

Proposed Bowens Road Diversion Affected Residents Concerns

The Proposal

Gloucester Coal Ltd in drawing dated May 2007 proposes to close Bowens Road Stratford in the vicinity of the Stratford Main Pit and provide alternative access via a deviation on mine owned property via Wenham Cox Road.

Affected Persons.

There are four working farm properties beyond the proposed road closure totaling in excess of 1200Ha. They have only access via Bowens Road. An additional aggregation of properties beyond the four farms totaling 954.5Ha has been recently been approved by Gloucester Council for community title subdivision. The southern part of the community title has access only via Bowens Road.

There are three existing residences beyond the proposed road closure.

The four working farms are in six titles each with a building entitlement under current zoning. The community title approval is for five residences in the southern part. Accordingly there is able to be built a total of eleven residences beyond the proposed road closure.

The Adverse Effect of the Proposed Closure.

The three resident farmers and the one other working farmer all use Bowens Road for access to and from their properties and for deliveries of farm supplies.

Bowens Road is essentially straight (except two gentle curves) for its five km length from Buckets Way to where the proposed diversion rejoins Bowens Road. The proposed deviation would require negotiation of ten curves including at least six right angle corners.

The diverted route is 2.8km longer than the direct route along Bowens Road to Buckets Way. This is more than 50% increase in distance to Buckets Way.

Much of the residents' daily travel is to the village of Stratford to obtain supplies from the Stratford Store.

It may be suggested that a more direct route to Buckets Way can be obtained by using Wenham Cox Road instead of traversing Wheatleys Road to and from Bowens Road. However Wenham Cox Road does not give direct access to Stratford Village. Three of the four farm owners and two of the three residents have property to the south of Stratford Village and are as likely to turn south on reaching Buckets Way as to turn north to Gloucester.

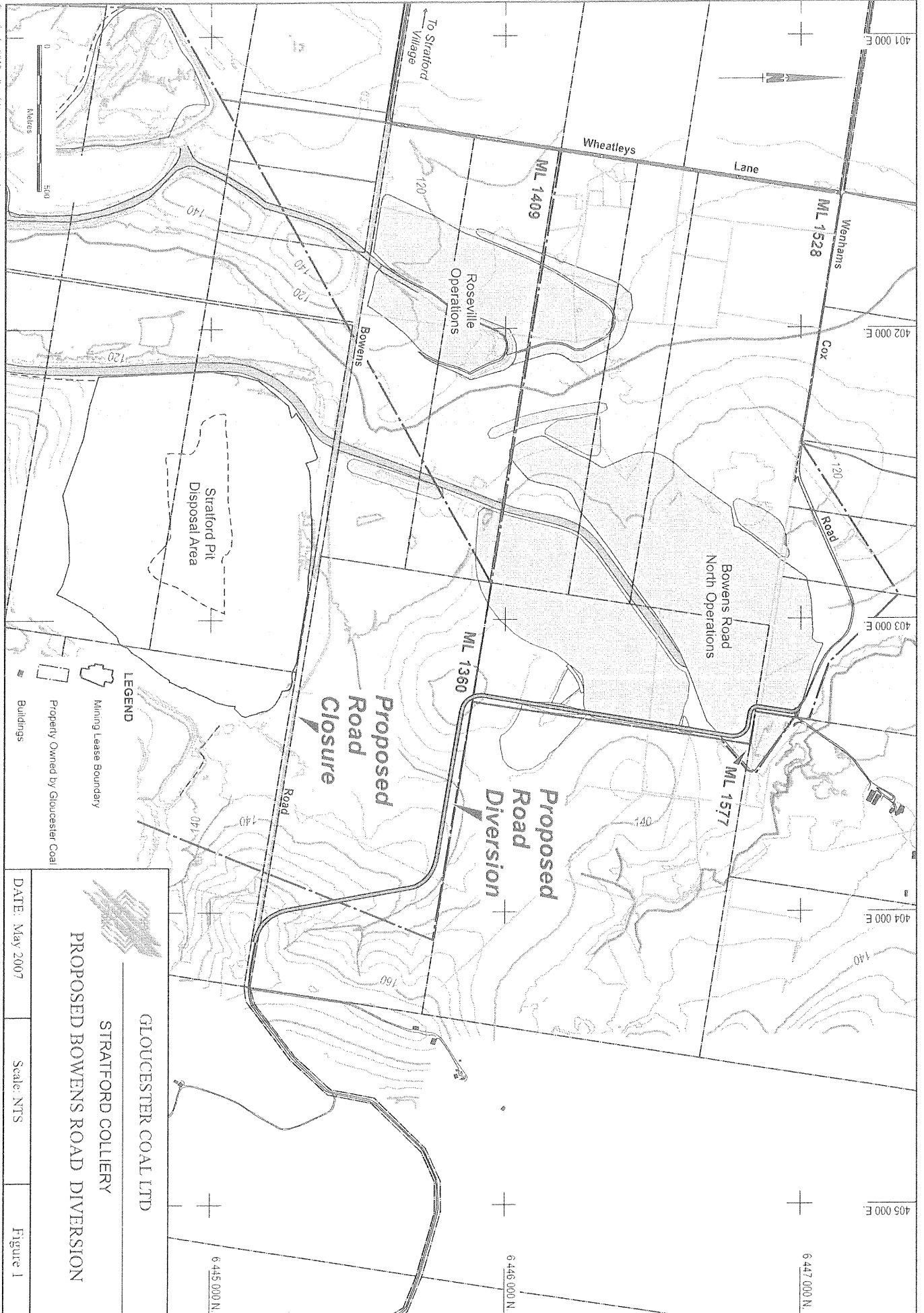
For travel to Stratford Store or south on Buckets Way the proposed diversion incurs a penalty of 5.6km on a return journey.

Additional difficulties are that after sustained wet weather Wenham Cox Road is flooded at the causeway on the Avon River. At the same time the low lying north end of Wheatleys Road becomes impassable to normal sedan type motor cars due to water across the road.

Residents and Farmers Views

All four directly affected families oppose the proposed diversion.

Richard Clarke
28 July 2007



Stratford - 0012 - Road Diversion - Figure 1

GLoucester COAL LTD
STRATFORD COLLIERY
PROPOSED BOWENS ROAD DIVERSION

DATE: May 2007

Scale: NTS

Figure 1