



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Record of Meeting

ABP-322333-25

Case Reference / Description	Ballina and Lough Talt WSZ Upgrade		
Case Type	Pre-Application Consultation		
Meeting	2 nd Meeting		
Date	03/03/26	Start Time	14:00pm
Location	Virtually	End Time	14:50pm

Representing An Coimisiún Pleanála		
Stephen Rhys Thomas, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)		
Rachel Gleave O'Connor, Senior Planning Inspector		
Dr. Maeve Flynn - Ecologist		
Emmet Smyth – Environmental Scientist		
Lauren Griffin, Executive Officer	Lauren.griffin@pleanala.ie	01-8737274
Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Aisling Judge - Uisce Éireann		
Rosie Friel - Uisce Éireann		
John McMcElwaine – Uisce Éireann		
Tom Murphy – Atkins Réalis		
Laila Higgins – Atkins Réalis		
Declan Egan – Atkins Réalis		
Aiden O'Neill – Coakley O'Neill Town Planning Ltd.		

Introduction:

The Commission's representative welcomed the prospective applicant to the meeting and introduced those attending from the Commission.

The Commission's representative mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre application consultation process:

- The Commission will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Commission once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Commission mentioned that there will be no decision made on the SID status of the proposed development.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Commission and public consultations may also be directed by the Commission.
- The Commission may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Commission in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.
- The use of AI is strictly prohibited.

Presentation:

The prospective applicant set out their presentation, which is attached to the file. The following topics were presented:

- Recap on scheme overview
- Consultation and Engagement

- Survey Works and Assessments
- Programme – Key Milestones

Discussion/Advice:

The following matters were discussed:

- The prospective applicant confirmed that design flexibility would not be sought for this proposed scheme.
- While discussing the traffic implications of sludge management, the Commission's representative queried had consultation with TII taken place regarding potential impacts to National roads. The prospective applicant confirmed it had not entered consultation.
- The Commission's representative advised the prospective applicant to enter into consultation with TII in advance.
- The Commission's representative queried had traffic management been taken into consideration during the construction phase. The prospective applicant confirmed preliminary discussions had taken place with Mayo County Council and Sligo County Council regarding traffic management.
- The prospective applicant confirmed cumulative assessment was underway.
- The prospective applicant confirmed it contacted the DAU to schedule a meeting with the NPWS. The DAU responded stating it had no comment at the time of correspondence.
- When discussing the Wherrew Intake Works, the Commission's representative sought clarification on the proposed infilling of the inlet channel post works and the new fish screens and returns system. The prospective applicant confirmed it proposed to infill the inlet channel to eliminate the risk of sediment and to reinstate the inlet to its natural landscape. The prospective applicant continued stating, the proposed new fish screens and returns system would be used to

minimise the impact and interference with fish and allow the fish to be transferred from the intake chamber to the lake.

- The prospective applicant confirmed there would be no derogation licence for bat roosts.
- The Commission's representative advised when drafting the NIS to refer to previous works at Lough Talt.
- A general discussion took place regarding the excavated waste; the Commission's representative asked for further details on an Article 27 Declaration. The prospective applicant stated once a contractor is appointed, the Article 27 Declaration would be made at that point. The Commission's representative advised that detail would need to be provided with the application regarding this.
- The Commission's representative queried would the wastewater be recycled, the prospective confirmed the water would be recycled.
- The Commission's representative queried would there be welfare facilities provided at the site, the prospective applicant stated it had no plans to make amendments to existing infrastructure at the site, which already included welfare facilities.
- The Commission's representative referenced the drawings provided in the presentation. It was noted it that drawings at 1:1000 scale would be acceptable with the application, but it was advised additional detail would be required at sensitive areas of the pipeline.
- The Commission's representative queried did the water catchment extend beyond Mayo and Sligo. The prospective applicant confirmed the catchment level was taken into consideration in the Water Framework Directive.
- The Commission's representative advised that the EIAR submitted should be clear on all potential impacts related to the proposed development.

- The Commission's representative confirmed that it requires eight soft copies and two hard copies.
- The prospective applicant stated it proposed to submit the application in Q2 of this year. The prospective applicant indicated it would require no more pre-application consultation meetings.

Conclusion:

The Commission's representatives advised that the record of the instant meeting will be issued shortly, and that the prospective applicant can submit, in writing, any comments that it may have on the record, or request a further meeting.



20/03/2026

Assistant Director of Planning