



## Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

December 2016

### POSITION STATEMENT

#### SNH position on gold panning

Gold and silver are Mines Royal, which in most cases belong to the Crown and are managed by The Crown Estate.

To take gold or silver from land or rivers you therefore need the permission of The Crown Estate. In some areas—the estates of the Duke of Sutherland and the Duke of Argyll—the rights belong to others and you should seek their permission. The Crown Estate's policy on gold panning can be seen here: <https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/rural-and-coastal/minerals/gold-panning/>.

If you are planning to pan for gold in Scotland, please be responsible and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code: <http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/>.

You must also adhere to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's good practice guidance on gold panning: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/219101/national-gold-panning-position-and-good-practice.pdf>.

If you follow the above guidance then you will not need consent from SNH to pan for gold in designated sites.