# **Gold and Green Resources Limited**

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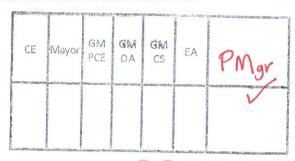
RC File

18 July 2016

Westland District Council Private Bag 704 HOKITIKA 7842

Attn: Rebecca Beaumont

Dear Rebecca



Resource Consent 160041: Phoenix Mining Limited - MP 52365 Waimea

Further to your recent request for the archaeological information and our subsequent discussion over the rationale for the parties I identified as affected by the application which I will expound on below.

Phoenix Mining Limited have been working on the site since the beginning of the year carrying out mining and rehabilitation of the earlier disturbed area. The land based plant with 1.3 metre diameter trommel which works intermittently and is located behind the prominent small hill. A acoustic survey was previously completed for the resource consent at the east end of the permit where the plant was in direct line of sight of the Stafford township and showed noise levels would not exceed the permitted levels in the District Plan. With the plant at the east end now additionally shielded from the town by the hill the noise levels would be even lower. That there have been no noise complaints that we are aware of over the period this must be the case and for that reason the residents of the Stafford township east of the hill were deemed to be unaffected as they could neither hear or see the mining.

Again we understand there have been no noise complaints from the residents of the Ballarat Rise subdivision however as the properties on the north side of Ballarat Rise adjoin the mining permit and will be within 100 metres of the mining while they may not be able to see the mining due to the topography and vegetation cover which is being kept it is possible they will hear the mining. The mining in the immediate area will be undertaken using the floating screen which reduces noise more by not only being deeper nut with rocks from the stacker dropping into a pond which much reduces the noise that is created when rocks jar against each when dropped from a land based screen. The neighbours on the west of Stafford Loop Road from 221 north are considered affected as they would be able to see the operation and possibly hear it on cold frosty winter days when an easterly wind is blowing. The owners of the properties on the north side of the Stafford Loop Road at the junction are keen to have their own land mined (MP 52146) and there was an application for consent lodged for this some time ago and we have no reason to believe they would object to the proposal however we accept that they could be considered as an affected party. The residence at No 259 is some 400 metres away from where the nearest mining is likely to occur.

Further to the east the riparian margin and vegetation is being kept undisturbed to screen from the road both audibly and visually any workings that occur on the south side of Waimea Creek. We do not consider Ngai Tahu Forest Holdings Limited to be affected because the mining will occur over 500 metres west of their boundary, however the applicant has long



been a mining contractor on their land and has a number of access agreements in place with them in the Grey District and has excellent relations with them.

Yours sincerely

John Wood

## M.P. 52365: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

KATHARINE WATSON
UNDERGROUND OVERGROUND ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

#### AUGUST 2012

UNPUBLISHED REPORT FOR BLACKTOPP MINING LTD

#### INTRODUCTION

Blacktopp Mining Ltd holds Mining Permit 52365 over an area of land to the northeast of Hokitika (Figure 1). This area is the site of a 19<sup>th</sup> century elevator hole, known as the Wheel of Fortune (recorded as archaeological sites J32/35 and J32/115). This site was assessed previously (Watson 2007) and an authority to modify part of the site (2010/258) was issued. The current archaeological assessment was commissioned to investigate the impacts of a new proposal (gold mining) on the remains of the Wheel of Fortune. The area affected by the proposal is on private land. Figure 2 shows the areas affected by the proposed mining – these areas were the focus of the current assessment.

This assessment was completed in accordance with NZHPT guidelines on assessing archaeological sites.

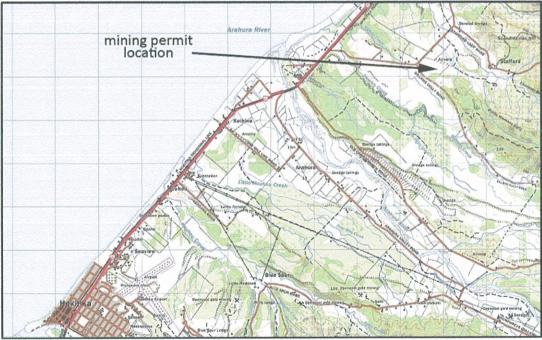


Figure 1. The location of MP 52365 in relation to Hokitika.

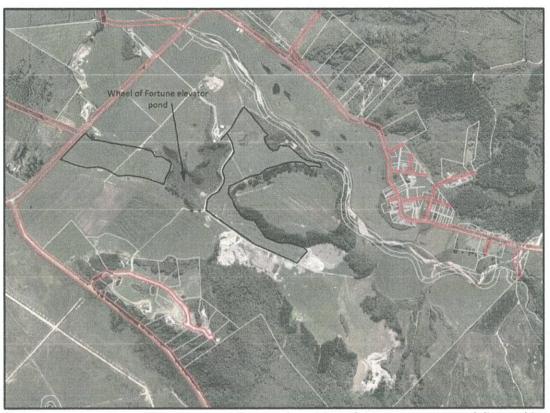


Figure 2. The areas that will be mined and that are the subject of this assessment are delineated in black.

#### STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

#### Historic Places Act 1993

The Historic Places Act 1993 provides protection for archaeological sites and is administered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Under section 2 of the act an archaeological site is defined as:

"...any place in New Zealand that -

#### (a)Either -

- (i) Was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900; or
- (ii) Is the site of a wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900; and
- (b) Is or may be able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand."

Under the Historic Places Act, anyone who wishes to destroy, damage or modify an archaeological site requires an authority to do so under section 11 or 12 of the Act. It is illegal to destroy damage or modify an archaeological site without an authority from the Historic Places Trust. The Act allows up to 3 months for a decision to be made on the authority after the authority application has been lodged (the authority application will be lodged within 10 working days of being received, if all the required information is present). If granted, an authority has a life of up to five years. An authority may be granted with conditions, such as archaeological survey, monitoring and/or excavation. Any archaeologist

carrying out work as a condition of the authority must be approved by the Trust under section 17 of the *Historic Places Act*. Once the authority has been granted, there is a statutory **15 working day** stand-down period before earthworks can begin. This is one of the standard conditions of an archaeological authority.

#### Summary of the timeframes associated with applying for an archaeological authority:

- The Historic Places Trust has 10 working days to lodge an application for an archaeological authority. The application will not be lodged if insufficient information is provided. Instead, a request for information will be sent to the applicant.
- Following lodgement of the application, the Historic Places Trust has 3 months to process the application.
- After the authority has been granted, there is a 15 working day stand-down period before earthworks can begin.

It is illegal to destroy, damage or modify an archaeological site without an archaeological authority. Legal action may result if the site is destroyed, damaged or modified without an archaeological authority or if the conditions of the authority are not complied with.

#### **METHODS**

The history of the Wheel of Fortune elevator was researched for an earlier assessment of the elevator pond (Watson 2007), and the only additional research carried for the current assessment was to search Landonline for historic plans. The research in 2007 consulted Philip Ross May's (1967) *The West Coast Gold Rushes*, the Warden's reports published in the *Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives*, Morgan (1911), Wood (1992) and two 1930s gold mining company prospectuses.

An archaeological survey of the area to be mined was carried out on 22 May 2012. During this survey, the areas that Blacktopp Mining Ltd proposes to mine were inspected.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The area surveyed is a dairy farm and most of the area has been humped and hollowed, although some small pockets of native bush remain standing (Figure 2). This bush will not be affected by the proposed mining.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>

The Wheel of Fortune claim lies within the Waimea goldfield. Gold was first discovered in the Waimea Creek by the prospector John Donnelly in November 1864. By January 1865, the rush to the Waimea was in full swing, with miners at work in the main creek bed and in the Waimea's tributaries. A town, initially known as Forkstown (reflecting its location at the junction of the Left-, Middle- and Right-hand Branch of the Waimea Creek) and later as Goldsborough, soon developed to supply the surrounding diggings. Further discoveries in neighbouring streams and gullies brought more miners into the area (May 1967:148-150).

The fortunes of the Waimea goldfield fluctuated over the next few years, a fact reflected in the rise and fall of population recorded for the area. A second peak of population occurred

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, this section is from Watson 2007.

early in 1866 when gold was found in Pretty Woman's Gully, leading to further discoveries to the east of Goldsborough and the formation of the town of Ballarat Hill. One of these discoveries included Piper's Flat, later home to the Wheel of Fortune claim. 1866 also saw gold discovered in a series of small hills in the area, which led to the birth of the town of Stafford (May 1967:198-200). There was a further rush in the winter of 1867 when gold was discovered at New Lamplough. This led to the birth of another township, this one known as Chesterfield (May 1967:227-228).

While a variety of alluvial mining methods could be seen at the Waimea field until 1867 (including tunnelling, paddocking and shafting), the main method employed was that of ground sluicing (May 1967:200). 1867, however, saw a change in technology, with hydraulic sluicing gaining prominence throughout the year, until it was the main method of working the deposits in the Waimea field at the end of the year (May 1967:229). Hydraulic sluicing was a method of alluvial mining that developed in California and was well suited to the conditions on the West Coast and at Waimea in particular, as it could make good use of the high level of rainfall and was suited to working terrace faces (May 1967:228-229). In the 1870s, the canvas hose used in hydraulic sluicing was replaced by the monitor (May 1967:229). It was in this context that the Wheel of Fortune claim was taken up.

The Wheel of Fortune claim was taken up as a special claim (on Piper's Flat) of 28 acres by Murphy and party in the mid-1880s. By the time of the 1886 Warden's report (dated 15 April 1886), a waterwheel had been built. The party planned to work an open face on the claim, using a turbine and winding gear (AJHR 1886 C4A:22). Within a year, the Wheel of Fortune Company had been formed, and a 1200 feet (366 m) long tail race and an incline tramway built. The incline tramway was to carry the sluiced material up away from the face, thus allowing sufficient fall for the tailings (AJHR 1887 C6:30). Sluicing was underway by 1888, but the results were poor (or at least insufficient to cover the costs) and the company had gone into liquidation by 1890 (AJHR 1888 C6:28; 1890 C3:160).

The company was later taken over by a Mr Batchelor, who set about building new elevators to lift the large stones out of the claim, thereby avoiding them clogging up the tail race (AJHR 1892 C3A:30; 1893 C3:Appendix I:xxx). These elevators, and other developments at the claim, cost £2000-£3000 (AJHR 1893 C3:Appendix I:xxx). More work soon followed, with a dam being built to supply the claim in 1893-94, at which time the mine employed eight people (AJHR 1894 C3A:28). The next news about the claim came in 1898, when it was reported that gold was being won and that the claim's owner was apparently in England, attempting to raise further capital (AJHR 1898 C3A:20). The 1899 Warden's report noted that "work was given up some years ago", in something of a contrast to the previous year's report (AJHR 1899 C3:115). It is likely that this refers to the years between 1895 and 1897, when no information was published in the Warden's reports for the Wheel of Fortune claim.

By 1899, however, Batchelor was no longer involved with the claim, which was now being managed by Mr Bertram, and was owned by an English company (AJHR 1899 C3:115; 1901 C3:107). Work was being carried out in relation to water, with dams being built and the water race being extended by 2½ miles (AJHR 1899 C3:115). The following year saw this work continuing, with the extension of the water race now 3½ miles long, enabling the company to bring in water from Fox Creek (AJHR C3:140, 141). This water race had been completed by 1901, when the company was drawing water from Fox and Flowery creeks. The new race was 3 feet (900 mm) wide at the bottom, with a capacity of 10 heads of water. With the race completed, sluicing was underway. Results, however, were not promising, coming to a value of £729, compared to expenditure of nearly £2200 for the previous year.

The face was worked by two nozzles, working alternately, sluicing the face into a well. The wash dirt was then elevated out of the well. The elevators had 70 buckets and were powered by a Pelton wheel (Figure 3). The elevator deposited the material in a hopper, and the material was then washed through sluice-boxes. The water drained away through a tunnel to Waimea Creek (AJHR 1901 C3:107; Morgan 1911:16-17). This technology was employed because it alleviated the problem of a lack of fall associated with other technologies.

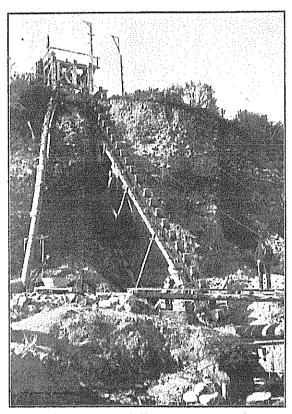


Figure 3. The Wheel of Fortune elevator at work (from Morgan 1911).

A report from the company's solicitor in 1902 indicated that the area of the claim was 98 acres, taking in land at Piper's Flat and Ballarat Hill. The claim was run by an English company, which was in the process of enlarging a dam at Lake Mudgee. This dam would then be used to supply 30 heads of water a day and power two elevators working at the claim. In order to convey this water to the claim, the existing 6 miles of water race were being widened to 6 feet (1.8m). The company had ordered new elevators from England, and it was hoped that they would be on the claim by April 1902 (AJHR 1902 C3:110). In spite of this promising report, the company had gone into liquidation by 1904 and was subsequently sold to a local syndicate (AJHR 1904 C3:114; 1905 C3:102). This syndicate constructed a drainage tunnel and built a new elevator, but in 1911 it was reported that there was little work being carried out at the claim (AJHR 1907 C3:55; 1911 C3:47). Figure 4 shows the claim in 1907. Warden's reports were consulted through until 1916, but there was no further mention of the claim.

Interest in the claim was renewed in the 1930s, with two companies formed with the express purpose of taking up the old Wheel of Fortune claim – The Wheel of Fortune Limited in 1931 and the Piper's Flat Goldfields Ltd in 1932. The prospectus for the latter company contained a drawing of the claim as it appeared at that time (Figure 5). It is not known

whether either company undertook any mining, although the Piper's Flat company drilled some test holes with the Hatter's Flat syndicate in 1935 (Wood 1992).

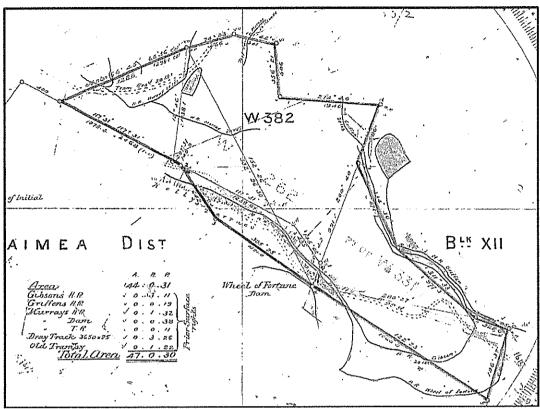


Figure 4. Part of SO 1018 (1907), showing the area of the Wheel of Fortune claim. Note the 'Wheel of Fortune dam' in the lower part of the image — this is the 'old dam — abandoned' in Figure 5. Curiously, SO 1018 does not show the worked ground shown in Figure 5, which may indicate that that area was worked between 1907 and 1932.

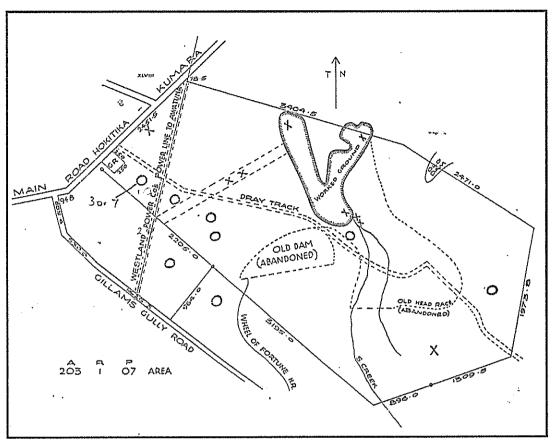


Figure 5. The Wheel of Fortune elevator pond in the 1930s (from Piper's Flat Goldfields Ltd 1932).

## PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Part of the Wheel of Fortune claim was surveyed in February 2006, when John Wood and Katharine Watson inspected the elevator pond and searched for the remains of the water race that fed the elevator pond (this was not found). There has been no other detailed survey of the area, although there are a number of recorded archaeological sites nearby (Figure 6), and the Wheel of Fortune itself is recorded as both J32/35 and J32/115. The site record form for J32/115 has been updated as a result of the current project (see attached).

The nearby recorded sites include the town of Stafford (J32/16), Lyon's store (a mining store and camp (J32/18) and a mining camp at Ballarat Hill (J32/20). None of these sites will be affected by the proposed mining.

#### **RESEARCH RESULTS**

An archaeological survey of the areas that Blacktopp Mining Ltd proposes to mine revealed that most of the area has been disturbed by humping and hollowing undertaken to promote drainage of the land. The only archaeological feature that remains in the affected areas is a dam (Figure 7). This dam can be seen on both the 1907 and 1930s plans of the Wheel of Fortune (it is labelled 'old dam' on the 1930s plan; Figures 4 and 5), and is likely to have been one of the dams built for the Wheel of Fortune in the late 1890s. In more recent years the dam has been used as a settling pond for dairy effluent. No evidence of the water races that supplied the dam survives, having been destroyed by farming activity in the area.

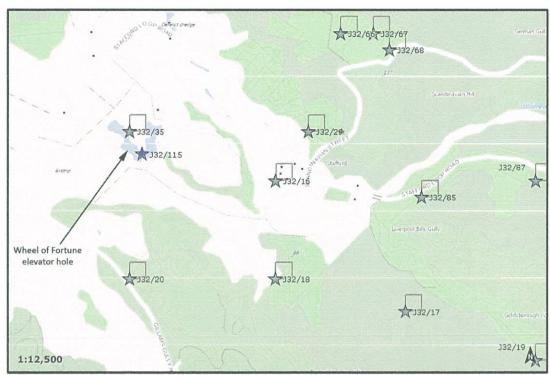


Figure 6. Recorded archaeological sites in or near the surveyed area.

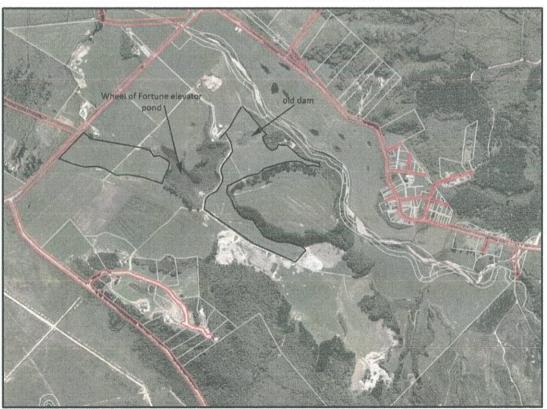


Figure 7. The location of the old dam.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUES<sup>2</sup>

The NZHPT recommend considering the following criteria when assessing the values of an archaeological site:

- condition;
- context;
- rarity;
- information potential;
- cultural associations; and
- amenity values.

The following discussion considers the archaeological values of the Wheel of Fortune site as a whole, as opposed to any individual component of it. Each of the above criteria was assessed as being of low, medium or high value.

What remains of the Wheel of Fortune mining claim (i.e. the elevator pond and the old dam) is in a medium **condition**. The elevator pond currently holds water, as does the dam, and there is regenerating native bush growing on the sides of the pond. There are also some tailings remaining close to the water in places, as well as scattered metal artefacts around the top of the pond. These metal artefacts appear to relate to the mining operation, but are unlikely to be in situ. A later track appears to have been cut down through the old face to the tailings on the northwest side of the pond, thereby destroying part of the face. The edges of the old dam are not as clearly defined as the edges of the elevator pond, but the remains are still in a medium condition.

The internal context of the Wheel of Fortune elevator pond has not survived the passage of time well and is low to medium. Most of the surrounding infrastructure, along with the remains of the hopper, the machinery and most of the tailings have been destroyed, either by later mining or in the process of humping and hollowing the land for dairying. This is only a small remnant of the original complex. The external context of the Wheel of Fortune is the Waimea goldfield. The Waimea goldfield was one of the earliest centres of gold mining on the West Coast and covered the area between the Teremakau and Arahura rivers and the sea and the Southern Alps. Many archaeological sites that were associated with the Waimea goldfield have been recorded, but many of these sites have been destroyed by logging or subsequent mining. Overall, the external context of the site is moderate to high.

As the pond from a bucket elevator, the Wheel of Fortune is a rare site type. Bucket elevators were used elsewhere on the West Coast, particularly at Ross, and also at Nelson Creek. Modern mining at Ross has destroyed most of the remnants of elevator ponds there, with the exception of the Prince of Wales at Donoghues. The Prince of Wales began operations in the 1880s and the technology employed differed slightly from the Wheel of Fortune, as the elevators were powered by a Whitlaw turbine, as opposed to a Pelton wheel (Handbook 1887: 169; Ross 1970: 63). Another elevator pond remains intact at Nelson Creek, complete with the adit that drained the pond. The claim was known as the Deep Lead and was worked by a bucket elevator in the 1880s, having previously been tunnelled. In 1906, the claim was being worked by a dredge and in the 1930s an electric-powered bucket elevator was used to mine the claim (L. Wright, pers. comm.). No other elevator ponds resulting from a bucket elevator are known of, although at least one hydraulic elevator pond remains at Charleston (L. Wright, pers. comm.).

9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This section is based on Watson 2007.

The **information potential** of the Wheel of Fortune site is low, due to the extent of disturbance and the range of features lost during subsequent activity in the area.

The site does not have any known cultural associations.

The amenity value of the Wheel of Fortune elevator pond is medium. The site is on private land, meaning that the chances of it being opened to the public are low. Nonetheless, it is possible to drive to the site, and it is an easy matter to walk around it. The site's amenity value stems chiefly from its rarity and its importance in the story of the Waimea goldfield. The technology used at the Wheel of Fortune was different from that used on the rest of the Waimea goldfield and thus the site forms an interesting contrast to sites open to the public at the Shamrock Creek Amenity Area and Tunnel Terrace (both areas administered by the Department of Conservation)

## <u>Summary</u>

Overall, the Wheel of Fortune site is of medium archaeological value. It is a rare site type in a reasonable condition, but most of its immediate context has been destroyed, which lowers the site's value. The site's broader external context gives the site greater meaning, as does its amenity value.

#### ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

NZHPT recommend considering the following matters when assessing the effects of a proposal on an archaeological site:

- How much of the archaeological site will be affected, to what degree and what affect will this have on the archaeological site's values?
- Will the proposed work increase the risk of future damage to the archaeological site?
- Would a redesign reduce the effects of the proposed work?
- What methods could be used to avoid, minimise or mitigate any adverse effects?

#### How much of the archaeological site will be affected?

The only surviving component of the Wheel of Fortune complex that will be affected by the mining is the old dam, which has most recently been used as a settling pond for effluent. The old dam will either be mined or used as part of the settling pond system.

If the old dam is mined, it will decrease the values of the Wheel of Fortune site by reducing the site's contextual values. The site, however, is likely to remain of moderate archaeological value following this work, as its chief value comes from its rarity.

#### Risk of future damage

The proposed work will not increase the risk of future damage to the archaeological site.

## Redesign

It is not possible to mine the area without affecting the old dam.

## Avoid, minimise or mitigate

It is not possible to avoid damaging the old dam but it may be possible to minimise it if the dam is only used as part of the settling pond system. If the old dam has to be mined, however, it will not be possible to minimise the damage to the site. No work is needed to mitigate the loss of the old dam.

#### DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed mining may destroy one of the old dams associated with the Wheel of Fortune elevator. While the Wheel of Fortune is an archaeological site of moderate value, most of the complex has been destroyed since mining ceased and the old dam retains only a visual connection with the elevator pond. The loss of this component of the site would be to the detriment of the archaeological site, but it is not regarded as a significant loss.

The following recommendations are made:

- Blacktopp Mining Ltd should apply for an authority to damage or modify an archaeological site under section 11 of the Historic Places Act 1993.
- An accidental discovery protocol should be put in place during earthworks (see Appendix 1).

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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#### APPENDIX 1: ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY PROTOCOL

It is possible that features associated with the Wheel of Fortune mine will be encountered during mining operations. Such features could include:

- water races
- tail races
- tunnels
- tailings
- machinery
- hut sites

In the event of the discovery of any such feature, the project archaeologist should be notified immediately. The archaeologist will then advise on whether or not they need to inspect in the site. In the event that the archaeologist does not need to inspect the site, the following steps should be taken:

- the feature should be photographed (with a scale in the photograph, where possible);
- a grid reference for the location of the feature should be recorded with a GPS:
- where possible and safe to do so, measurements of the feature should be recorded;
- · if machinery is found, efforts should be made to salvage this; and
- all information should be forwarded to the archaeologist as soon as possible.

In the event that the archaeologist does need to inspect the site (this is only likely to be required if a hut site is found), the following step should be taken:

- the feature should be fenced off with a suitable buffer zone left around the feature; and
- the archaeologist will visit and record the site within two working days.



## **Site Record Form**

NZAA SITE NUMBER: J32/115

SITE TYPE: Mining - gold

SITE NAME(s): Wheel of Fortune

DATE RECORDED:

SITE COORDINATES (NZTM) Easting: 1442215

Northing:

5274336

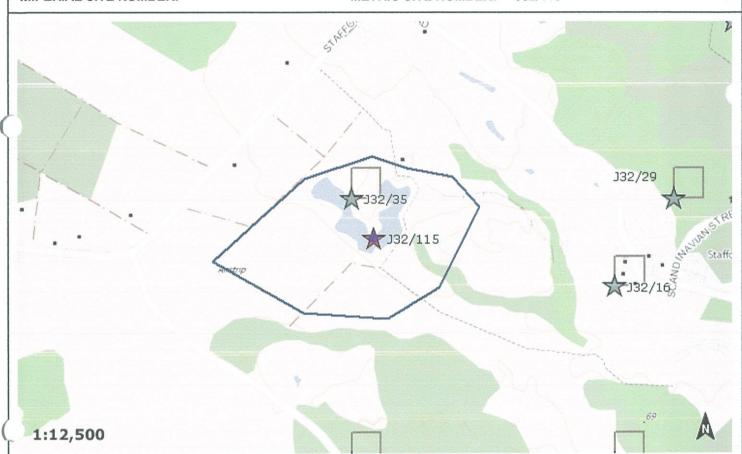
Source:

Handheld GPS

IMPERIAL SITE NUMBER:

METRIC SITE NUMBER:

J32/115



## Finding aids to the location of the site

The site is shown on J32 maps and is reached by following a farm track from the Stafford Loop Road. The site is to the south and west of the dairy sheds.

#### **Brief description**

Elevator pond.

## Recorded features

Mining workings

## Other sites associated with this site

J32/35

SITE RECORD HISTORY	NZAA SITE NUMBER: J32/115						
Site description  Updated: 08/08/2012, Visited: 22/05/2012 - The remains of the site comprise the elevator pond and one old dam. All the other features have been destroyed.							
For more information, see: Watson, Katharine, 2012. MP 52365: An archaeological assessment. Unpublished report for Blacktopp Mining Ltd.							
Condition of the site							
Currently in good condition, although most of the supporting infrastructure has been destroyed. There is an application to mine this area, which would result in the destruction of the site. (2007)							
Statement of condition							
Current land use:							
Threats:							
u <sub>v</sub>							

Printed by: Watson K 08/08/2012

SITE RECORD	INVENTORY			NZAA SITE	NUMBER:	J32/115
Observations about this site made in						
Author	Year	Title		Publicat	ion Details	
supporting documentation held in ArchSite						
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Loop Road. T  2. State of site a  The site is c  infrastructur	he site is to the and possible future dama urrently in a good	south and we age condition, ed. There i	although mos	t of the supporting an application to mine		
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4. Owner Address	Gary Thompson		Tenant/Manage Address	ır		
visit, etc.) Photographs and where the	ormation (hearsay, brief o (reference numbers by are heid) graphs (reference number		Brief visit			
6. Reported by Address	Katharine Watson 28 Pratt St New Brighton, Chr	istchurch	Filekeeper L. Date	Wright	- SHE WAS CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE	
7. Key words 8. New Zealand Register of Archaeological Sites (for office use) NZHPT Site Field Code						
Latitude S			Longitude E			
☐☐ Type of site	•			condition & future of destruction code		
I I Land classi	fication		LI Local bo	dy		

Printed by: Watson K

J32/115

NEW ZEALAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SITE DESCRIPTION

NZMS 260 map number J32 NZMS 260 map name Hokitika NZMS 260 map edition 2004 NZAA METRIC SITE NUMBER

DATE VISITED SITE TYPE 19 February 2007 elevator pond

SITE NAME: MAORI

OTHER

Wheel of Fortune

By 1899, however, Batchelor was no longer involved with the claim, which was now being managed by Mr Bertram, and was owned by an English company (AJHR 1899 C3:115; 1901 C3:107). Work was being carried out in relation to water, with dams being built and the water race being extended by 2% miles (AJHR 1899 C3:115). The following year saw this work continuing, with the extension of the water race now 3% miles long, enabling the company to bring in water from Fox Creek (AJHR C3:140, 141). This water race had been completed by 1901, when the company was drawing water from Fox and Flowery creeks. The new race was 3ft (91cm) wide at the bottom, with a capacity of ten heads of water. In contrast, the Flowery Creek water race had a capacity of twenty heads of water. With the race completed, sluicing was underway. Results, however, were not promising, coming to a value of f729, compared to expenditure of nearly £2200 for the previous year. The face was worked by two nozzles, working alternately, sluicing the face into a well. The washdirt was then elevated out of the well. The elevators had seventy buckets and were powered by a Pelton wheel (Plate 1). The elevator deposited the material in a hopper, and the material was then washed through sluice-boxes. The water drained away through a tunnel to Waimea Creek (AJHR 1901 C3:107; Morgan 1911:16-17). This technology was employed because it alleviated the problem of a lack of fall associated with other technologies.

A report from the company's solicitor in 1902 indicated that the area of the claim was 98 acres, taking in land at Piper's Flat and Ballarat Hill. The claim was run by an English company, which was in the process of enlarging a dam at Lake Mudgee. This dam would then be used to supply thirty heads of water a day and power two elevators working at the claim. In order to convey this water to the claim, the existing 6 miles of water race were being widened to 6ft (1.8m). The company had ordered new elevators from England, and it was hoped that they would be on the claim by April 1902 (AJHR 1902 C3:110). In spite of this promising report, the company had gone into liquidation by 1904 and was subsequently sold to a local syndicate (AJHR 1904 C3:114; 1905 C3:102). This syndicate construted a drainage tunnel and built a new elevator, but in 1911 it was reported that there was little work being carried out at the claim (AJHR 1907 C3:55; 1911 C3:47). Warden's reports were consulted through until 1916, but there was no further mention of the claim.

In the 1930s, two companies were formed that proposed taking up the old Wheel of Fortune claim, The Wheel of Fortune Limited in 1931 and the Piper's Flat Goldfields Ltd in 1932. The prospectus for the latter company contained a drawing of the claim as it appeared at that time (Fig. 2). It is not known whether either company undertook any mining, although the Piper's Flat company drilled some test holes with the Hatter's Flat syndicate in 1935 (Wood 1992).