

## 2. The University Story



isthmus

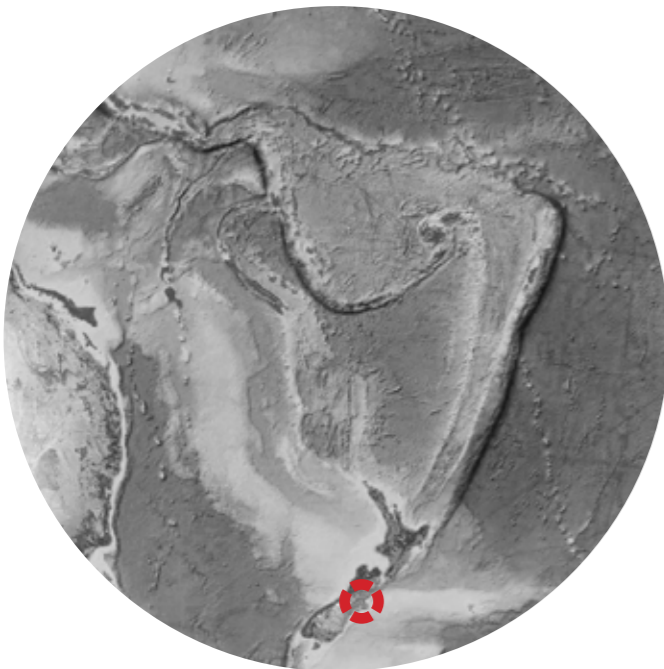
WOODS  
BAGOT.

360°

## 2.1 The campus in context

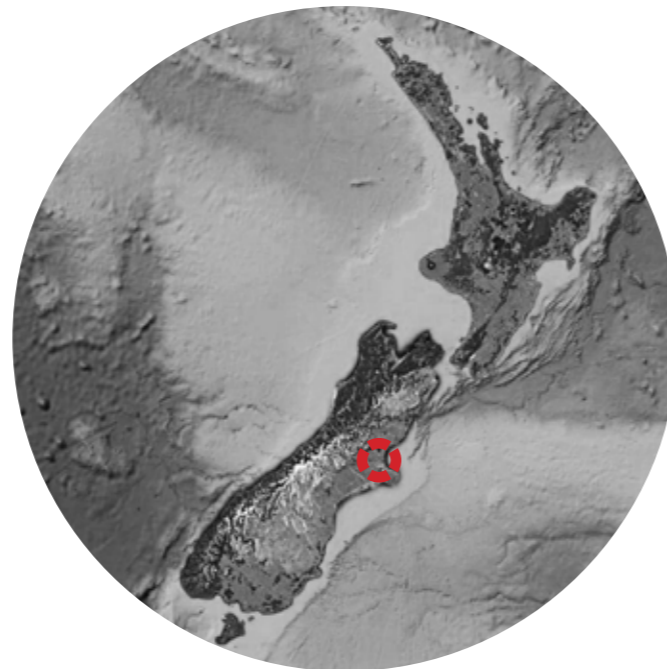
The landscape identity of the University of Canterbury can be positioned by reference to its location in the South Pacific, Aotearoa - New Zealand, the South Island, Canterbury, and Christchurch City. At each of these scales there are landscape characteristics and cultural narratives that the landscape of the campus can reference.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC



**Landscape character:** Sub-tropical, Pacific Ocean  
**University character:** Strong pasifika student community.

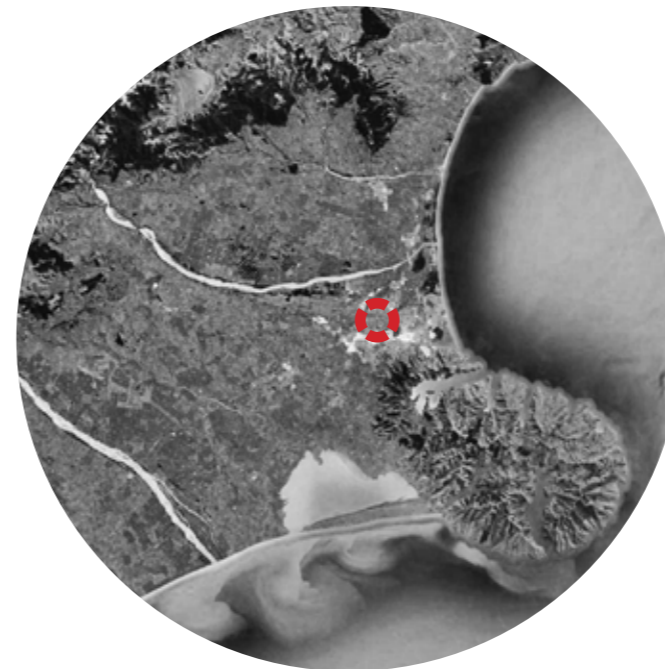
THE SOUTH ISLAND, AOTEAROA - NEW ZEALAND



**Landscape character:** South Island, New Zealand landscape  
**University character:** One of three universities in the South Island, with a diverse student population and a focus on building a strong and supportive community.

The University of Canterbury has a vital role in educating future leaders as well as academic and research innovation development for New Zealand. Enrolments are expected to grow to approximately 17,000 by 2026. The University of Canterbury is New Zealand's first university to receive a prestigious QS 5-star ranking for overall excellence (2011).

CANTERBURY

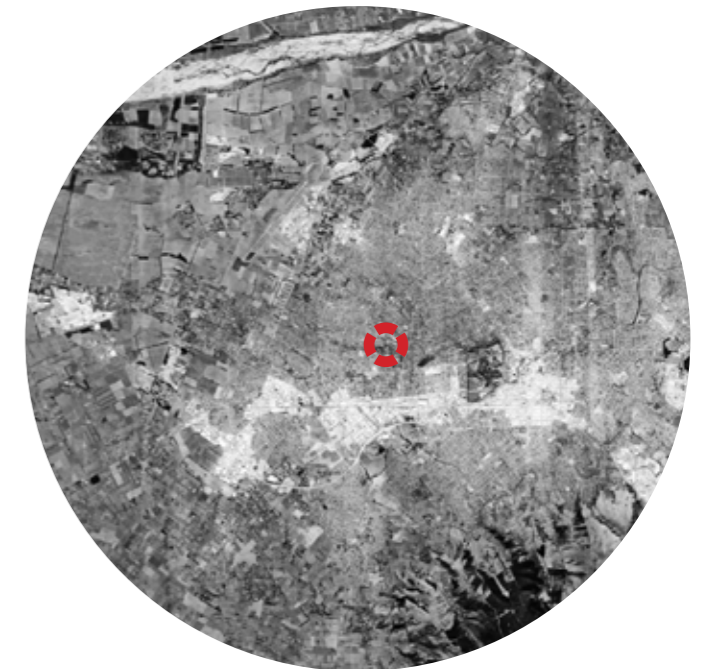


**Landscape character:** Canterbury character, 'University of Plains' between the Southern Alps, Port Hills, and Banks Peninsula

**University character:** Māori and European history of Canterbury and geological landscape origins expressed through planting and pattern.

The University of Canterbury promotes an active lifestyle in a region packed with outdoor adventure from the mountains to the sea.

CHRISTCHURCH - THE GARDEN CITY



**Landscape character:** The garden city and parkland landscapes include Hagley Park and Christchurch Botanic Gardens, the 'lungs of the city', and mahinga kai values associated with the Ōtākaro - Avon river by Ngāi Tūāhuriri.

**University character:** The modernist campus moved from what is now the Arts Centre in central city to a parkland setting in a suburban environment.

From English garden to ecologically responsive environment, the University of Canterbury has a proud place in the history of Christchurch and a vital role in the city's future.

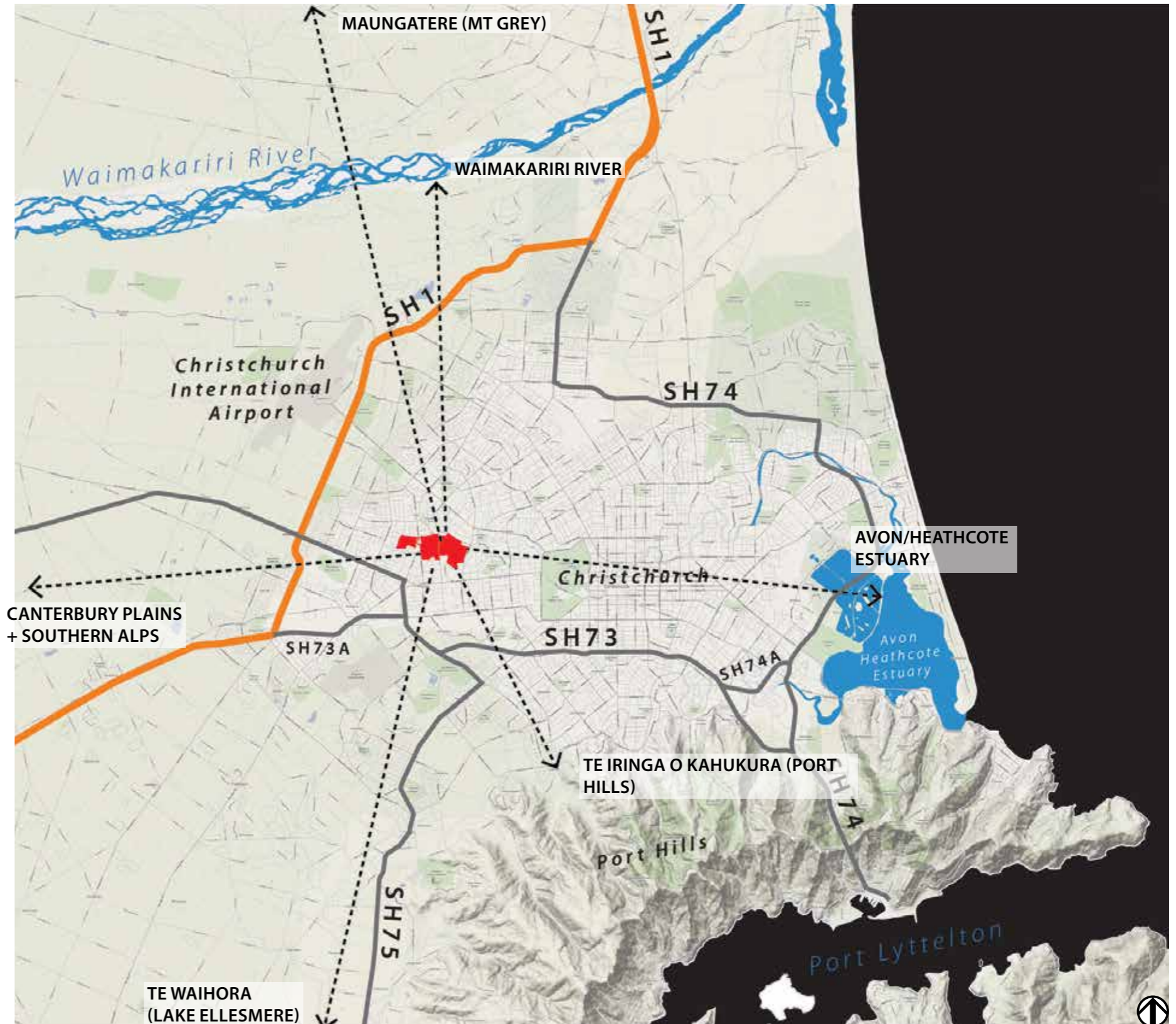
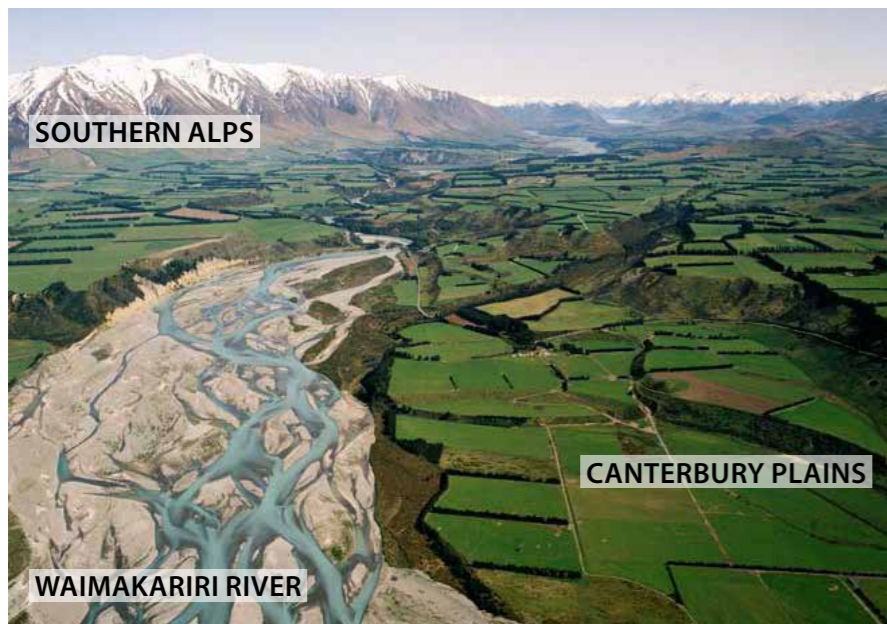
## 2.2 Landscape context: Canterbury

The Canterbury landscape is defined by the Southern Alps rising out of the plains with braided rivers weaving through them, from the Alps to the sea. There is considerable variation in landscape types across the Canterbury region, for example the coast, high country, mountains, plains and basins. This is the wider landscape context of the University of Canterbury, the landscape identity that new initiatives can reference and draw inspiration from.

Landscape is multi-dimensional and includes natural science, legibility, aesthetic, shared and recognised, transient, heritage and tūngata whenua values.

### Distinctive patterns associated with the Canterbury landscape:

- Linear shelterbelts and hedgerows
- Rural patchwork of green and yellow hues
- Braided rivers
- Tussock and grasslands
- Geology - river gravels
- Exotic trees
- Distant mountain range
- Salt marshes, swamps and wetlands
- Outstanding natural landscapes of Canterbury as defined in the District Plan include Banks Peninsula - Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū and Port Hills - Ngā Kohatu Whakarakaraka o Tamatea Pōkai Whenua.



## 2.2.1 Cultural narratives and the Canterbury landscape

The Canterbury Landscape is embedded with cultural narratives, from its recent rural farming history, to the centuries old creation stories of Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Ngāi Tahu, which provide a unique Māori view of the world. The University of Canterbury recognises the importance of the Canterbury cultural landscape as part of the University story, including its cultural relationship with mana whenua, Ngāi Tūāhuriri. These narratives, as well as the characteristics of the Canterbury landscape, can be drawn upon in the treatment and design of campus spaces.

### Creation stories

The mana whenua creation stories about Ranginui and Papatūānuku, Aoraki, Tāwhaki, Rākaihautū, and Tamatea describe the layers of history of Māori in the Canterbury landscape. (Reference: A cultural narrative for the University of Canterbury Master Plan process 2015. Prepared by Puamiria Parata-Goodall September 2015).

### Landuse on the Canterbury Plains

- The Canterbury plains are known as Ngā Pākihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha in Māori
- In pre-European times, the plains were covered in a mixture of dryland vegetation, and the Waimakariri flooded across them
- The area where Christchurch City is was largely swamps and wetlands, providing habitat for mahinga kai species
- European settlement changed the landscape dramatically, draining wetlands and removing native vegetation
- The landscape of the plains is characterised today by a patchwork of farm paddocks and shelterbelts, with a backdrop of dramatic hills and mountains.

### Mural depicting Ngāi Tahu creation stories (Christchurch Botanic Gardens)



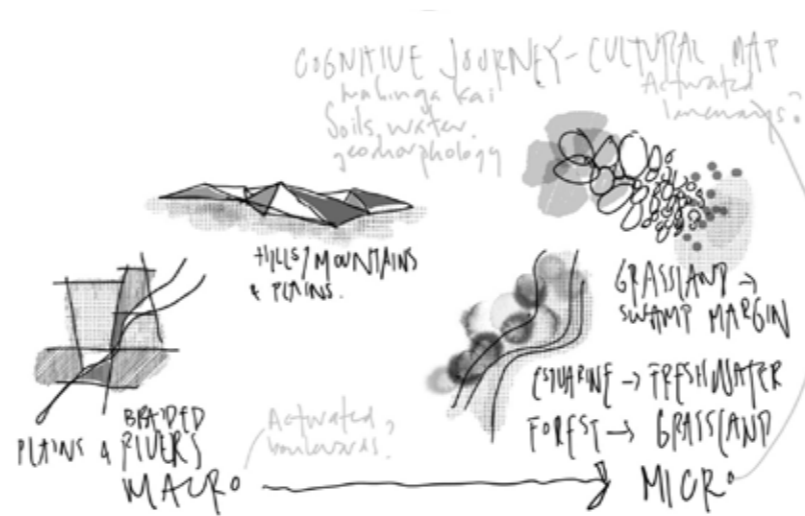
### UC illustrative graphics of cultural narratives



Tāwhaki

Aoraki

Tamatea



### Cultural values and artistic expression of the inherent qualities of the Canterbury landscape



Castle Hill



Doris Lusk, 'Canterbury Plains from Cashmere Hills'



The Canterbury Plains



Rita Angus, 'Mountains, Cass'



Waimakariri River



Bill Sutton, 'Nor' Wester in the Port Hills'



Te Waihora - Lake Ellesmere



Colin McCahon, 'Canterbury Landscape'

## 2.3 Landscape context: Christchurch

Generous urban parks, open green spaces, and the river network create Christchurch's identity as a 'garden city'. Christchurch's parks can be traced back to the 1850s, when Hagley Park was established in order to promote health and wellbeing within the city. Christchurch influenced the English Garden City movement which aimed to create self-sustaining cities with green spaces for the benefit of the city's residents.

Ōtākaro-Avon River is an iconic part of Christchurch's urban fabric. The Ōtākaro-Avon River has a landscape overlay scheduled in the Christchurch District Plan as a significant feature (SF) (planning map: 30, SF8.3).

- Chapter 9 Heritage, Section 9.2.9.2.3 Schedule of Significant features
- Ōtākaro / Avon River Open Space water and margins
- Refer to District Planning Map showing the extent of SF8.3 in the grounds of the University of Canterbury, Ilam.

The Ōtākaro-Avon River and the cultural area of Christchurch has particular historical significance to Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Ngai Tahu for navigation and mahinga kai.

Riccarton Bush / Putarikamotu is scheduled in the Christchurch District Plan as a outstanding natural feature (ONF) (planning map: 31, ONF35.0).

- Chapter 9 Heritage, Section 9.2.9.2.1 Schedule of Outstanding natural features
- Riccarton Bush / Putarikamotu, bush and associated park
- Refer to District Planning Map showing the extent of ONF35.0 in the grounds of the University of Canterbury, Ilam.



Christchurch - the garden city



HAGLEY PARK



AVON RIVER

Indigenous ecology



RICCARTON BUSH

## 2.4 The modernist campus

The landscape now occupied by the University of Canterbury was once a forest of matai, totara, kahikatea and miro, but it was largely deforested and farmed by the mid-19th century. The University of Canterbury was relocated from the centre of Christchurch to its suburban home in the late 1950s. The campus was envisaged as a singularly beautiful complex of carefully planned modern buildings, gardens, courts, shrubberies and lawns. (Reference: John Hunt 'The Making of a Modernist Campus: The Development of the Ilam Campus of the University of Canterbury').

The campus has gradually moved away from the original high-maintenance English garden style to a lower maintenance and more ecologically responsive environment within the last 15 years. The landscape is currently made up of a significant number of trees both native and imported, as well as deciduous and evergreen, waterways, lawns and gardens.

Preservation of the historically significant Ilam Homestead and Ilam Gardens, including the cultivation of rhododendron and azalea collections by Edgar Stead remain an important part of the University Story. The University of Canterbury continues its association with Roland Stead and the trust fund that has been set up to maintain the gardens.

While the campus is well known for its striking modernist buildings, its parkland character and landscape are an equally important part of its identity. Important features include:

- Informal parkland style planting towards the edge of the campus to blend it with the suburbs
- Grassed mounds, intended to soften orthogonal forms of buildings
- Interlocking courts and integrated pathways in the core of Ilam Campus

More recent additions to the campus landscape are:

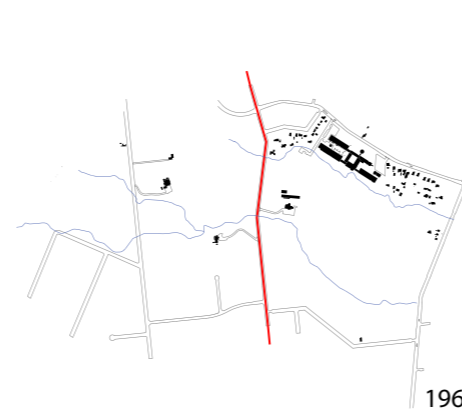
- Riparian restoration plantings
- The Okeover community gardens
- Edible planting schemes



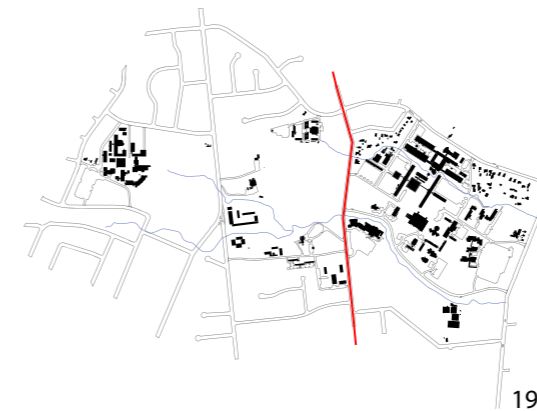
Modernist university buildings in a park-like campus



The campus landscape today



1961



1980



2009

Evolution of the campus building footprint

## 2.5 Character Areas

### 2.5.1 Existing landscape character

#### Campus core

- Mixture of different paving types, patterns and motifs
- Central street with paved and grassed courts either side
- Extremes of exposure and enclosure
- Fixed and mobile street furniture: bike racks, seating associated with cafes, landscape benches

#### Urban landscape

- Gardenesque planting around buildings and in courtyards
- Exotic mixed gardens in older spaces, mass planting and natives near newer buildings
- Small-scale courtyards, pathways and lanes
- Human-scale architectural details on the campus' modernist buildings
- Contrast between landscaping around newer and older buildings
- Temporary interventions bring colour and detail- hoardings, bicycle racks

#### Waterways

- Typically narrow riparian edge to waterways
- Few formal access points to river
- Narrow bridges cause pinch-points
- Recent native plantings part of stream edge upgrade projects interspersed with mature stream edge plantings such as willows
- Native garden landscape treatment to stream at Te Ao Mārama gardens

#### Parkland

- Wide open grass spaces
- Exotic deciduous trees with some younger natives
- Pockets of distinctive groupings, i.e. Okeover pines, the cherry walk, and the Rhododendron and Azalea collection in Ilam Gardens
- Low grassed mounds at edges of campus
- Informal desire lines worn through grass

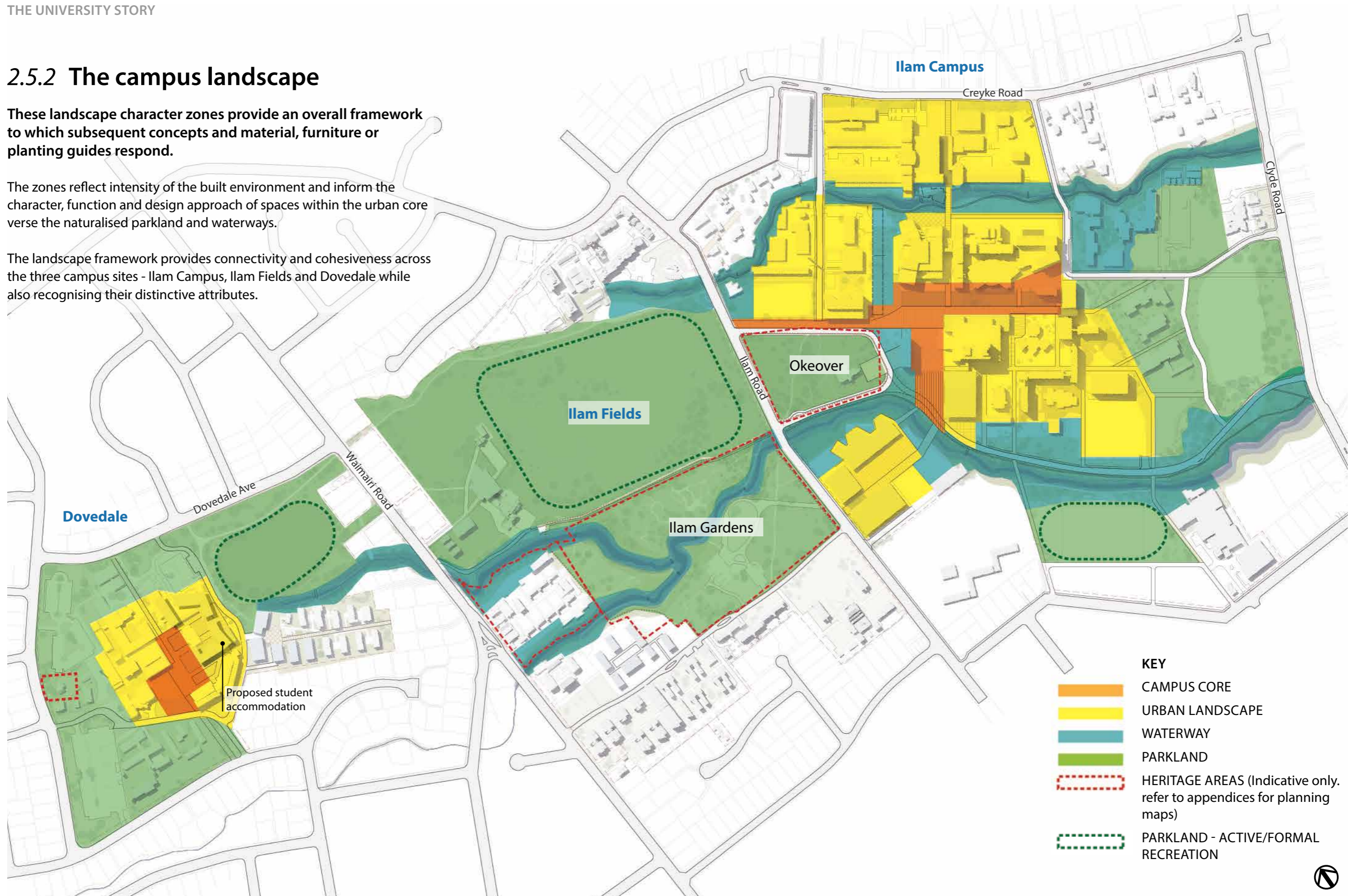








## 2.5.2 The campus landscape

These landscape character zones provide an overall framework to which subsequent concepts and material, furniture or planting guides respond.

The zones reflect intensity of the built environment and inform the character, function and design approach of spaces within the urban core verse the naturalised parkland and waterways.

The landscape framework provides connectivity and cohesiveness across the three campus sites - Ilam Campus, Ilam Fields and Dovedale while also recognising their distinctive attributes.



KEY	
	CAMPUS CORE
	URBAN LANDSCAPE
	WATERWAY
	PARKLAND
	HERITAGE AREAS (Indicative only. refer to appendices for planning maps)
	PARKLAND - ACTIVE/FORMAL RECREATION



## 2.6 Existing planting

### 2.6.1 Existing trees

#### 1. University of Canterbury signature trees

- Lime tree: official university tree
- Pin oak: unofficial university tree
- Rhododendrons and Azaleas: associated with Edgar Stead

#### 2. Culturally significant trees and plants

- Original forest trees: totara, matai, kahikatea, miro
- Taonga species: totara (making waka), kowhai (seasonal harvest) ti kouka (landmark)
- Mahinga kai resources: harakeke (weaving), toe toe (thatching) and lining, kowhai (medicinal)

Ref: Appendix 11.1 Significant trees on campus.

#### 3. Commemorative trees

There are no scheduled protected trees on Campus. Commemorative trees have been planted to recognise an event or person.

#### 4. Endangered trees

IUCN endangered exotic tree species (scarce in their place of origin) have been identified. Refer to appendices for list and map.

Ref: Appendix 11.1 Significant trees on campus.

### 2.6.2 Planting character

#### Native planting guides

A native plant palette is woven through the Campus and is influenced by the University of Canterbury Landscaping Guidelines, the Matapopore Urban Design Guide, and the Ngahere Native Planting guide. Native planting over the last decade has engendered a shift towards an ecologically responsive look and feel and recognition of mahinga kai values.

#### Balancing the parkland setting with native planting

The character of the Haereroa-Avon River supports groupings of native and woodland tree species with historical associations, retaining open views to the river.

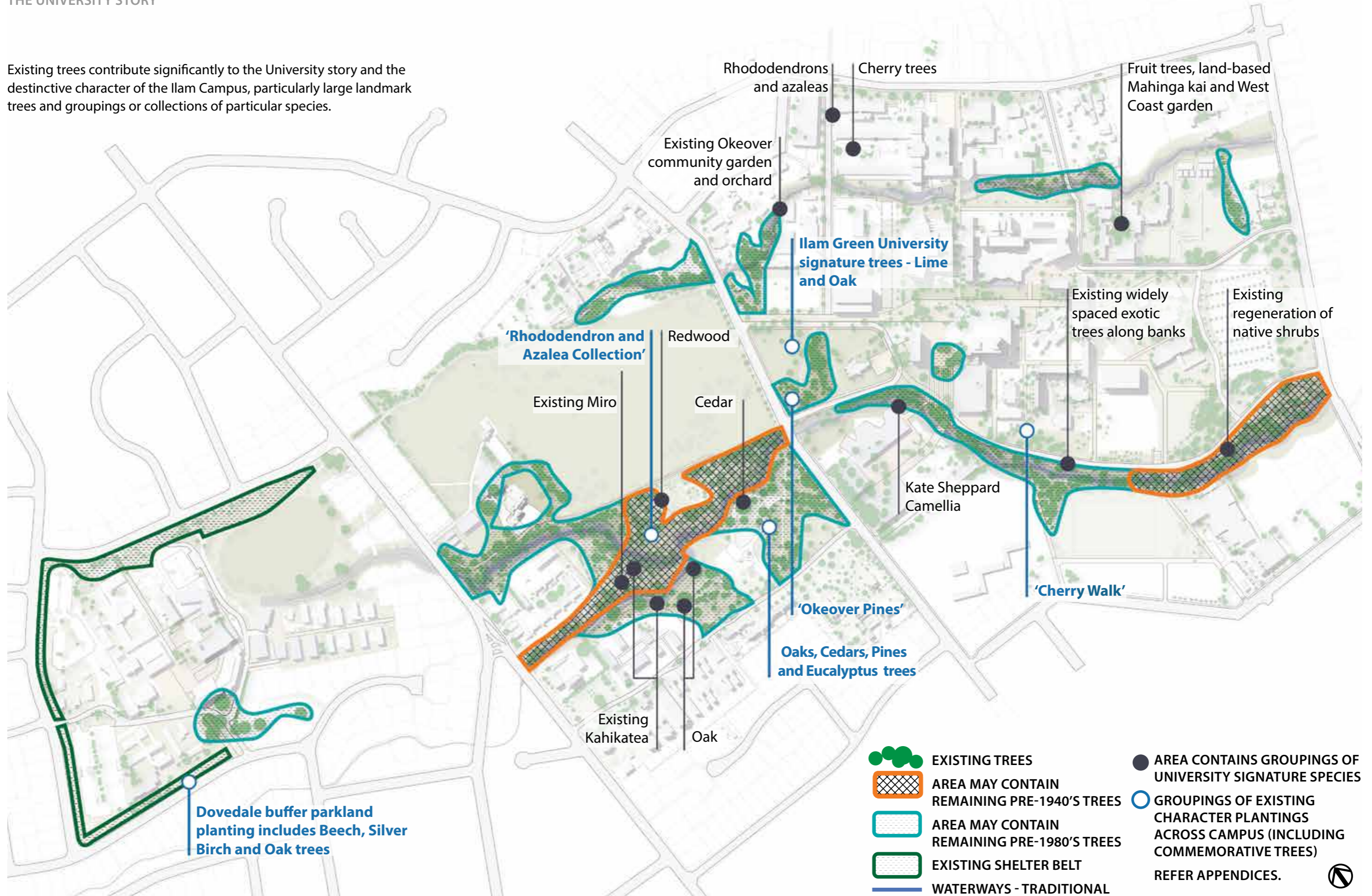
#### Edible campus

Orchards and community gardens exist in peripheral parkland areas of the campus, but could be developed close to halls of residence in support of the edible campus concept.



THE UNIVERSITY STORY

Existing trees contribute significantly to the University story and the distinctive character of the Ilam Campus, particularly large landmark trees and groupings or collections of particular species.



## 2.7 Statutory Context

### 2.7.1 Heritage items

#### Heritage protection

Landscapes associated with pre-1900 human activity are protected under the archaeological provisions of the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* which replaced the *Historic Places Act 1993* on 20 May 2014.

The *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* defines an archaeological site as a place associated with pre-1900 human activity where there may be evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. A place associated with post-1900 human activity may be declared by Gazette as an archaeological site under the Act.

The *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* makes it unlawful for any person to modify or destroy, or cause to be modified or destroyed, the whole or any part of an archaeological site without the prior authority of Heritage New Zealand. For any work that may affect an archaeological site an authority from Heritage New Zealand must be obtained.

Refer to <http://www.heritage.org.nz/>.

#### Christchurch District Plan heritage items

The Proposed Christchurch Replacement District Plan identifies a number of heritage items on the University of Canterbury campus. Those items are to be protected as indicated on this plan. The District Plan describes heritage items as being either 'Highly Significant' (group 1) or 'Significant' (group 2). Refer to section 9.3.2.2 *Policy - Identification and assessment of historic heritage for scheduling in the District Plan* for policy relating to the identification and assessment of historic heritage.

#### Table of heritage items

Name	Item #	Setting #	Group
Former dwelling and setting, Okeover	300	201	2
Former dwelling and setting, Ilam	301	620	1
Former Ilam Gardens	302	-	1
College House buildings (varying descriptions)	534, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1342	194	1 and 2
Fendalton Open Air School Classroom and Setting	535	190	2

*Note: boundaries shown are indicative only, based upon the Proposed Christchurch Replacement District Plan, Maps 30, 31 and H12.*

#### Heritage rules

Heritage rules in District Plan *Chapter 9 Natural and Cultural Heritage* should be complied with when any work identified in the Landscape Master Plan is undertaken on or near heritage items. The following sections of the Proposed Christchurch Replacement District Plan identify rules to do with heritage sites, and are particularly relevant to the works proposed in the Landscape Master Plan.

- 9.3.4 Rules - Activity status Tables
- 9.3.5 Rules - Matters of Control
- 9.3.6 Rules - Matters of Discretion
  - 9.3.6.1 Alterations, new buildings, relocations, temporary event structures, signage and replacement of buildings

### 2.7.2 Significant features

#### Ōtākaroa-Avon River

The Ōtākaro-Avon river in the grounds of the University of Canterbury is identified as Significant Feature 8.3 in the Christchurch District Plan (refer to appendices for map showing its extent). Policy relevant to treatment of significant features is set out in section 9.2.2.8 *Policy - Recognising and maintaining the qualities of significant features*, and this should be complied with when work is being undertaken within the significant feature area identified in the District Plan.

*Note: the Ōtākaro-Avon River is known as the Haereroa-Avon River within the University Campus.*



ILAM HOMESTEAD



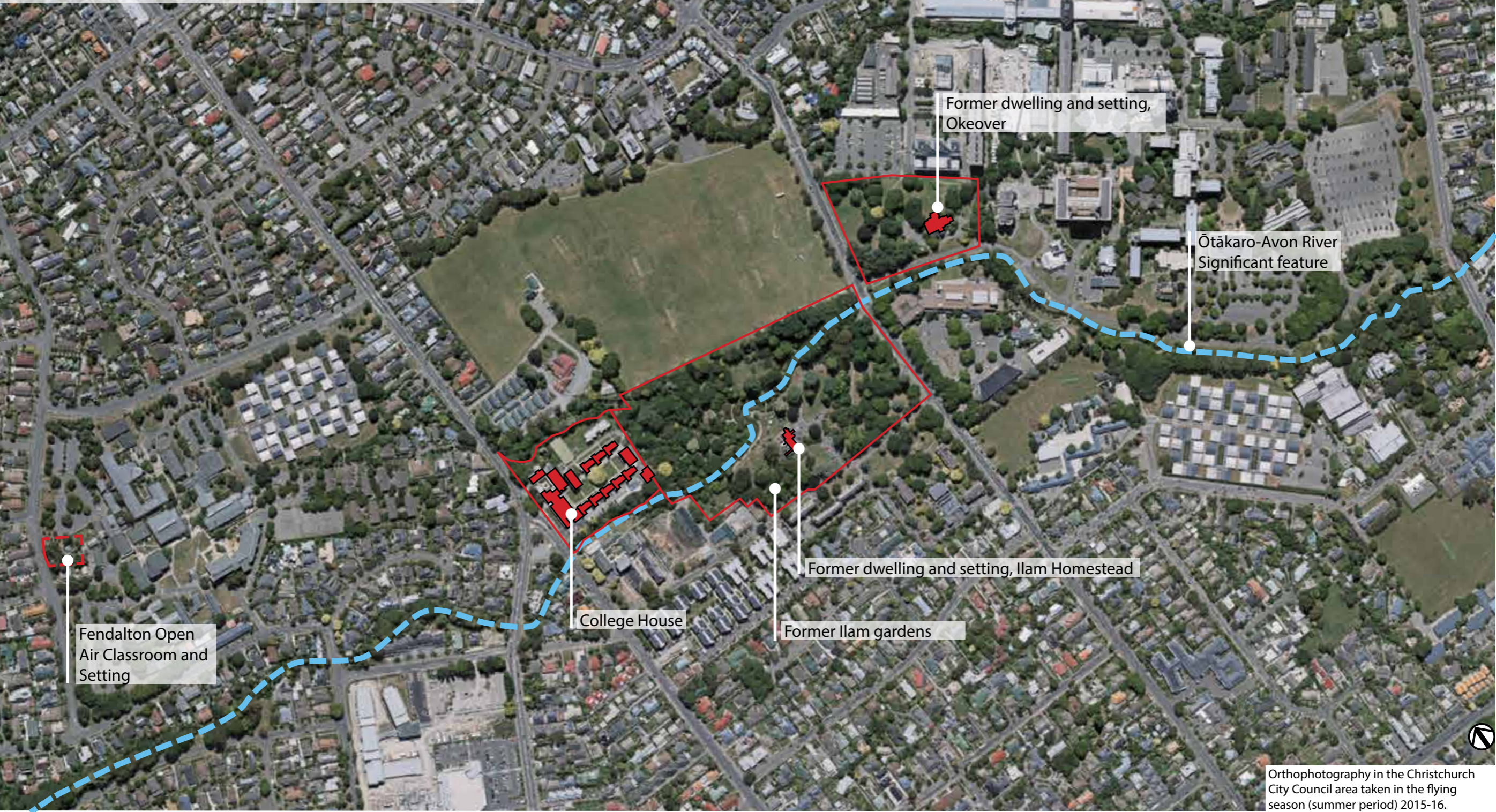
ILAM GARDENS



OKEOVER LAWN

### 2.7.3 Map: heritage items and significant features

Areas shown are indicative only. Refer to appendices for District Plan Maps.



Orthophotography in the Christchurch City Council area taken in the flying season (summer period) 2015-16.