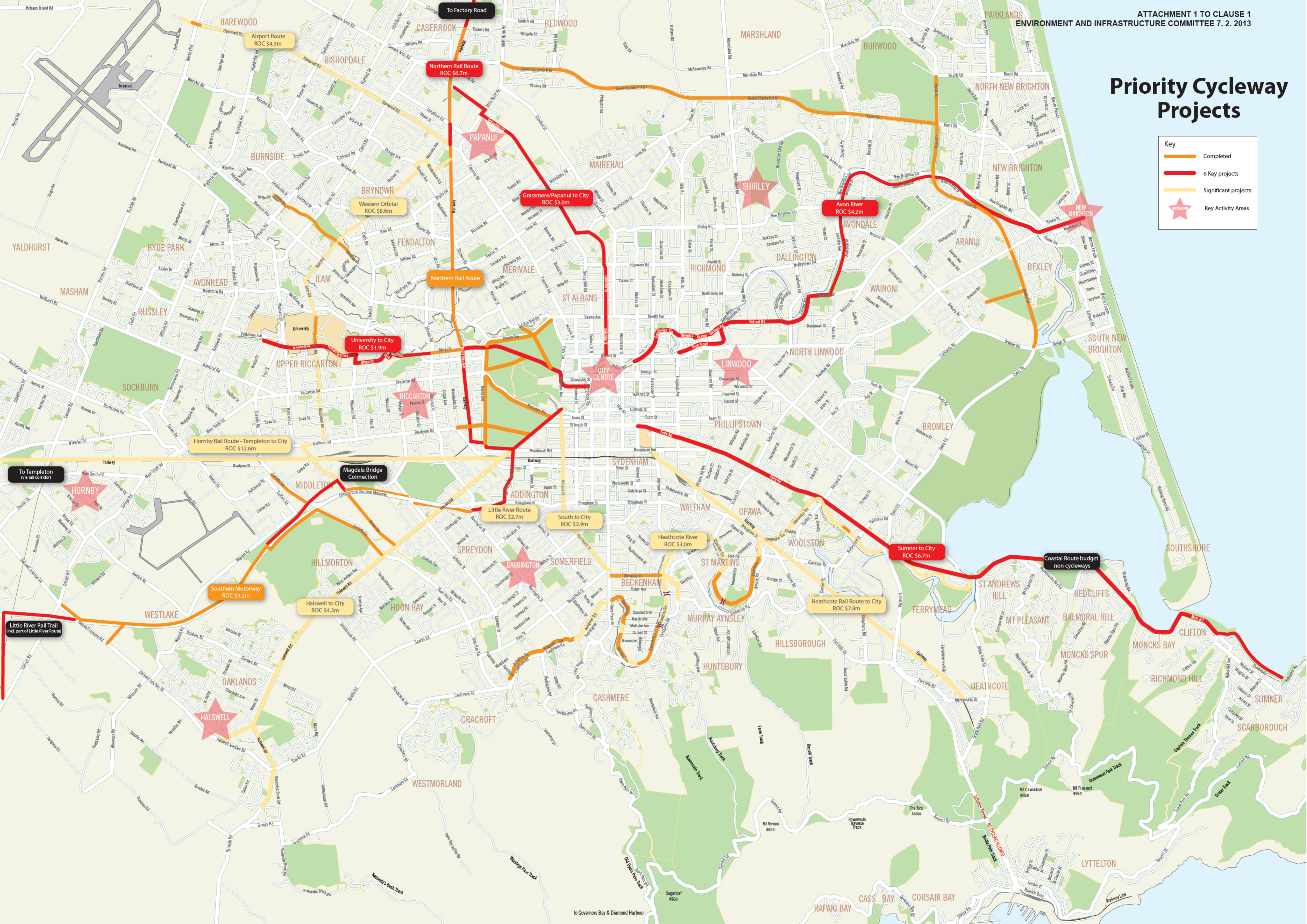


# Priority Cycleway Projects

**Key**

- Completed
- 6 Key projects
- Significant projects
- Key Activity Areas



**Attachment 1: Jubilee Clock Tower Heritage Assessment**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
VICTORIA STREET CLOCK TOWER/JUBILEE CLOCK TOWER**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Victoria Clock Tower is of considerable regional significance making an important contribution to the identity, sense of place and history of the Canterbury region. The clock section was originally made for the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings. However it never served that purpose and was constructed as a Jubilee memorial to Queen Victoria. The Clock Tower is of architectural significance for its unique design by Mountfort and the later base designed by Strouts and Ballantyne. The Clock Tower is of technological and craftsmanship significance for its ornate Victorian detailing and use of stone, glass and wrought iron. It is a Christchurch landmark that is recognised and identified with regionally.

**HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The upper part of the Victoria Street Clock Tower was constructed in 1859 in England and was intended to have been incorporated into the Canterbury Provincial Council buildings complex, however it was too heavy for its intended site. Subsequently the structure was temporarily stored in the courtyard at the Provincial Council Buildings until 1864, then in the Christchurch City Council yards. In 1897, the 60th Jubilee of Queen Victoria's Reign was celebrated in the city, and the structure was incorporated into a memorial clock tower, with a stone base. The cost of the Clock Tower was shared between the Council and the public. In 1897 a competition held for the design of the stone base, on which the tower was eventually erected, was won by Strouts and Ballantyne. This was erected at the corner of High, Lichfield and Manchester Streets. The increasing volume of traffic at this intersection resulted in the decision to relocate the tower, and it was erected on its present site in Victoria Street in 1930. After refurbishment work in 1976, the clock was renamed the Provincial Government Clock as a mark of its original intent (*The Star*, 31.5.2000), however this name does not appear to have entered into popular use.

**CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Victoria Clock Tower is of cultural significance for its association with Canterbury Provincial government (1853-76), and as a Jubilee memorial to Queen Victoria. 'Diamond Jubilee 1837-1897' is inscribed in a stone tablet on the east side of the stone base. Another stone tablet is inscribed "Erected by Citizens of Christchurch NZ in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of HJM Victoria R et J". Public clocks and drinking fountains played a more integral part of the community's day to day life when the Clock Tower was designed for the Provincial Council Buildings in 1859 and erected as a stand alone clock tower in 1897. The public clock assisted citizens to reset their time to a standard time for the City, and therefore played a vital role in the early development of the City.

**ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Victoria Clock Tower is of architectural and aesthetic significance for its design in two stages by two local architects. Benjamin Woolfield Mountfort, architect of the Canterbury Provincial Buildings, designed the upper portions of the tower in 1859. Mountfort's original design was somewhat modified due to the cost. His design becomes increasingly delicate as it ascends and originally the wrought iron railing and scroll work were covered in gold leaf (NZHPT Website). Benjamin Woolfield Mountfort (1825-98) trained as an architect in England, and arrived in Canterbury in 1850. He became New Zealand's pre-eminent Gothic Revival architect. He was involved in many important commissions including a number of churches, the Canterbury Museum (1869-82) and the Clock-tower Block on the Canterbury College campus (1876-77).

Frederick Strouts (1834-1919) was born in England, and trained as an architect there. . He became noted for his houses, and in 1871 he was appointed supervising architect for the Church of St Michael and All Angels. He formed a practice partnership with his former pupil Robert Ballantyne. The clock tower was restored in 1978, and chimes were added to the clock mechanism. The clock tower was also restored in c2002, including the painting of some of the wrought iron work in gold leaf. A decorative cast iron drinking fountain is located within the tower.

**TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

**ATTACHMENT 1 TO CLAUSE 2  
ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE 7. 2. 2013**

The upper part of the clock tower was constructed by Midland Counties Iron Works in Coventry or Skidmore and Sons in Coventry, England and sent out to New Zealand in 1860 in 142 packages. The base employs Mount Somers, Port Chalmers and Timaru stone, and a high level of stonemasonry skill for the period (1890s) is evident in the work. The ornate wrought iron also shows the high degree of skill in this medium which was practised in England at the time (1850s). The clock mechanism was replaced in 1930 with new telechron gearing, new hands, and plate glass dials on each face (The Press 9.7.1929, p.10).

**CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The setting of the clock tower consists of a triangular area of land on the corner of Victoria, Salisbury and Montreal Streets. Low height rose plantings are located in formal garden beds immediately at its base. The clock tower is located directly in front of Victoria Mansions, an art deco apartment block, and together the buildings form a group of heritage structures, along with the former dwelling on the corner of Salisbury and Montreal Street. The setting of the clock tower provides for its landmark visual presence in the streetscape, on a significant intersection in the city. The clock tower is also associated with the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings, which is located a few blocks away, but which shares the materials and detailing of the Mountfort designed portions of the clock tower.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The clock tower and setting are of archaeological significance because they have potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and other human activity. The setting in Victoria Street has potential to provide evidence of human activity prior to 1900, as the Street was a main thoroughfare centre of commercial and other activity for the early European settlers.

*Statement of significance report by Jenny May based on the CCC Heritage Building assessment criteria and file information  
May 2012*

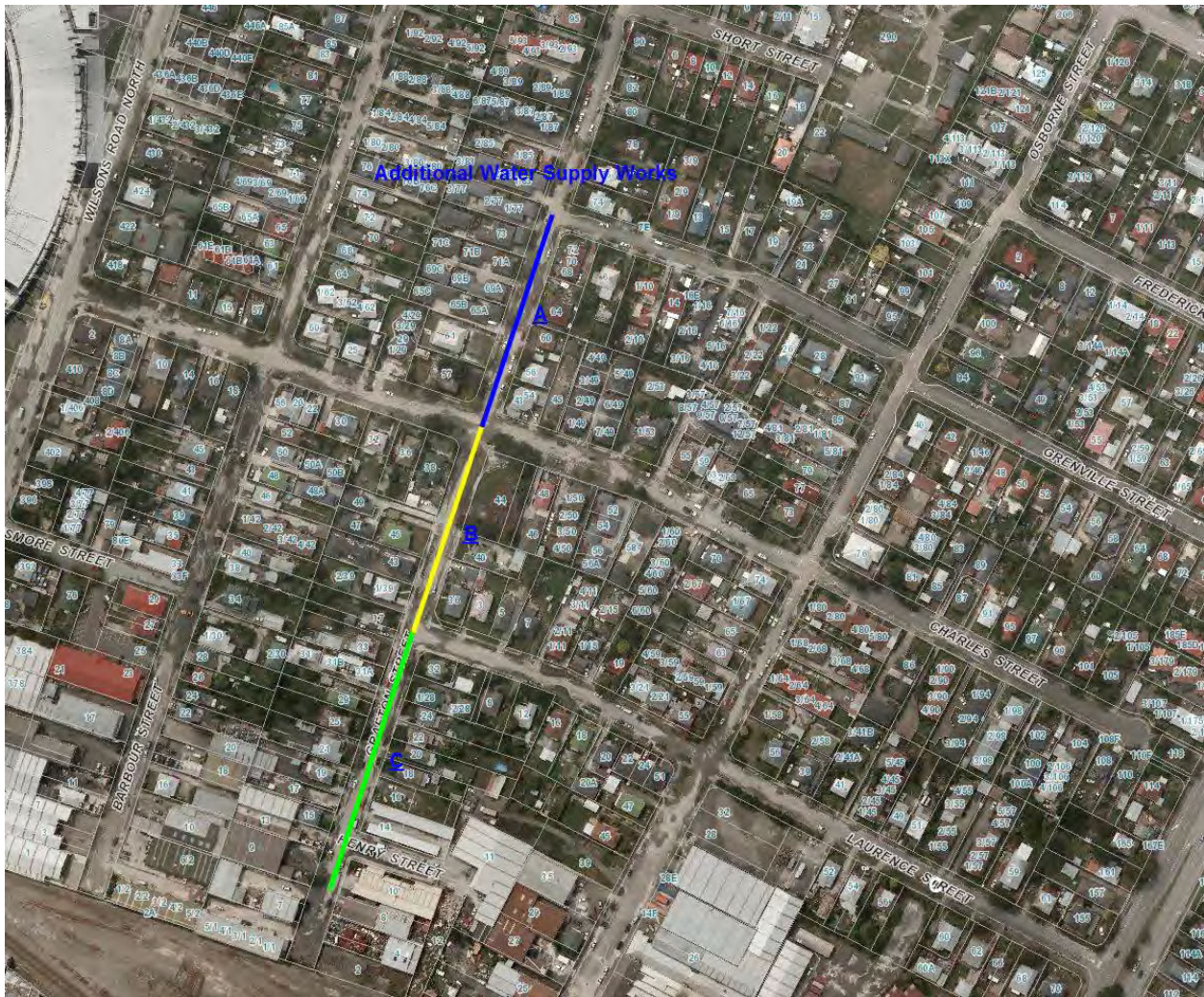
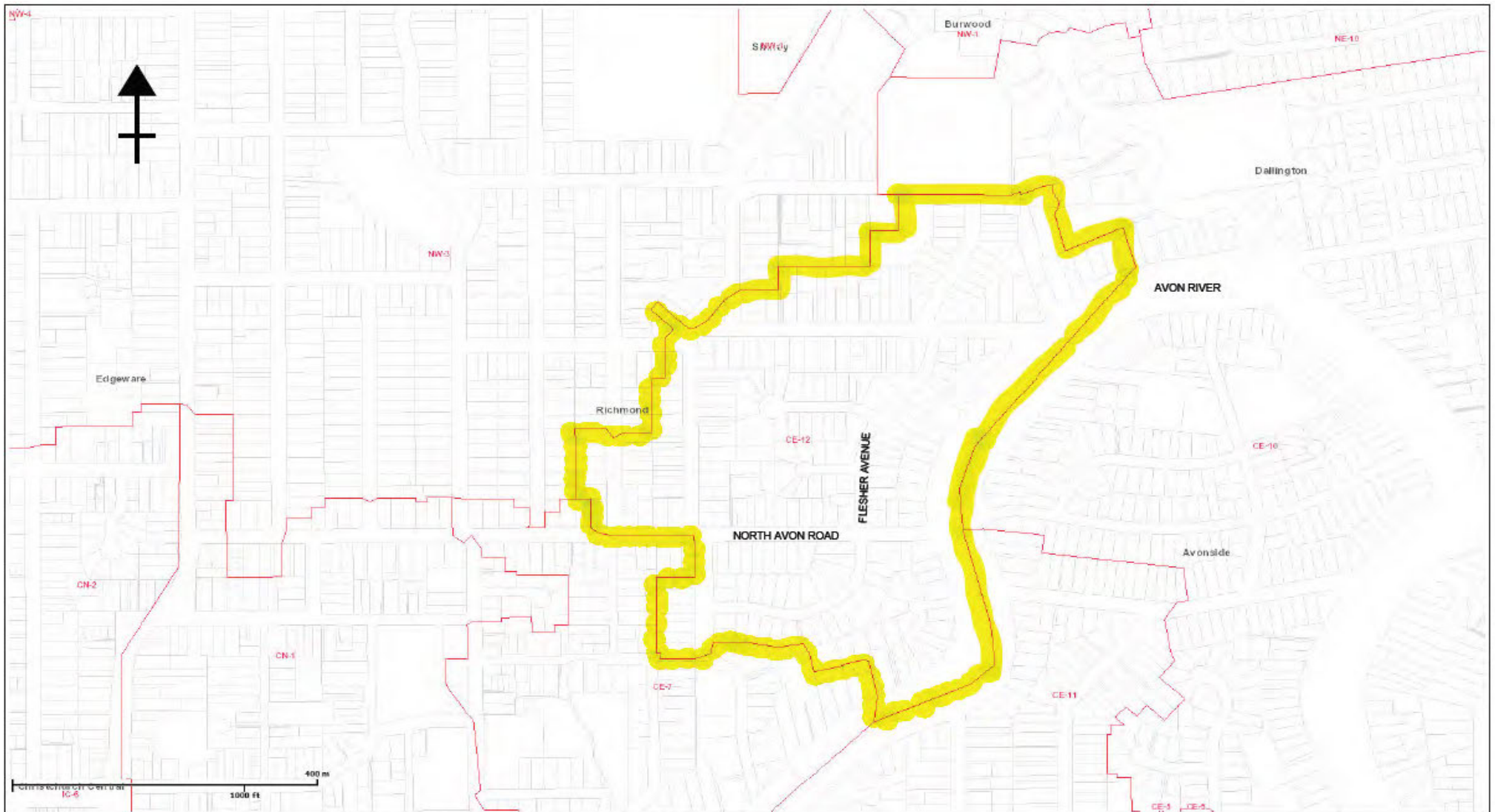


Figure1: Extent of additional water supply works.



New Zealand Government



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## PS8 CATCHMENT

Locality Map

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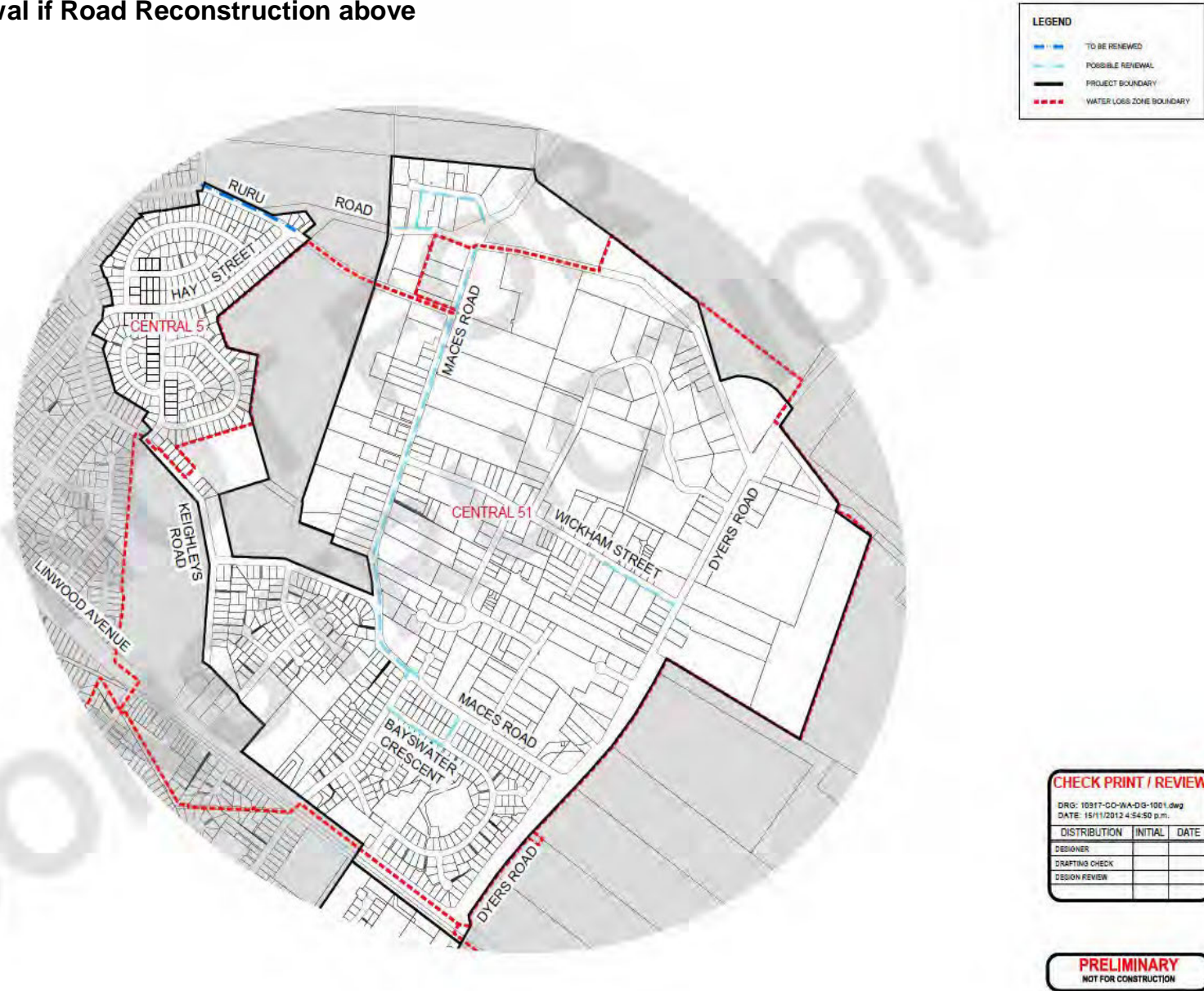


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Figure 1-1 Beachville Road and Celia Street Project Areas

Figure 5 – Mains renewal if Road Reconstruction above



## LOCATION PLAN

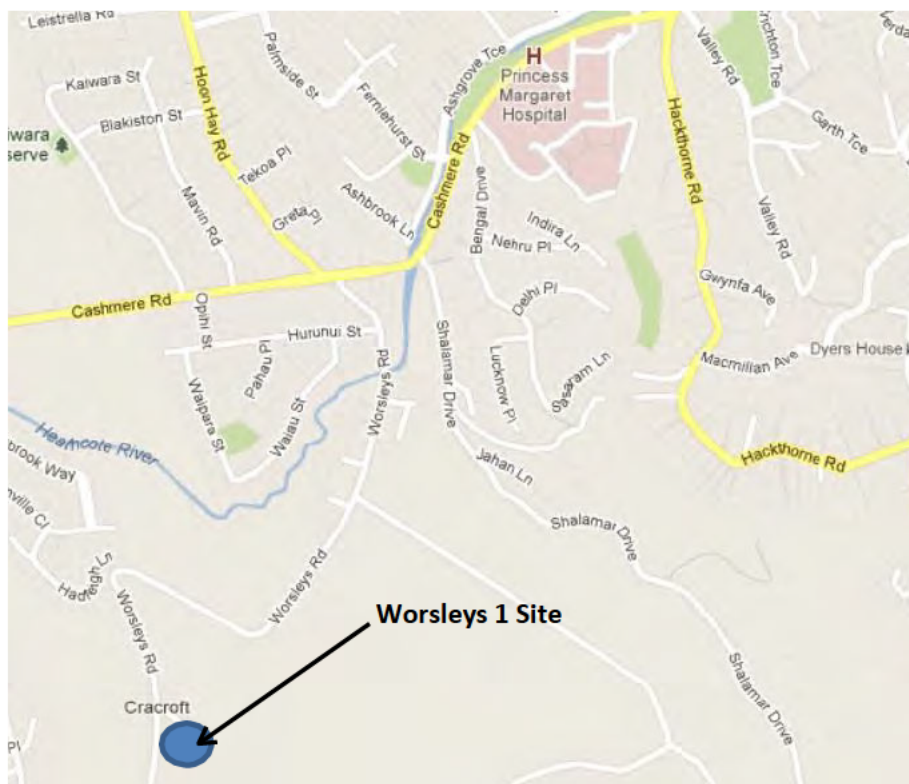


Figure 1 Location Plan

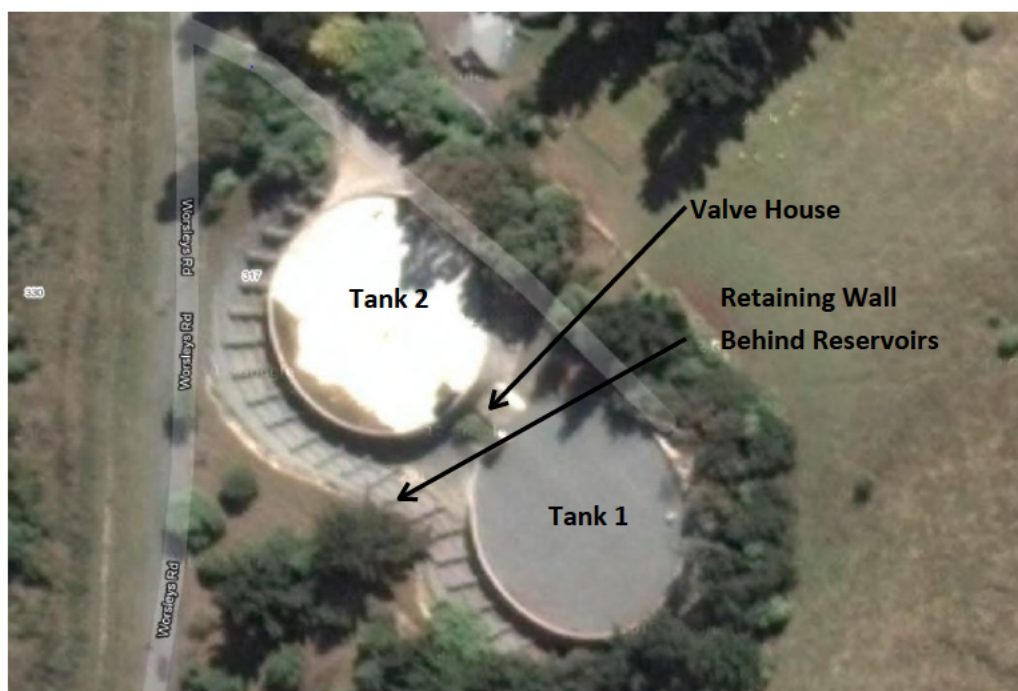


Figure 2 Aerial View



SS95 Main Road Causeway Seawall

