

Landscape Architecture
PORTFOLIO.

The background features a dark, abstract composition with a dense network of white lines forming organic shapes. Overlaid on this are several red-toned, textured elements resembling foliage or fire. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a more structured area with a grid-like pattern and some technical-looking diagrams, possibly representing a site plan or architectural drawing.

Hagan Plaisted

I believe design is a dialogue between people, place, and technique. My approach is to embrace the complexity of landscapes, so that each project becomes a process of discovery and collaboration, leading to emerging and enduring outcomes. I am personally motivated by being challenged, continued learning, and finding the right process for a project to define outcomes. Central to my approach is letting the landscape speak first, and connecting people to place.

Growing up among Rotorua's lakes, forests, and geothermal landscapes gave me an early sense of how deeply culture and place are intertwined. Moving to Wellington expanded that understanding, showing me how design can mediate the meeting of city and nature. Landscape architecture, for me, has become a way to channel that sense of energy, connection, and care into shaping meaningful places.

Masters of Landscape Architecture - Victoria University of Wellington - 2023, 2025

Bachelor of Architectural Studies in Landscape Architecture - Victoria University of Wellington - 2020, 2023

Adobe CC

Photoshop - InDesign - Illustrator - Lightroom

CAD/Render

Rhino/Grasshopper - Revit - SketchUp - Lumion

MS Office

Word - Powerpoint - Excel

GIS

ArcGIS Pro - QGIS

LiDAR

DJI Terra - Pix4D Survey - Pix4D Mapper - ReCap

Tahaaroa Ironsands

Tahaaroa, Waikato - Thesis - 2025



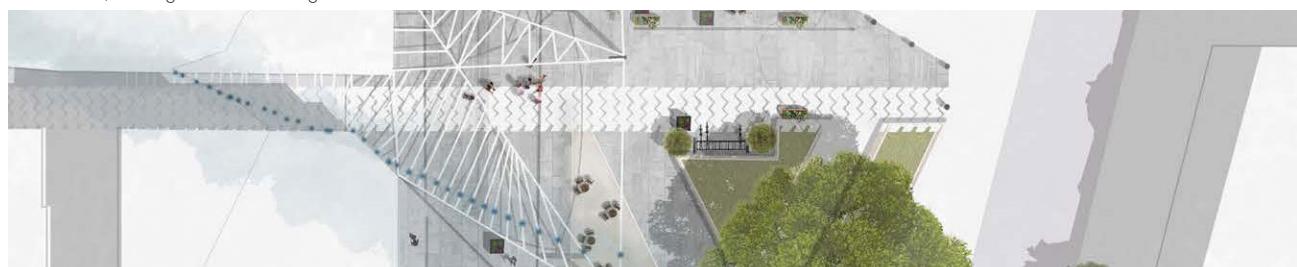
Komititanga

Ruamāhanga River, Wairarapa - Ecological Design - 2022



Resilient Te Aro

Dixon Street, Wellington - Urban Design - 2022



Te Awa Kairangi

Hutt River, Lower Hutt - Urban Design - 2023



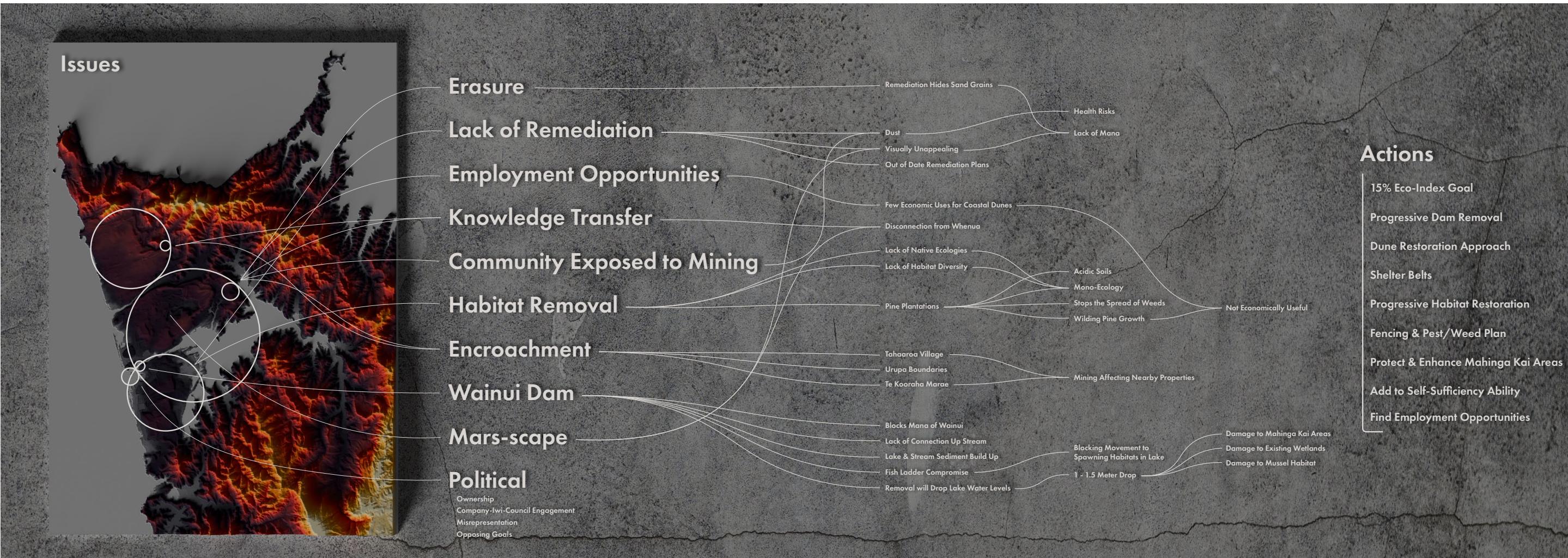
TAHAAROA IRONSANDS

Tahaaroa, Waikato - Thesis - 2025

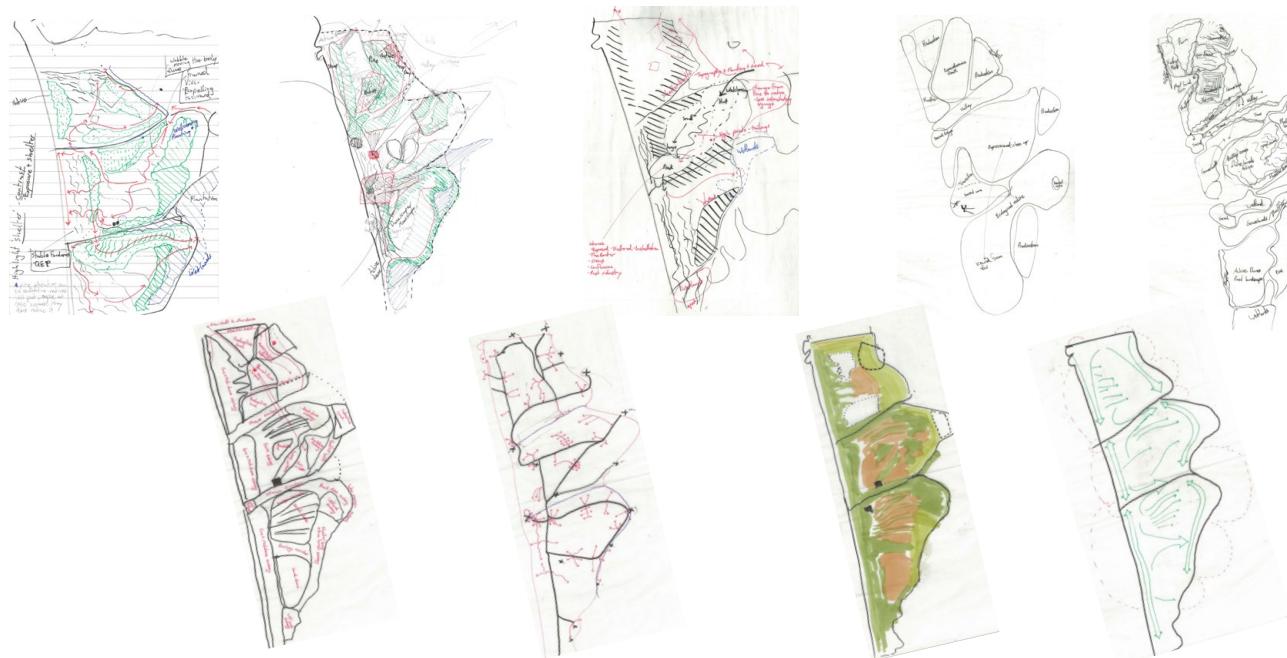
What happens to an isolated rural community dependant on mining when that mine closes? Investigating Tahaaroa Ironsands, I ask how to design with and re-imagine dunefield post-mining landscapes through design. Rather than treating mine closure as the end point, I explore how extraction in this environment can be a creative act, and the starting point for new forms of land use, resilience, and identity. The research engages with Māori perspectives, the realities of rural communities, and the complex processes of extraction and coastal dunefields to propose alternative remediation practices, which often erase the evidence of mining.

Through design, mapping, and scenario building, I explore how large-scale mining landscapes can regenerate cultural, economic, and ecological potentials. In doing so the project seeks to open space for rural communities to influence post-mining futures and challenge the narrow technical focus that has long dominated remediation.

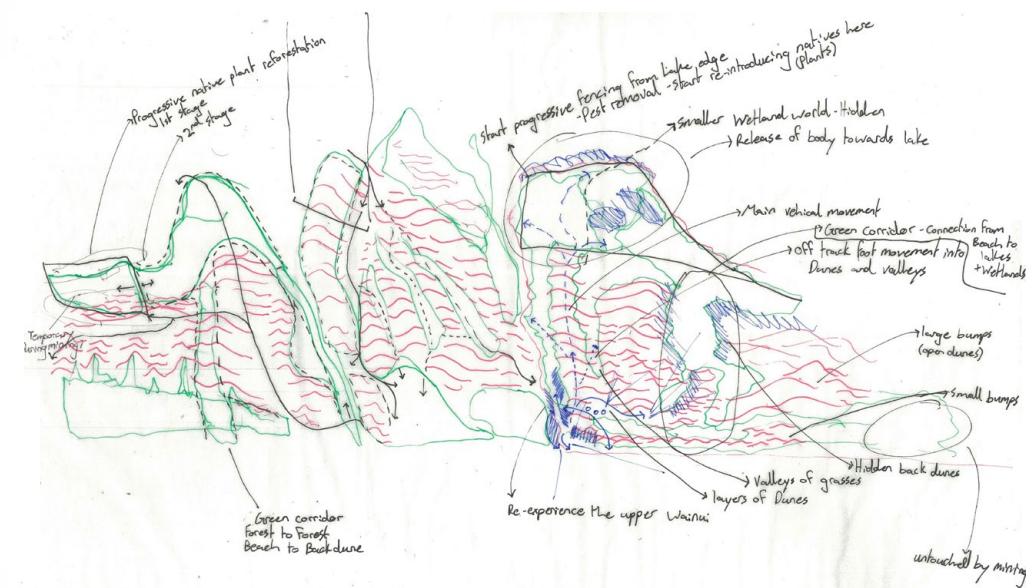




Sketch Design



Active Dunes



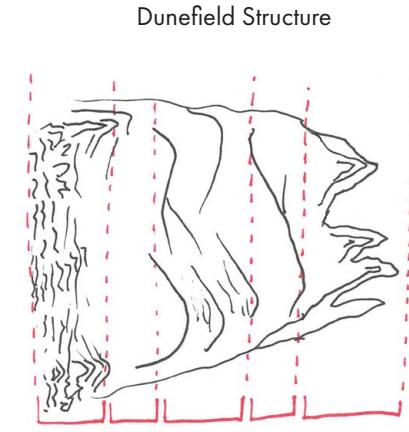
Current remediation practices bury the sands to stabilise the ground, dis-empowering people and place; While typical top-down design fails to critically engage with specifics of site. A change of perspective was needed, from top-down to bottom-up.

What does the landscape want?

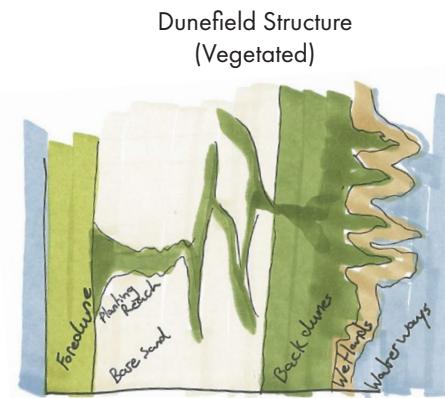
Instead of designing experiences, the project looks at how design and experience can emerge from both dunefield and mining processes.



1944 Dunes



- 1) Foredunes: Densely vegetated. Small and varied bumpy topography.
- 2) Mid dune ramp: Gentle slope of bare sand or sparsely planted vegetation.
- 3) Mid-dunes: Bare sand with back dune planting that increases stability and biodiversity.
- 4) Back dunes: Final bare sand dune with extensive back dune planting.
- 5) Dune Corridors: Long and thin strips of planted dunes behind back dunes

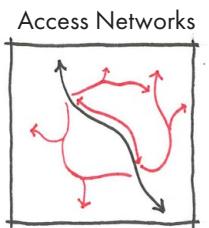


Using the principle that - Dunes grow on plants - we can concretely design dunefields with some immediacy and stability without stopping natural dune processes.

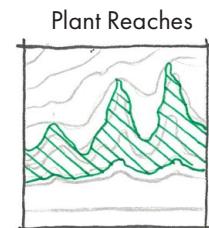
Back dune planting framework



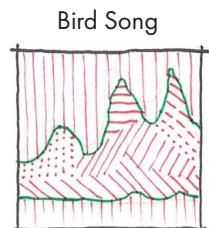
Design Principles



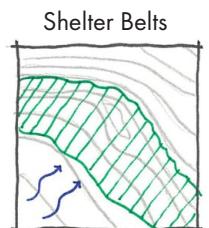
Get people to walk more of the land. More opportunities to connect with the land, experience it and putting your feet on the whenua, not just driving through it.



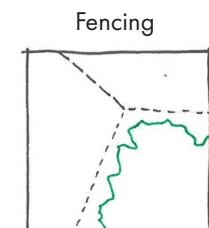
Plant corridors will extend the environmental and experiential impact of re-planted areas, connecting parts of the landscape with each other by creating corridors that support life.



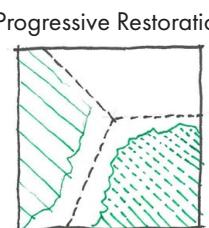
Abundant bird songs to indicate the health of the land, increase the liveliness of places and connect people to the land. Uses different mixes of plants and micro-climates to entice a variety of birds.



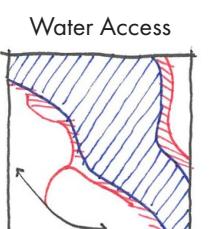
Protecting the community from strong winds, migrating sands, and sheltering remediated land from invasive species. Has additional benefits for surrounding farmland.



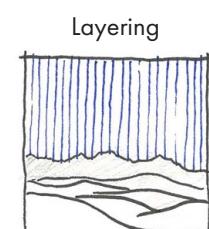
Fencing will stop roaming stock from overwhelming restored native plantings, create new paddocks, and reduce sand migration.



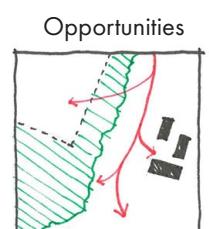
Progressive restoration will re-establish native plants as a dominant force in this landscape, creating a base for further projects beyond the site.



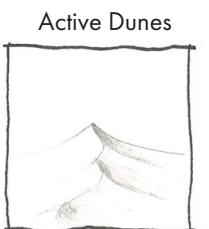
Giving more opportunities for contact with water will create specific instances of connection to the land and self.



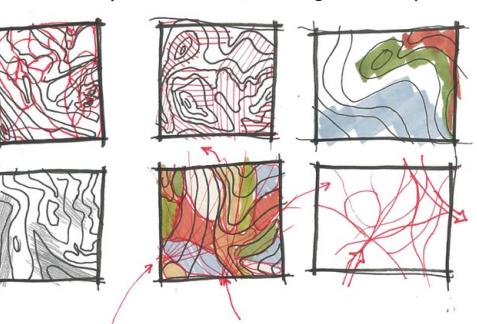
Visual layering of the dunes and hills to express the massiveness and expansiveness of the landscape and the mining operation. Layering of different vegetation corridors and bird songs.



Exploring economic opportunities to support employment or accommodating visitation for tourism/returning whānau



Significantly large and mobile bare sand dunes. Uncovers both the historic landforms and the empowerment within. Connects people to the past, creates a shared experience of the place, and is a unique feature specific to the area.



Going beyond standard restoration, each 'patch' is unique in its experience and expresses something both individual about the landscape and part of its whole. By combining various other design principles together - chiefly plant corridors, access networks, bird song, layering, and active dunes - we can intensify the mosaic of patches which have different plants/plant arrangements, bird song, dune topographies, movement types, and experiences. The goal of this is to create a place that tangata whenua can proudly and collectively call home, pointing to the past, present and potential futures.

Design Methodology

An approach centred around community resiliency & hapū relations with the land.

Community being more than just the people who live in the area but all who are whakapapa to the whenua.

Re-Creation & Multiplication of a Rich Topographic-Eco- Experiential Patch Mosaic.

A concrete vision and approach to site and dunefield design.

Design vision details & the unfolding nature of design, landscape, and mining.

Methods and processes of achieving said vision and design.

Design as just one possible arrangement of the vision.

Recognising that mining and dune landscape are highly dynamic, that design can only describe outcomes and processes up to a certain point. It also recognises that there are still many uncertainties and indeterminacies yet to unfold, but that the vision and steps are valuable in reaching for a common goal.

Design Framework

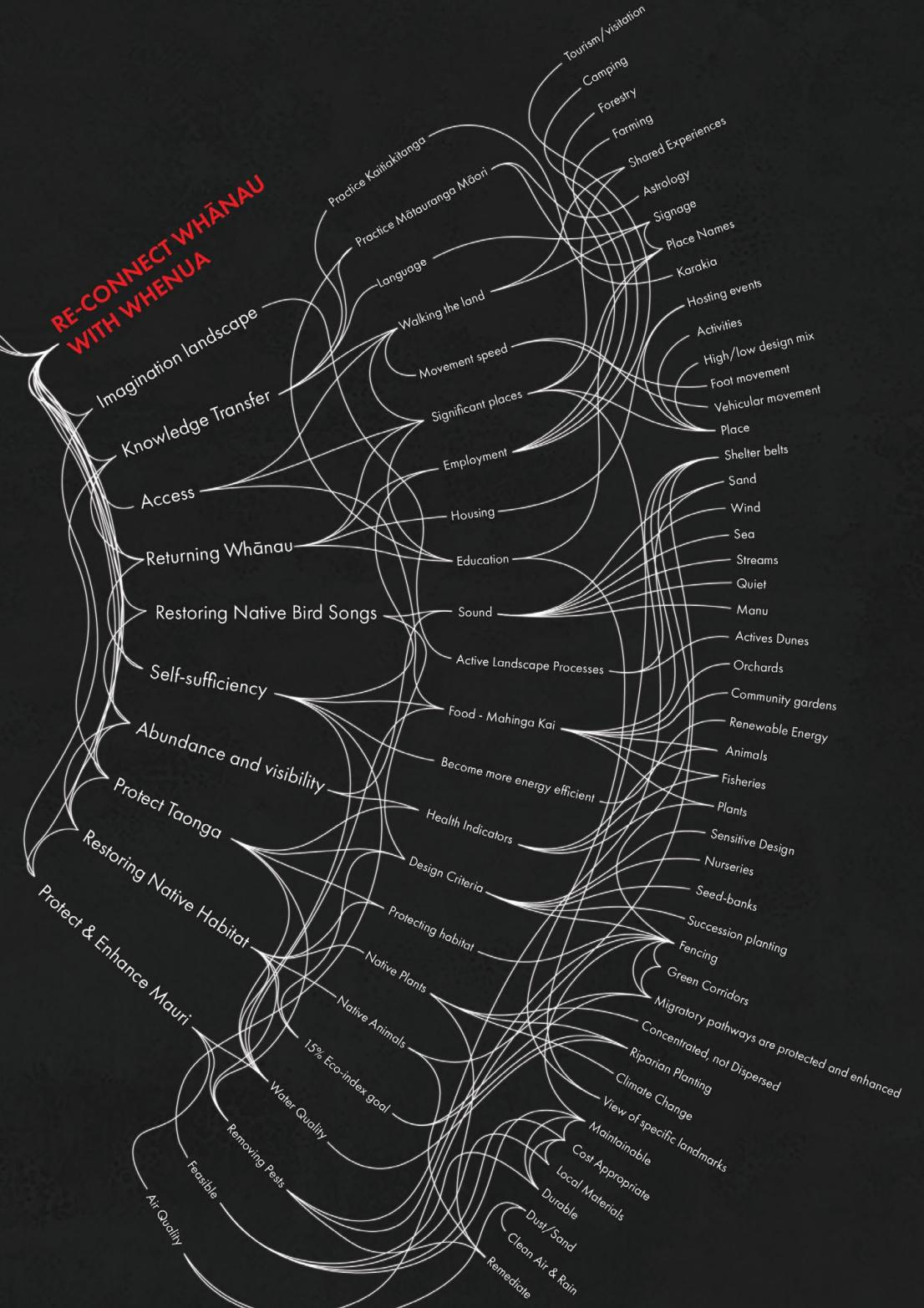


—RESILIENCY

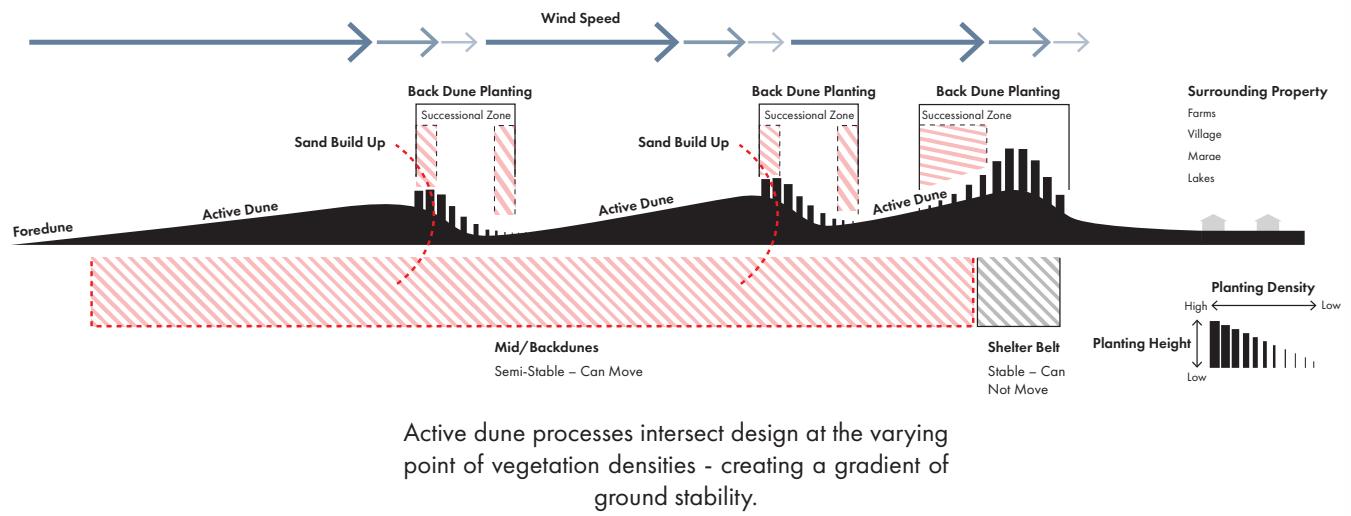
Support Ahi kā

For the joy of uri, so they may
cherish the land as it is cherished today.

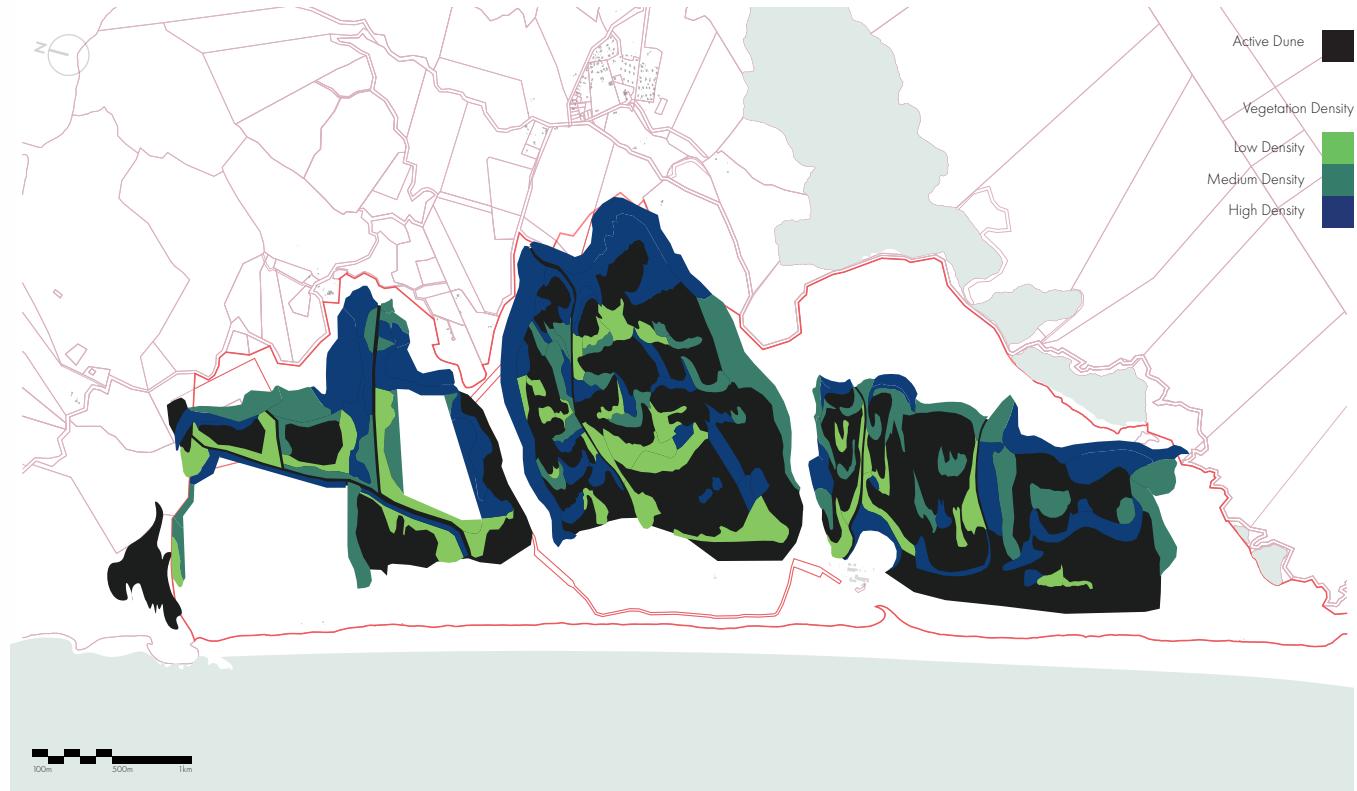
**RE-CONNECT WHĀNAU
WITH WHENUA**



Planting Logic

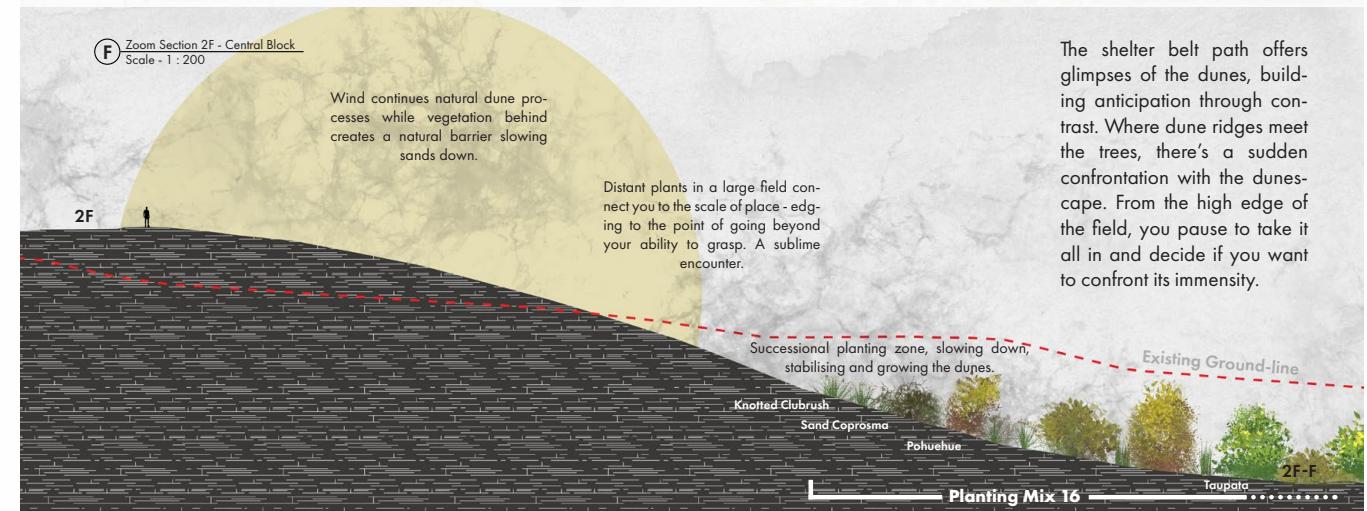
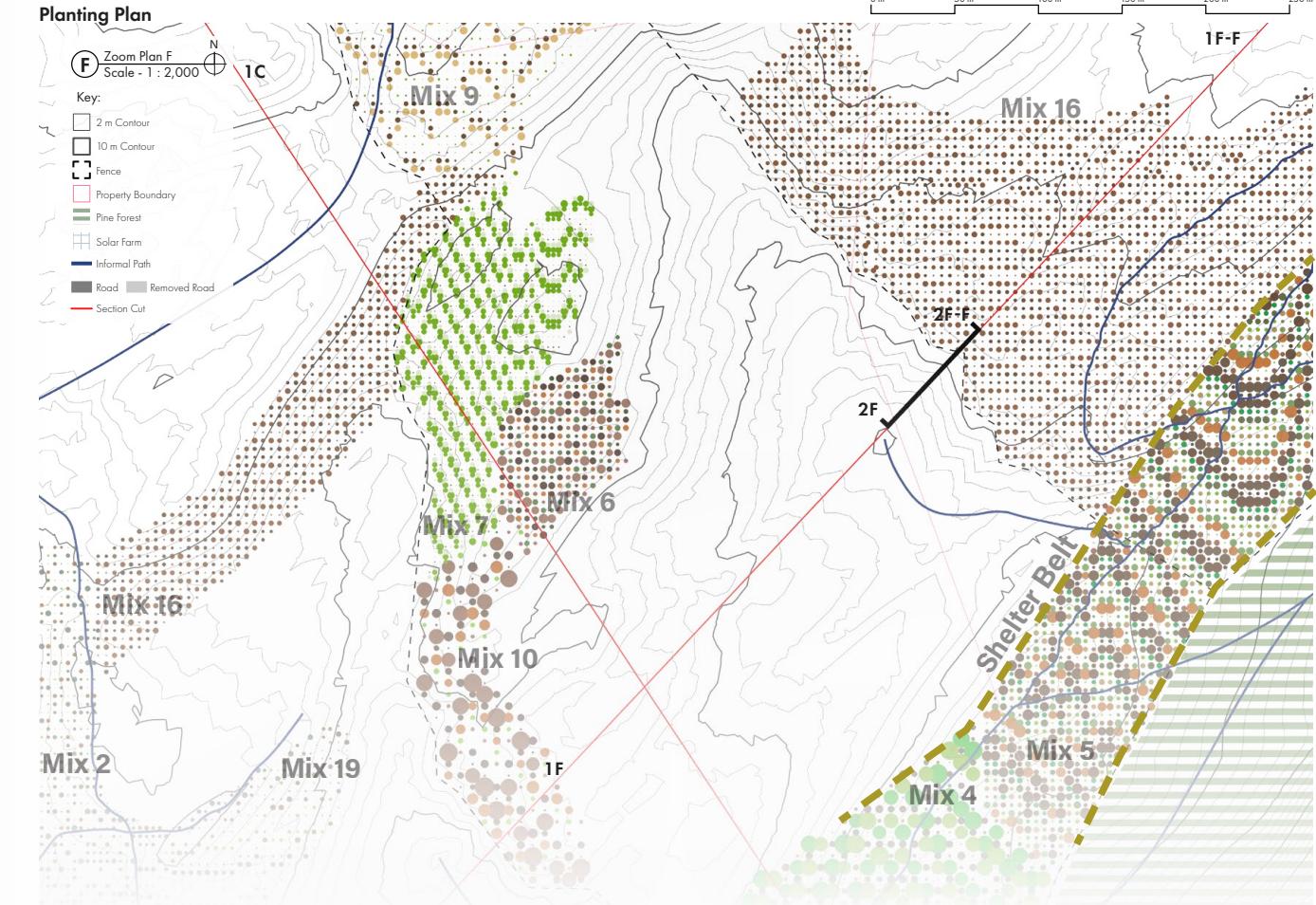
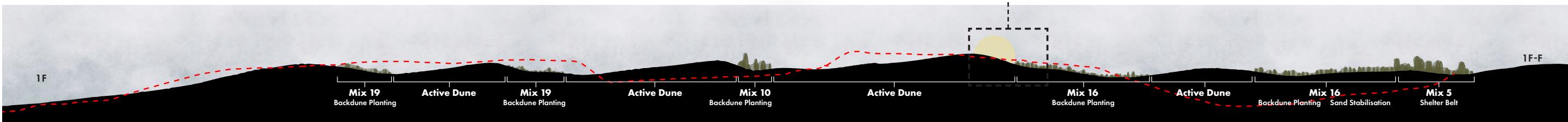


Vegetation Densities



Averaged Planting Mix Height





The shelter belt path offers glimpses of the dunes, building anticipation through contrast. Where dune ridges meet the trees, there's a sudden confrontation with the dunescape. From the high edge of the field, you pause to take it all in and decide if you want to confront its immensity.

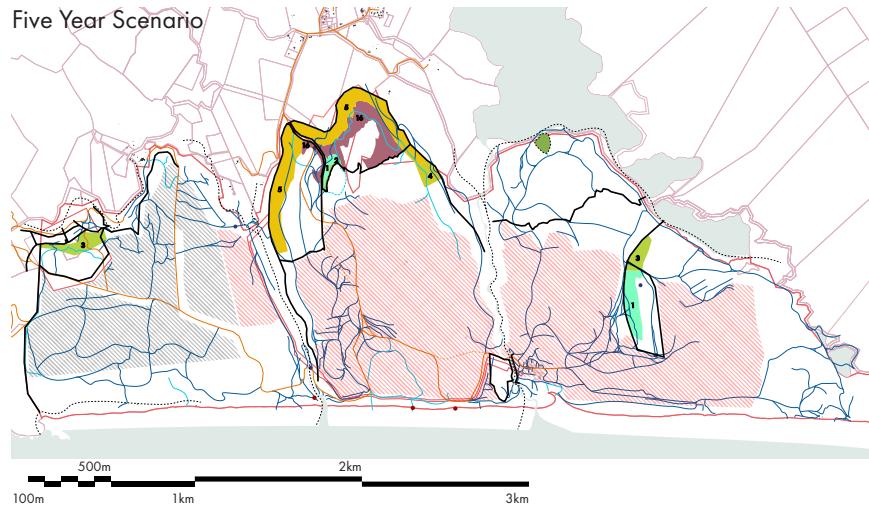
Master Plan (After Mining)

A forward-looking arrangement after the end of mining, working with the processes of mining-re-mediation and landscape forces over time. This configuration may not be achieved as depicted, but can act as a guide when taking small steps throughout the mining lifecycle.

The designs aim is to create a sense of this landscape's unlimited variety of experientially rich encounters, continually unfolding through exploration and varying over time. Each distinct patch of experience is created by topography, vegetation, bird life, sand movement, wind, their relation to each other and location within the landscape. Using the lens of a patches allows the landscape to become an engaging mosaic of space(s), and eases the design/construction process on an operational mine.



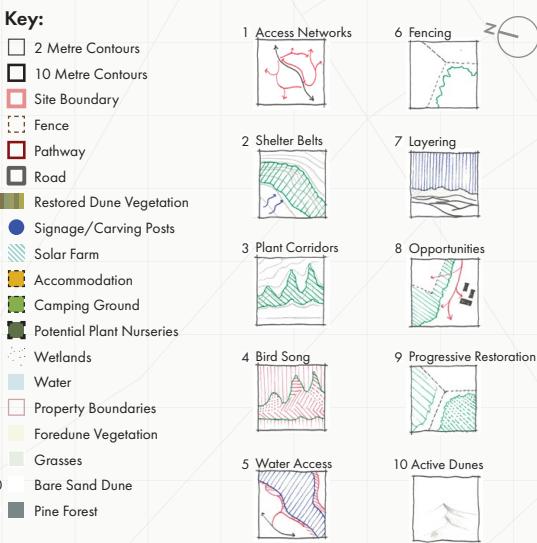
Five Year Scenario



Ten Year Scenario



Fifty Year Scenario



Scale - 1 : 10,000
100m 500m 1km

KOMITITANGA

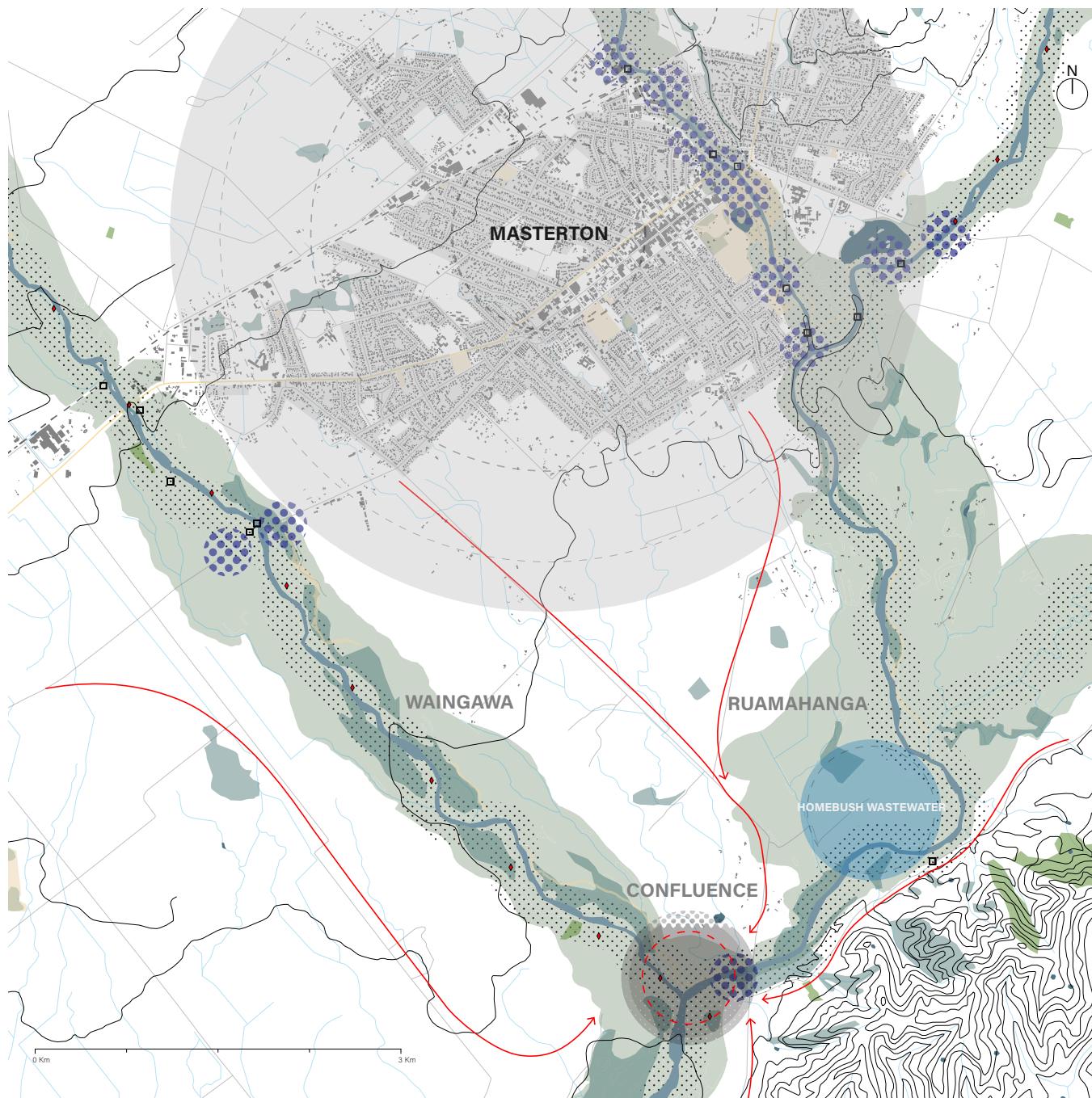
Ruamāhanga River, Wairarapa - Ecological Design - 2022

Komititanga symbolises the convergence of the Ruamāhanga and Waingawa rivers, bringing together the communities within their catchments to a place of significance for local iwi. The primary objective was to honour and empower local narratives and aspirations without narrowing culture to cliché representations. The project began with a regional study of the Wairarapa to place an ecologically and culturally sensitive design.

The project explored Māori principles of water health and management, resulting in a focus on constructed wetland to emphasise the connection waterways have in nurturing the health of landscapes and the well-being of people. Connection is further emphasised by walkways and a bridge crossing the Ruamāhanga river, re-tracing the historical significance of these waterways as vital channels of transportation, connection, and sustenance for mana whenua, contrasting their modern perception as a boundary.

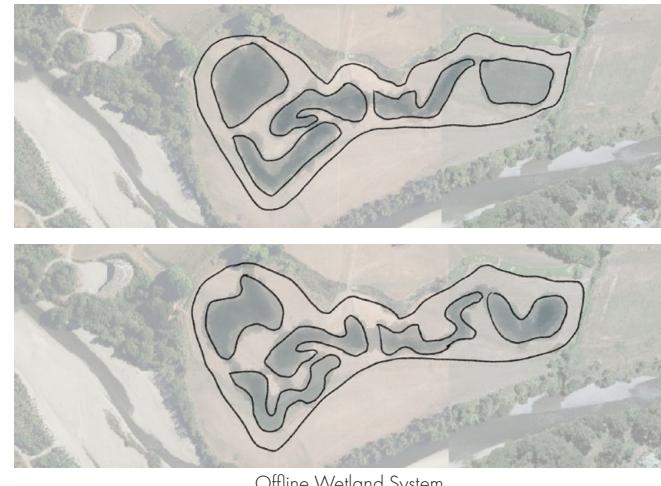


Site Analysis



20

Constructed Wetland



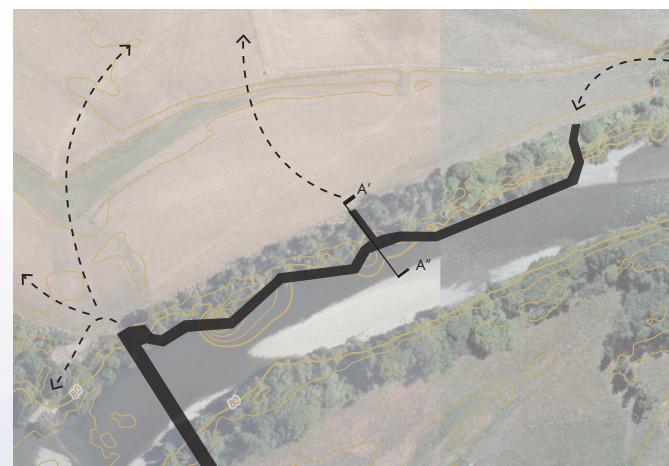
Access & Circulation

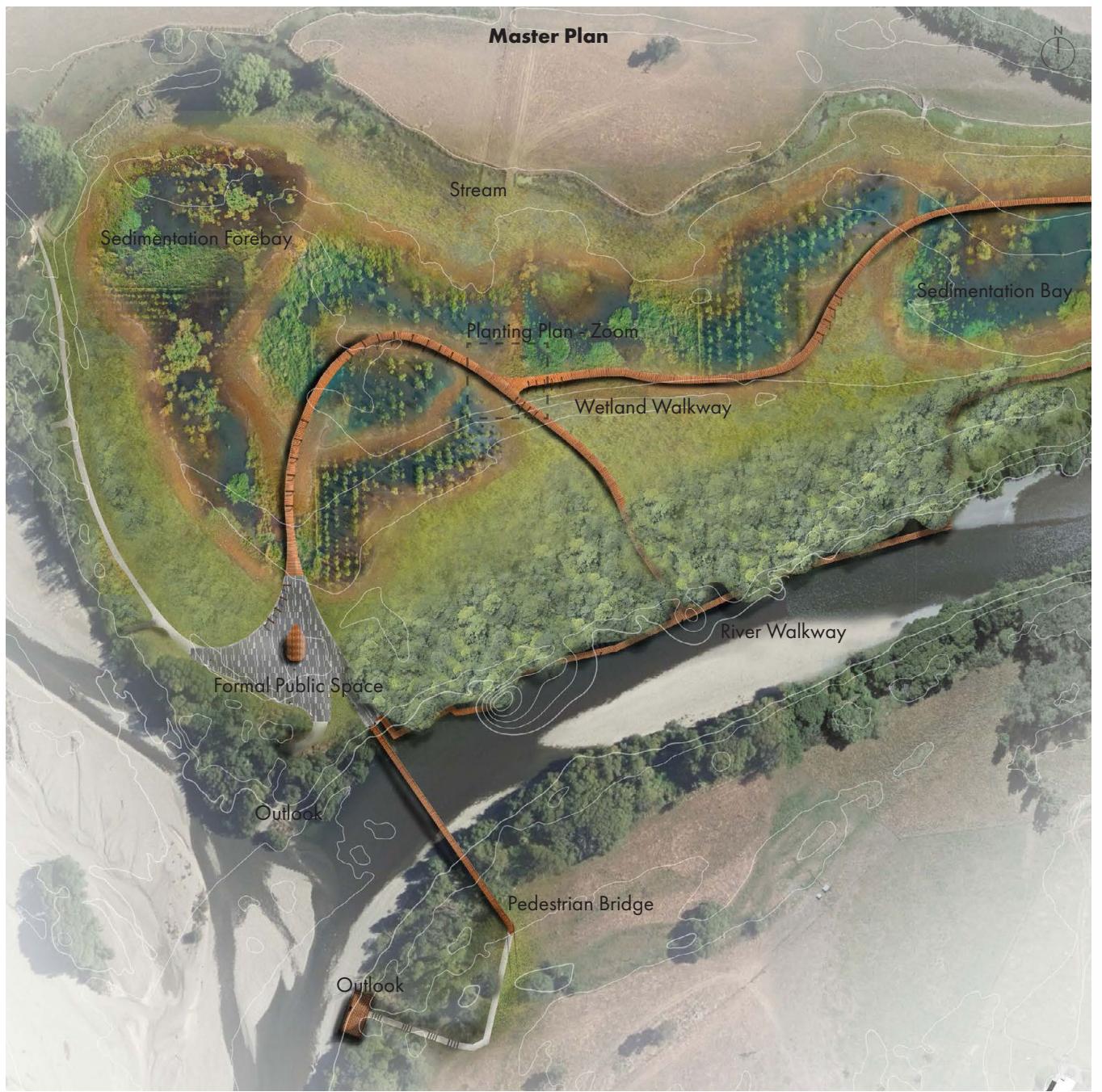


Points of Contact with Water

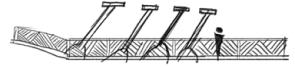


River Walkway

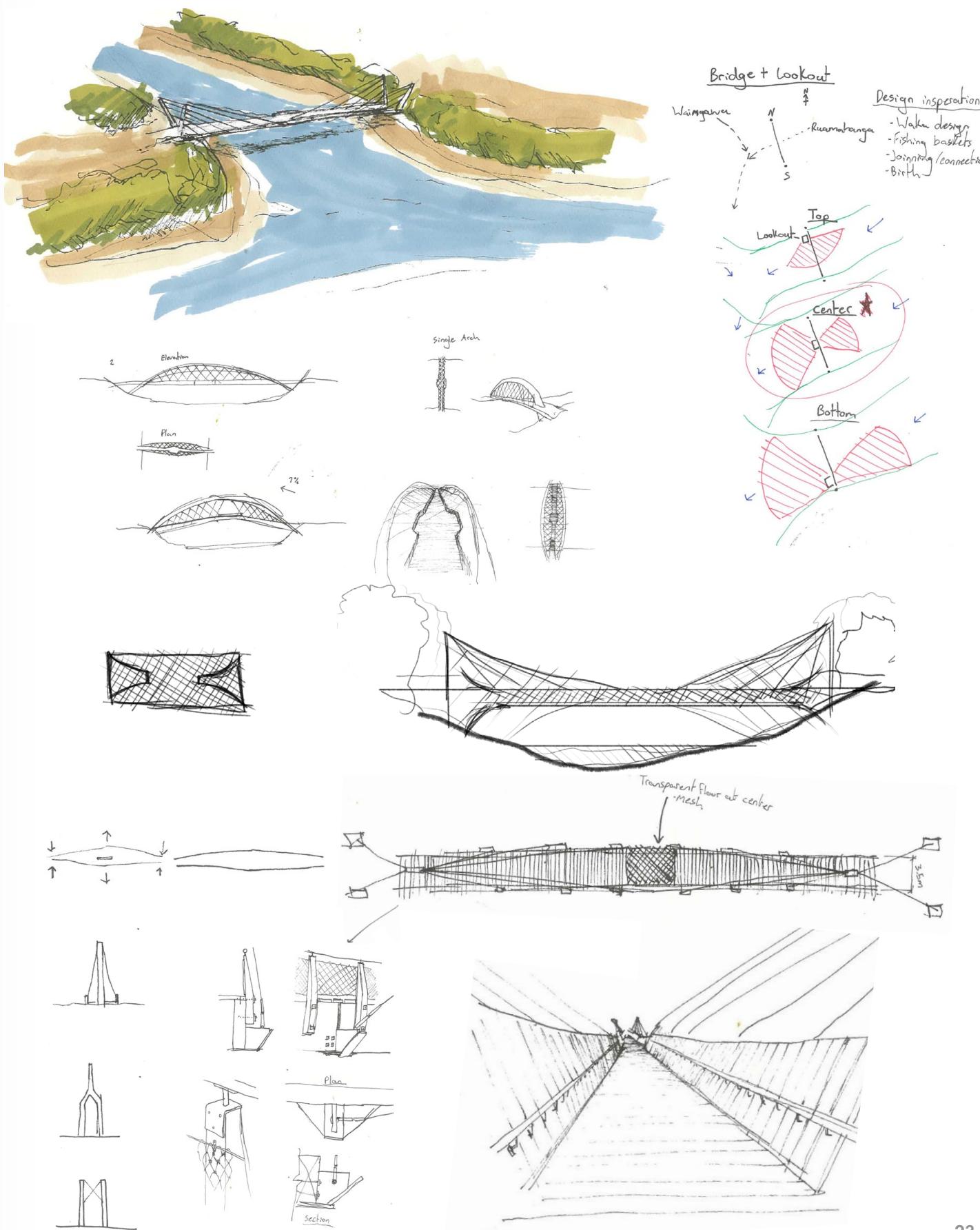
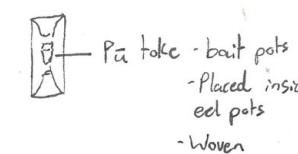


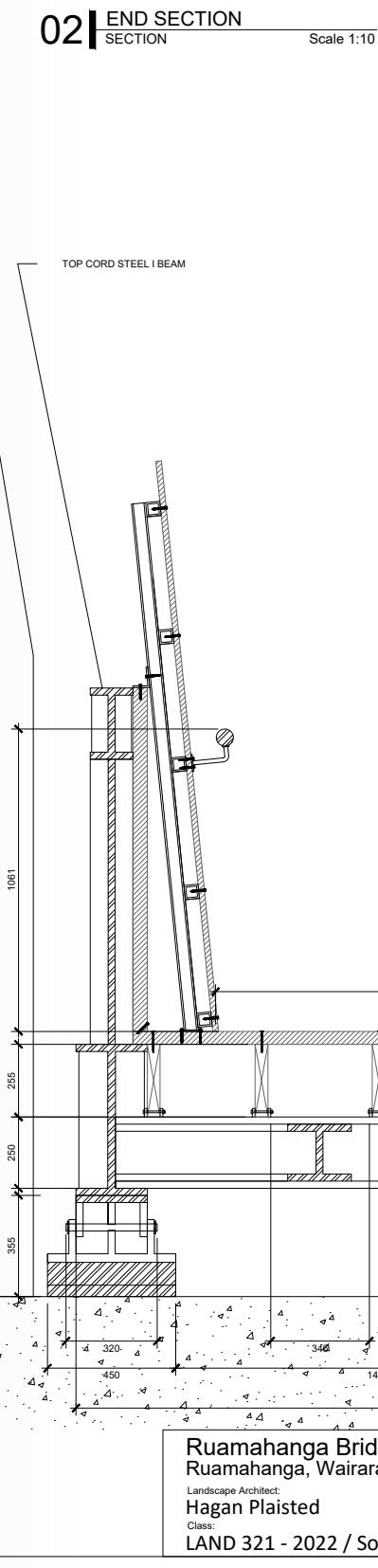
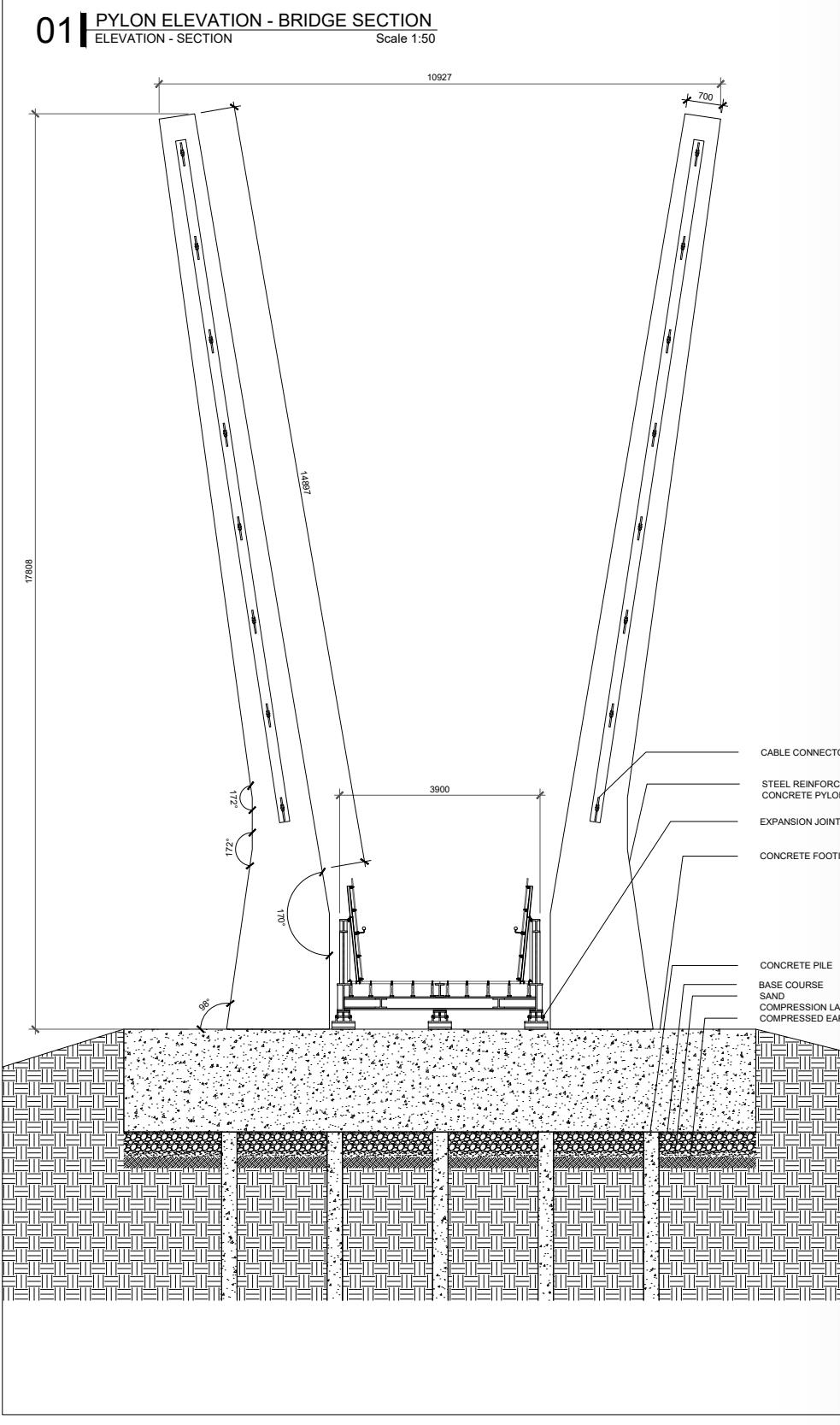
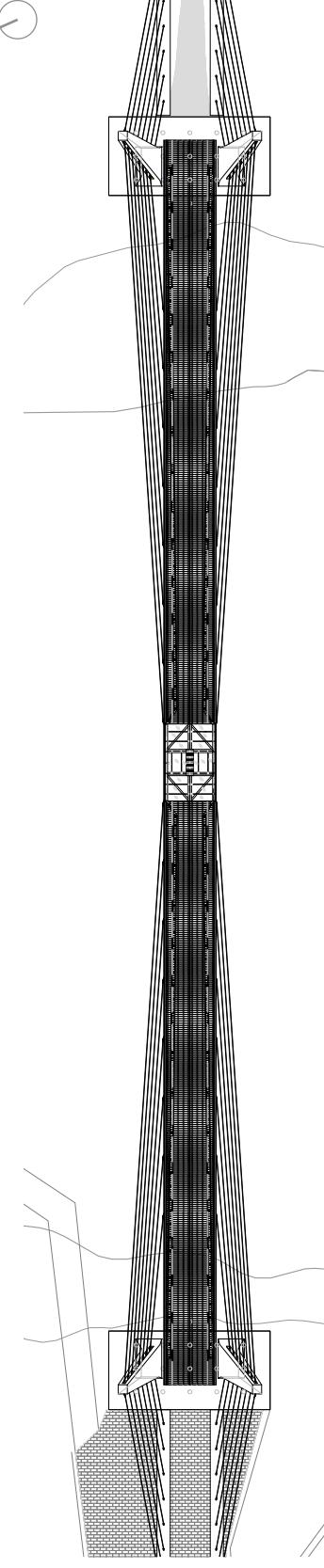


Bridge Development

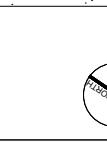


Hinaki Wahasua - Two mouths
 - Eel pot
 - Longer pots for rivulets or streams





Ruamahanga Bridge
Ruamahanga, Wairarapa, New Zealand
Landscape Architect:
Hagan Plaisted
Class:
LAND 321 - 2022 / SoA - VUW



Designed by HP	Drawing: Tower Section	Date: 23.09.22
Drawn by HP	Sheet:	1:50 - 1:10 (A1)
Checked by HP	Scale:	1:50 - 1:10 (A1)
Approved by 321	Date 23.09.22	Purpose: Bridge Detail
		Drawing No. 2.02
		Rev. -

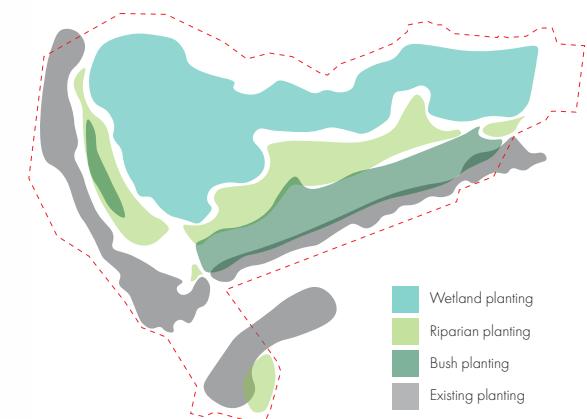


Wetland Walkway Section



Wetland Walkway Perspective - VP 1

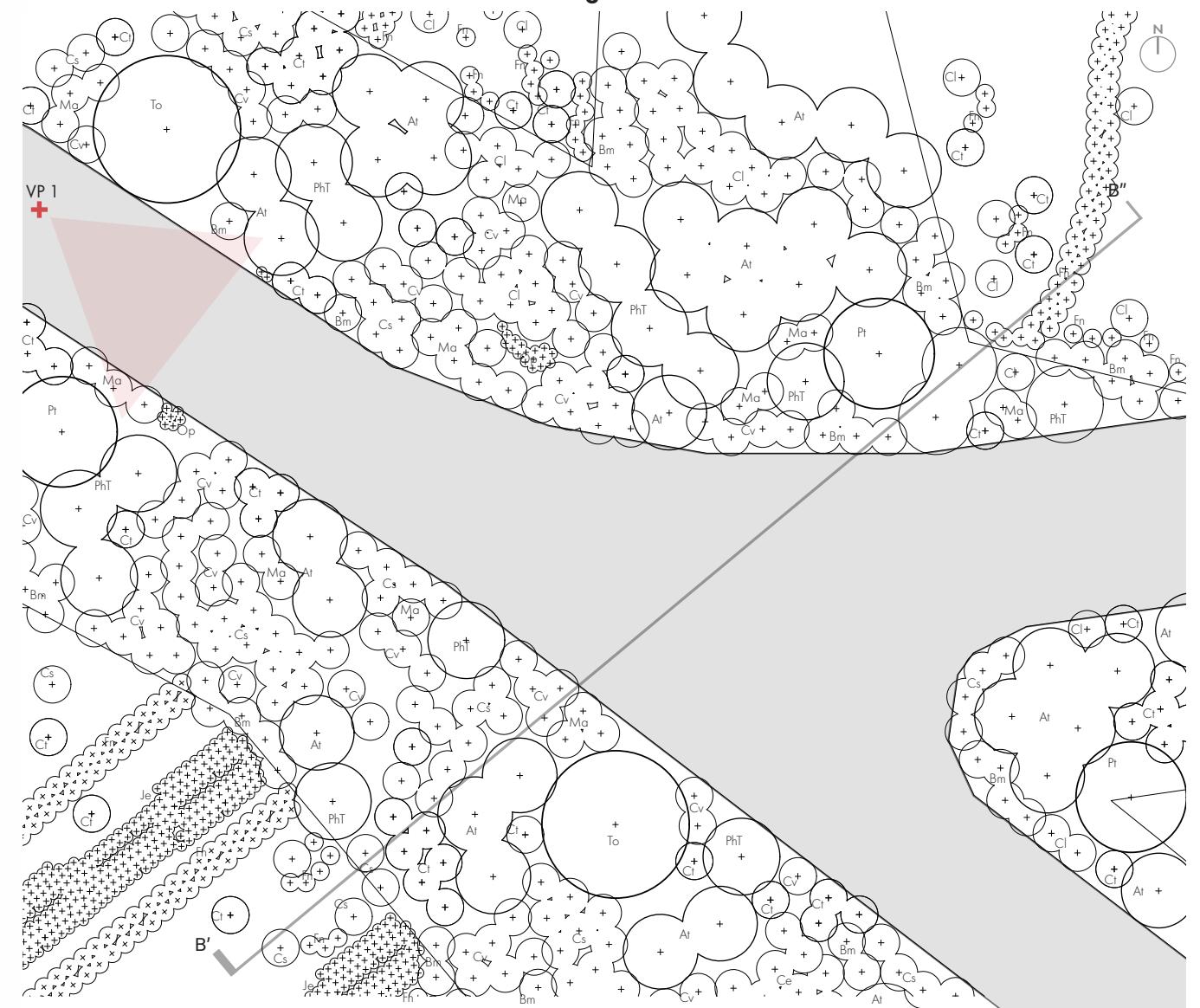
Planting Strategy



Planting Schedule

LATIN NAME	COMMON NAME	CODE	SIZE H X W	CLASS	PB SIZE	QUANTITY
Austroderia toetoe	Toetoe	At	3 x 2	Grass	pb8	150
Blechnum minus	Swamp Kio kio	Bm	0.5 x 1	Fern	pb5	300
Carex lessoniana	Rautahi	Cl	1.2 x 1	Grass	pb3	1500
Carex secta	Purei	Cs	1 x 1	Grass	pb3	1500
Carex virgata	Swamp sedge/toitoi	Cv	0.9 x 1	Grass	pb5	1500
Coprosma tenuicaulis	Hukihuki	Ct	2 x 1	Shrub	pb6	500
Cyperus eragrostis	Umbrella Sedge	Ce	1 x 1	Grass	pb3	1000
Ficinia nodosa	Knobby club rush	Fn	1 x 0.6	Grass	pb3	2000
Juncus edgariae	Wiwi	Je	1 x 0.3	Sedge	pb3	4000
Muehlenbeckia astonii	Shrubby tororaro	Ma	2 x 1	Shrub	pb8	200
Oreobolus pectinatus	Flat-leaved comb sedge	Op	0.1 x 0.3	Sedge	pb3	600
Phormium tenax	Harakeke	PhT	3 x 2	Flax/lily	pb10	120
Pittosporum tenuifolium	Kohuhu	Pt	6 x 3	Shrub	pb8	80
Typha orientalis	Raupo/Bullrush	To	0.1 x 3	Herb	pb3	50

Planting Plan - Zoom



RESILIENT TE ARO

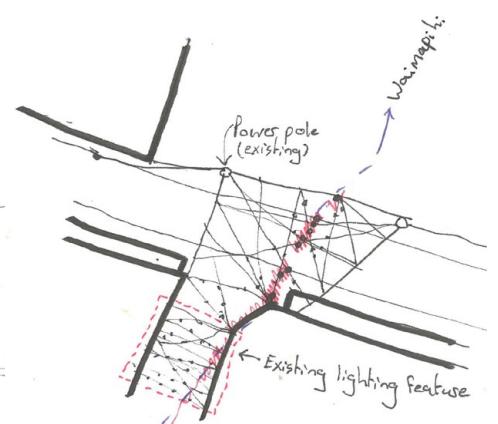
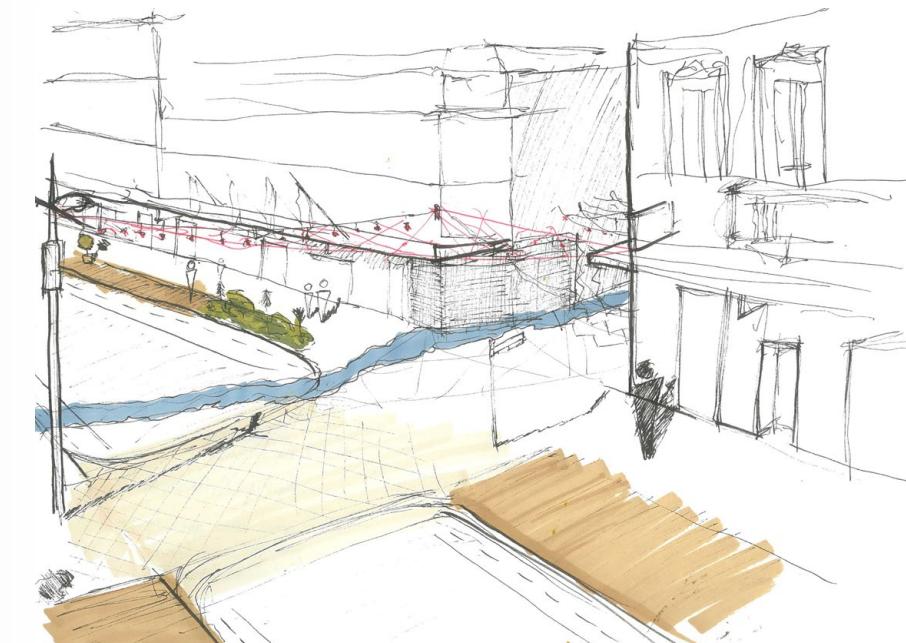
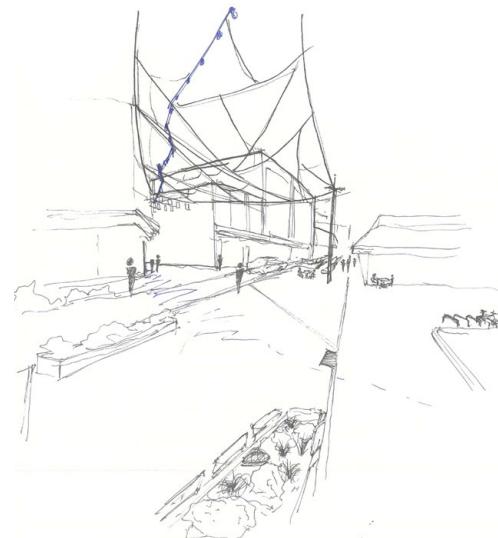
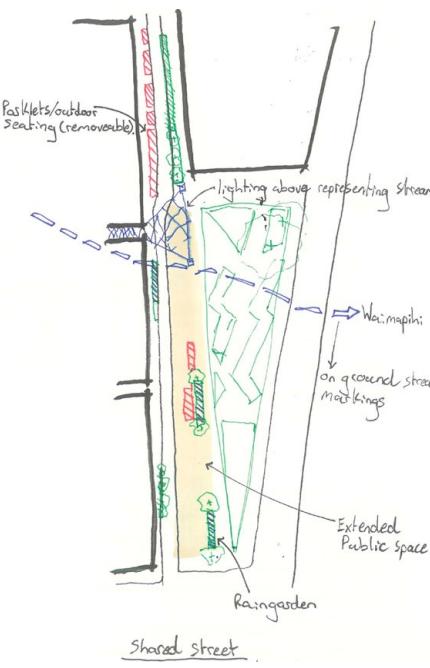
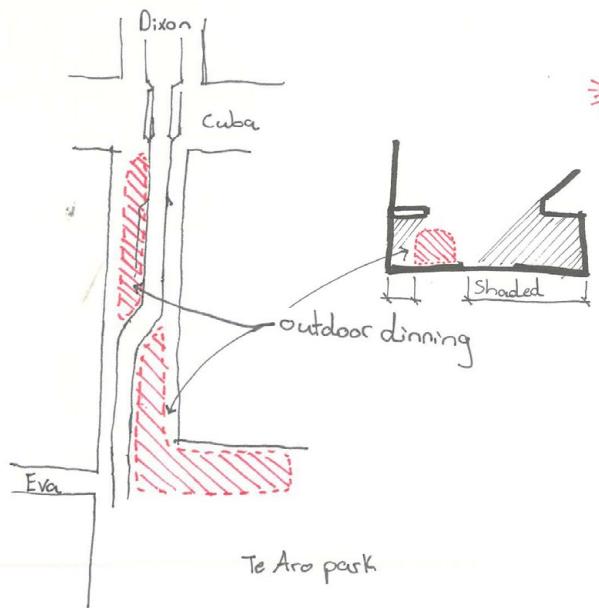
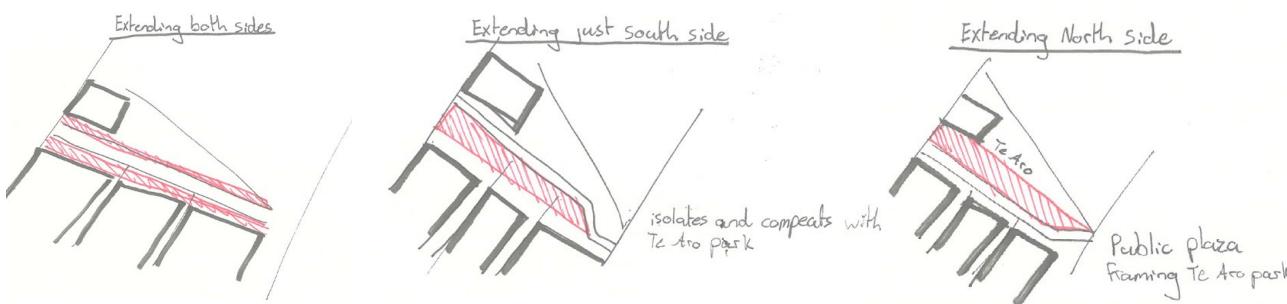
Dixon Street, Wellington - Urban Design - 2022

Before the recent upgrades to Dixon Street, this project explored climate-adaptive streets where in Wellington. Lower Dixon Street was chosen for its convergence of city conditions: the Waimapihi stream briefly passes beneath, Te Aro Park sits nearby, and the area's sunlight exposure adds further potential. These overlapping qualities offered an opportunity to connect ecological, cultural, and urban elements within a design that also addresses climate change, with one of the project's central goals being to achieve carbon neutrality.

The design focuses not only on climate resilience but also social resilience. It establishes a flexible framework that can evolve over time without the need for carbon intensive modifications. The design introduces a shared street adaptable to either pedestrian-focused or vehicle-dominated use, integrates a network of on site water treatment, and foregrounds cultural narratives of the site while creating opportunities for new forms of public life.

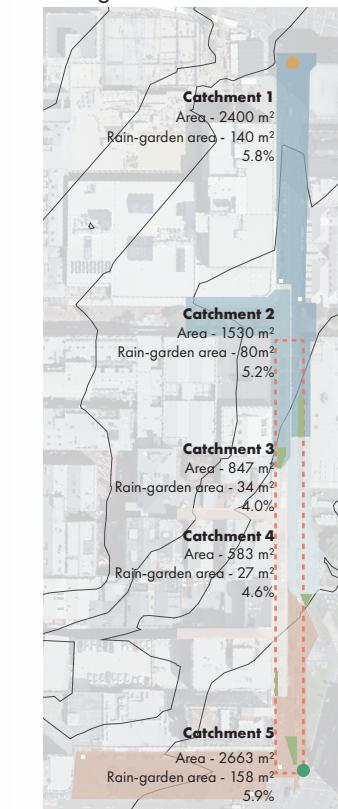


Concept Development

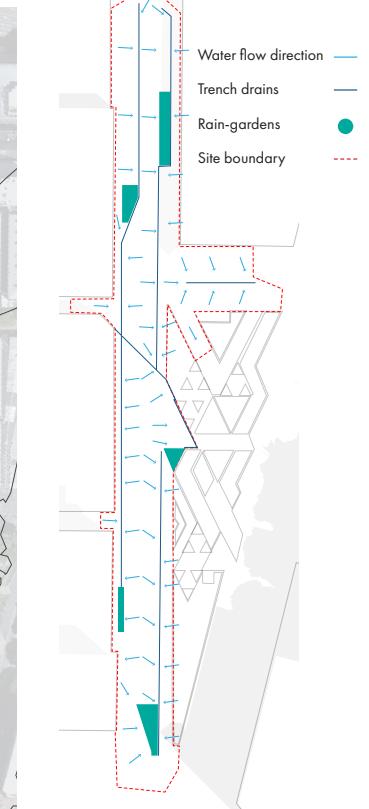


Extending the design language of Eva Street out into Te Aro park, highlighting the Waimapihi stream buried beneath.

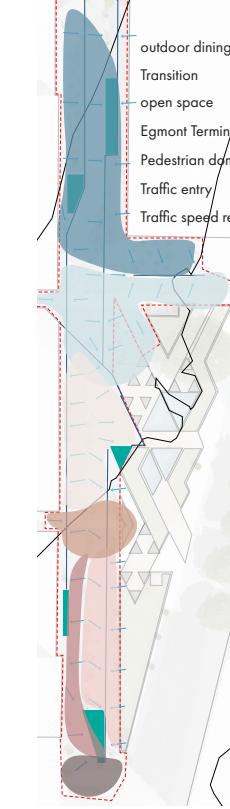
Rain-gardens Catchments



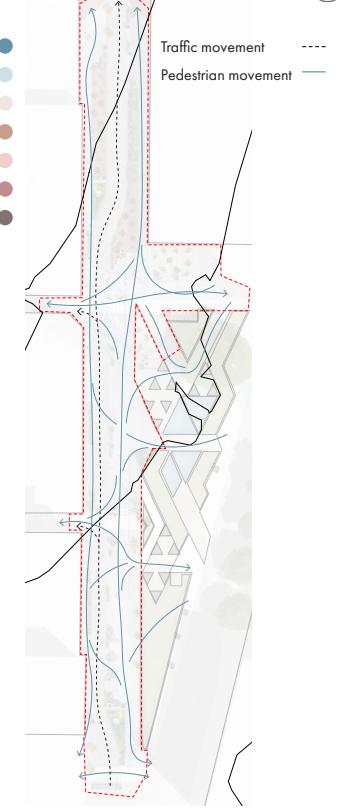
Water Flow



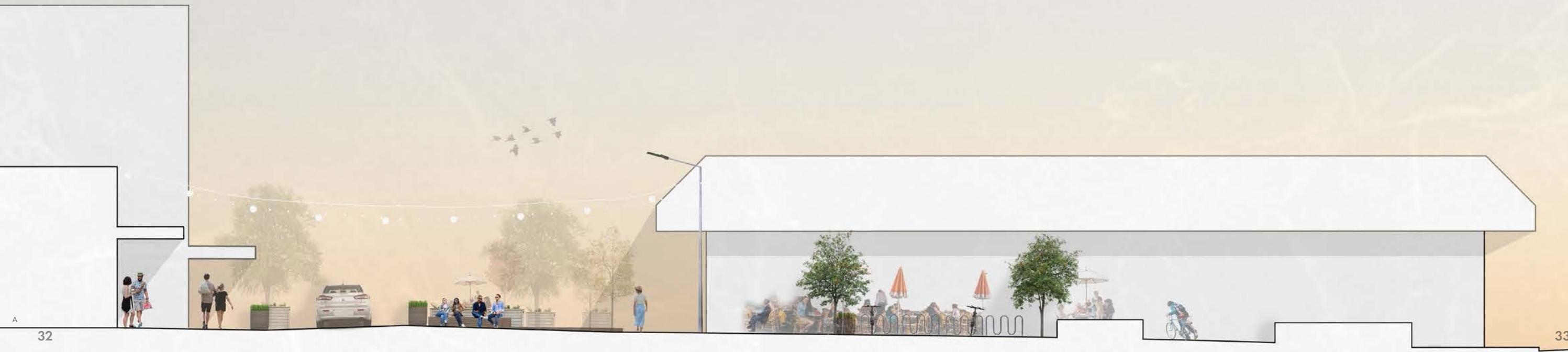
Spatial Zones



Movement

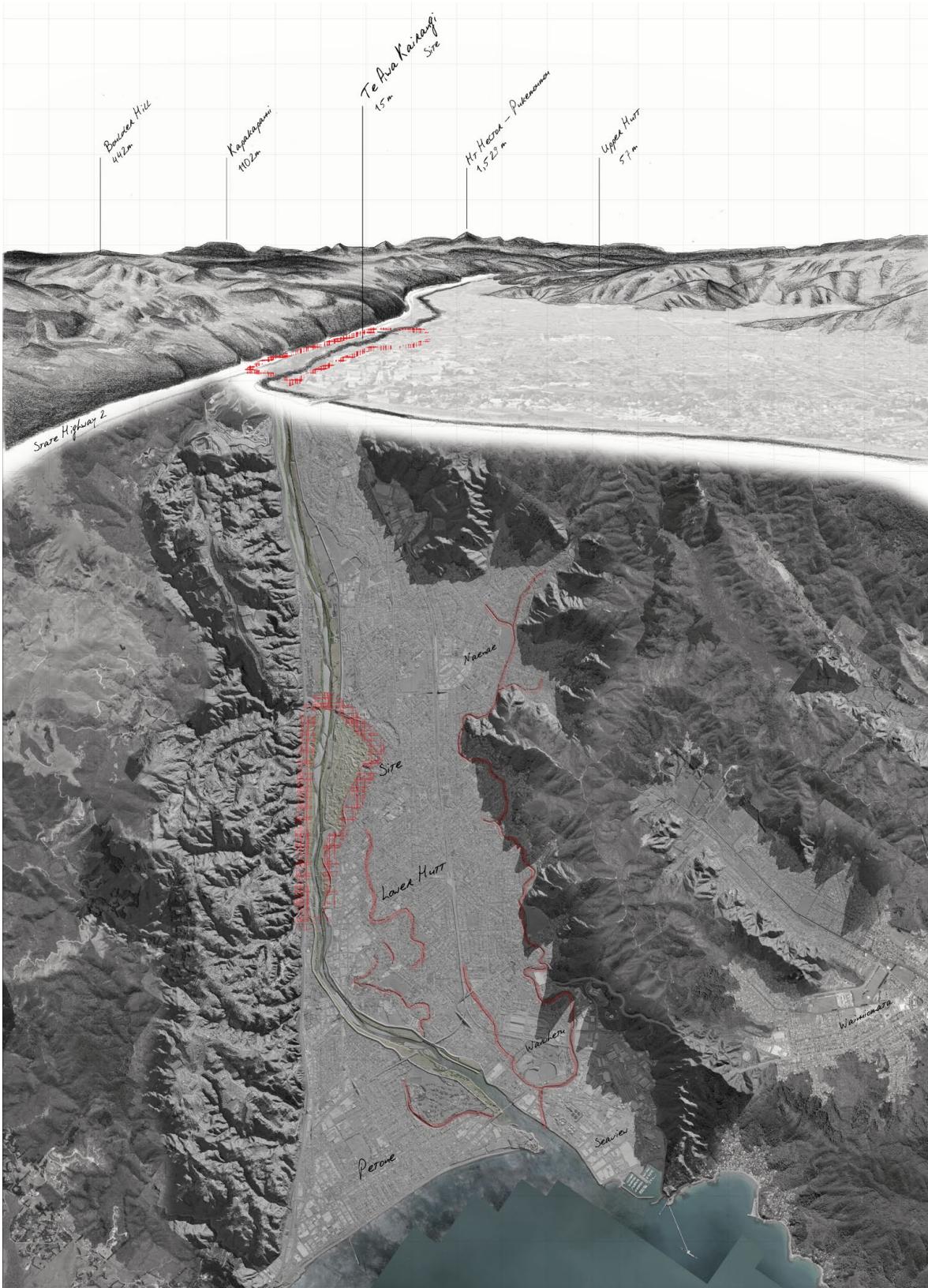


The design is expected to be carbon neutral in 35 years, and sequester 43 tonnes of carbon over a 50 year lifespan. It does this by using a select range of materials that focus on longevity and a design that allows for adaptive re-use. Rain-gardens treat water from the wider catchment areas of Dixon, Cuba, Eva, and Egmont Street.



Te Awa Kairangi

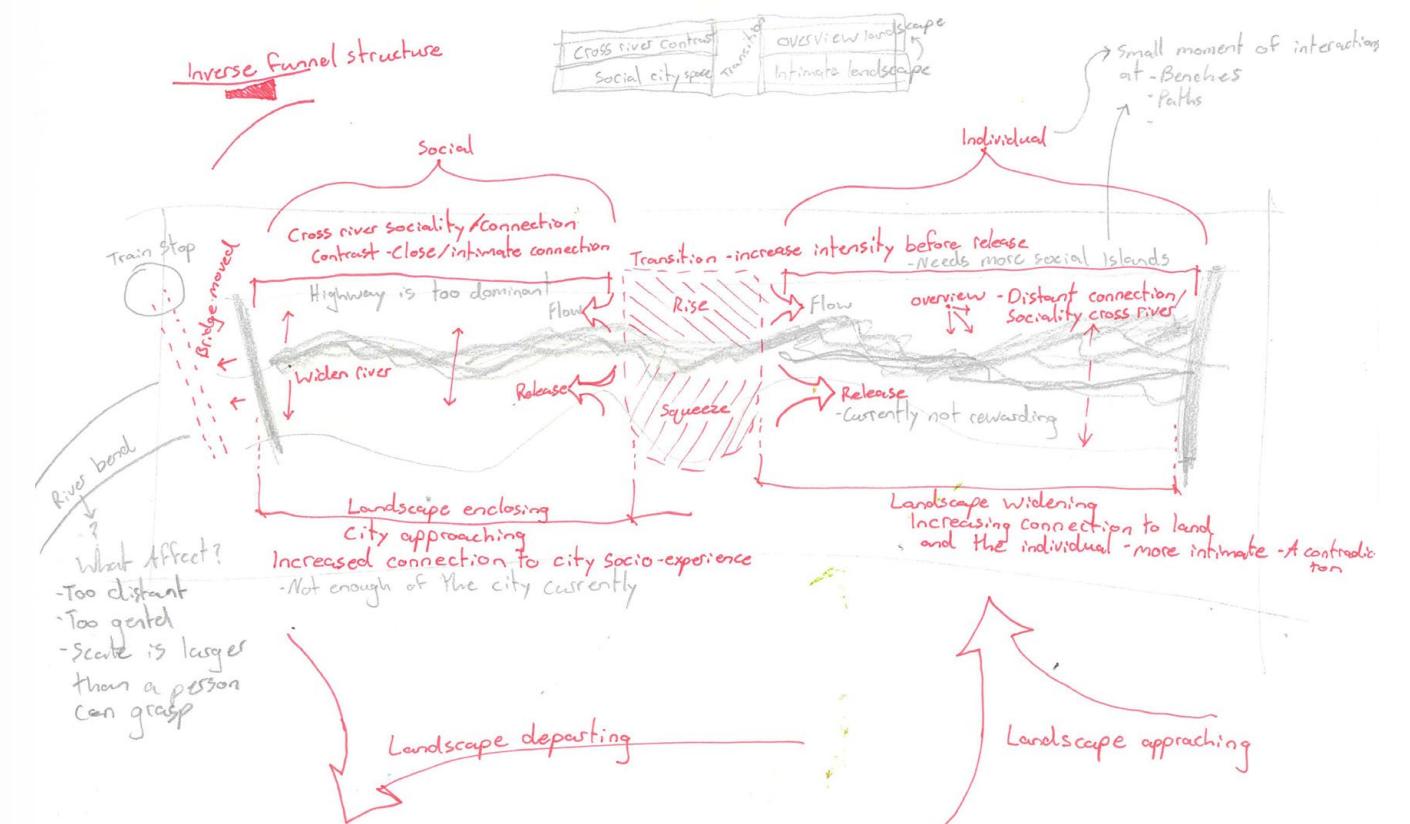
Hutt River, Lower Hutt - Urban Design - 2023

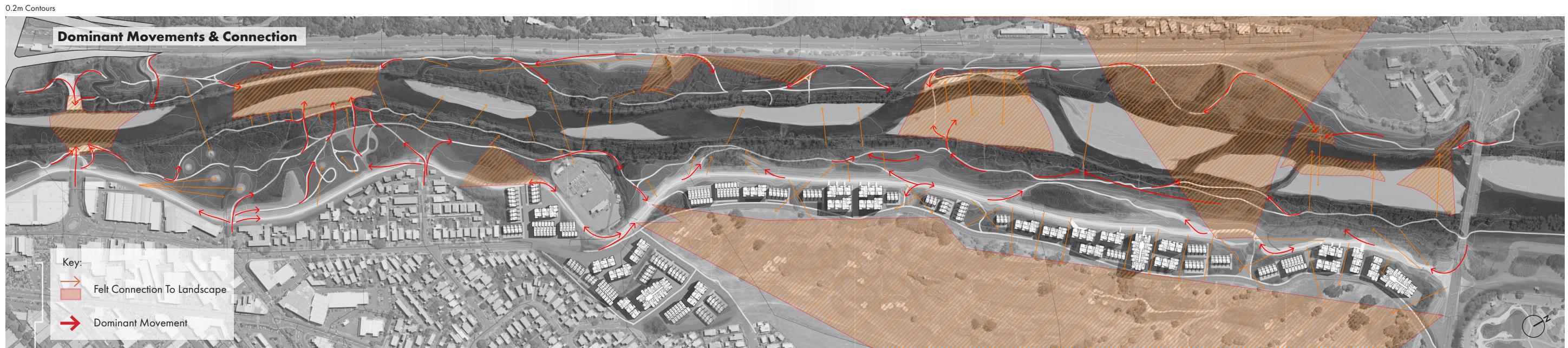
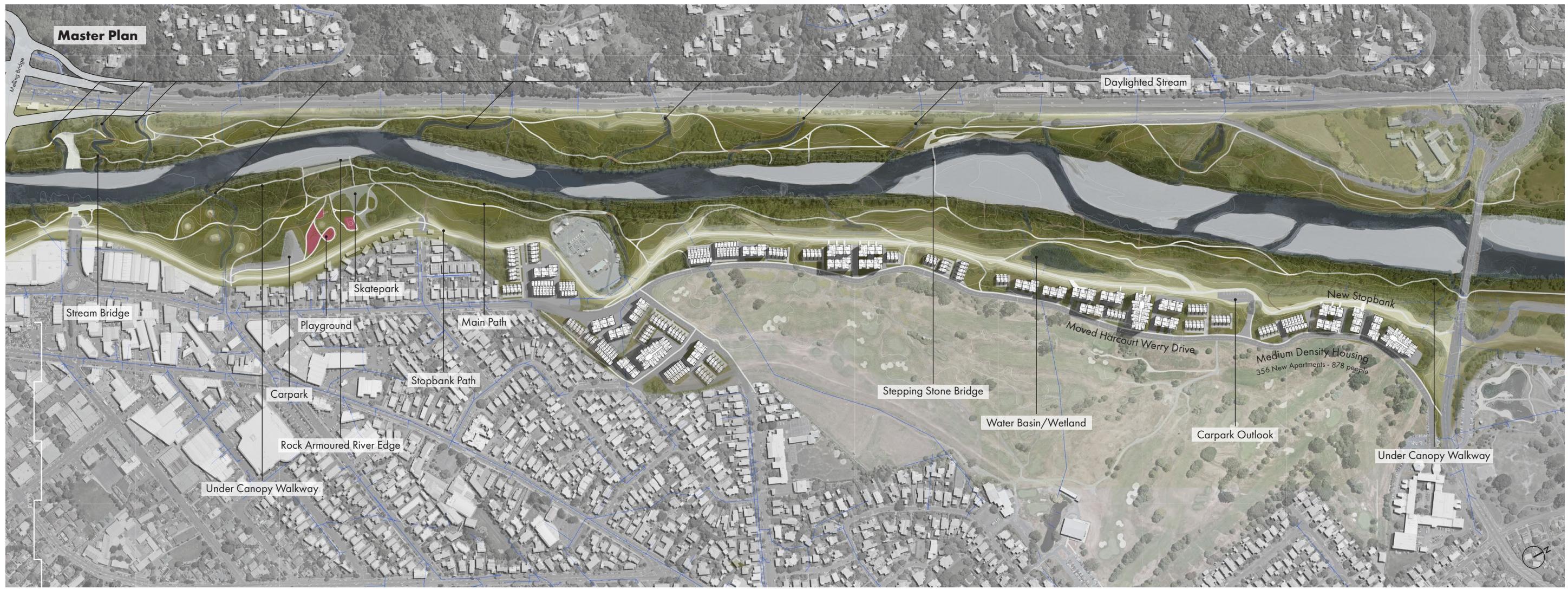


The challenge for this project was to design with a large section of the Hutt River in a way that honours the experience of place, our initial field-work hunch, and the development opportunity for a denser community.

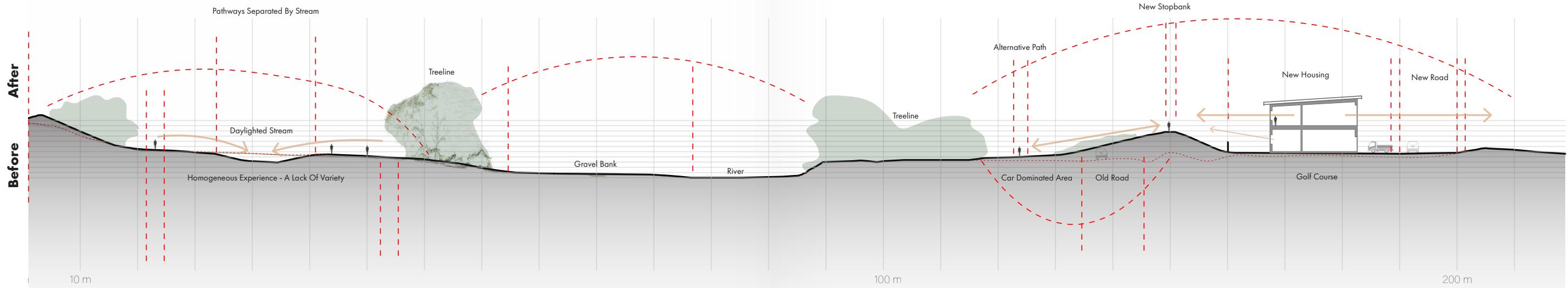
Analysis revealed that the site is shaped by two opposing funnels. Downstream, the valley opens into a broad floodplain where city density encroaches upon the river, creating a sense of disconnection from the river, valley, and hills. Upstream, the site widens as the valley narrows, drawing the hills closer and heightening the sense of connection to the surrounding landscape.

The design idea was add housing along a section of the nearby golf course to extend the city's social fabric upstream, while respecting and intensifying the sense of connection to the landscape. Downstream, a network of daylighted waterways transforms the constrained space to bring a sense of the river valley to otherwise mundane spaces.

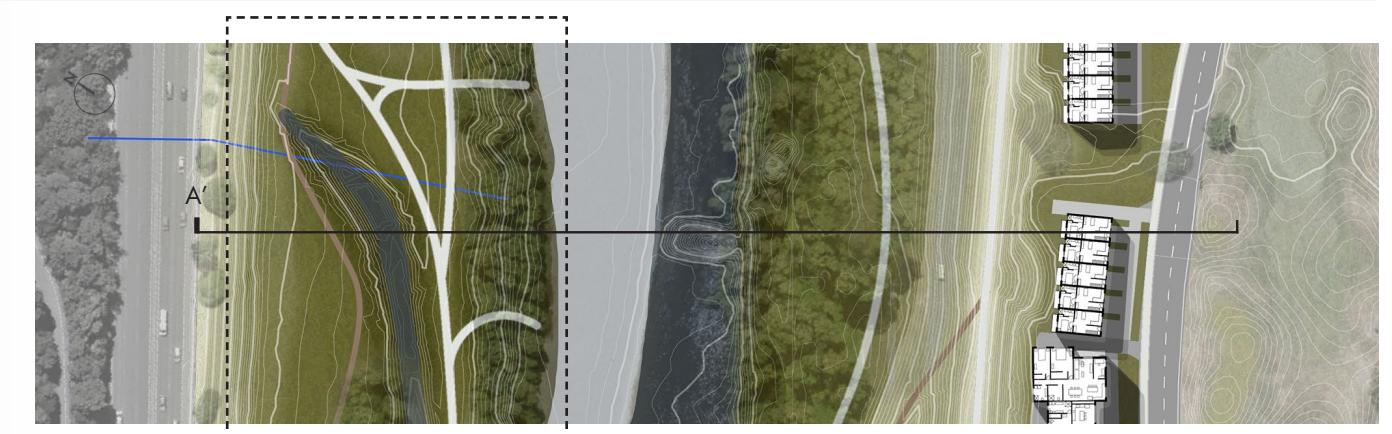
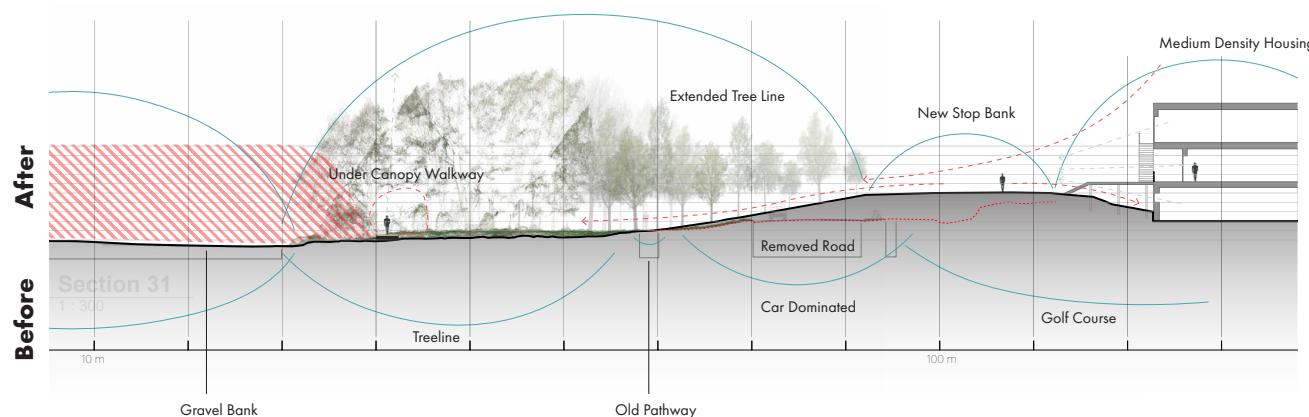




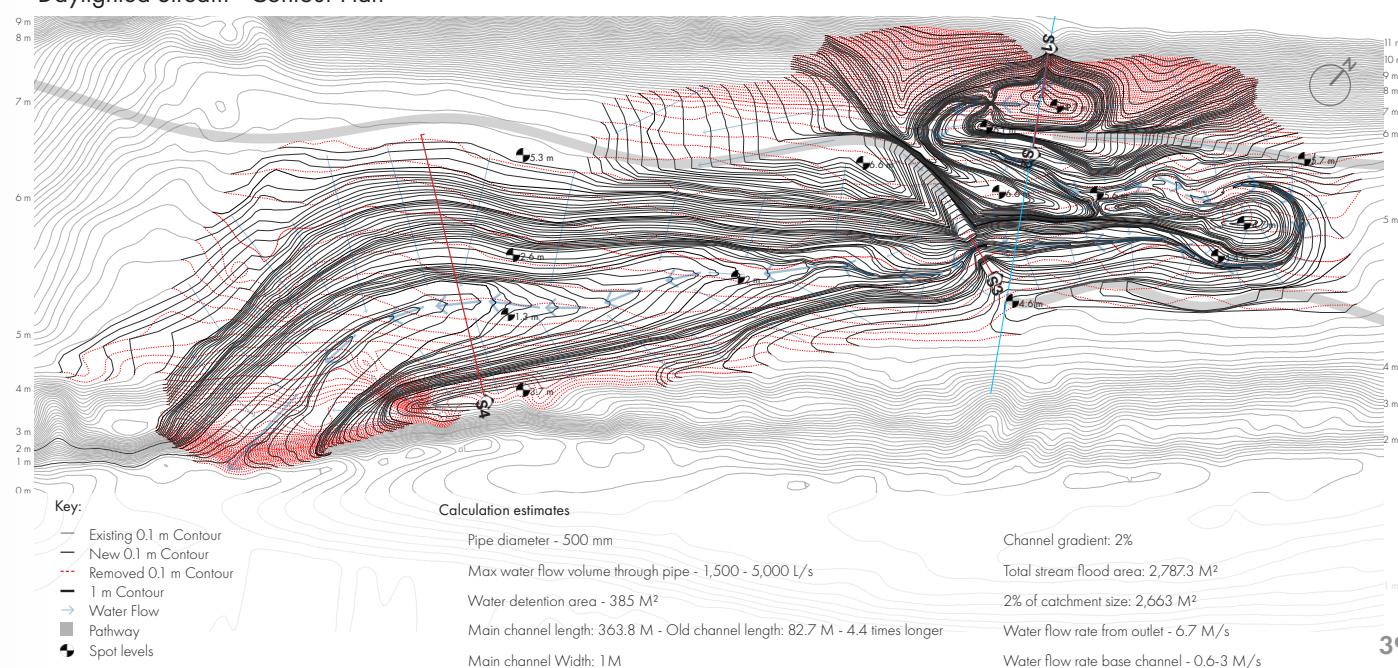
Section A'



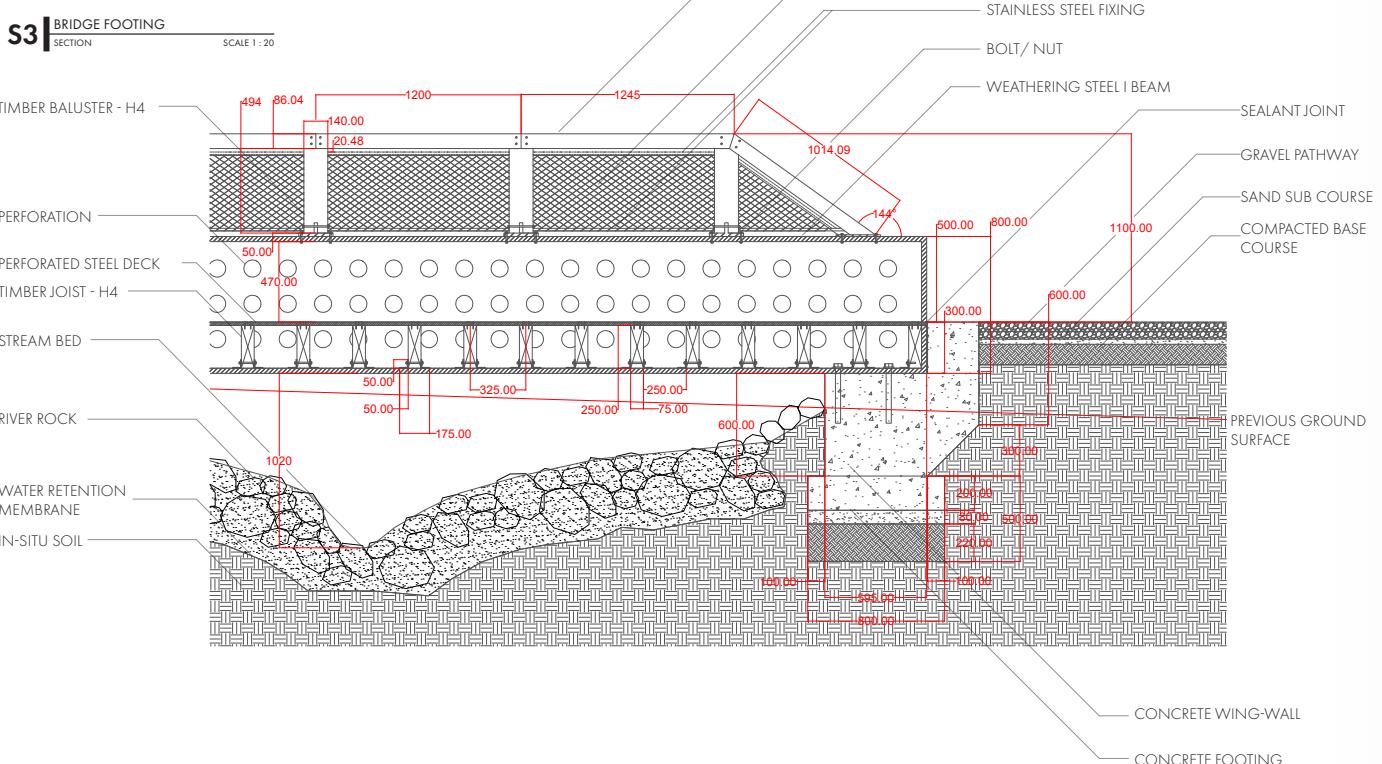
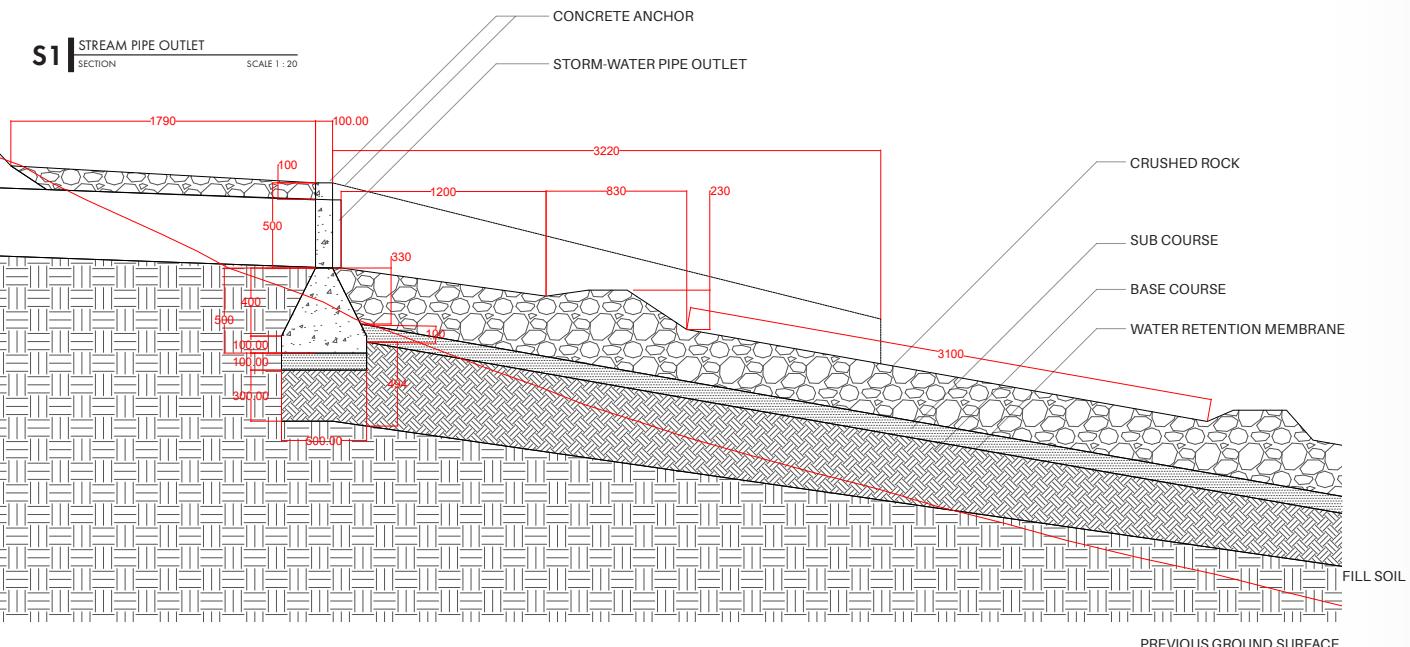
Section B'



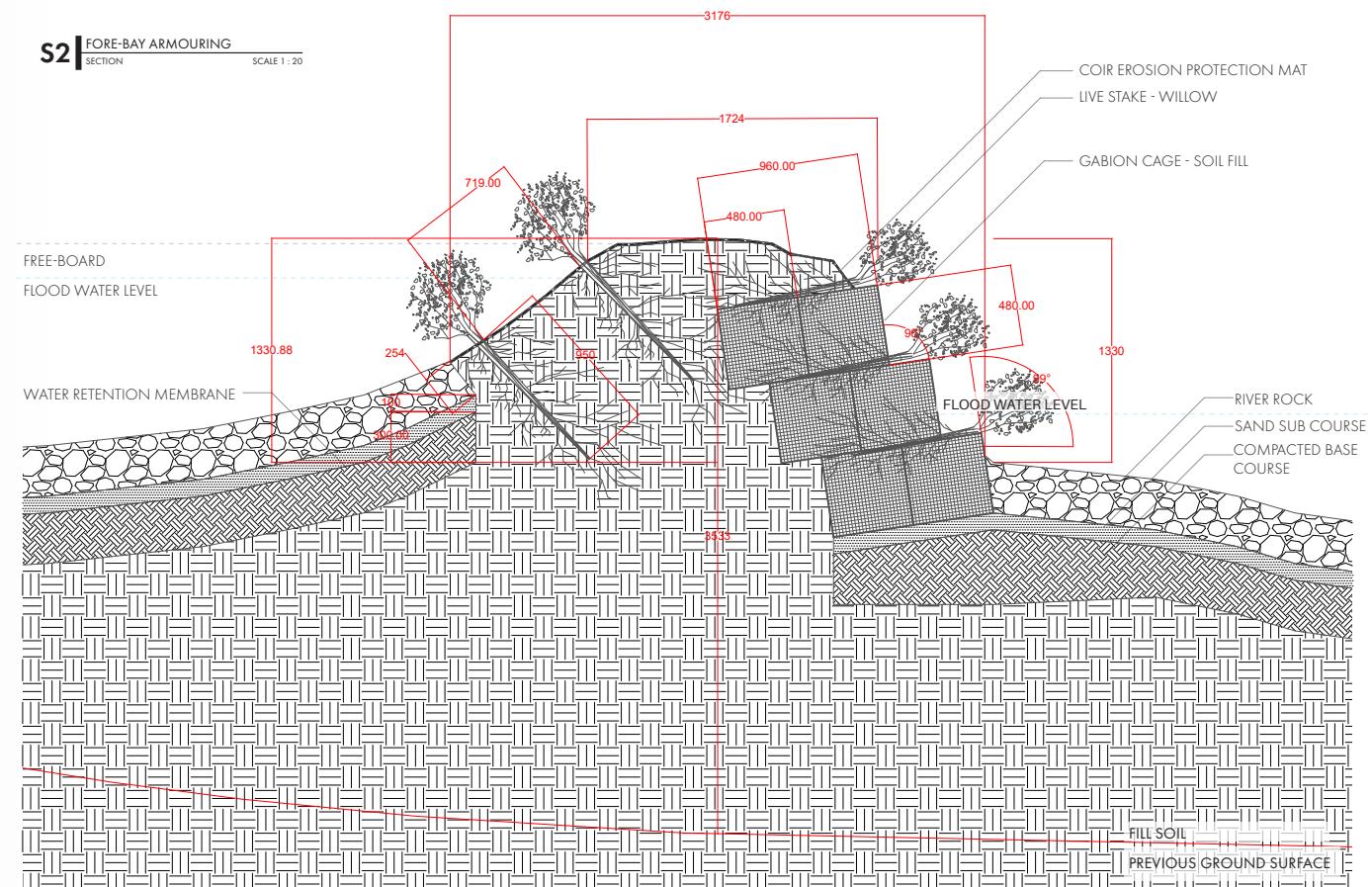
Daylighted Stream - Contour Plan



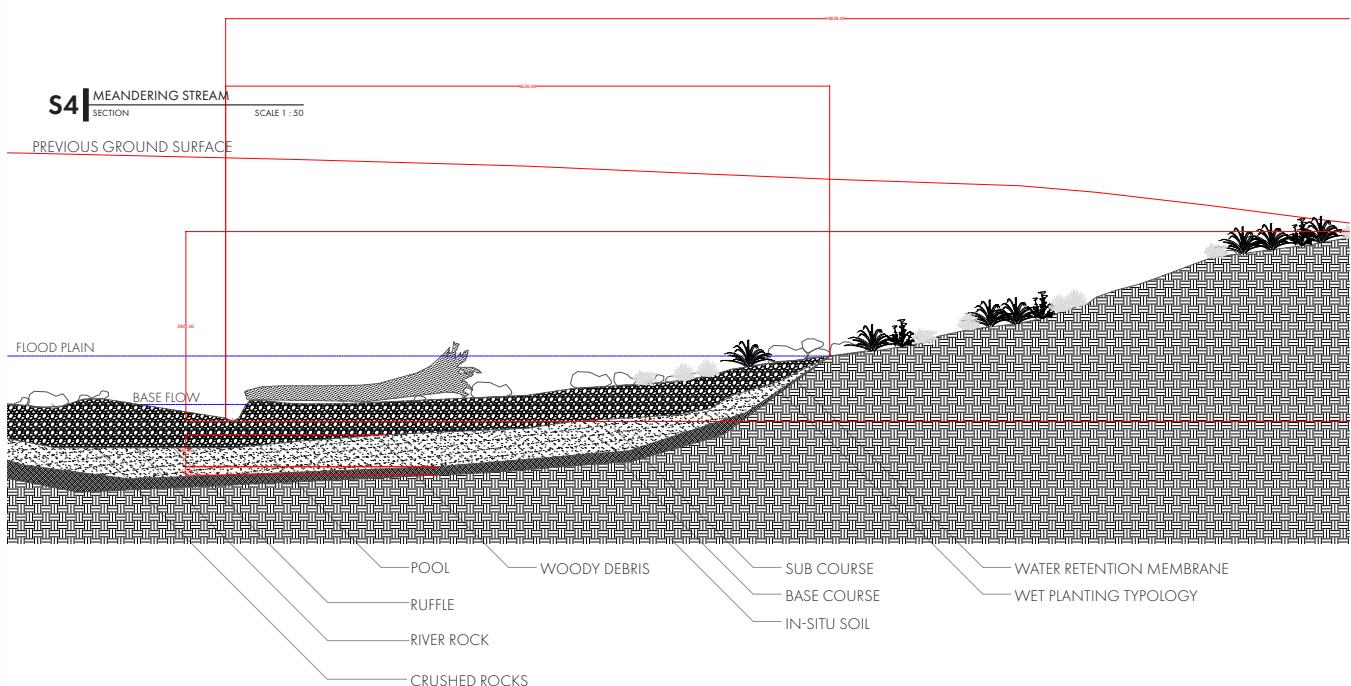
Daylighted Stream - Section Details



S2 | FORE-BAY ARMOURING
SECTION SCALE 1 : 20



S4 | MEANDERING STREAM





Thank you

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