

Appendix 13: Consultation

Katie Huesser

From: Ian Boothroyd
Sent: Thursday, 31 July 2025 2:31 pm
To: Katie Huesser
Cc: Jaimee Cannon
Subject: FW: Whitehall Quarry - response to DOC comments on effects management

As below

From: Andrew Styche <astyche@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 July 2025 10:46 am
To: Ian Boothroyd <Ian.Boothroyd@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Whitehall Quarry - response to DOC comments on effects management

Thank you for the correspondence.

Your comments seem reasonable. Some minor feedback on your pest management plan. I'd recommend excluding mice from it. Without a very expensive predator proof fence, this species is unmanageable.

Also, in the intervening time since my last response to you, the Wildlife Act has been updated to enable DOC to authorise activities that for a while we weren't.

Andrew Styche

Senior Ranger, Community
Department of Conservation, Waikato District
Phone 027 536 6907

From: Ian Boothroyd <Ian.Boothroyd@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 July 2025 8:48 am
To: Andrew Styche <astyche@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Tyler Sharratt (Winstone Aggregates) <tyler.sharratt@winstoneaggregates.co.nz>; Jaimee Cannon <Jaimee.Cannon@boffamiskell.co.nz>; Katie Huesser <Katie.Huesser@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: Whitehall Quarry - response to DOC comments on effects management

Hi Andrew,

I hope all is well with you.

Thank you for your comments on the proposed effects management for the proposed expansion at Whitehall Quarry (your letter dated 28 March 2025).

Please find attached a further response to your comments outlining how we have incorporated your comments into the overall mitigation.

I note your comment on relying on advice from technical experts within DOC.

We have prepared a comprehensive pest management plan which will be submitted with the consent application and with any required Wildlife Act permit application.

Thanks for your response to the proposed mitigation and I consider that the overall mitigation is strengthened by your participation.

Cheers,
Ian

Ian Boothroyd | Ecologist | Partner | Certified Environmental Practitioner - Ecology Specialist

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11 July 2025

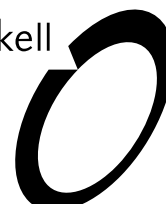
Andrew Styche
Department of Conservation
Waikato District

E-mail: astyche@doc.govt.nz

Our reference: BM190311A

Dear Andrew

Boffa Miskell



WHITEHALL QUARRY EXPANSION MITIGATION PLAN

Thank you for your letter dated 28 March 2025, with your comments regarding the proposed mitigation for the proposed Whitehall Quarry expansion. Below we outline how we have responded to your specific comments in our revised mitigation plan.

We note that we are aware of the Government response to the recent High Court decision you refer to in your correspondence. The Government response does not alter our mitigation and serves to strengthen the actions we have proposed to prevent or minimise the disturbance to populations of indigenous fauna, notably the long-tailed bat population.

Specific comments

We have set out our response to your comments in the same table set up as provided.

Page	Item	Response
Page 1-2	Table 1	We have revised Table 1 and have re-classified the predator control as compensation.
3	Herpetofauna	We are aware of the Government response to the recent High Court decision. The existing Quarry Management Plan (QMP) includes a requirement where <i>'Pest animal control will be carried out within relocation areas where salvaged lizards are to be released. This should be in place prior to relocation and ongoing pest animal control carried out after relocation.'</i> The QMP provides for destructive searches alongside the provision for salvage and relocation. We have followed accepted practice to minimise impacts on herpetofauna. Any disturbance or killing will be incidental to these measures.
4	Avifauna	Effects management remains to: Avoid disturbance during bird breeding season. Application of nest checks as part of tree felling protocols if occurring during breeding season. We consider that these are effective steps to avoid killing or disturbing birds. Any disturbance or killing will be incidental to these measures.
5	Pest management	We have prepared a Draft Pest Management Plan (PMP) with a focus on the protection and supporting the resilience of the long-tailed bat

population; and thus, protect other indigenous fauna within the vegetation. The pest management will be applied to the existing SNAs within the boundaries of Whitehall Quarry, and also to the planted enhancement area. We note that, at this stage, the PMP is subject to change as the application progresses through consultation and regulatory process.

We have provided a focus on ship rats, but the pest management extends to mustelids, mice, cats, possums, pigs, deer and includes wasps.

We have recommended indicative targets within the PMP as follows:

Pest Species	Management Target	Threshold	Monitoring frequency
Rats	<5% CCI (year-round)	≥10% CCI (year-round)	CCI – x3 checks per annum in May, August & December
Mice	<5% CCI (year-round)	≥10% CCI (year-round)	
Possums	<5% CCI	≥10% CCI	
Mustelids	5 detections per 2000 CH ¹	>10 detections per 2000 CH ¹	Ongoing monitoring via paired trail cameras.
Feral Cats ²	5 detections per 2000 CH ¹	>10 detections per 2000 CH ¹	
Wild Pigs	Zero detections per 2000 CH (Initial elimination, then zero ongoing detections in the fenced areas)	≥1 wild pig detected at any given time	Any observation/sign initiate response
Feral Goats and Deer	0% Density. (Initial elimination, then zero ongoing detections in the fenced areas)	0% Density	Any observation/sign initiate response
Wasps (Vespula sp.)	≥80% reduction in wasp nest flight counts.	<80% reduction in wasp nest flight counts.	Once per annum in summer using wasp nest flight counts

¹ These numbers are based on the draft DOC best-practice guidelines for targets and thresholds for mustelids and feral cats using camera trap indices. The completion of the new DOC best practice guidelines is still in progress.

² Cat targets and thresholds must represent at least 2 different individual feral cats (if distinguishable by markings).

The Draft Pest Management Plan goes on to recommend actions where these targets are not achieved.

Concluding comments

We hope that our response to your helpful comments is acceptable. We remain open to a continuous discussion on the matter of mitigation for the effects of the proposed expansion at Whitehall Quarry.

We are currently finalising the resource consent applications for lodgement with Waipa District Council and Waikato Regional Council. In addition, we are preparing a Wildlife Permit Application which we expect to submit with DOC for processing later in July 2025.

Yours sincerely

BOFFA MISKELL LTD

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'I. Boothroyd', written in a cursive style.

Ian Boothroyd

Senior Principal Ecologist

28/03/2025

Ian Boothroyd
Boffa Miskell
Level 3
82 Wyndham Street
AUCKLAND 1010

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION COMMENTS ON THE WHITEHALL QUARRY EXPANSION MITIGATION PLAN

Background

Below are comments on the Whitehall Quarry Expansion Mitigation Plan received 13 January 2025.

Specific comments

Page #	Section	Comment
1-2	Table 1	The actions recorded in the Offset row do not meet the standards for offsetting. These are more appropriately categorised as compensation. For the offsetting guidelines see Guidance on biodiversity offsetting in New Zealand: Policies and plans.
3	Herpetofauna	You may have heard about the latest High Court decision regarding DOCs ability to authorise killing of protected wildlife. In effect, DOC can't issue an authorisation to kill protected wildlife because that contravenes the purpose of the Act. Therefore, any killing would be an offense, with a potential for prosecution. It appears, from what you say, that the risk of killing native lizards during the quarry expansion is low, though not zero. How DOC addresses this issue is yet to be determined and will be impacted by Government moves to rewrite the Wildlife Act. How it has been addressed in the past is by the party carrying out the activity following best practice methods to avoid or minimise harm or killing. What this has looked like in the past is a requirement for salvage. DOC has been allowing salvaged lizards to be dumped in any nearby habitat; however, evidence coming from research suggests this provides no positive outcome for the salvaged lizards. Therefore, we [in the Waikato] are now requiring salvaged lizards to be transferred to a predator free enclosure.

		Predator free means free of rodents, including mice, and hedgehogs. Some of the cells on Maungatautari meet this requirement. Any lizards transferred to Maungatautari need to first go through quarantine. This service is offered by Otorohanga Kiwi House and Hamilton Zoo on a cost-recovery basis. I recommend you create a plan for what you will do if you make an incidental discovery [and recovery] of a native lizard and seek an authorisation to undertake this activity. The reliance on destructive searches for the pre-clearance action is OK based on the numbers you have located to date. This needs confirmation from my technical advisor colleagues who deal effects on native with lizards through the RMA process.
4	Avifauna	Native birds are going to be impacted by the works you will be carrying out. Many native birds are territorial, and most rely on building nests in trees for breeding. The intention to remove trees will therefore have an impact on these birds. As for lizards, you can not be authorised to kill any native birds, which includes their nests and eggs. You will have to take effective steps to avoid killing or disturbing. The actions you have provided indicate you have considered appropriate steps to achieve this. The proposed mitigation should replace the lost habitat over time, which is good, but the Wildlife Act does not recognise this. Predator control being done to protect bats should also benefit birds, contributing to the protective benefit from this activity.
5	Pest management	The 'Protocols for minimising the risk of felling occupied bat roosts 2024' is accepted as the best practice method for avoiding killing bats and therefore meets the requirements of the Wildlife Act. However, removing roost trees means bats are forced into fewer and riskier sites. Just planting trees does not manage this effect because the benefit will not occur for many decades, well after the effect has occurred. Meaningful predator control is required to protect bats that are using the remaining roosts. Preferably, main predators, such as ship rats, should be suppressed throughout the year for the duration of the consent. I would like you to set targets that are required to be achieved to demonstrate effectiveness, i.e., number on an index that you intend to achieve to show pest control has been successful. For example, maintain rats at or below 5% tracking tunnel index annually. The equivalent for possums would be to maintain possums at or below a 5% residual trap catch. A focus on ship rats is the priority. Possums will need to be controlled to make rat control easier and effective, plus possums can prey on bats. Stoats and cats are predators of bats but are harder to monitor and even harder to control at the scale you are working. I don't think I could fairly hold you to a measure of success for their control on the quarry site.

		Fencing to exclude deer is probably the only way to manage their effects on the SNAs and mitigation planting and is supported.
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General comments

The plan does not clearly show what amounts of different habitat/ecosystem types are being lost. Consequently, it is difficult to judge whether the proposed avoidance, mitigation or compensation (you've called it offset, but it isn't) is sufficient. The plan would benefit from clearly describing the amount and characteristics of the habitat/ecosystems being lost and what each is being replaced with, whether equivalent recreated habitat/ecosystem, predator control, or some other action.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Styche, Senior Ranger – Community, Waikato District

WHITEHALL QUARRY LONG-TERM EXPANSION HUI
MINUTES
15 NOVEMBER 2024

Attendees: Tyler Sharratt, Shane Burrett, MJ Vavetuki, Andrea Julian, Norm Hill, Jaimee Cannon, Ian Boothroyd

Apologies: Hinerangi Kara

Time/ Date: 1300-1430 15 November 2024

1	TS opened the hui	
2	Long-term consent introduction	• TS/JC introduced the long-term consent proposal over a number of slides (slide pack attached). • Most of the expert reports have been completed and the AEE. This should be in a draft stage by December and can be circulated. • Target is to have consent by Oct 2025 earthworks season. • NH noted that the area is a cultural landscape and not just restricted to the archaeological dots on a plan. Spoke about Harry and his stream experience.
3	Ecological Monitoring Update and Proposed Offsetting	• IB discussed the monitoring which had been undertaken including bats, lizards, fish and birds. High numbers of bats in the SNA's. No lizards. • IB presented planting areas A and B and the ridgeline planting proposed to join the two existing SNA's. Area was based on DOC's no net loss biodiversity offset accounting model and the area to be planted would be roughly at a ratio of 2:1 • AJ questioned whether or not these areas would be covenanted. TS confirmed they would. • SB stated goats had been brought under control.
4	General Discussion	• AJ raised the point that there is yet to be a closure plan presented. TS agreed and suggested a condition that requires WA to develop a full closure and rehabilitation plan be included in the consent

		application. Straightening the stream and removing man made pipes etc. would be things to include in such a plan. • NH asked about cultural gain. TS discussed efforts to access sites of significance is one way WA are keen to develop. • AJ suggested vegetation clearance at night for bats, but this might be tough due to health and safety concerns. • IB proposed a method where branches with maternal roosting bats would be removed and attached to another tree to increase survival. AJ inquired about the impact on bat species and suggested we focus on surveying the area for maternal roosts and implement a method similar to the Hamilton halo project, which includes pest control targeting rats and possums. This is to create the most suitable habitat for the bats once it comes time to expand. All agreed a blitz on pests was a great idea. • AJ suggested leaving felled trees for a few nights to allow native skinks, lizards, and other creatures to relocate. • Plenty of discussion about focusing on maternal bat roosts. • Wildlife Permit was raised to carry out the bat relocation/tree felling.
5	Mātauranga Māori Monitoring Programme	• MJ discussed AUTH144652.03.01 Stormwater discharge consent, Conditions 17 and 18, which involve developing a monitoring programme based on mātauranga Māori. • AJ mentioned that Ngāti Raukawa developed an SEV method that applies spiritual context and suggested it could be helpful in developing the Karapiro Stream mātauranga Māori monitoring programme. • AJ suggested hosting another hui to discuss this further.
	ACTIONS:	• Draft AEE ready in 1-2 weeks, early December. TS to circulate once reviewed. • AJ and NH to review and provide their inputs and suggestions with feedback will form the consent application. Will discuss matters with their kaumatua. • NH to draft the CIA prior to lodging consent, expected to be ready by early February. • WA to schedule another hui in Jan/Feb to discuss
4	TS closed the meeting.	

Whitehall Quarry Long-Term Expansion

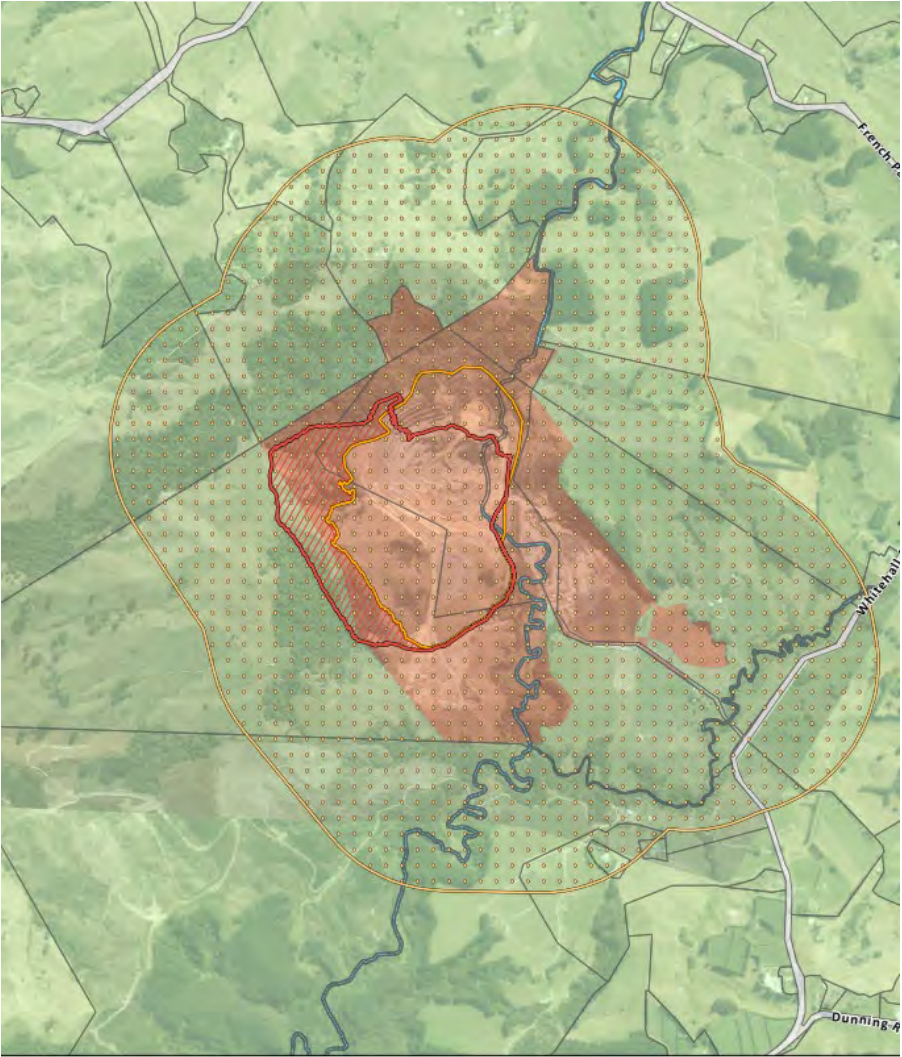
Hui 15 November 2024

EXISTING OVERALL SITE LAYOUT





District Plan Zoning



Limited on
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work.
any use
the Client
has been
provided in
errors or
inaccurate
at source.

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Data Sources: Bing Aerial, Waipa District Council, LINZ, BML, Winstone Aggregates

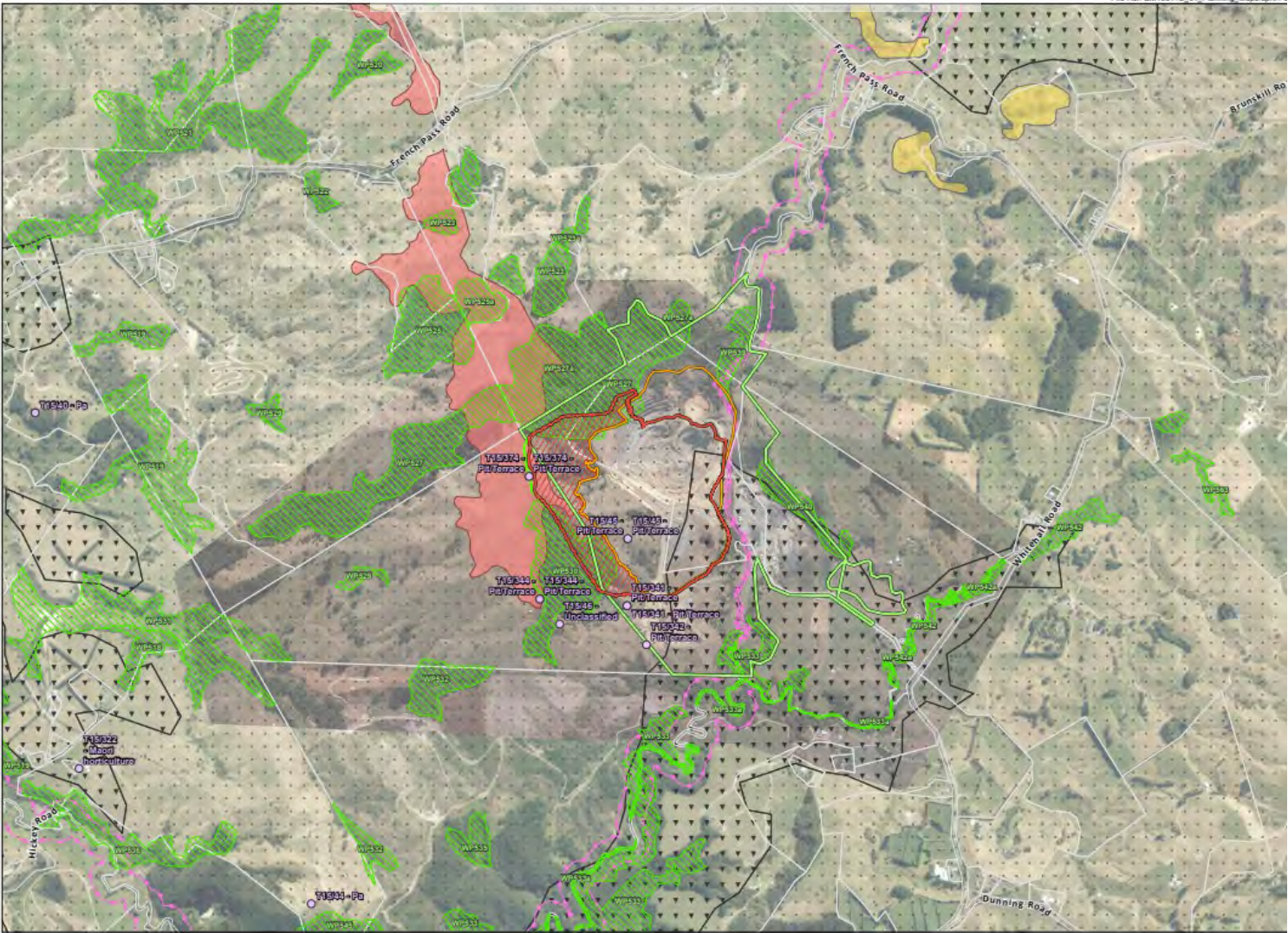
Projection: NZGD 2000 Mount Eden Circuit

LEGEND

- Proposed Long Term Expansion Area
- Long Term Expansion Footprint
- Existing Consented Quarry
- Quarry Buffer Area
- Land Parcels
- Waipa District Plan Zones
- Rural Zone
- Significant Mineral Extraction Zone

Project Ma

District Plan Overlays



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Data Sources: Bing Aerial, Waipa District Council, LINZ, BML, Winstone

Projection: NZGD 2000 Mount Eden Circuit

LEGEND

- Proposed Long Term Expansion Area
- Long Term Expansion Footprint
- Existing Consented Quarry
- Significant Mineral Extraction Zone
- Waipa District Overlays
- Significant Natural Feature & Landscape
- Visually Sensitive Hill Country
- Cultural Landscape Area Alert
- Significant Natural Areas
- NZAA Sites
- Archaeological Site
- Soil Type
- High Class Soil
- Other Soil

WHITEHALL QUARRY CONSENT APP

Waipa District Plan Zoning (

Date: 01 October 2024

Plan prepared by Boffa

Project Manager: Jaimee.Cannon@boffamiskell.co.nz | Drawn: SGa |

Indicative Staging Plan for Long-Term Expansion



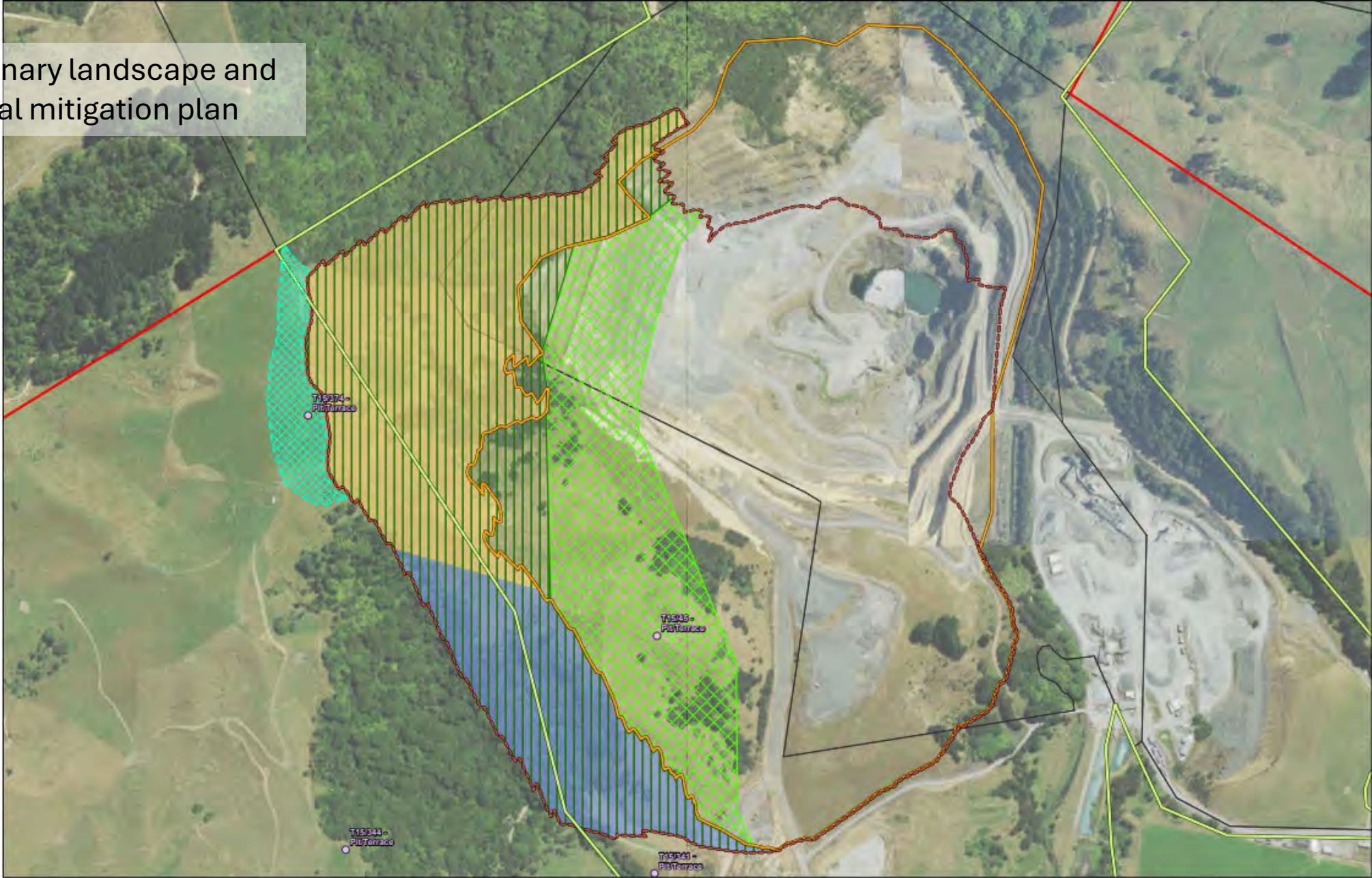
Significant Natural Areas within Long-Term Expansion Footprint



Location of natural wetlands and stream within expansion footprint



Preliminary landscape and visual mitigation plan

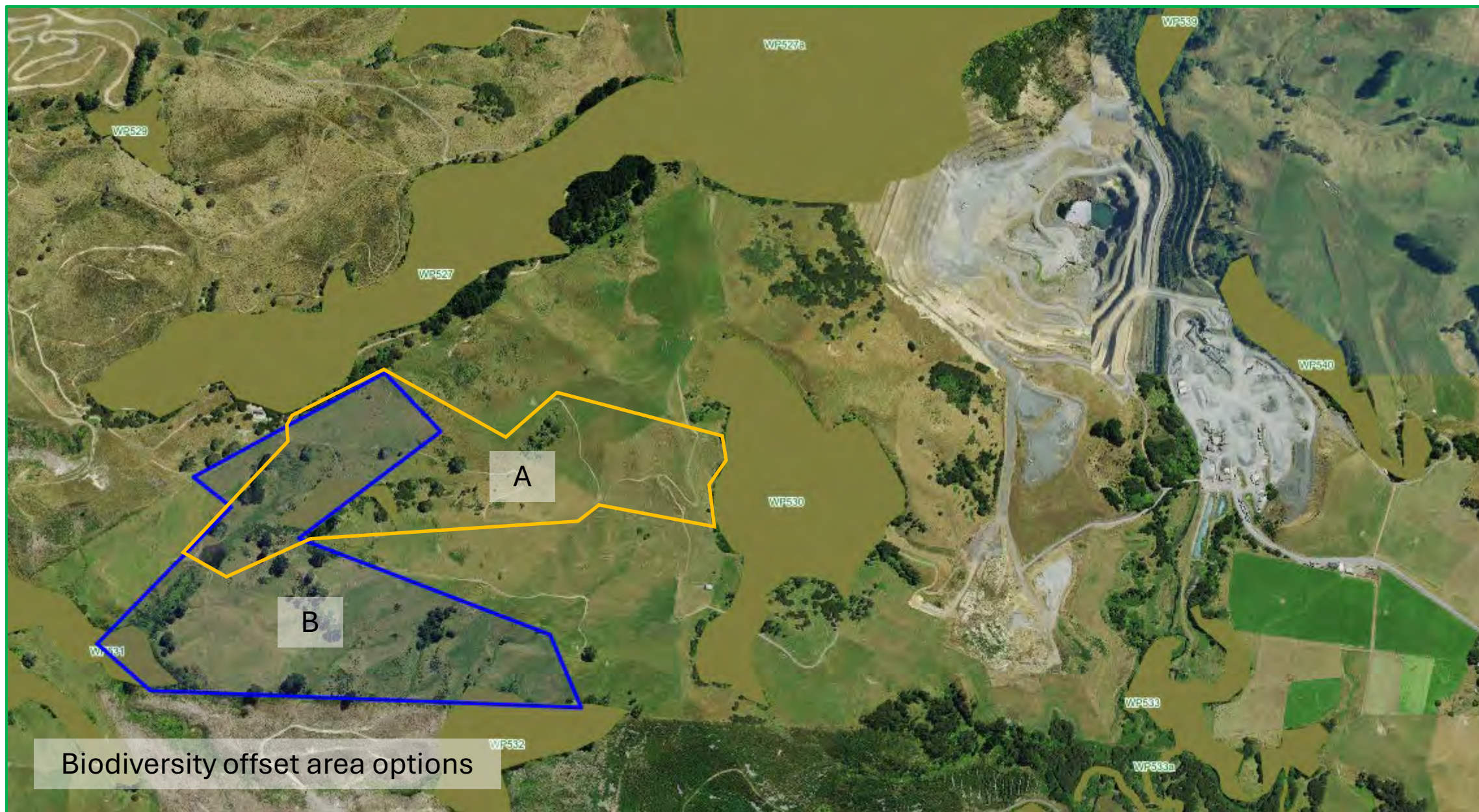




Biodiversity offset area option A
– Indicative location



Biodiversity offset area option B – indicative location



MINUTES

Whitehall Quarry Long term Expansion

VENUE	Online Teams Meeting
DATE	25th June 2025, 11am to 12:30pm
PRESENT	Shane Burrett, Andrea Julian, Hinerangi Kara, Tyler Sharratt and MJ Vavetuki
APOLOGIES	Norm Hill, Ian Wallace and Tim Hazell

AGENDA

- Long-term expansion
- Karapiro stream Mātauranga Māori indicators

Discussion

Opening karakia

Round table introductions

Long Term Expansion

Slide show package

TS presented the expansion package (slide pack attached), highlighting key visual impacts for affected neighbours and confirming that archaeological areas will be protected through covenants. Poto had previously raised concerns about the ridgeline, which TS confirmed will remain unaffected and reinforced by ridgeline planting which is included in the planting plans.

TS shared that a recent meeting with Council was positive and that progress on finalising the draft consent is tracking well. NH confirmed via text that he will draft the Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA), aiming for completion by December 2025. TS to circulate the draft AEE and expert reports.

Covenant Areas

AJ raised questions regarding planting around archaeological sites, requesting input on species selection and buffer zones. TS confirmed these areas are part of the covenant condition and will be included in planting plans. AJ agreed to send guidance on covenant wording, which TS requested. AJ also requests that WA sketches out a condition in the application that includes wording around Mātauranga Māori that can be refined in the future.

Planting & Pest Management

TS outlined planting plans that will connect Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs), with deer fencing to be installed prior to planting. A pest control blitz was agreed as the best approach. AJ asked about goat control; SB confirmed no sightings in over 18 months. AJ suggests using a Judas goat with a tracker to locate any remaining herd if this issue pops up again in the future.

AJ and HK expressed interest in receiving deer for kai, with HK requesting details around logistics such as who to contact, where, and when. SB agreed to support this, noting that health and safety requirements must still be followed, and asked for contact details. HK and AJ will follow up by providing the necessary information.

Timeline & Consent Process

TS noted the consent application will be lodged in the coming weeks. Council will likely notify relevant neighbours, with a potential hearing in the new year. AJ asked if the project would be fast-tracked; TS confirmed it will proceed through standard RMA processes. TS also suggested that Haua, Koroki Kahukura, and Raukawa be formally considered by Council to be affected parties.

AJ highlighted the importance of ongoing consultation with Raukawa, who may have a Joint Management Agreement in the area and recommended continued engagement alongside Haua. HK added that while Koroki Kahukura does not have a JMA, they would still like to be consulted in good faith even if it isn't a requirement. WA agrees.

TS will send the full package to AJ, noting there is ample time for review. AJ also queried the pit shell design, which TS confirmed was shaped with significant input from Haua, Koroki Kahukura, and Raukawa.

Mātauranga Māori Indicators for Karapiro Stream

MJ presented slideshow on the development of Mātauranga Māori indicators for the Karapiro Stream as per Consent AUTH143593.03.01, Condition 17. The presentation will be included in a Drop Box folder and shared with everyone here.

Proposed outline

MJ outlined a proposed structure for the development of the monitoring programme, which includes defining the purpose and outcomes of the monitoring, defining or creating a framework to use, deciding on monitoring frequency, selecting sites and physically implementing the indicators. MJ also referenced the current locations of quarterly water sampling under Conditions 14 and 15 of the consent, which may serve as a guideline for site selection.

Examples

MJ shares three examples of stream-based Mātauranga Māori indicators that could be considered. These include:

- Cultural Health Index – Ministry for the Environment.
- Wai Ora Wai Māori – Manaaki Whenua kaupapa Māori assessment tool.
- Māori Model & Mauri-o-meter – Developed by Mahi Maioro Professionals.

MJ will circulate the pdf. documents explaining each of the indicators.

Raukawa Input

AJ shared that Raukawa has developed a freshwater monitoring protocol and an app for data entry. Raukawa is also forming a monitoring team, with two people currently available to undertake fieldwork. AJ strongly recommended that MJ re-connects with NH to understand Ngāti Haua's expectations and approach. MJ will follow up with NH and HK, and keep AJ informed of progress. AJ also expressed Raukawa's discomfort with the straightening of the stream, noting it as a concern.

Closing karakia

Actions

1. **TS:** Send expansion package to AJ, NH and HK.
2. **AJ:** Send covenant wording guidance to TS.
3. **AJ:** Follow up with contact details for deer kai logistics.
4. **AJ:** Check if Raukawa has JMA
5. **AJ:** Share Raukawa's freshwater monitoring protocol and app details with the group.
6. **HK:** Provide contact details for deer kai logistics.
7. **SB:** Coordinate deer supply for kai, ensuring H&S protocols are followed.
8. **NH:** Continue drafting the Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA), aiming for completion by December 2025.
9. **MJ:** Upload the presentation to Dropbox and share access with attendees.
10. **MJ:** Contact NH and HK to discuss alignment with Raukawa's monitoring plans and keep AJ updated on progress and engagement outcomes.