

History of Woodside Mining

Terramin will protect all heritage places on land it controls



Aboriginal Heritage

Terramin recognise the importance of Aboriginal heritage. Aboriginal and cultural heritage surveys have been completed.

Mining Heritage

1836 Since the arrival of the first European settlers to South Australia in 1836, the mines in the Mount Lofty Ranges have produced a wide range of commodities, including building stone, clay and slate for the rapidly growing city on the nearby Adelaide Plains.

Among the metalliferous materials that were mined are copper, silver, lead, zinc, gold and pyrite. The mining boom, much of it later centred in the Mount Lofty Ranges to the east of Adelaide, saved the economy of the struggling new Colony of South Australia.

1849 Alluvial gold discovered in the Onkaparinga River in 1849.

1880 In early 1880 a farmer named Mitchell was using explosives to help clear his property of tree roots when he made the first discovery of gold in what became the Woodside Goldfield.

1881 In July 1881 the Woodside Gold Mining Company was formed, with its shareholders including the copper kings, Sir Thomas Elder and Mr Barr Smith.

The Bird in Hand Mine was the largest on the Woodside Goldfield. The total estimated production of the Bird in Hand Mine was 22,584 tonne of ore, yielding 327,918 grams (10,544 ounces) of gold bullion, at a grade of 14.5 g/t gold.



Bird in Hand mine (SLSA B-6258)



Nest egg mine (SLSA B-6259)

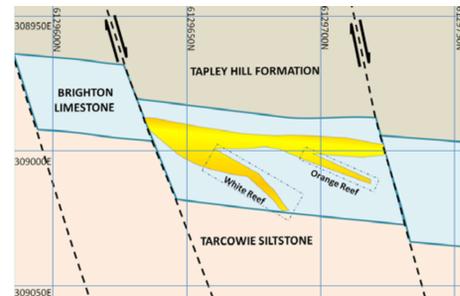
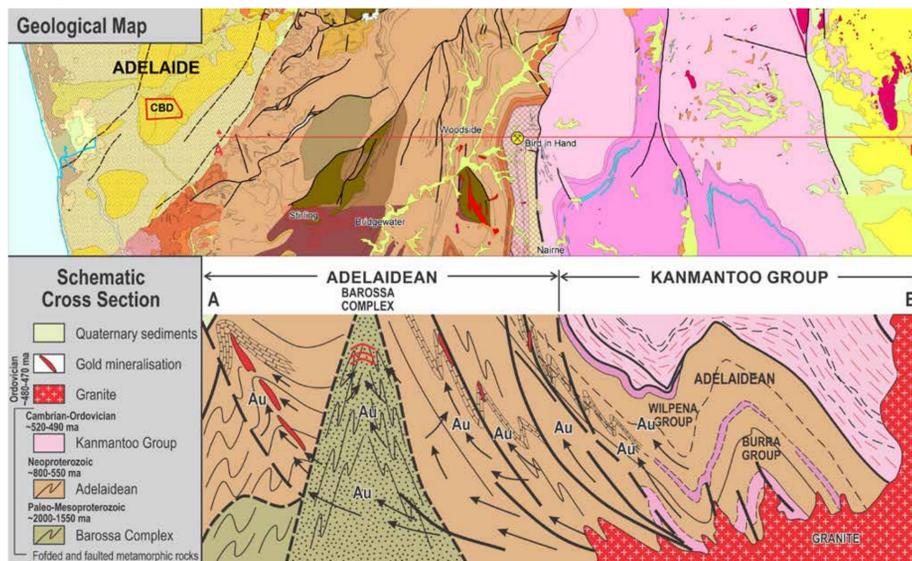


Two in the bush mine 1880 (SLSA B-6262)



Diamond Drill Rig circa 1934
Private collection B & J Gale

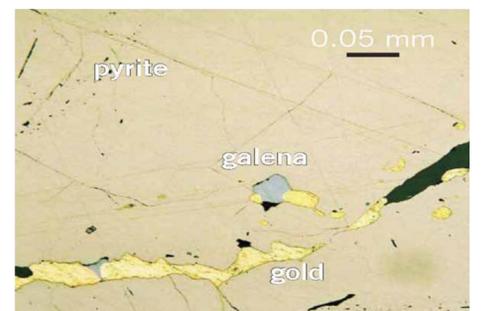
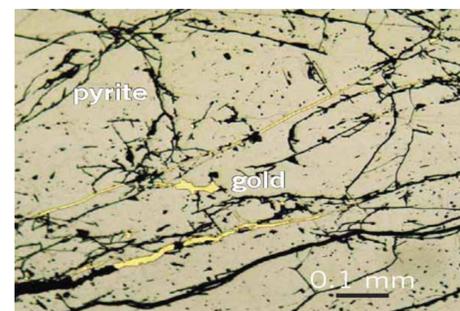
Gold geology of the Adelaide Hills



BIH Gold Project reef cross section



Gold specks in drill core



Microscopic photos of gold within pyrite

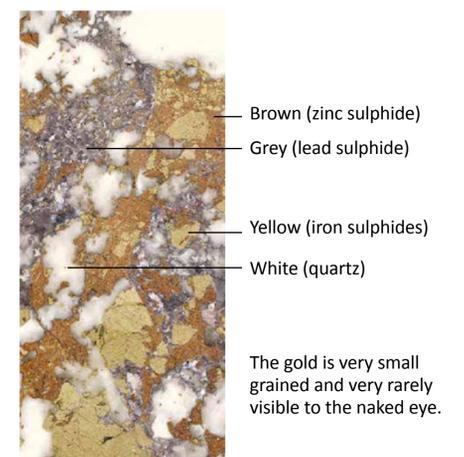
How does gold form?

Gold vein deposits such as the one found at Woodside are formed from hydrothermal fluids rising through the earth's crust towards the earth's surface. These hydrothermal fluids travel the path of least resistance through fractures and faults in the country rock. As these fluids travel through rock, changes in temperature and pressure as well as chemical reactions resulting from contact with various minerals in the country rock can lead to the deposition of ore minerals.

The Bird in Hand deposit was formed at moderate temperature and pressure so is known as a 'mesothermal vein'. Mesothermal veins are known for their large size and continuation to depth, and comprise a major source of the world's gold production. Veins are usually less than two meters wide and often occur in parallel sets. At Bird in Hand the veins merge and can be up to 8m wide.



Site drill core showing varying rock types of the country rock



Gold ore section

The gold is very small grained and very rarely visible to the naked eye.