



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	3893 & 3407 Co. Carlow
Company	Blackstairs Lithium Ltd
Activity	Drilling in an area of 1.488km ² in the eastern portion of PLA 3893 and the northern portion of PLA 3407.
Environmental Considerations	The drilling area is located approximately 150m from the nearest Natura 2000 Site (Blackstairs Mountains SAC), approximately 23.5km from the nearest Natural Heritage Area (Coan Bogs) and approximately 150m from the nearest proposed Natural Heritage Areas (Blackstairs Mountains). The company is using small volumes of treated 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	<p>Blackstairs Mountains SAC (000770) Slaney River Valley SAC (000781) River Barrow And River Nore SAC (002162)</p> <p>A screening determination has been carried out for the project. Particular attention has been paid to the European Site 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 •There will be no direct discharge of drilling fluids into surface water systems. •The drilling area, at its closest point, is approximately 150m from the nearest European Site.
Environmental Information available on DECC website	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exploration Drilling - Guidance on Discharge to Surface and Groundwater (2019) 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	25 March 2024