains valley in 1840. More boer families put down roots around the nearby Elandspoort settlement. In 1855, two years after the Sand River Convention conferred formal independence on the territory north of the Vaal River, the residents of Elandspoort had the village proclamed the 'Kerk plaas' from central Transvaal. The following year it became the townships of Pretoria, which, at the time, consisted of about 80 houses and 300 residents. (Viljoen, 2010)

Commandant-General Marthinus Wessel Pretorius had bought a large amount of land in the area, which was taken over by the government as they foresaw the development of a large centre. The town proper began to take shape in 1855 as a result of Andries du Toit, a presidential advisor, exchanging one of his Basutho ponies for the entire area known today as Arcadia. He spent the next two years surveying his property with pegs and chains (ibid)

Stephanus Meintjies developed the area and was honoured by having a nearby hillock named Meintjieskop. This resulted in Pretoria extending from Potgieters street in the west to Prinsloo street in the east and from Boom street in the north to Scheiding street in the south (ibid)

The initial full designation of the city was Pretoria Philadelphia ('the brotherhood of Pretoria') and it was not named after M.W Pretorius, but after his brother Andries, victor of the battle of Blood River. When Marthinus Pretorius failed to unite the Transvaal and the Orange Free State during his presidency he resigned and was replaced by Reverend Thomas Francois Burgers in 1870 (ibid)

Pretoria was declared the official capital of the independent Voortrekker Republic of the Transvaal in 1860. Not long after its establishment it became known as the 'city of roses' because its climate encouraged the growth of rambler roses, which covered gardens and hedges all around the city. In 1888 J.D. Cilliers, a resident and avid gardener, imported Jacaranda Trees from Rio de Janeiro to plant in his Myrtle Grove garden. These trees flourished and as a result the city is now aptly known as the 'Jacaranda city', with about 50000 Jacarandas lining its streets.

The British annexed the Transvaal in April 1877, which resulted in a steady flow of immigrants and migrants. During the Transvaal war of Independence the British withdrew and Paul Kruger took over. After the Anglo Boer War Pretoria was named the capital of the new British colony and when the Union of South Africa was created in 1910 it became the administrative capital. (ibid)

The grid system of Pretoria city was laid out by Zytse Wierda (1839-1911) and based on the Roman urbs quadrata, whereas the town was quartered by the intersecting cross of the Kardo and Decumanus (ibid)

4.1 Introduction

Before one can focus on the study site, a larger context analysis must be performed which will in turn inform the framework proposal and to some extent the design decisions. It is important to understand the larger context. Its functioning, opportunities and constraints before one zooms in to the site.

The City of Tshwane would be looked at to indicate what might influence the study area. The Tshwane Open Space Framework will be discussed in short and will be referred to in the analysis. After looking at the Existing Open Space Framework and how one can tie into that, the author's own analysis will be discussed in terms of a variety of information mapping, especially of Pretoria's heritage features.


Illus. 66: Map of South Africa (Booking South Africa, 2010)

A framework proposal will be presented with the concepts which drive the proposal. This framework will provide the opportunity for visitors to experience Pretoria city on a totally different level and vantage point. Pretoria lies between these magnificent mountain ridges. Each landmark uses this natural feature as a backdrop. The narrative of the city can play off between these mountain ridges and the city itself. The focus is a different experience for the visitor of Pretoria.

4.2 Existing Open Space Framework

One look at the larger urban context

Vision: "A sustainable open space network which provides the setting for the Capital city, is of a high international standard yet based in the African context, empowers the community to prosper in a safe and healthy environment, and protects the integrity of its ecolocgical systems." (Tshwane Open Space Framework (Nov 2005)

4.2.1 Context and location

Illus. 67: Map of Gauteng (Tours SA, 2000)
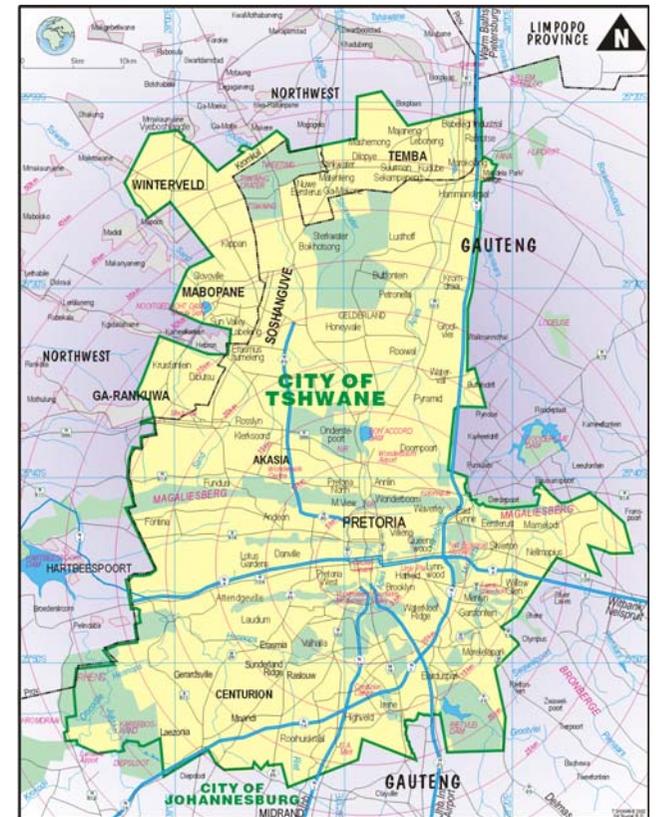

Illus. 68: City of Tshwane (Tshwane City Map, 2007)

Illus. 69: View of Pretoria CBD from the Magaliesber ridge. (Author, 2011)

## 4.3 The larger block context for urban development analysis

4.3.1 Larger block context location
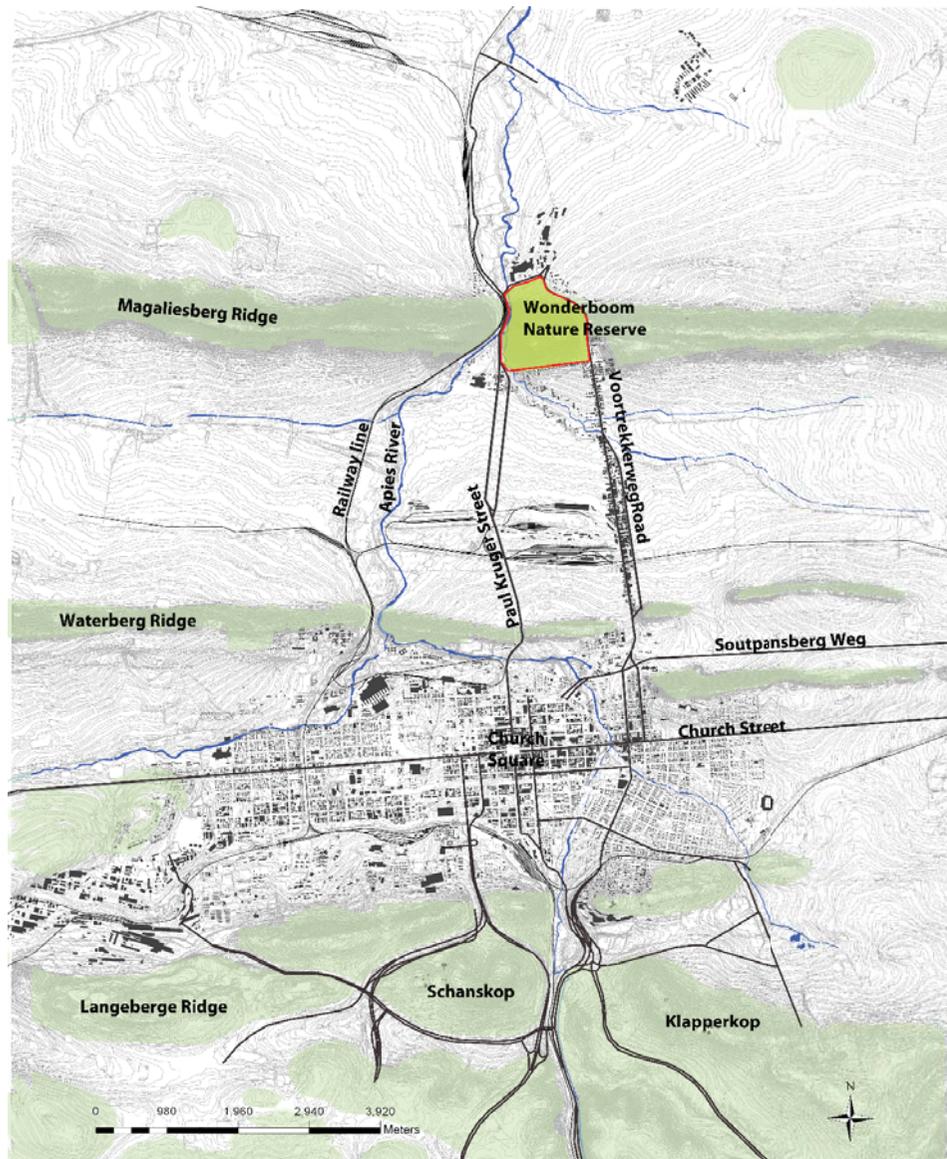
Illus. 70: Larger block context with the study site (Wonderboom Nature Reserve) highlighted in green. (Author, 2011)

4.3.2 Historical features

Refer to illus. 71.The historical landmarks are highlighted in red dots to indicate where the best possible linkage of the north and the south might occur, since they include the most heritage features. The red square on the top of illus.71 indicates the research area, and the red squared lines indicate the possible connection with the south ridges.
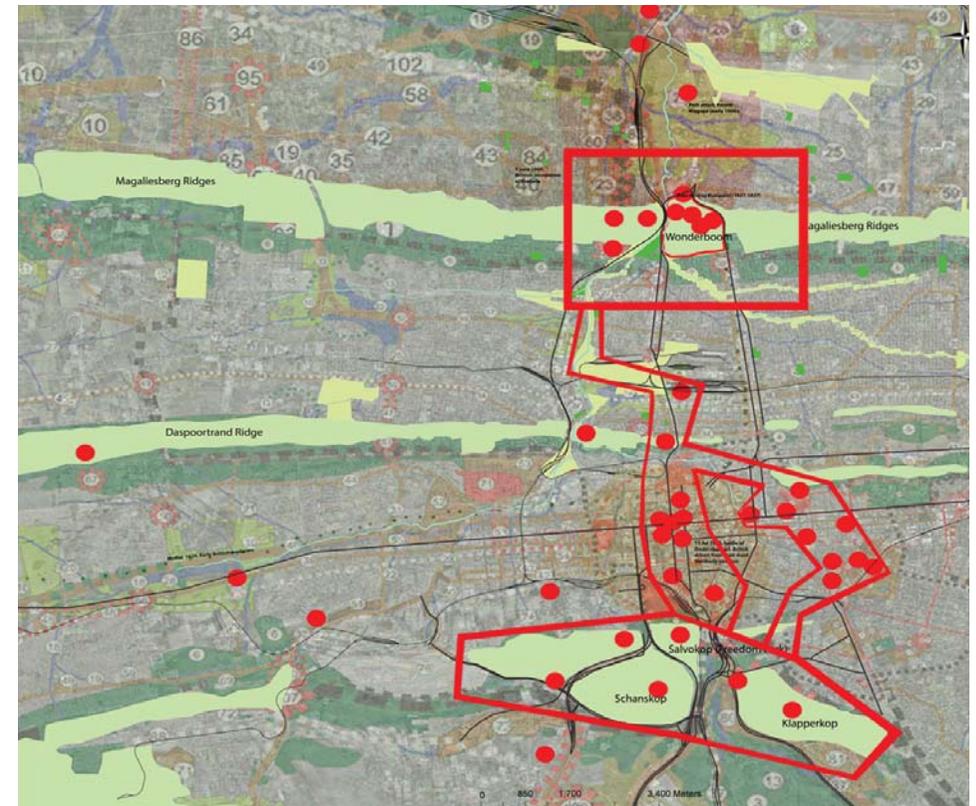
Illus. 71: Historical points highlighted to indicate best area for hiking trail. (Author, 2011)

4.3.3 Topography and setting patterns

Three ridges cross Pretoria from east to west.
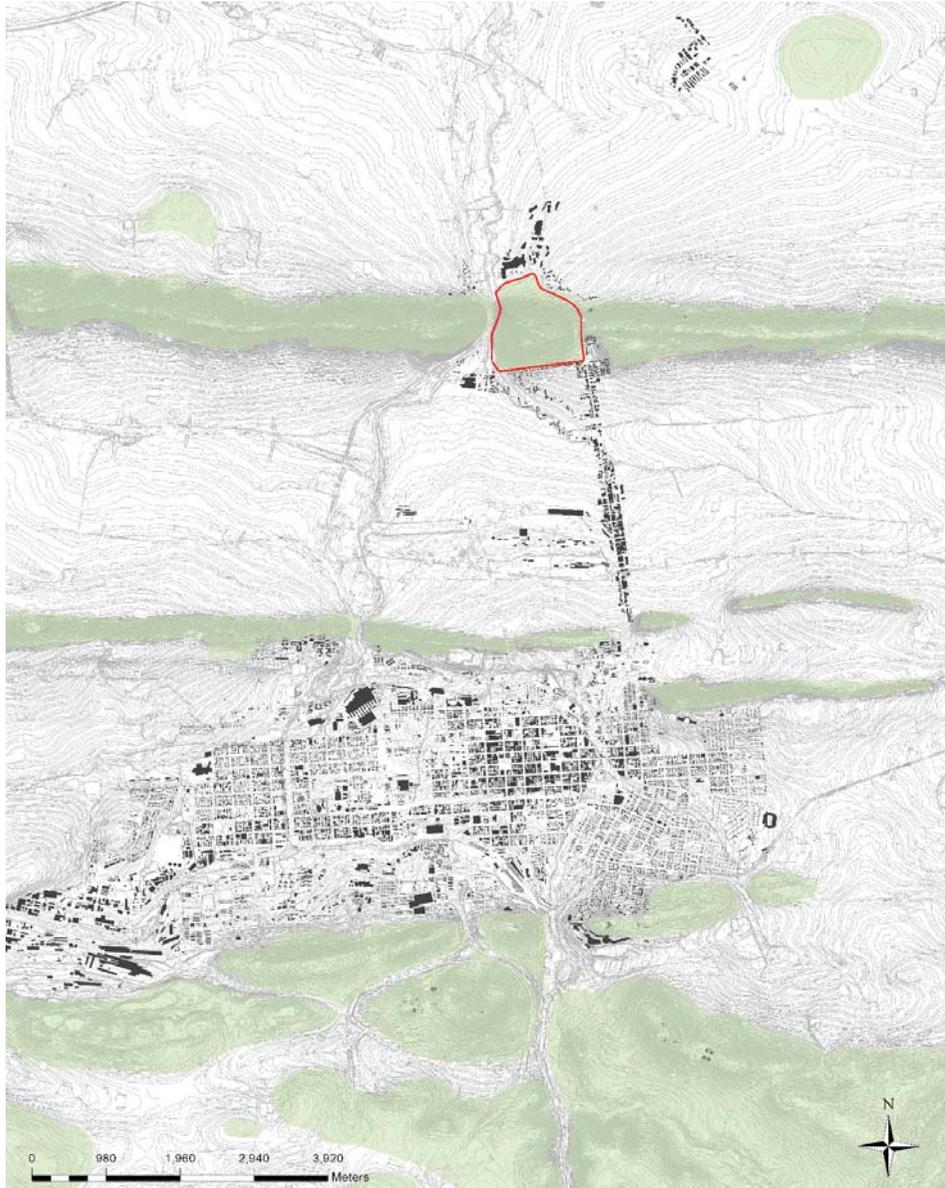
Illus. 72: Topography and setting patterns (Author, 2011)

4.3.4 Gateways and main roads into Pretoria city

There are five main roads leading into Pretoria. The ridges creates a natural gateway through which the roads go. The R101 and Voortrekker road from the north passes the Wonderboom Nature Reserve on either sides creating a nature island.


Illus. 73: Gateways and main roads into Pretoria city. (Author, 2011)

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## 4.3.5 Fortifications and monuments in Pretoria

The fortifications and important monuments in Pretoria is mapped out. refer to illus below. The focuss of the design intervention will be on creating general awareness of these fortifications and monuments/landmarks.
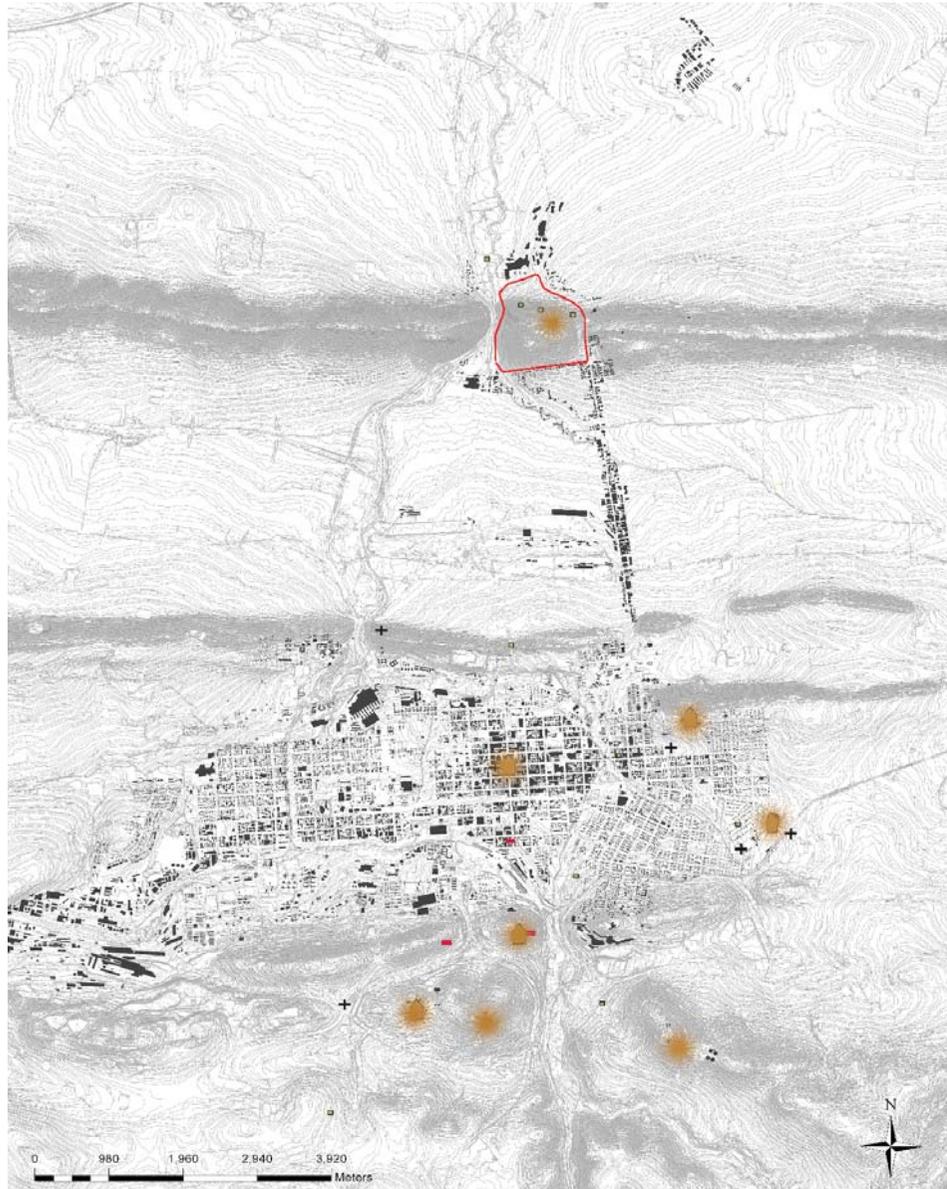
Illus. 74: Fortifications and monuments in Pretoria (Author, 2011)

4.3.6 Open space, parks, landscape structure and waterways

All the open spaces, parks and waterways were mapped to give a indication of open space near the Wonderboom Nature Reserve in context. One can see the importance of conserving Wonderboom Nature Reserve as a green space. The green spaces on a large scale can be connected as part of the north and south link.
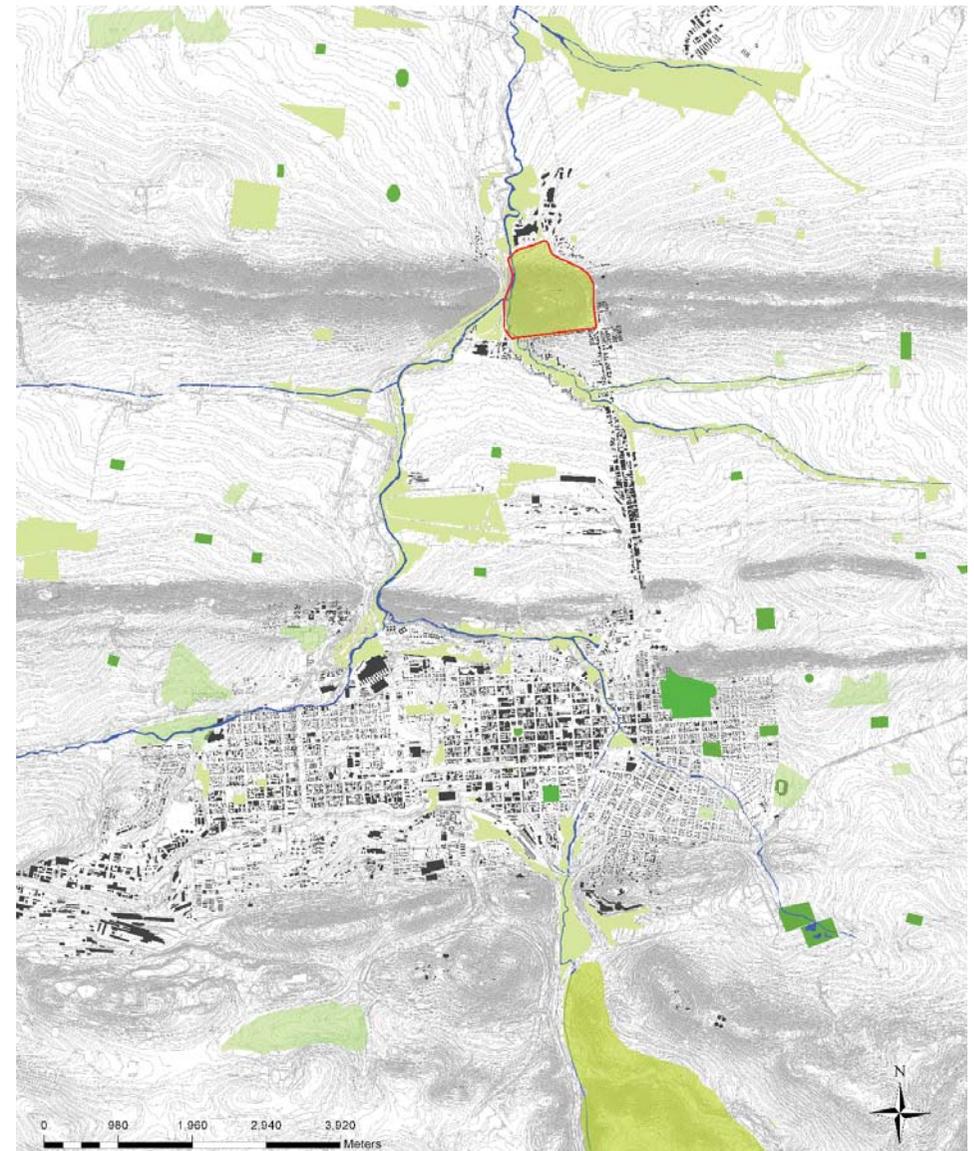
Illus.75: Open space, parks, landscape structure and waterways (Author, 2011)

4.3.7 Educational institutes

The mapping of educational institutions was done to pinpoint possible sources of yougn visitors. To educate them about Pretoria's heritage.
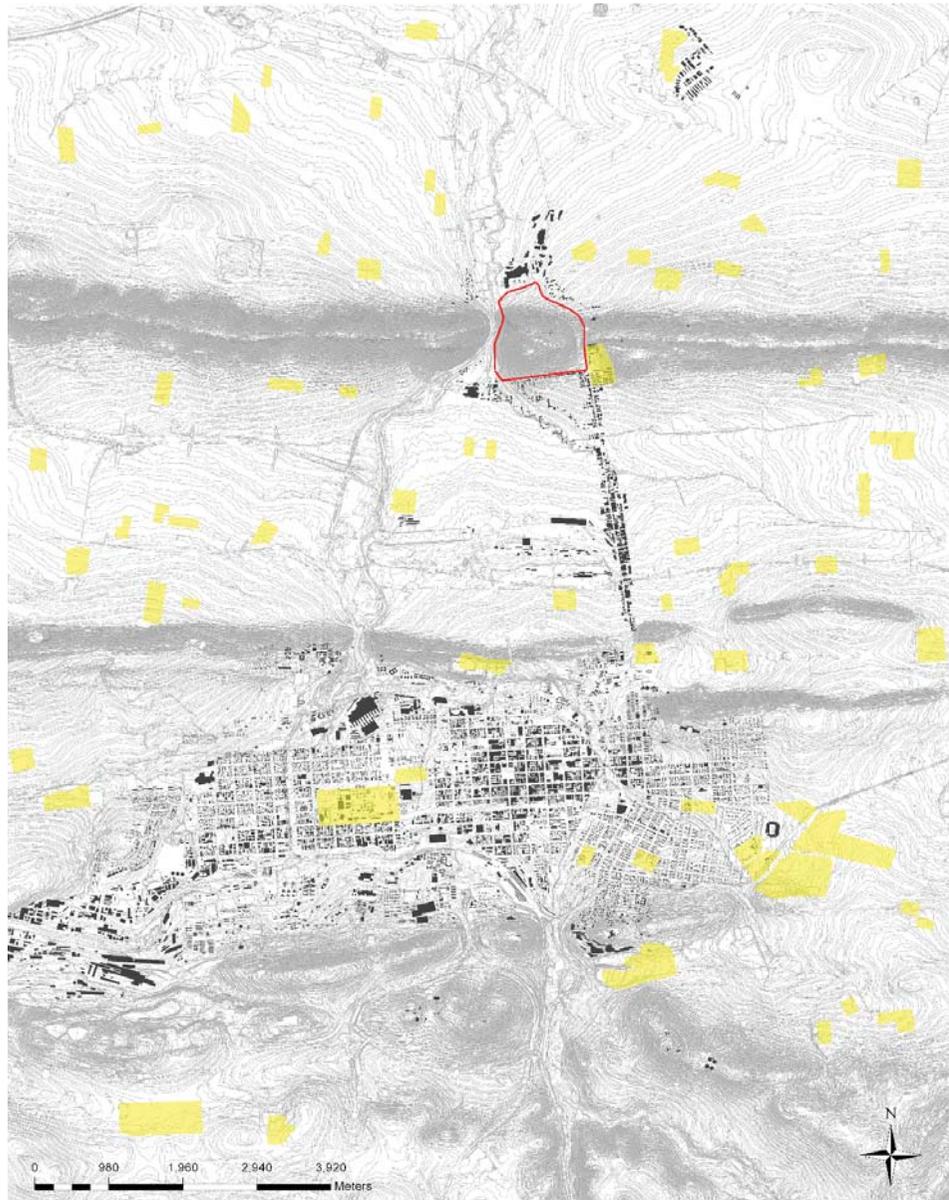
Illus. 76: Educational intitutions (Author, 2011)

4.3.8 Link between Pretoria north and south

The possible green and hard landscape corridors for linking Pretoria north and south.
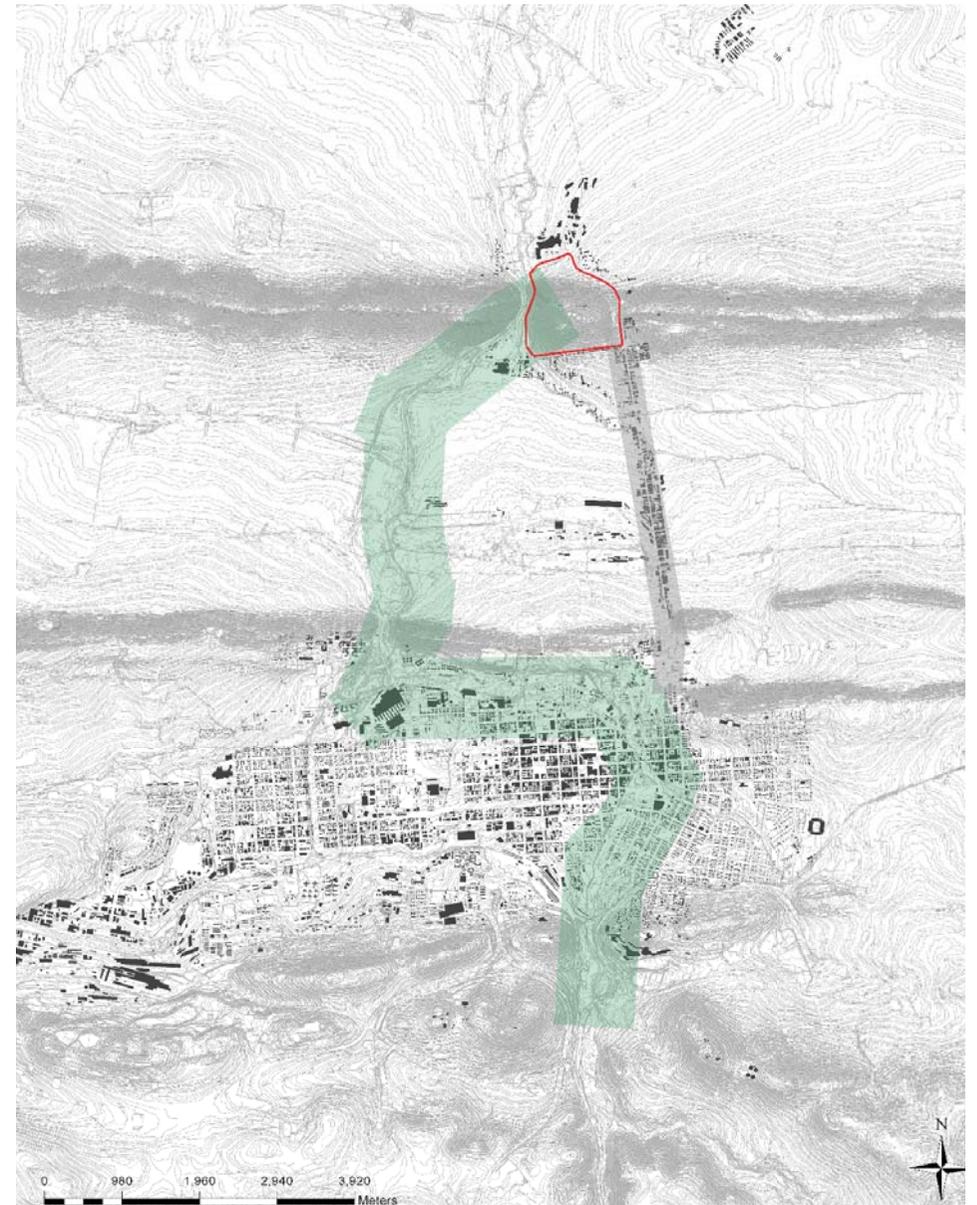
Illus. 77: Hard and soft landscape linkages between Pretoria north and south (Author, 2011)

4.3.9 Composite plan of the block context analysis
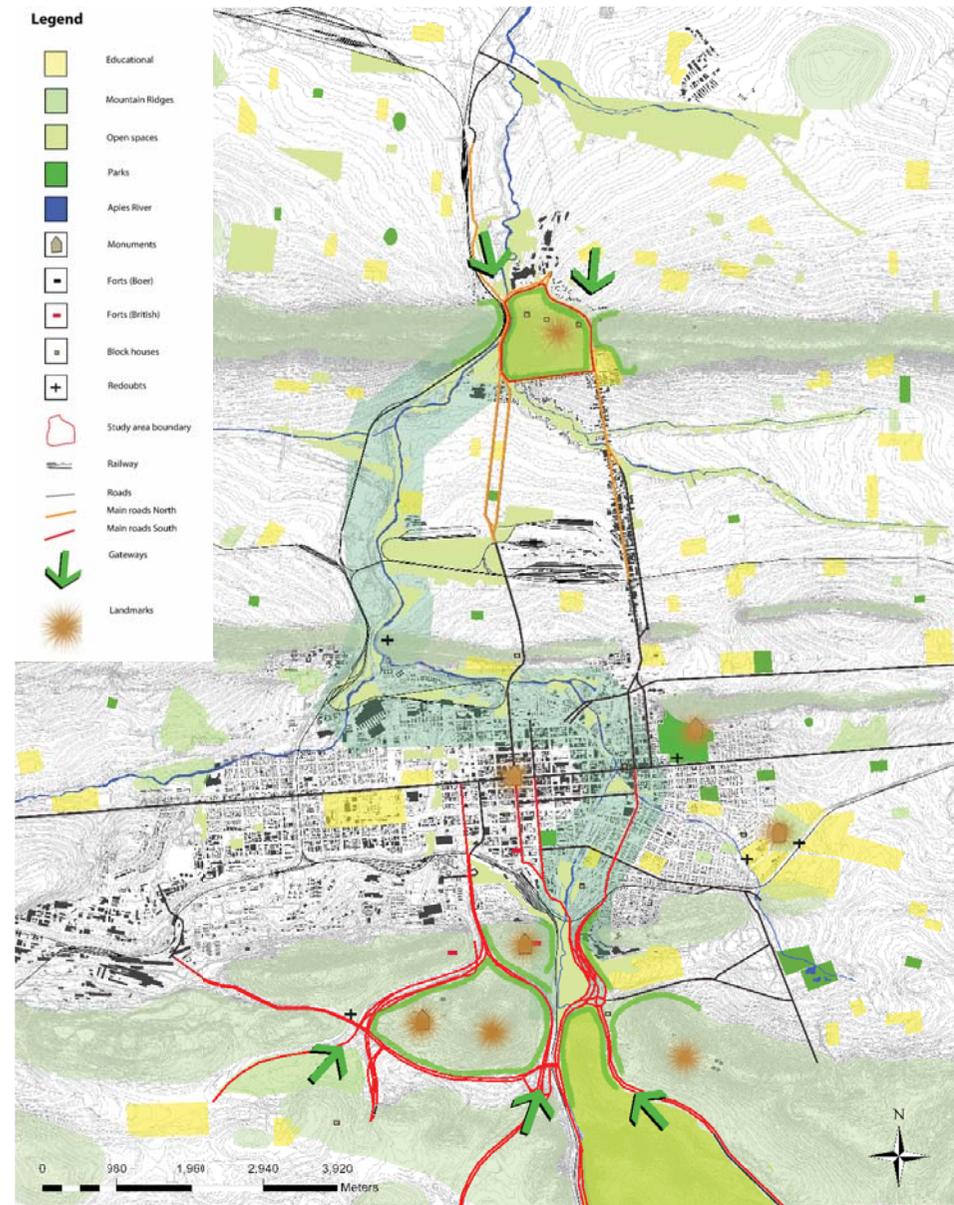
Illus. 78: Composite plan of the block context analysis (Author, 2011)

4.4 Framework concept

### 4.4.1 Connection of the north and the south (concept 1)

The study area is located in Pretoria north. The Wonderboom fort is located on the study site, this informed the design decision to design a trail which links the north to the south of Pretoria, to incorporate all the fortifications of Pretoria. With this as starting point, the route became a military defence history trail which touches upon all the heritage sites in Pretoria as well as Pretoria's landmarks. The trail will accommodate hikers, bikers, bicycle's etc. The trail will go along Pretoria's ridges and through open green spaces. This will be the green corridor running along the Apies River. A trail will also run along the hard landscapes of Pretoria, such as Voortrekkerweg etc. Now the user will experience the natural and cultural aspects of Pretoria and get informed on the heritage and history. Resting places and activity nodes will be placed along the trail. People who are not necessarily interested in the history can also use the trail to exercise fitness and health, or to be close to nature and lastly to experience Pretoria in a different manner. Fig 70-83.

4.4.2 Activating Pretoria (Concept 2)

The City of Pretoria will be activated on a different level. People will be able to explore different aspects of Pretoria in different manners which will create interest and discovery. This can result into identity growth of the city. Pretoria will be cleaned up and areas which were previously in a bad condition will be activated. These tributary branches of trails will activate a major part of Pretoria. The activity nodes and resting places along the trail will act as activators. Places which were previously unsafe will become safer with the growing pedestrian traffic. People would become aware of the history and heritage of Pretoria as well as its natural advantages. Fig 70-83.

4.4.3 Framework narrative (concept 3)
Pretoria has natural gateways coming from the west, north and south, formed by the mountain ridges. These gateways can be seen as the introduction to the city of Pretoria, the introduction to every event still in store for the user. All the event/activity nodes, heritage and landmarks sites become the plot unfolding Pretoria's gems. The narrative of Pretoria becomes the story told of its history and the natural and urban fabric interwoven, in contrast, but in harmony. Refer to fig.83

4.4.4 Conclusion
This trail would provide an entire different experience to the user. They will see Pretoria in a different light. It will be educational of Pretoria's heritage and history sites as well as creating awareness thereof.

4.5.1 Fortifications of Pretoria
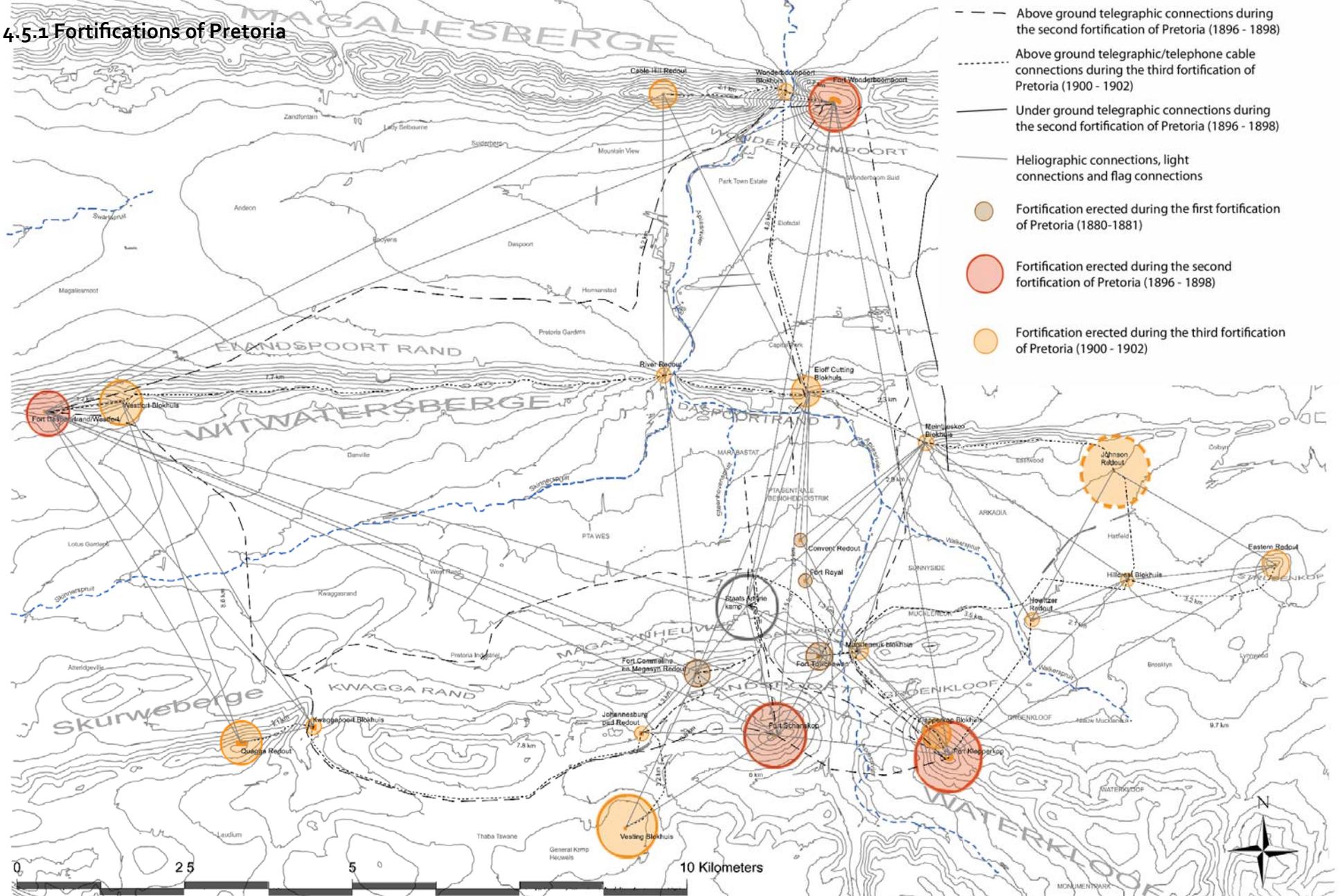
Illus. 79: First, second, and third fortification locations and the connections between them. (Framework group, 2011)

Illus. 8o: Landuses and schools in close vacinity of the forts, block houses and redoubts. (Framework group, 2011)

4.6 Large conceptual contextual framework proposal

4.6.1 Hiking route
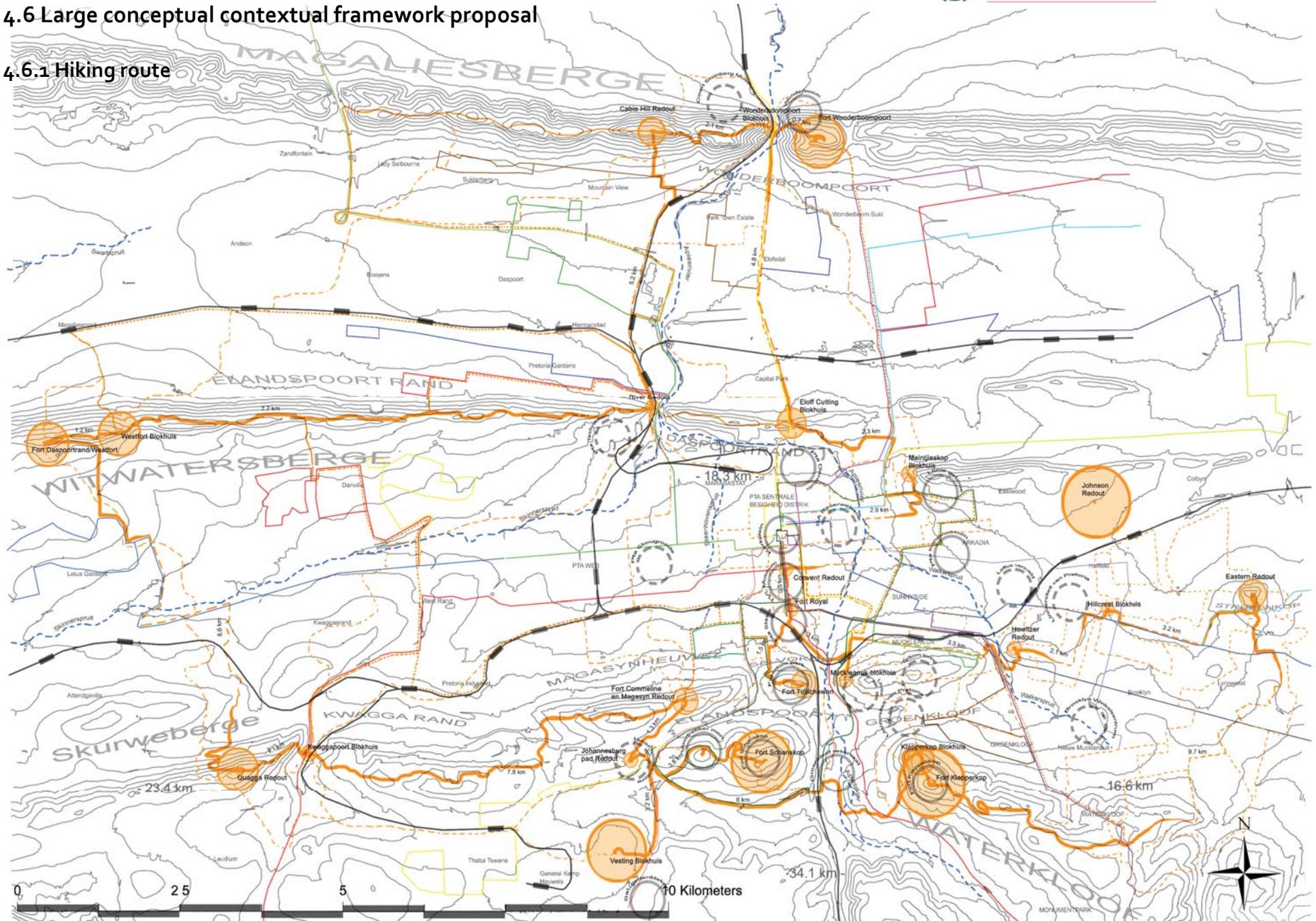
Illus. 81: Main and secondary hiking trail along Pretoria's ridges and inner city. (Framework group, 2011)

4.6.2 Framework proposal for the City of Pretoria

Legend

- Educational
- Mountain Ridges
- Open spaces
- Parks
- Apies River
- Monuments
- Forts (Boer)
- Forts (British)
- Block houses
- Redoubts
- Study area boundary

Study area boundary
Railway
Roads
Main roads North
Main roads South
Gateways
Landmarks
Excellent condition of the fortification ruin
Fortification ruin in a state of recognition
Remnants of the fortification ruin, foundation walls
Fortification destroyed
Main proposed hiking trail in the natural context
Secondary proposed hiking trail in the natural context
Any coloured line - existing bus routes
Existing railway line
Existing train station
River
Important tourist landmarks
Other landmarks of Pretoria
Main proposed hiking trail in the urban context (a few choices of routes are provided)
Secondary proposed hiking trail in the urban context (a few choices of routes are provided)
Above ground telegraphic connections during the second fortification of Pretoria (1896 - 1898)
Above ground telegraphic/telephone cable connections during the third fortification of Pretoria (1900 - 1902)
Under ground telegraphic connections during the second fortification of Pretoria (1896 - 1898)
Heliographic connections, light connections and flag connections
Fortification erected during the first fortification of Pretoria (1880-1881)
Fortification erected during the second fortification of Pretoria (1896 - 1898)
Fortification erected during the third fortification of Pretoria (1900 - 1902)

Illus. 82: Concept large framework proposal for Pretoria (Author, 2011)

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1910-1913

1897

Wonderboom fort on
the Magaliesberg ridge,

1898

2007

Westfort, on Daspoortrand,
but more to the west

Towards Pretoria north low buildings
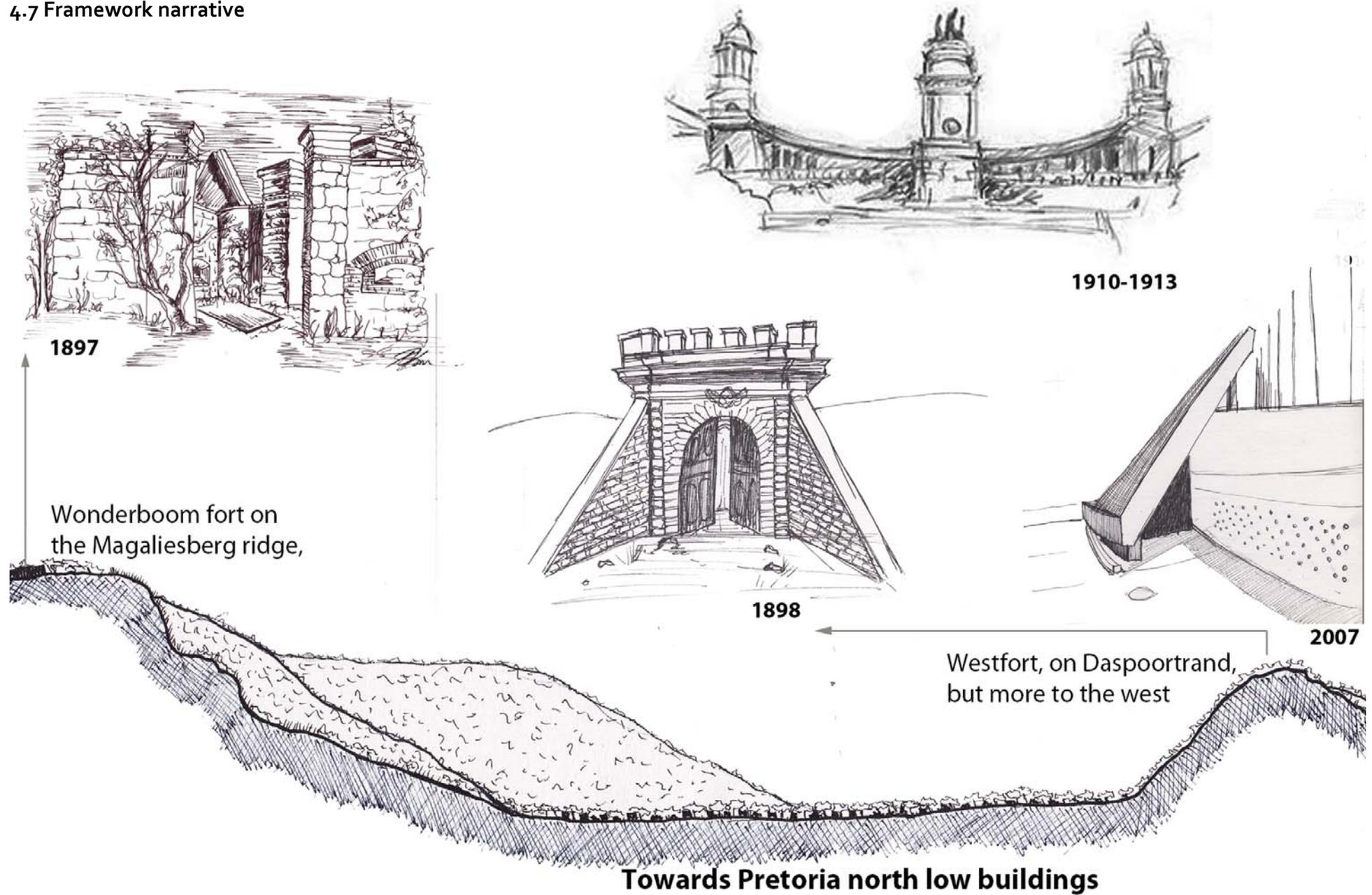
Illus. 83: North-south section through Pretoria, to indicate the ridges (natural) and city (cultural) relationship and narrative. (Author, 2011)

1855

1896

1896

1972

1938

Union Buildings
against Meintjieskop

Freedom Park
on Salvokop

Fort Klapperkop

Fort Schanskop

Church Square

Voortrekker
monument

Unisa on
Muckleneuk ridge

City

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