

MATAKANUI

GOLD LIMITED



Habitat Impact Management Plan

October 2025

Citation: Alliance Ecology Ltd. (2025) Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project – Habitat Impact Management Plan

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Revision	Authors	Organisation	Date	Approved
V1	M Baber	Alliance Ecology	07/08/2025	
V2	M Baber	Alliance Ecology	04/09/2025	
V3	M Baber	Alliance Ecology	01/10/2025	C Low

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by Alliance Ecology Ltd for Matakanui Gold Limited. If used by other parties, no warranty or representation is given as to its accuracy and no liability is accepted for loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from reliance on the information in it.

The author of this report acknowledges that this report will be relied on by a Panel appointed under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 and these disclaimers do not prevent that reliance.

1. INTRODUCTION.....	2
1.1. Plan objective, purpose and scope.....	2
2. PROTOCOLS FOR EFFECTS AVOIDANCE AND MINIMISATION.....	3
2.1. Pre habitat impact protocol.....	3
2.2. Habitat clearance management	5
3. ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT	5
4. INCIDENT MONITORING AND REPORTING	6
5. CHANGE MANAGEMENT	7

Glossary

Specific terms	
AMP	Avifauna Management Plan
ARP	Applied Research Plan
BOGP	Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project ('the Project')
DDF	Direct disturbance footprint
EMPF	Ecological Management Plan Framework
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
GPS	Global Positioning System
HIMP	Habitat Impact Management Plan
LERMP	Landscape and Ecological Rehabilitation Management Plan
LMP	Lizard Management Plan
MRZ	Mine Regeneration Zone
SEQE	Suitably Experienced and Qualified Ecologist(s)
TIMP	Terrestrial Invertebrate Management Plan
General terms	
Biodiversity	The variety of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems, and can encompass the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life
Ecology	The study of the relationships between living organisms, including humans, and their physical environment.
Habitat clearance	Earthworks and/or vegetation clearance
Site description	
Ardgour Sanctuary	An area of Ardgour Station, north-northwest of the DDF, in which 38 ha of pest exclusion fencing is proposed
Ardgour Rise	A realignment of part of Thomson Gorge Road, via Ardgour Station (Ardgour Rise), planned to provide public access through to the Manuherikia Valley
Bendigo Sanctuary	An area of Bendigo Station, west of the DDF (and north of Bendigo Historic Reserve), in which 29 ha of pest exclusion fencing is proposed
Matakanui Sanctuary	Collectively the Ardgour and Bendigo Sanctuaries, comprising approximately 67 ha of pest-exclusion fenced areas.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Plan objective, purpose and scope

The objective of the Habitat Impact Management Plan (**HIMP**) is to avoid or minimise adverse effects on ecological values during the construction and operation of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (**BOGP**) and the purpose of this HIMP is to ensure effective co-ordination of effects management measures by overviewing the full suite of ecological effects avoidance and minimisation methods to be employed as detailed in the relevant plans, including:

- The Avifauna Management Plan (**AMP**)
- The Lizard Management Plan (**LMP**)
- The Terrestrial Invertebrate Management Plan (**TIMP**)
- The Landscape and Ecology Rehabilitation Plan (**LERMP**)

Table 1 below summarises the specific habitat clearance management measures, along with their corresponding primary management plans, as detailed in the following sections.

Table 1. Summary of habitat impact management measures and the proposed condition(s) and the management plans relevant to each.

Habitat impact management measures	Primary management plan (s)
Before habitat impacts (section 2.1)	
Pre-impact habitat and biodiversity surveys for vegetation/habitat features, threatened plants, avifauna nests, lizards and terrestrial invertebrates	HIMP , AMP, LMP, TIMP, LERMP
Onsite construction method refinements to further avoid or minimise effects where possible	HIMP , AMP, LMP, TIMP
Physical delineation of disturbance area and habitat/biodiversity features for salvaging	HIMP , AMP, LMP, TIMP
Salvaging of plants and habitat features and certain biodiversity values (e.g. seeds or seedlings of threatened plants or cuttings of invertebrate host plants)	HIMP , LERMP, TIMP
Avifauna nest surveys (all native species, including eastern falcon and pipit)	AMP

Habitat impact management measures	Primary management plan (s)
Salvaging of lizards (identified locations)	LMP
Salvaging of terrestrial invertebrates (select locations, select species)	TIMP
Confirmation that all pre-habitat clearance measures to avoid or minimise effects on ecology have been completed	HIMP , AMP, LMP, TIMP LERMP
During habitat impacts (section 2.2)	
Ecological oversight of habitat clearance and clearance management measures	HIMP , AMP, LMP, TIMP LERMP
Construction-assisted salvaging of lizards (identified locations)	LMP
Salvaging and stockpiling of habitat features (vegetation, rocks, boulders, and coarse wood)	HIMP , LMP, LERMP

These proposed conditions are addressed through the implementation, monitoring and reporting procedures set out in this HIMP and interlinking plans described in the Ecological Management Plan Framework (**EMPF**).

Roles and responsibilities relating to this management plan are also set out in the EMPF.

2. PROTOCOLS FOR EFFECTS AVOIDANCE AND MINIMISATION

2.1. Pre habitat impact protocol

2.1.1. Pre-clearance surveys

Pre-clearance surveys to refine site-specific salvaging requirements will be undertaken as follows:

- Cushionfield and spring annual surveys as set out in the Applied Research Plan (**ARP**) for conservation management, rehabilitation and expansion of cushionfield (Landcare Research 2025).
- Identification of nationally or regionally Threatened, At Risk or otherwise notable plants on the edge of the footprint and efforts to avoid adverse effects on these plants where it is practicable to refine the footprint to do so. The location of those

plants to be avoided will be recorded via a Global Positioning System (**GPS**) and physically delineated by flagging and barriers placed around them.

- Surveys to identify the specific threatened plant species for salvage, along with non-threatened plants that serve as hosts for invertebrates or provide high value habitat for lizards, as set out in the LERMP. The location of those plants to be salvaged will be recorded via GPS and physically delineated by flagging.
- Pre-clearance surveys for fauna species as detailed in the AMP, LMP and TIMP.

2.1.2. Construction methodology refinements

Where feasible the construction footprint will be refined to further avoid or minimise effects on habitats and associated species. Most notably this will include measures to reduce the footprint on the edge of the proposed footprint where particularly high local biodiversity values are present as detected during pre-surveys and impacts can be avoided through micro-siting adjustments.

2.1.3. Physical delineation

The direct disturbance footprint (**DDF**) will be physically delineated by a surveyor (in a manner deemed appropriate by the surveyor) in advance of upcoming habitat impacts to minimise potential for incidental vegetation/habitat loss outside the footprint. This physical delineation measure will need to be checked to make sure it is intact and functioning as intended at the time of habitat impacts.

Prior to habitat clearance, sediment and erosion control measures will be deployed to avoid or minimise effects on downstream wetlands (and streams) due to effects on water quality (Erosion and Sediment Control Management Plan (ESCMP), 2025)]. Procedures for minimising the area and duration of soil exposure from habitat clearance will be undertaken as set out in the ESCMP.

2.1.4. Pre-clearance salvage

- Salvaging and relocation of specific threatened plant species (including seeds/seedlings), and non-threatened plants that serve as hosts for invertebrates or provide high value habitat for lizards, will occur as set out in the LERMP.
- Salvage of non-threatened plant species as live transplants to inoculate wetlands and tussocklands as set out in the LERMP, with a minimum of:
 - 0.5 ha of wetland transplants relocated into rehabilitated wetland habitats in the DDF once the hydrology has been established
 - 25,000 tussocks within available habitat within ecological rehabilitation and the mine regeneration zone (**MRZ**).
- Salvaging and stockpiling of topsoil, rock stacks, boulders, weathered rock, and coarse wood as set out in the LERMP and LMP for subsequent relocation into

ecological rehabilitation sites within the DDF. Once locations are confirmed, stockpiles will be managed following LERMP protocols to control dust and erosion, prevent vehicle access, and ensure accurate location recording.

2.1.5. Fauna

Procedures to avoid or minimise impacts to fauna, including avifauna, lizards and terrestrial invertebrates prior to habitat clearance are detailed in the AMP, LMP and TIMP, respectively. The Wildlife Act Authority approvals allowing species-specific salvaging and relocation operations will apply.

2.2. Habitat clearance management

2.2.1. Ecological oversight during habitat clearance

Habitat clearance will require ecological oversight by a **SEQE** (suitably experienced and qualified ecologist(s)) in accordance with the requirements of the AMP, LMP, TIMP and LERMP to direct construction-assisted salvage of vegetation/habitats.

2.2.2. Construction-assisted salvage of vegetation and habitat features

Salvaging of plants via habitat transfer and many habitat features (e.g. rocks) require the assistance of machinery and are therefore ‘construction assisted’. Construction assisted salvage of plants and habitat features shall occur in accordance with the LERMP and LMP as follows:

- Salvage of non-threatened plant species as live transplants to inoculate wetlands and tussocklands as set out in the LERMP, with a minimum of:
 - 0.5 ha of wetland transplants relocated into rehabilitated wetland habitats in the DDF once the hydrology has been established
 - 25,000 tussocks within available habitat within ecological rehabilitation and the mine regeneration zone.
- Salvaging and stockpiling of topsoil, rock stacks, boulders, weathered rock, and coarse wood as set out in the LERMP and LMP for subsequent relocation into ecological rehabilitation sites within the DDF. Once locations are confirmed, stockpiles will be managed following LERMP protocols to control dust and erosion, prevent vehicle access, and ensure accurate location recording.

3. ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

The annual habitat clearance compliance report shall be submitted as part of an integrated annual compliance report each November (for the period 1 September to 31 August) until habitat clearance is complete, and will include:

- Overview maps illustrating:
 - The location of habitat impacts undertaken during the year (and years prior) and location of planned habitat impacts for the following year.
- Information on the species and number of threatened plants salvaged and relocated as required by the LERMP
 - Areas of stockpiled vegetation, rocks and boulders, and coarse wood, for deployment to rehabilitation or offset/compensation sites once ready.
- Post-habitat clearance annual compliance reports for birds, lizard and invertebrate surveys and avoidance or minimisation measures undertaken.
- Recommendations for improvements to effects avoidance and minimisation protocols (where required).

4. INCIDENT MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Regulator/Grantor will be notified as soon as practicable, but no more than five working days, after an unscheduled event associated with habitat clearance. Such events include notable compliance failure that results in adverse ecological effects, or an event that causes vegetation damage on a scale that requires an urgent remedy according to the SEQE to return to compliance with any section of the BOGP ecological management plans and planting programmes.

A subsequent investigation report will be provided to the Regulator/Grantor within 30 working days and include the following information:

- The causes of the incident, the emergency response measures (if applicable), and the response proposed to avoid a recurrence of the issue;
- An assessment undertaken by a SEQE which details any adverse effects of the exceedance; and
- Proposed measures to address effects.

All incidents will be tracked to resolution through the BOGP compliance management system.

5. CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Changes within this HIMP shall be recorded in Table 2.

Table 2 HIMP Change Management Record

Item	Section	Summary of change	Reason for change	Complexity of change	Date
1.				☐ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Major	
2.				☐ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Major	
3.				☐ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Major	
4.				☐ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Major	