

# HERITAGE SUMMARY

## OVERVIEW

Mining in Waihi has a history that spans three centuries. Gold was discovered in the late 1800s and mined underground at Martha until 1952. During that period an extensive network of mining-related infrastructure developed, and the town of Waihi grew from a 'canvas town' to a bustling mining and rural-support town. Understandably, due to this rich industrial history, Waihi has many archaeological and heritage sites.

The potential impact of Project Quattro on archaeological features and historic heritage places has been assessed. The findings of our studies indicate that the majority of the effects on archaeology and historic sites are confined to the Martha Open Pit Phase 5 area. There are lesser effects associated with the Gladstone Open Pit, these are considered to be minor.

## KEY EFFECTS

### MARTHA OPEN PIT PHASE 5

#### The Cornish Pumphouse

As part of the Project Quattro proposal to enlarge the Martha pit, the pumphouse will need to be relocated. The proposed new site is 160 m north-east of its current location and will align the building more directly with Seddon Street. The new site enables a clear view of the pumphouse up the main street of town.

If the proposal to move the building is approved, the relocation will be guided by an up-to-date condition assessment and detailed relocation methodology to ensure its structural integrity is maintained. A preliminary landscape design has been developed for public review.

The proposed new site is not a significant change from the present location and is closer to its original site. Our initial third-party assessments of the structural

integrity of the building and a visual evaluation of the pumphouse in the proposed new site have indicated that the proposed relocation will not significantly affect its physical structure or its historic fabric, significance, and amenity value.

#### Grand Junction Mine remains

Historically there were several mines operating in the Waihi area. One of these was the Grand Junction Mine, situated to both the east and west of the current Martha Mine. The Grand Junction Mine's production peaked in 1914. A number of remains from this historic mine will be impacted by the proposed Martha Open Pit Phase 5. The remains of the Grand Junction powerhouse and the boiler house foundations will require removal. Some of these structures are buried under the existing noise bund, with others largely intact adjacent to the light vehicle access road into the Martha pit. It is proposed that some of these remains will be relocated and re-assembled for display near the

Grand Junction Refinery site, whilst others would be relocated and reassembled for display on the pit rim walkway at a proposed park development off Slevin Street.

#### The PYE Factory

Built in 1962 as a laboratory and factory by PYE Radio & TV, the building is listed in the Hauraki District Plan as a Category B Heritage Place and assessed as having historical, technological and symbolic value. This building currently houses the OceanaGold Waihi offices.

The proposed expansion of the Martha pit will have an impact on the rear section of the PYE building. We are currently investigating the option of retaining the Moresby Avenue building façade and part of the saw-tooth roof line. This option would facilitate a new east-facing façade giving views across the pit during operations, and over the pit lake in the future. OceanaGold Waihi would continue housing its offices and potentially the Education Centre in

the retained portion of the building. If Project Quattro is approved, and irrespective of the final outcome of the building, mitigation will include a full recording of the PYE building's technological and architectural attributes, and an oral history interview project to record all of its available history.

#### **Other Heritage Buildings**

One pre-1900 house, at 3 Haszard Street is scheduled as a Miners' Cottage. OceanaGold Waihi is proposing to relocate the cottage to an appropriate Waihi property, after consultation with the community.

Three other early 1900s villas or cottages are also affected. If the consents are granted for Project Quattro, the buildings will be relocated, where possible, to appropriate local sites.

#### **Historic Tramline**

A small section of historic tramline at the southwest end of the pit will be affected. The tramline is not visible but ran from near 35 Moresby Avenue, across the road and into the Central School site.

#### **High Level Water Race**

A small section of the High-Level Water Race (1892) and Bulltown Timber Tramway may be impacted during the eastern pit expansion work and modifications to the pit rim walkway.

#### **Underground Workings**

Much of the pre-1900 workings have already been impacted by modern open pit mining activities or earlier flooding. Although health and safety considerations may limit mitigation, retrieval of historic artefacts will take place where it is safe to do so.

#### **GLADSTONE OPEN PIT**

##### **Gladstone Battery & Mining Complex**

The Gladstone Battery and gold mining complex is an area of collapsed drives, shafts, terraces, and waste rock associated with historic mining on Gladstone Hill.

The site has been affected by prospecting from the 1970s to 1999, plus the planting of a pine plantation. The Gladstone open pit will remove the majority of the hill and impact a number of recorded features

associated with the Gladstone Battery and gold-mining complex.

##### **Lower Level Water Race**

A small section of the Low Level Water Race passes through the southern edge of the proposed mine area and will be impacted by the Gladstone pit stockpiles. This water race once fed water from the Ohinemuri River to the Waihi Battery on Union Hill. The impacted section of the alignment has been mostly infilled and impacted by farming activities and currently appears as a depression around 2 m wide across an open paddock.

## **MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

### **PRINCIPLES**

These are the principles OceanaGold Waihi commits to for managing the impacts of Project Quattro on heritage:

1. Where practicable, adverse effects will be avoided.
2. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided, actions will be taken to reduce or mitigate the scale or significance of the adverse effects.

By applying these principles, the effects associated with Project Quattro will be as small as practicable. Where adverse effects remain, OceanaGold Waihi will undertake additional actions to offset or compensate for those effects.

### **POSITIVE OUTCOMES**

The proposed development of Project Quattro provides an opportunity for improved public access to, and development of, the Waihi area's historic heritage. Project Quattro would also provide the opportunity for community involvement in historic heritage management and enhancement.

#### **The PYE Factory**

The potential management measures that have been identified for the PYE factory may include:

- Structural strengthening and retention of the front half of the building.
- The development of an appropriate management plan for the remainder of the structure.
- Full recording of the PYE building's

technological and architectural attributes.

- The formal recording of the history of the building through oral histories.
- Developing on-site interpretation of the building's history.

#### **Union Hill**

OceanaGold Waihi plans to fund the development of interpretation boards and shelters at Union Hill. It is hoped that these will continue to promote public access and appreciation of the area's historic heritage.

#### **Grand Junction Mine Sites**

If Project Quattro is approved, a Management Plan will be developed for the Grand Junction Battery and powerhouse foundations. This is to ensure their future protection and care. It may include:

- Removing immediate threats.
- Developing an appropriate management programme.
- Promoting improved public access, interpretation and appreciation of the historic heritage.
- Developing on-site interpretation boards.
- Ensuring future development of the place is compatible with its historic heritage significance.
- Opportunities for community involvement.

If the Project is approved, in order to retain the value of the proposed mitigation works, OceanaGold Waihi is proposing to fund the maintenance of the pumphouse, pit rim walkway, and Grand Junction features.

### **We welcome your input into developing Project Quattro.**

If you have an idea, concern, question or opinion, we want to hear from you. You can contact us through our website;

[www.waihigold.co.nz](http://www.waihigold.co.nz)

or visit us at our Project Information Office;

**86 Seddon Street, Waihi.**

Or use our Community Engagement Line;

**0800 924 444**