



Reefton Mine restoration

Kathleen Kinney from Boffa Miskell profiles a rehabilitation and reuse programme for an industrial site that also captures the long history of gold mining in the landscape.

The Reefton Restoration Project has been rehabilitating the former Globe Process Mine just outside the Buller town of Reefton for several years. The project has involved extensive waste rock land-forming, installation of a passive water treatment system, spreading of topsoil, and planting of over 800,000 native seedlings with pest and predator control.

As part of the last stage of The Reefton Restoration Project infrastructure and plant removal, OceanoGold engaged Boffa Miskell to prepare high level conceptual studies and visualisations to illustrate how this site could be rehabilitated in an ecologically and recreationally positive manner while retaining relics and landform legacies of the site's long industrial history.

There are a number of natural lookout points over the mine excavations. The processing plant site includes historical

artefacts and features from earlier mining operations and the Cornishton settlement that occupied the site in the early 1900s. This includes daffodils that were planted by early miners around their homes and have remained on the site.

The concept plan explores how the process plant foundations could be retained and developed as a recreational point of interest with links to a wider trail network through adjacent Victoria Forest Park to Reefton and further afield to other inland West Coast destinations.

Restoration plantings are interwoven around the old foundations and structures from the ore processing plant to create a post-industrial indigenous landscape. Signage and heritage artefacts are arranged to provide a narrative of the site's history and the rehabilitation story as visitors move through.

