



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	2931, 2930, 2639, 2432, 3565 and 2411, Counties Carlow and Wicklow
Company	Great Glen Resources
Activity	A soil sampling programme within PLs 2931, 2930, 2639, 2432, 3565 and 2411
Environmental Considerations	The duration of soil sampling will be approximately 2 months, will involve minimal disturbance and have a very limited zone of influence. A small portion of the sampling will be taking place within Slaney River Valley SAC. The sampling is approximately 22km from the nearest Natural Heritage Area (Coan Bog) and a small portion of the sampling will be taking place within the proposed Natural Heritage Area (Slaney River Valley). The survey will involve a small number of personnel walking over the land and collecting soil samples using a hand-held auger and shovel. 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>Slaney River Valley SAC/pNHA (000781) River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162) Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122) Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040) Blackstairs Mountains SAC (000770)</p> <p>A screening determination has been carried out for the project. Particular attention has been paid to the Sites listed above.</p> <p>It has been determined that the project does not have the potential for significant effects on a European Site/ or pNHA on the basis that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activity is temporary, localised in nature and involves minimal disturbance to the ground. • The activity will not generate any discharges to water or produce any waste.
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