An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

# 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.

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| PL Area | **1583 Co. Limerick** |
| Company | Adventus Zinc Ireland Ltd |
| Activity | Drilling in an area of 1.27km$^2$ in the south of PLA 1583. |
| Environmental Considerations | The drilling area is located approximately 3.4km from the nearest Natura 2000 Site (Askeaton Fen Complex SAC), approximately 17km from the nearest Natural Heritage Area (Carrigkerry Bogs) and approximately 2.6km from the nearest proposed Natural Heritage Areas (Adare Woodlands). The company is using small volumes of UV treated tanked in water for drilling purposes. All drilling water will be re-circulated. Any drilling additives or greases used will be non-hazardous, non-toxic and biodegradable. The drilling is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. |
| European Sites | **Askeaton Fen Complex SAC (002279)**<br>**Curraghchase Woods SAC (000174)**<br>**Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)**<br><br>A screening determination has been carried out for the project. Particular attention has been paid to the European Site listed above.<br><br>It has been determined that the project does not have the potential for significant effects on a European Site on the basis that:<br><br>•The activity is temporary<br>•There will be no direct discharge of drilling fluids into surface water systems.<br>•The drilling area, at its closest point, is approximately 3.4km from the nearest European Site. |
| Environmental Information available on DECC website | 1. Exploration Drilling - Guidance on Discharge to Surface and Groundwater (2019)<br>2. Guidance for Good Environmental Practice in Mineral Exploration (2019)<br>3. Environmental Safeguards- The Irish Way (2006)<br>4. Expert Environmental Guidance R4 – Drilling (2017) |
| Authority | Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications |
| Date of Notice | 20 February 2024 |

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