

ARCHEOLOGY AND HERITAGE POLICY

Rua Gold has engaged New Zealand Heritage Properties Ltd (NZHP) to complete an archaeological and heritage assessment of our work locations. The purpose of this assessment is to provide management recommendations and a policy framework for our exploration activities, that may impact on archeological and heritage sites.

At Rua Gold, we place great importance on responsible and ethical practices when it comes to managing archeological and heritage resources. The collaboration with NZHP enables a comprehensive understanding of the archeological and heritage values within our project area. Our goal is to mitigate or prevent damage to both recorded and unrecorded archeological and heritage sites, while meeting the requirements of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. This includes strict adherence to the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Archaeological Discovery Protocol.

Historical research that Ngāi Tahu iwi has conducted reveals that our project area is of archeological and heritage significance. The Īnangahua River and Maruia River served as traditional travel routes (ara tawhito) for early Māori communities. This region, known as Te Tai Poutini, was crucial for these communities as they sought pounamu / greenstone, and engaged in seasonal travel, including for the trading of pounamu.

Additionally, the project area has a rich history of mining activity dating back to the 19th century. Reefton, in particular, witnessed the discovery of gold-bearing quartz reefs in 1870, leading to subsequent gold rushes and the establishment of various mining companies. Although mining activities fluctuated over time, experiencing a brief resurgence in the 1920s and 1930s, external factors such as labour shortages and the onset of World War II impacted the industry, leading to mine closures. In more recent years, Reefton Gold has been actively involved in mining permits and exploratory work within the Reefton District.

As Rua Gold, we are committed to preserving and respecting New Zealand's archeological and heritage sites. We work closely with NZHP to develop management strategies that align with the HNZPTA 2014. Our approach combines careful planning, adherence to statutory requirements, and engagement with relevant stakeholders and iwi to ensure the protection and preservation of these significant sites.

By prioritizing the responsible management of archeological and heritage resources, Rua Gold strives to strike a balance between our exploration activities and the preservation of New Zealand's rich cultural heritage, including mining heritage.

Kind regards,



Mr. Simon Henderson
COO
RUAGOLD