



HISTORY OF WHAREKIRAUPONGA GOLD EXPLORATION

The Wharekirauponga deposit is located 10 km north of the township of Waihi, in the Hauraki District.

EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

Gold was first discovered at Wharekirauponga in the 1890's and a tramway was constructed into the site in anticipation of constructing a 40-stamp battery to treat ore mined from the Royal Standard lode (a vein of mineral-bearing rock).

By April 1897 as many as 197 men were employed in sawmilling and construction on the site where records indicate a small township of up to 250 people was established.

A significant amount of prospecting was undertaken by digging exploratory tunnels. While small high-grade quartz veins were intersected, there wasn't a sufficient large gold-bearing ore body identified and the claim was abandoned around 1900.

Modern exploration for gold began at Wharekirauponga in 1978, with several mining companies completing geological mapping, surface rock, soil and stream sediment geochemical surveys, aeromagnetic and resistivity surveys and 5,505m of exploration drilling during the 1980s and 1990s.

From 2009-2013, Newmont (the former owner of the Waihi Gold Mine) continued exploration in joint venture with Glass Earth. This included additional geological mapping, surface geochemical and resistivity surveys and a further 7,607m of exploration drilling.

OceanaGold purchased the Newmont/Glass Earth interest at Wharekirauponga in 2016, incorporating it into its Waihi operations and ongoing exploration programme in the Hauraki region. Since purchasing Wharekirauponga, we have undertaken further geological mapping, geochemical sampling, resistivity surveying and approximately 18,000m of exploration drilling. On 25 February 2019, we announced an initial resource at Wharekirauponga. That announcement and the supporting geological data is available at www.oceanagold.com.

GEOLOGY

The gold resource discovered at Wharekirauponga lies within sub-vertical quartz vein up to 9m wide at depths of up to 450m below the surface. This type of deposit is typical of other high-grade gold deposits discovered and mined in the Hauraki region.

Exploration at Wharekirauponga has included drilling 67 drill holes to collect geological data and take assaying samples to investigate the deposit potential. Our geologists used this data to build 3D geological and resource models that can be validated by independent geologists under strict mining industry rules for verifying discoveries.

STRICT CONDITIONS FOR DRILLING

OceanaGold is exploring the Wharekirauponga prospect on an Exploration Permit granted under the Crown Minerals Act, this requires an Access Arrangement with the landowner and the Department of Conservation.

The Access Arrangement covers 428 hectares, with a total footprint of drilling conducted by OceanaGold of less than 0.1 hectares. All activity within the footprint is undertaken in accordance with stringent conditions, protecting the conservation (biodiversity and amenity) values of the land.

To undertake drilling we also require resource consents granted by local authorities under the Resource Management Act, under which the environmental effects of exploration drilling are authorised and managed in keeping with the high environmental values of the location.

More information about how we're responsibly exploring at Wharekirauponga is available at www.oceanagold.com.

WAIHI

The Waihi township is a gold mining town that has a notable history of gold production, including the Waihi Gold Mine. For more information about Waihi, visit our website www.waihigold.co.nz.

