



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	1640, Co. Laois
Company	Raptor Resources Ltd
Activity	Deep overburden sampling at multiple sites in the west of PLA 1640. The activity will involve the use of a motorised auger to sample overburden.
Environmental Considerations	The duration of deep overburden sampling will be approximately 3 weeks. The deep overburden sampling is approximately 350m from the nearest Natura 2000 Site (River Barrow And River Nore SAC), approximately 9.6km from the nearest Natural Heritage Area (Clonreher Bog) at least 2.2km from the nearest proposed Natural Heritage Area (Emo Court). Excavation requirements are minimal involving the collection of small volumes of soil. The activity does not generate any discharges to water or produces any waste. However, it does have the potential to generate elevated noise for short periods. The deep overburden sampling at a minimum distance of 350m from a Natura 2000 Site is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
European Sites	<p>River Barrow And River Nore SAC (002162) Mountmellick SAC (002141)</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 deep overburden sampling activity is occurring at least 350m 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	20 May 2024