



Christchurch Central
Te Pūtahi o Ōtautahi

SOUTH FRAME
PŪTAHI WHAKATETONGA

CONNECTIONS & SPACES

DESIGN SYNOPSIS

Introduction

The Christchurch Central Recovery Plan created the Blueprint Plan for the city which identified a commercial Core, a 'Frame' surrounding that Core and the location of various anchor projects in the central city. One of these projects is the South Frame, which incorporates and connects the Health and Innovation precincts.

Delivery of a new network of connections and spaces for the South Frame is underway and this report covers work completed during the initial phase of the project.

The South Frame Public Realm works are split into design and construction delivery. Design comprises four key phases (refer Figure 2). The project is a collaboration between our Strategic Partners (Christchurch City Council and Matapopore), stakeholders and the Design Consortium (refer Figure 3). The appointed consortium for the design process is led by Aecom with consultancies of LandLAB, Jasmox and Taylor Cullity Lethlean (TCL) jointly leading the landscape and urban design workstreams.

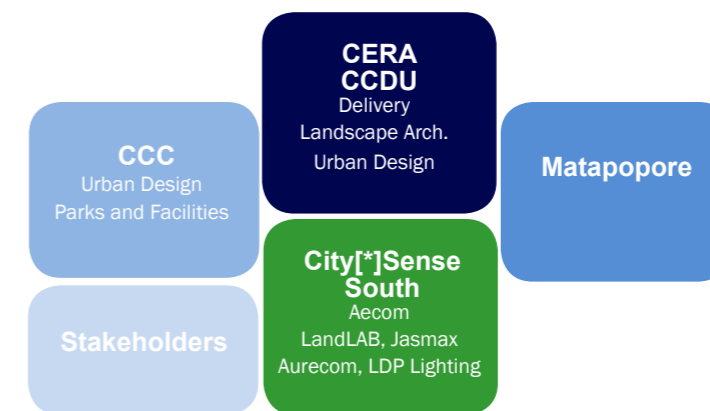


Figure 03: Collaborative project between strategic partners, stakeholders and the design consortium.

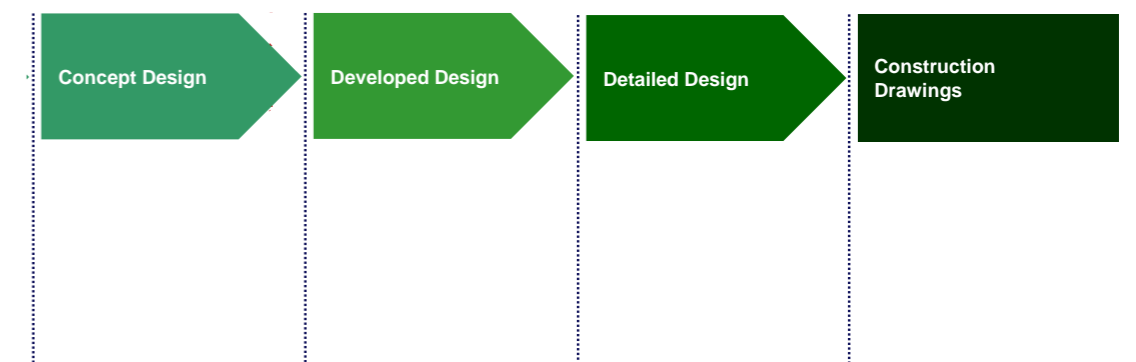


Figure 02: South Frame planning and design phases.

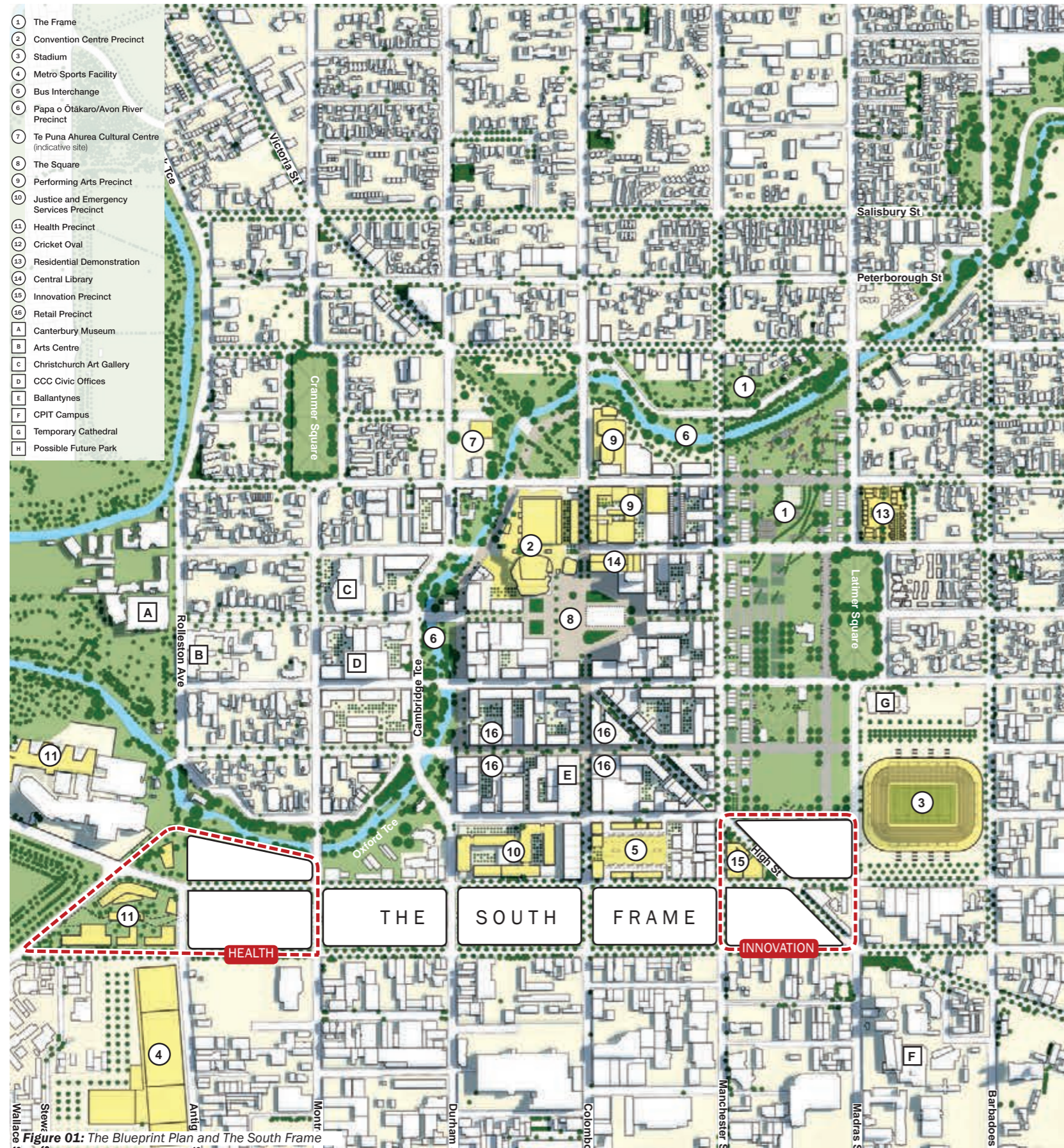


Figure 01: The Blueprint Plan and The South Frame



The South Frame extends seven city blocks from the Ōtākaro/Avon River, to the East Frame across the southern edge of the Core, between Antigua and Madras streets.

The South Frame today

The area currently exists as a series of large, inaccessible city blocks, with few trees and little on-site planting. Following the earthquakes, most structures have been demolished with only a limited collection of industrial buildings and car-yards remaining.

Key issues

- Low pedestrian priority.
- Profusion of vacant sites.
- Poor quality environment and limited planting.
- High percentage of vacant sites.
- No cycling facilities.

Opportunities

- Potential to create a new and distinct public network.
- Close proximity to numerous anchor projects.
- Adaptive reuse of existing industrial buildings.
- Canvas for Ngāi Tahu values.
- Numerous developments underway.
- Includes interesting 'Urban Fringe' typology.
- Features direct views to the Port Hills / Tamatea Pōkai Whenua.



Figure 05: The South Frame as it exists today.

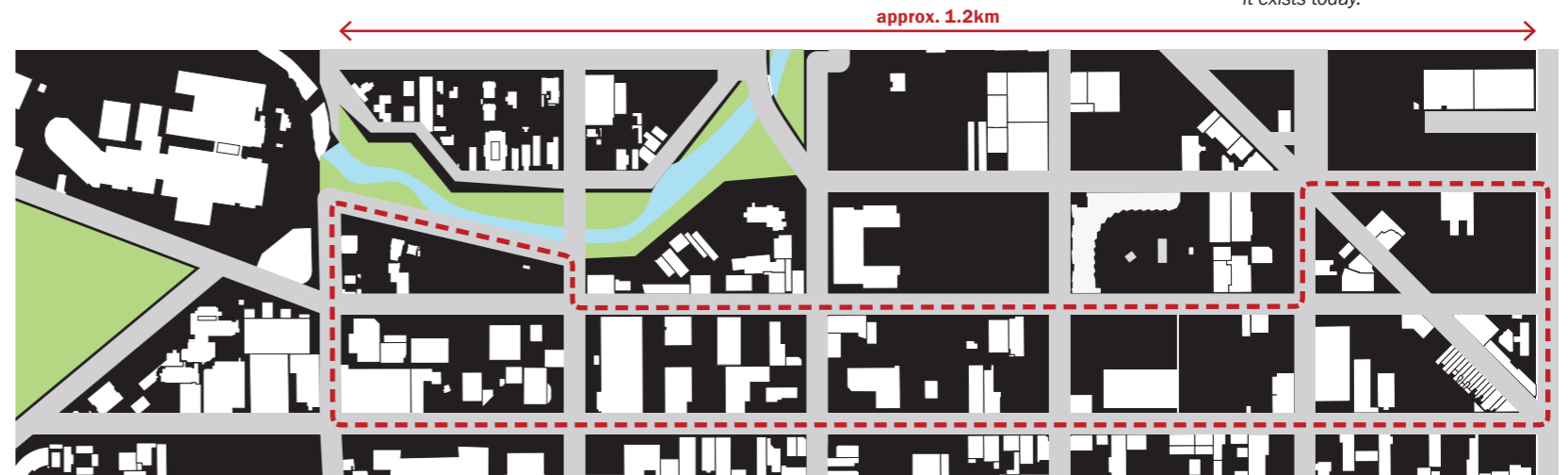


Figure 06: Current block plan of the South Frame.

Figure 04: The South Frame existing conditions



Figure 07: The South Frame potential future (indicative imagery only).

The vision for the future

An urban neighbourhood where health, education, innovation and city living emerge and flourish, connected by a distinctive greenway.

The South Frame public realm works will deliver a new network of connections and spaces linking the Innovation Precinct, the Health Precinct and beyond. The project will provide a unique, attractive and safe environment that will establish a foundation for private sector redevelopment in the area.

In snapshot, the public realm will deliver:

- Public network of connections and spaces.
- A lengthwise open space corridor 'Greenway', interconnected by laneways and a series of gathering spaces or 'yards'.
- Pedestrian and recreational cyclist pathways throughout seven city blocks extending from Ōtakaro/Avon River to the East Frame.
- A distinctive new asset for central Christchurch.



Figure 08: Various indicative images of the potential future South Frame.

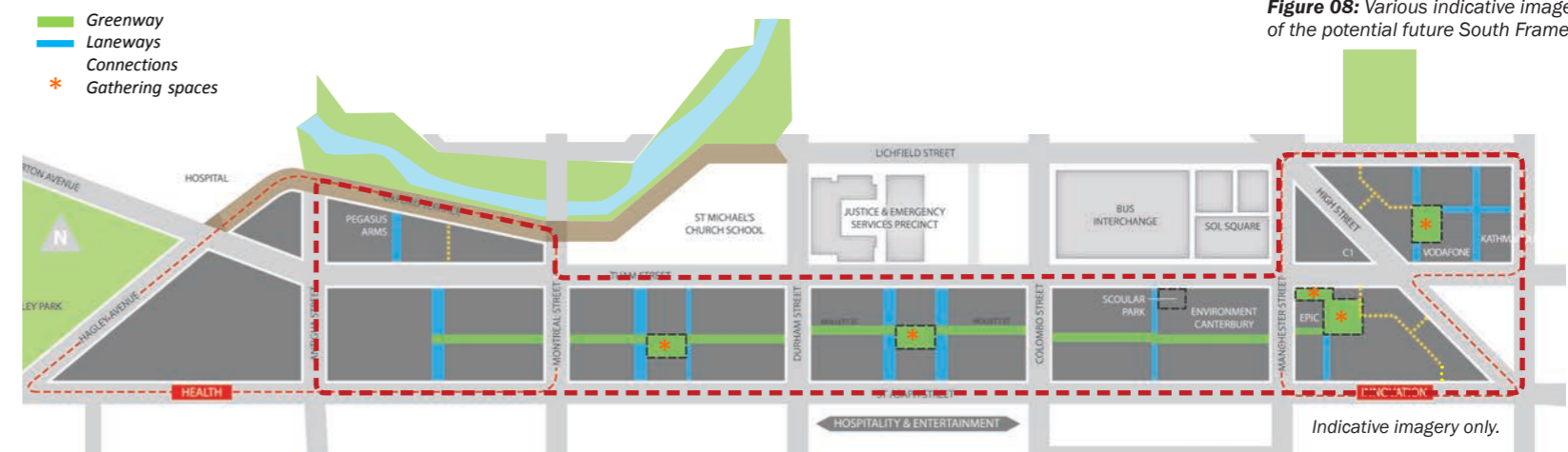


Figure 09: The South Frame public realm: a network comprising a linear 'Greenway', interconnected by laneways and a series of gathering spaces (yards).

How we deliver the vision

Consistent with the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan goals, the key design principles and strategies that guide the design process include:

01 Distinctive

Authentic urban garden distinct from the city's existing parks and squares

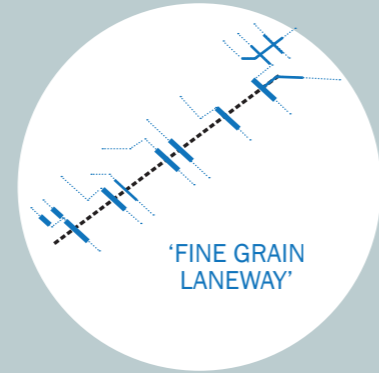


Key Moves:

- a unique landscape identity (including traditional plantings).
- paving inlays that portray the 'story of stone' (relevant to iwi).
- dynamic journey with signature features (weaving path that references the braided river system of Canterbury).

02 Prosperous

Network of laneways that promote small scale, boutique business activity

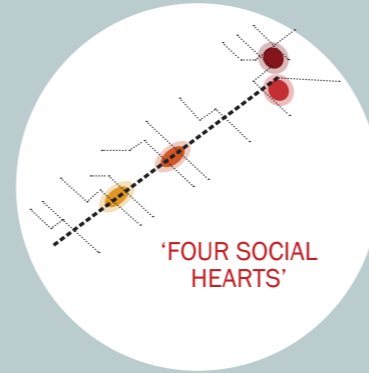


Key Moves:

- a safe 'shared environment'.
- new walking and cycling connections.
- bluestone paved laneways (referencing the visual link and materiality of the Port Hills/ Tamatea Pōkai Whenua).

03 Vibrant

Four great 'yards' as social destinations



Key Moves:

- flexible and adaptable gathering areas that support occupation and activation.
- comfortable street furniture – places to sit, linger, eat.
- artworks and cultural markers.

04 Accessible

Pedestrian and recreational cyclist priority



Key Moves:

- a car-free greenway.
- clear connection hierarchy
primary = greenway
secondary = lanes.
- lighting for a safe pedestrian environment.

05 Green

A new ecological spine



Key Moves:

- a locally informed palette of trees and plantings.
- ecological zones that integrate function and beauty (referencing the Kahikatea, Hourere and Tōtara zones).
- opportunities for interpretation, education and discovery.



Figure 10: The South Frame potential future (indicative imagery only).



mountains

hills

river

sea

Figure 11: The design philosophy is informed by the Canterbury context - mountains to the sea.

An authentic place-specific resolution

The South Frame public realm will deliver the vision through a contextually responsive design that integrates relevant cultural values and narratives of Ngāi Tahu and references the wider geographic context.

Key considerations include:

- **Recognition of cultural trails and paths** – significance of the Port Hills/ Tamatea Pōkai Whenua and Ōtākaro/Avon River.
- **Integration of traditional vegetation** – plants that offer some form of ecological benefit.
- **Reference to enduring elements 'Story of Stone'** – recalling the historical importance of stone for tools, trade and food production.
- **Creation of spaces that complement the city's existing large, green spaces** – opportunity to deliver uniquely 'urban' spaces.
- **Specification of locally sourced materials** – from the Christchurch and Canterbury context, where possible.

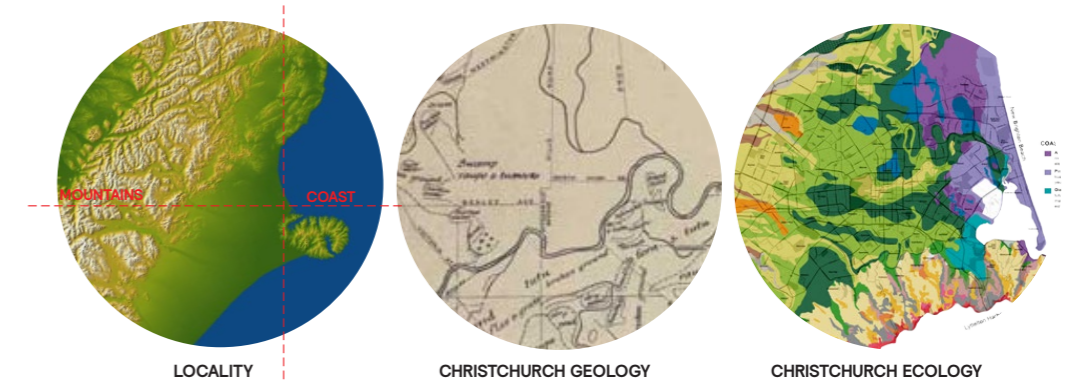


Figure 12: The approach to the site is informed by the underlying geology, river and tributary hydrology, and ecological character zones – Totara, Kahikatea and Houhere – unique to Christchurch's landscape context.

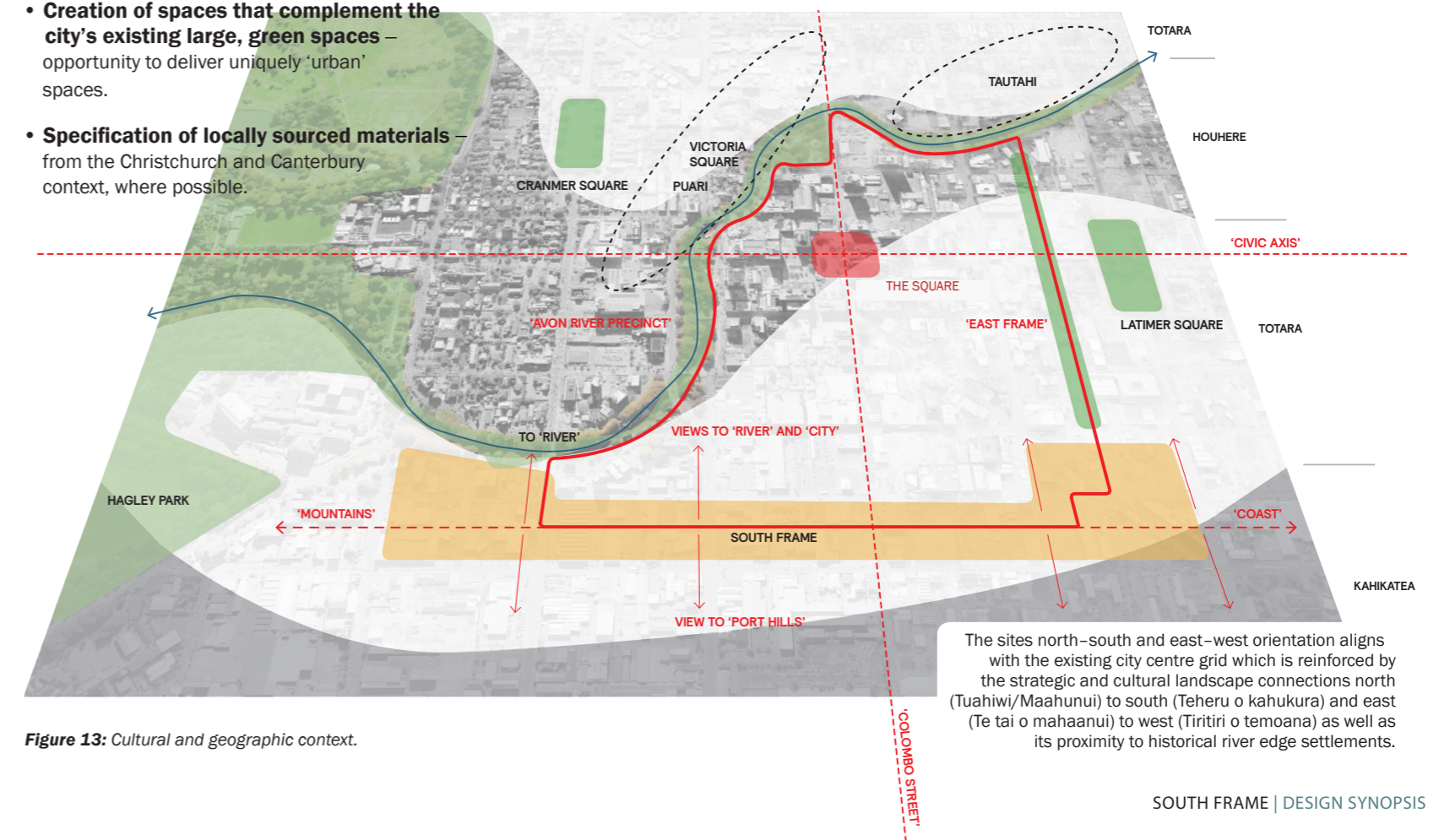


Figure 13: Cultural and geographic context.

The sites north-south and east-west orientation aligns with the existing city centre grid which is reinforced by the strategic and cultural landscape connections north (Tuahiwi/Maahunui) to south (Teheru o kahukura) and east (Te tai o mahaanui) to west (Tiritiri o temoana) as well as its proximity to historical river edge settlements.



BRAIDED RIVER SYSTEM | GEOLOGY
Pedestrian movement along the greenway will reflect the distinctive braided river system of the Canterbury region.

MEANDERING URBAN PARK
Pedestrians will experience a weaving together of garden and urban surfaces.



Figure 14: The greenway
Indicative imagery only.

What the future will look like: an east-west greenway

The greenway is a critical element of the South Frame, contributing to a higher quality environment and completing the 'framing' of the Core by connecting with the East Frame at one end and Hagley Park at the other. The expression of the greenway provides the opportunity for a highly distinctive component of Christchurch's public realm network.

This will be achieved by:

- a dynamic open space experience provided by the weaving together of 'urban' (paved) and 'green' (vegetated) surfaces.
- occasional opportunities for activities such as outdoor dining and seating.
- a planting palette informed by the interaction of the Kahikatea, Hourere and Tōtara ecological zones.
- combining Christchurch's gardening traditions, mahinga kai and green infrastructure into a unique landscape identity.
- revealing the underlying geology through a field of interpretive paving inlays communicating the 'story of stone' (stone resources relevant to iwi).
- a car-free environment providing east-west pedestrian and recreational cycling pathways and priority over the north-south lanes.
- incorporating opportunities for interpretation, education and discovery.



Figure 15: The greenway facilitates a range of edge responses.

**A linear urban garden as...
ecological connector, organising spine and regeneration catalyst.**



Figure 17: A gathering space along the greenway. Indicative imagery only.

What the future will look like: four great ‘yards’

The gathering spaces or ‘yards’ will play a key role in supporting the social, cultural and economic vitality of the South Frame. They will provide places for people to gather, relax, observe and be entertained. These will be designed to draw people into the area and offer an element of surprise, delight and relaxation.

This will be achieved by:

- providing flexible and adaptable spaces that enable activation and create destinations for events, performance and celebration.
- reinforcing the identity of the greenway through ‘green’ gathering spaces which support local occupation and activation.
- creating a market/event space and destination in Mollett Street which builds on its rich social history.
- adaptively re-using key character buildings to retain authenticity, ensure a distinctive identity and provide generators of activity.

Innovation North



Figure 18: Potential view. Indicative imagery only.

Innovation South



Figure 19: Potential view. Indicative imagery only.

New destinations that enable social, cultural and economic vitality. Places for observation, celebration and expression revealing the identity and spirit of the South Frame.

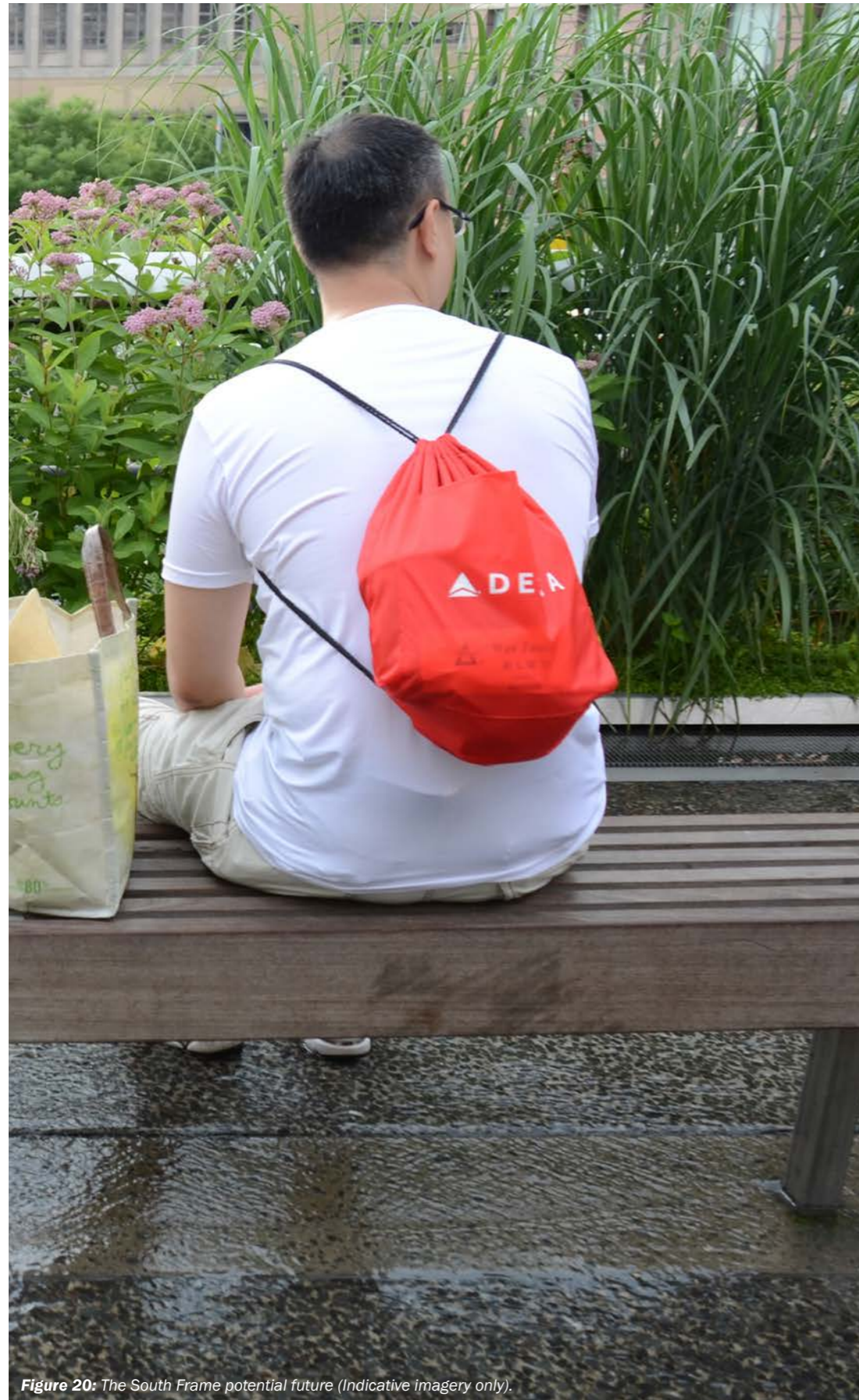


Figure 20: The South Frame potential future (Indicative imagery only).

The delivery process

Construction delivery of the South Frame public realm works is intended to be staged over the next few years. The intent is to commence works early in 2016, starting from the Innovation Precinct and working through to the west, in alignment with surrounding developments where possible.



Figure 21: Indicative images of adjoining developments underway.



Figure 22: The South Frame Public Realm.



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