



THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

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31/3/11

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Dear Robert Latimer

Pre-application Consultation - Scotgold Resources Ltd, Cononish Farm proposal 90/01102/DET/S

Thank you for inviting the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) to comment on the proposals at the scoping stage. As stresses in previous applications at this site, Cononish glen is very important for hill walking and climbing interests, hence conservation of the quality of the landscape and maintenance of ease and aesthetics of the access opportunities are vital. We are recognised by the Scottish Government as the Representative Body for hill walkers, climbers and ski tourers. We have over 10,000 members and aim to represent the interests of all the 400,000 regular Scottish mountaineers on issues relevant to access to, and conservation of, Scotland's mountaineering environment.

We appreciate the attempt to reduce the impact of this development. It is difficult to gauge the likelihood of need to object to this iterative of the development with only an outline map offered at this stage. The issue will be about whether the impact has been reduced below a satisfactory threshold, but it should continue to be borne in mind that this location is highly sensitive and is still recovering from the last mining operations, even several decades after similar operations ceased.

The MCofS looks forward to engaging in the planning process when more detail is available.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely

Hebe Carus
Access & Conservation Officer