



PLANNING APPLICATION
CONONISH GOLD MINE, TYNDRUM



Planning and Environmental Statement
Non-Technical Summary
August 2017



Scotgold Resources Ltd

Cononish Gold Mine, Tyndrum

On behalf of Scotgold Resources Limited (SGZ Cononish Limited), Dalgleish Associates Ltd (DAL), Mineral, Planning and Environmental Consultants, has submitted a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended. The application is for the development of an underground gold mine with process plant/accommodation building and tailings stacks, a settlement pond, flow gauging point in the River Cononish, a site drainage system to include piped flows from 'tailings stacks' to settlement pond and settlement pond to the River Cononish as well as a recirculation pipe returning water from the pond to the processing plant, a new bridge over the Crom Allt at the Dalrigh ford, construction of a small car parking area adjacent to the existing public car park at Dalrigh and related track accesses.

The application is for a further revision of the currently permitted operation – ref 2011/0166/MIN, and as subsequently superseded by 2014/0285/DET and 2014/0317/DET.

Scotgold Resources Limited (SC309525) and SGZ Cononish Limited (SC569264) are wholly owned subsidiaries of Scotgold Resources Limited (Australia), with registered offices at Upper Tyndrum Station, Tyndrum and is a mineral development and exploration company with mineral interests (substantially through five granted Crown Option Agreements - amounting to some 4100km²) in central western Scotland. Scotgold Resources Limited is an Australian Company whose Depository Interests (DIs) are listed on AIM.

This Non-Technical Summary describes the information presented in the Environmental Statement which accompanies the application and the results of the baseline surveys and assessments which were undertaken during the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The EIA examines the potential impacts of the proposal on the environment and sets out measures to reduce or prevent any impacts.

Details on where to view the Environmental Statement and how to obtain copies of the Non-Technical Summary or further information are provided at the end of this document.

Overview

An Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken in support of the 2011 planning application. The current application relates primarily to a revised method of managing 'tailings' (mine waste). This proposal also facilitates a phased approach, commencing on completion of Planning and arrangement of finance; initially this will be a 'half scale' phase of operation at 36,000tpa. This may then be increased to the 'full production' rate of 72,000tpa (currently permitted under 2014/0285/DET), subject to further investment. This application is therefore for 17 years allowing for the continuation of the initial lower production rate, in the event that funding is not forthcoming for the necessary plant upgrade. It is however envisaged that this can be reduced to around 10 years of mining with the necessary increase in plant throughput.

In view of the approach taken historically by the Planning Authority to the development of this site and that the site is within a 'sensitive area' it is the view of the Applicant that EIA is required. In this instance, no formal screening opinion was requested; the submission of an EIA is made voluntarily. A scoping request was made and the aspects requiring assessment were agreed between the applicant and the Planning Authority. Updated assessments have been undertaken and this NTS summarises the findings of these assessments.

The Environmental Statement

An Environmental Statement (ES) accompanies the application. The Environmental Statement addresses the following topics:

- landscape and visual amenity
- the water environment
- flora and fauna
- emissions and blasting
- traffic
- recreational access

Updates to the Socio-economic Assessment and Waste Management Plan also accompany the application

The Cononish Site

Minerals may be only be worked where they occur. The current mining inventory is around 550,000 tonnes of ore and is the only proven commercially viable deposit in the mainland UK.

Proposed ore production rates are around 72,000 tonnes annually (half scale initially, for 2-3 years). The site lies within the upper reaches of the catchment of the River Tay, accessed by a private track to Cononish Farm from the A82(T) at Dalrigh. The farm lies immediately adjacent to the site; the surrounding land is managed as rough grazing. The land cover is a mosaic of acid grassland and areas of more typical mire vegetation which shows the effects of grazing.

Construction Hours

The proposed construction hours are 06.00 – 21.00 Monday to Saturday for the initial establishment and construction associated with the mine site as well as final decommissioning and restoration and 06.00 – 21.00 Monday to Saturday for subsequent surface operations. These construction hours are as currently permitted, no alteration is proposed.

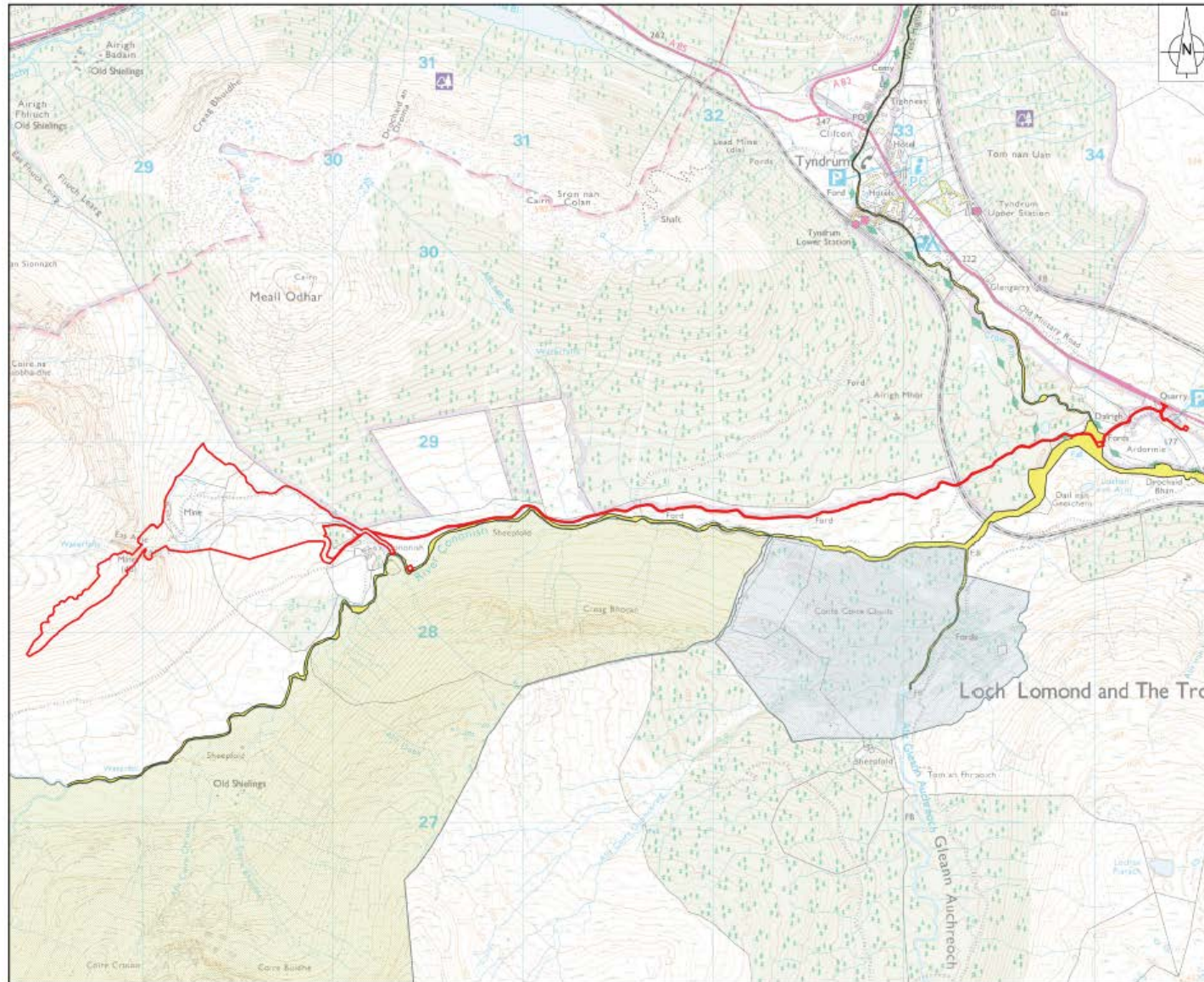
Mine Working hours

The underground mine shall operate 24 hours a day. These operational hours are as currently permitted, no alteration is proposed.

Processing Hours

The processing plant shall operate 24 hours a day, Monday to Saturday, with no working on Sundays or Public Holidays. These operational hours are as currently permitted, no alteration is proposed.

SITE LOCATION PLAN



Construction of the Scheme

Construction will be completed within around 6 months. The key construction elements of the scheme are:

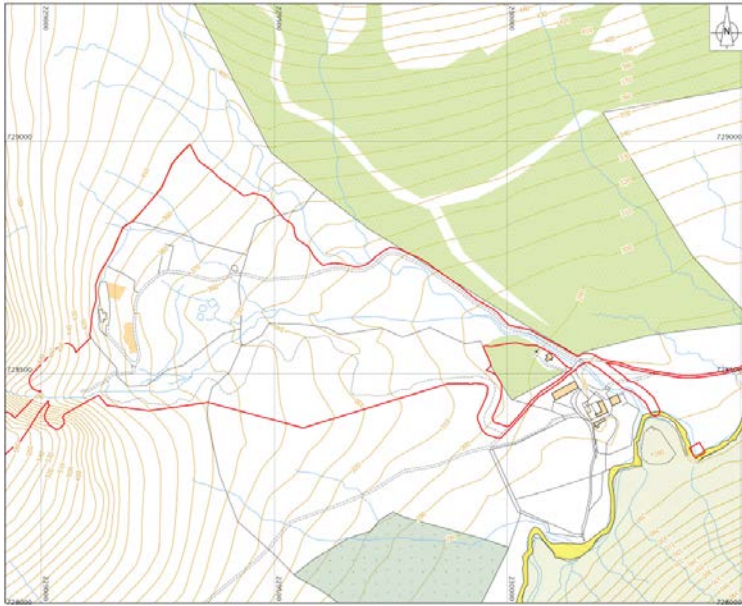
- process building area and screening bund
- process building
- settlement pond and site drainage
- discharge pipeline to River Cononish
- initial tailings stack preparation
- gauging point on the River Cononish
- A82 junction improvements
- Dalrigh car park extension
- new Crom Allt bridge

A Construction and Environmental Management Plan has been prepared which incorporates Construction Method Statements and Management Plans. The CEMP ensures that all the relevant guidance and measures necessary to protect adjacent habitat and the water environment are detailed for implementation during construction and supervised by the Ecological Clerk of Works for this part of the scheme development.

As the site is covered by a variable thickness of peaty topsoil/peat, this important resource will be carefully managed during construction activities. It will be carefully stripped where necessary and replaced, at the earliest for restoration and/or habitat enhancement.

A series of ten separate tailings stack areas shall be formed, each relating to around one year's production of tailings at the full production rate of 6,000 tonnes per month (72,000tpa). The stack areas shall be prepared by initially stripping the vegetation to till which shall be compacted prior to the placement of a basal drainage layer (of barren mine rock) and a geotextile fabric in order to separate this layer from the tailings.

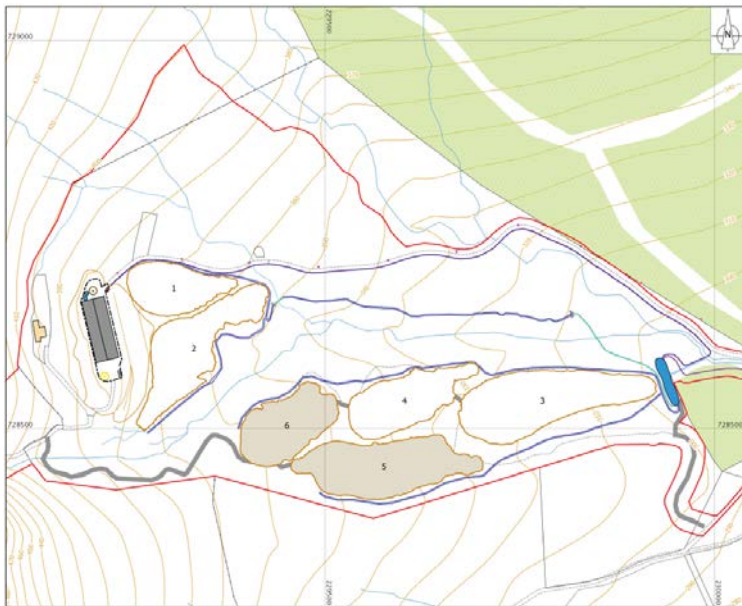
Tailings will be dewatered at the plant building as part of the process. The dry tailings will be loaded from the tailings stockpile and hauled using a 25t All-terrain Dump Truck. The tailings shall be placed, spread and compacted in 300mm layers (bulldozed and rolled) to form tailings storage stacks mimicking naturalistic moraine features, in keeping with this glacial geomorphology. Stack surfaces shall be progressively restored using vegetation stripped as subsequent areas are prepared.



▲ Existing Mine Site



Progressive Development of Tailings Stacks



Landscape & Visual

The overall effects of the goldmine on landscape and on visual amenity have been thoroughly re-examined in association with the current proposal to alter the development scheme from that already permitted. The potential for effects on landscape, and locally on visual amenity, remain significant during construction and site establishment. During operations effects may similarly be considered significant locally. The current proposal increases the vehicular activity at the mine site as tailings are no longer pumped as a slurry but dried and transported by truck to the tailings stacks where the material is landscaped for restoration.

There are however significant benefits associated with the current scheme, notably an improved final landform and an increase in the potential for progressive restoration across the site. Following restoration of the site there shall be no significant long term landscape or visual effects.

The Water Environment

With standard good practice measures in place throughout it is considered that there shall be no significant effects on the water environment. This includes consideration of the potential for effects on the River Tay Special Area of Conservation. Authorisation from Scottish Environment Protection Agency is required for a number of operations and licences are already in place. Any amendments shall be discussed with SEPA as necessary. This scheme represents an improvement when considered against the currently permitted scheme which included a diversion of the Allt Eas Anie.

Flora and Fauna

Internationally important sites and European protected species are found in the vicinity of the mine site. These include the River Tay and Ben Lui SACs, Otters and Bats.

Progressive Development of Tailings Stacks – Viewpoint 4, Eas Anie



The assessment process has established that there is no direct impact on designated sites. Very low levels of otter activity have been noted in the environs of the mine site. Bats are known to use the mine adit. Monitoring is continuing to inform development, including approved mitigation measures, under the appropriate licence which was granted in 2012.

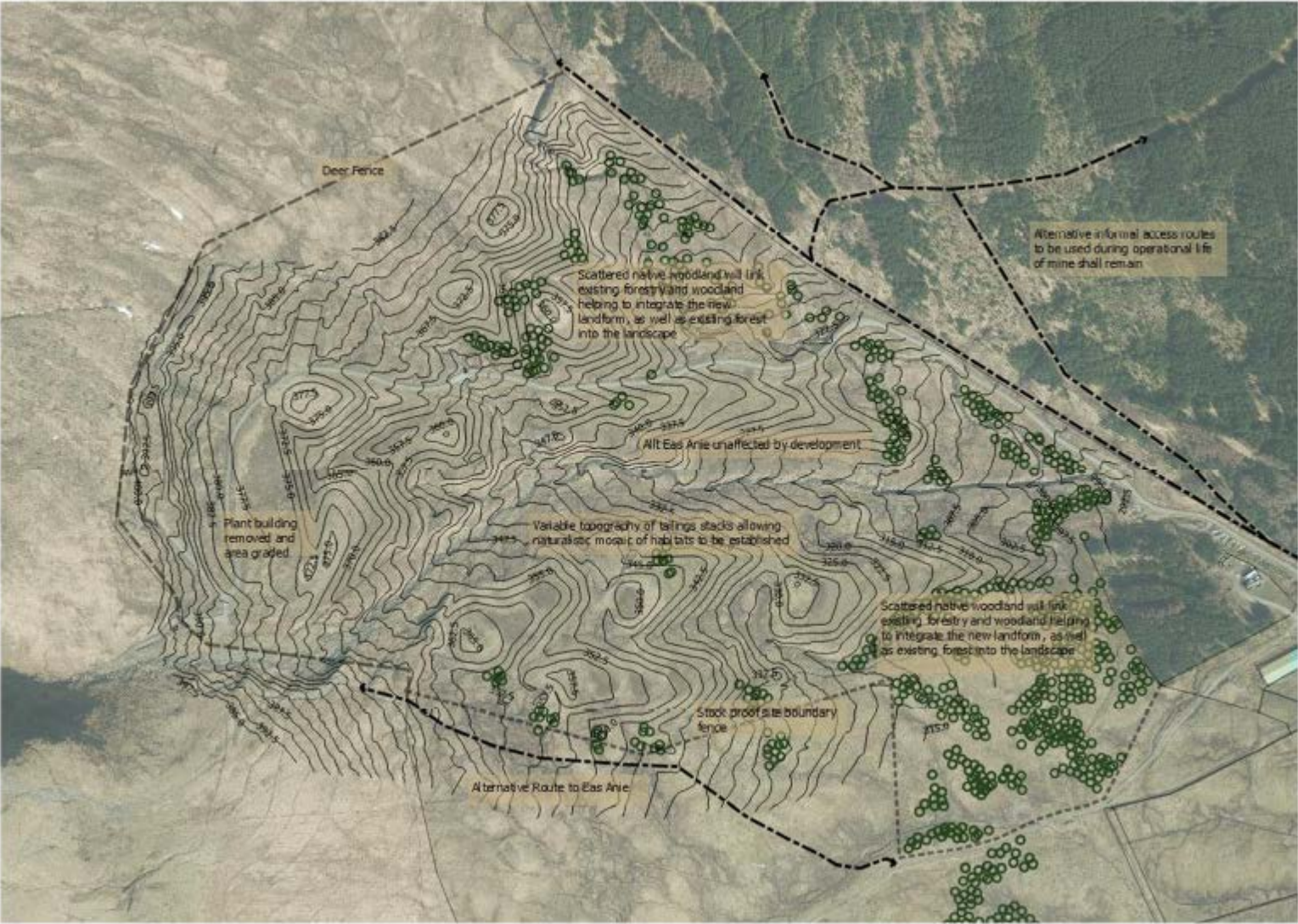
Restoration of the site will mitigate any direct short term impacts on the ecological resource of the area and in conjunction with wider habitat enhancement measures proposed will have an overall beneficial effect in the longer term.

Emissions and Blasting

Potentially sensitive receptors have been identified at Cononish Farm House and the Tacksman's House, as well as recreational receptors. The Farm House being the closest residential receptor; noise and blasting predictions are based on this location as well as the Ben Lui track as it passes the mine site and the Eas Anie waterfall, in recognition of its occasional use as a winter climb.

Noise from site activities has been assessed against the background levels in the Glen. During both construction and operations these fall well within the Scottish Government Guidance recommended limits, both at Cononish Farm and on the access track along the Glen. Effects from blast vibration are low; again well within guidance limits. Mine blasting will be restricted, to ensure that use of the Eas Anie ice climb is maintained, when it is in condition. The likelihood of dust emissions from site activities is very low, given the high precipitation in the area. Provision will be made to ensure exposed surfaces can be wetted, in a prolonged dry spell. The number of walkers on the glen access track is low and as vehicle movements are also low, the effect of emissions and blasting on recreational use is negligible.

Landscape Restoration: integrating the site with the surrounding landscape, maintaining access, enhancing biodiversity



Traffic

The main impacts from traffic will occur during the construction phase, but heavy traffic will be routed from the A82 at Tyndrum, via the level crossing and the Forestry Commission access to Cononish Farm, avoiding the section of the access track used by walkers on the West Highland Way. A traffic management plan for access track use has been developed in light of past experience at the site and includes a Code of Practice for drivers, prioritising walkers.

Recreational Access

Potential impacts on Cononish access track users in terms of temporary disturbance (noise) due to construction are assessed as minor. Decommissioning shall have similar impacts to construction. An Access Management Plan is provided which addresses both site traffic management and measures to minimise disturbance to recreational visitors. Some 235 meters of the West Highland Way uses the Cononish access track, the access to the mine, the applicant proposes mitigation measures with the prior agreement of the National Park access team.

The Project Team:

- **Scotgold Resources Limited**
- **Dagleish Associates Limited**
- **Knight Piésold**
- **LUC**
- **Vibroch Limited**

In connection with previous application(s):

- **AMEC Earth and Environmental**
- **Ecological Restoration Consultants**
- **Rathmell Archaeology Limited**
- **CANTAB Consulting Limited**
- **Professor David Bell**
- **Orbit Communications**

A full copy of the Environmental Statement can be viewed at:

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch G83 8EG

Tel: 01389 722600

A copy will also be made available at the Scotgold office:

Scotgold Resources Ltd
Upper Tyndrum Station
Tyndrum
FK20 8RY

Tel: 01838 400306

Members of the public have an opportunity to formally lodge their views on the proposals with the National Park Authority at the address above within 28 days commencing on the date of the advertising of the application.

For further information contact

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