



Decision on Specific Prospecting Activities

The Minister has assessed the exploration project proposed by the company and has determined that the activities are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

PL Area	3755, Co. Galway
Company	Boliden Tara Mines Ltd.
Activity	Soil sampling at multiple sites in the southern section of PLA 3755.
Environmental Considerations	The duration of soil sampling will be approximately 2 weeks, will involve minimal disturbance and have a very limited zone of influence. The soil sampling is approximately 380m from the nearest Natura 2000 Site (Shankill West Bog SAC), approximately 150m from the nearest Natural Heritage Area (Derrinlough Bog) at least 380m from the nearest proposed Natural Heritage Area (Shankill West Bog). The survey will involve a small number of personnel walking over the land and collecting soil samples using a hand-held dutch auger. No heavy machinery or noise generating equipment will be utilised. The activity does not generate any discharges to water or produce any waste. Soil sampling is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
European Sites	<p>Shankill West Bog SAC/pNHA (000326) Derrinlough (Cloonkeenleananode) Bog SAC (002197)</p> <p>A screening determination has been carried out for the project. Particular attention has been paid to the European Sites listed above.</p> <p>It has been determined that the project does not have the potential for significant effects on a European Site on the basis that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activity is temporary and involve minimal disturbance to the ground. • The activity will not generate any discharges to water or produce any waste. • The soil sampling activity is occurring approximately 380m from the nearest European Site.
Environmental Information available on DECC website	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidelines for Completion of Environmental Screening Forms for Mineral Exploration Activities 2. Guidance for Good Environmental Practice in Mineral Exploration (2019) 3. Environmental Safeguards- The Irish Way (2006) 4. Expert Environmental Guidance R4 – Drilling (2017)
Authority	Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications
Date of Notice	30 November 2023