AtkinsRéalis

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) Volume 2 – Chapter 5 – Consultations

Uisce Éireann

October 2026
0089328DG0039

BALLINA AND LOUGH TALT WATER SUPPLY UPGRADE

Notice

This document and its contents have been prepared and are intended solely as information for Uisce Éireann and use in relation to Ballina and Lough Talt Water Supply Upgrade.

AtkinsRéalis Ireland Limited assumes no responsibility to any other party in respect of or arising out of or in connection with this document and/or its contents.

This document has 29 pages including the cover.

Document history

Document title: Chapter 5 - Consultations

Document reference: 0089328DG0039

Revision	Purpose description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
1.0	Draft for Comment	LH	DE			05/12/2025
2.0	Draft for Comment	LH	DE	EDT		29/07/2026
3.0	Final	LH	DE	EDT/DE	DL	22/10/2026

Client signoff

Client	Uisce Éireann
Proposed Development	BALLINA AND LOUGH TALT WATER SUPPLY UPGRADE
Job number	100089328

Client signature/date

Contents

Abbreviations **5-i**

Glossary **5-iii**

5 Consultation **5-1**

5.1 Introduction 5-1

5.2 Statutory Consultation 5-1

5.2.1 An Coimisiún Pleanála Determination Letter 5-19

5.3 Non-Statutory Consultation 5-19

5.3.1 Public information events (February-April 2025) 5-19

5.3.2 Non-Statutory Public Consultation (24th March to 20th April 2026) 5-20

5.4 Landowner Engagement 5-21

5.5 References 5-22

Tables

Table 5-1 — Prescribed bodies provided by An Coimisiún Pleanála to be notified of the application for the Proposed Development 5-1

Table 5-2 — Summary of Consultation Responses 5-3

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
ACP	An Coimisiún Pleanála
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BPT	Break Pressure Tank
C&D	Construction and Demolition
CH	Cultural Heritage
CRU	The Commission for Regulation of Utilities
CWTMP	Construction Works Traffic Management Plan
DAU	Development Applications Unit
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
FRR	Fish Recovery and Return
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HSE	Health Service Executive
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
LLO	Landowner Liaison Officer
MCC	Mayo County Council
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NMS	National Monuments Service
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
RLB	Red Line Boundary
RWI	Raw Water Intake
RWI&PS	Raw Water Intake and Pumping Station
SI	Site Investigation
SID	Strategic Infrastructure Development
SCC	Sligo County Council
TCD	Trinity College Dublin
TD	Teachta Dála
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
TM	Traffic Management
UÉ	Uisce Éireann

Abbreviation	Term
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
ZON	Zone of Notification

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Bathymetry	Measurement and mapping of underwater depths.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	Approach which seeks to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state after development.
Break Pressure Tank (BPT)	Infrastructure used to regulate hydraulic pressure within a water supply system.
Consultee	Organisation or individual consulted during project development.
Landowner Engagement	Process of communicating and consulting with affected landowners.
Landowner Liaison Officer (LLO)	Dedicated representative responsible for landowner communication and engagement.
Natura Impact Statement (NIS)	Document supporting Appropriate Assessment by assessing effects on European Sites.
Prescribed Bodies	Organisations required to be notified as part of the planning process.
Raw Water Intake and Pumping Station (RWI&PS)	Facility combining abstraction and pumping of untreated water.
Road Opening Licence	Permission required for works within a public road.
Site Investigation (SI)	Surveys and investigations undertaken to inform project design and assessment.
Stakeholder Communication Plan	Plan for informing and engaging stakeholders during project delivery.
Traffic Management (TM)	Measures implemented to control and manage vehicle movements during works.
Trenchless Crossing	Construction method that avoids open-cut excavation when crossing roads, rivers or sensitive features.
Trenchless Method	Construction technique avoiding open trench excavation.
Vertigo geyeri	Protected whorl snail species associated with wetlands around Lough Talt.
Wherrew Raw Water Intake	Existing abstraction facility at Lough Conn proposed for upgrade under the project.
Zebra Mussel	Invasive non-native freshwater species.

5 Consultation

5.1 Introduction

Statutory consultation is legally required as part of the planning process under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). It is a mandatory requirement for a prospective applicant for planning permission for development listed in the 7th Schedule (which the Proposed Development comprises) to enter into pre-application consultations with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and obtain notice from ACP stating whether or not the Proposed Development is regarded as strategic infrastructure development (SID). Upon conclusion of the pre-consultation process, ACP may indicate which bodies, prescribed under Article 213 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), should be notified of the application by the prospective applicant.

Non-statutory consultation is not legally required, however clear and focused consultation is considered good practice for preparation of an EIAR in accordance with EPA 'Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' (EPA, 2022). Further, ACP may provide an indication of the bodies/persons which the prospective applicant should consult with prior to lodging an application and completion of an EIAR (ACP, 2026).

This chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) summarises the key consultation undertaken with respect to the Ballina and Lough Talt Water Supply Upgrade (the 'Proposed Development'). The purpose of consultation was to introduce the Proposed Development to stakeholders and provide an opportunity for interested parties to engage effectively. Responses received were used to inform the scope of the EIAR and develop the design of the Proposed Development.

As part of the EIAR assessment process, consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders at various stages of the pre-planning process to inform the scope of this EIAR. A variety of methods were used throughout the consultation process that invited stakeholders to participate in the non-statutory consultation for the Proposed Development. Stakeholders that were targeted included landowners, members of the public, Local Authorities, and statutory bodies.

A copy of all pre-application consultation correspondence received from consultees for this EIAR is presented in Appendix 5-1.

5.2 Statutory Consultation

As part of the formal pre-application process for Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) two meetings were held with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP). Following the initial consultation meeting held on the 28th July 2025, ACP confirmed, via letter issued on 19th June 2026, that the Proposed Development is Strategic Infrastructure Development in accordance with the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. ACP provided a list of statutory consultees to which Uisce Éireann are obliged to engage with directly as part of the application process. The Prescribed Bodies are presented in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 — Prescribed bodies provided by An Coimisiún Pleanála to be notified of the application for the Proposed Development

#	Prescribed Bodies
1	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
2	Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment

#	Prescribed Bodies
3	Sligo County Council
4	Mayo County Council
5	The Northern and Western Regional Assembly
6	The National Transport Authority
7	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
8	An Chomhairle Ealaíon (Arts Council)
9	The Heritage Council
10	Fáilte Ireland
11	An Taisce
12	Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
13	Ireland West Airport
14	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
15	Department of Culture, Communications and Sport
16	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
17	Health & Safety Executive (HSE)
18	The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
19	Office of Public Works

As part of the consultation process, individual meetings were arranged with a number of key stakeholders to discuss the key potential issues of the Proposed Development as presented in Table 5-2.

The issues raised through the consultation process have been taken into account and addressed in the preparation of this EIAR and the accompanying Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011), as set out in Table 5-2 below.

Table 5-2 — Summary of Consultation Responses

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála)	28/07/2025 **(pre-application consultation virtual meeting)**	Preliminary view of the ACP's representative was that the Proposed Development would constitute SID, however the final decision sits with the Commission.	Determination letter was issued by ACP (see Section 5.2.1) confirming the opinion that the Proposed Development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A(2)(a), (b) and (c) of the act and would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of Section 37A. Application for permission must therefore be made directly to ACP. Planning application for SID has been prepared in accordance with S37A and S37B, accompanied by an EIAR (this Report).
		The Commission's representative advised when presenting the quantum of abstraction, to give an estimate of the annual figure and an uplift of what the total figure would be.	Abstraction figures and projected uplift are presented as m^3/annum in the Engineer's Report submitted as part of the Planning Application, see Chapter 1 – Introduction.
		The ACP representative requested further clarification on the consultations the prospective applicant had undertaken with prescribed bodies. The Commission's representative advised that robust consultation should take place with prescribed bodies in advance of the submission of an application.	A robust, targeted consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders in the preparation of this EIAR. A summary of consultation is provided in this chapter, including with Mayo and Sligo County Councils, National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS), IFI and National Monument Service (NMS). Correspondence is provided in Appendix 5-1. Details of non-statutory consultation are summarised in Section 5.3. Engagement with landowners was undertaken throughout the EIAR process (Section 5.4).
		The Commission's representatives noted that the timelines set out in the 2024 Act would be adhered to when making decisions, and that it was therefore in the best interest of the prospective applicant to utilise the pre-application consultation process to prepare a comprehensive application. The greater the level of design certainty, consultations and survey work undertaken, the greater the prospect of avoiding requests for further information, and	Timelines are noted. All relevant information and design certainty is provided in the accompanying documentation. Chapter 3 of the EIAR provides a comprehensive Project Description.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
		ensuring a timely decision from the Commission.	
		It was concluded that there would be environmental impacts arising from the Proposed Development and that the preparation of an EIAR was ongoing. The Commission's representative advised the prospective applicant that it would look for the effects of the Proposed Development in terms of its characteristics and the sensitivity of the locations on the route. The prospective applicant confirmed they would be utilising un-zoned white land for the Proposed Development. The Commission representatives stated that this should be highlighted in any application. The Commission's representative advised that all surveys and reports should be as comprehensive as possible prior to submitting an application.	An EIAR (this Report), NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011) and WFD Assessment have been prepared for submission with the application. Clear distinction has been made throughout the EIAR regarding land use, where applicable. The Proposed Development has prioritised utilising made ground (i.e. existing Uisce Éireann sites and road network) where possible to minimise potential effects on land-use.
		The ACP representative asked for further details on where and how the sludge might be re-used and advised that detail on this issue, including traffic implications arising, would need to be provided with the application.	Quantity of sludge and proposed re-use options have been considered and are presented in Chapter 14 – Resource and Waste Management. Traffic implications are accounted for as operational vehicles and assessed in Chapter 15 – Roads, Traffic and Transport. Éireann.
		With regard to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), the ACP representatives stated that this is an issue which should be presented in any application. The fact that there is no Irish methodology or guidance on the issue was noted and, in such circumstances, it is appropriate that direction on the methodology would be taken from UK guidance.	BNG is included as part of Chapter 7 – Biodiversity and associated appendices, including details on the guidance used.
		Representatives from the Commission highlighted the recent publication by the NPWS of guidance on derogations and that the requirements in terms of the identification of need for derogations and the making of the	NPWS guidance, including derogation, was used to inform Chapter 7 – Biodiversity and in the production of the NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011).

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
		required applications should be considered when preparing any application.	
		The Commission's representative advised that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment should be a stand-alone report submitted with the application.	A WFD Assessment has been submitted with the application
		The ACP representative queried was there further review of the route of the Proposed Development and specifically the Lisglennon to Lough Talt treated water pipeline is proposed and whether this alignment could change.	Options considered for the pipeline route are presented in Chapter 4 – Alternatives. The Proposed Development as presented in Chapter 3 – Project Description is considered to be technically and environmentally the best option.
		The ACP representative queried would there be a design flexibility request for the Proposed Development.	The need for the Proposed Development, as set out in Chapter 2 – Project Need, applies inherent constraints in design options. As a result, design flexibility is not being sought. Options considered for the pipeline route are presented in Chapter 4 – Alternatives
		The Commission's representative noted that the proposed Electricity Supply Board (ESB) substation as part of the booster pumping station could be deemed to constitute SID and advised the prospective applicant to investigate decided related applications.	Further consideration confirmed that the ESB substation at Bonniconlon Booster Pumping Station was local power generation and not SID, see Chapter 3 – Project Description.
An Coimisiún Pleanála	03/03/2026 **(Virtual meeting)**	The Commission's representative queried would there be a design flexibility request for the Proposed Development.	Due to the environmental and engineering constraints identified by the need for water supply upgrades in Mayo and Sligo, (Chapter 2 – Project Need), design flexibility is not being sought for the Proposed Development.
		The Commission's representative queried had consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) taken place regarding potential impacts to National roads.	The Proposed Development crosses a junction with the N59. There are no other interactions with the national road network. The Proposed Development has been designed having regard to all relevant TII standards.
		Has traffic management been taken into consideration during the construction phase.	Mayo County Council and Sligo County Council were consulted regarding traffic management. A summary of this

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
			consultation is provided in this chapter and included in Appendix 5-1.
		The EIAR should take into account the potential for cumulative impacts.	Cumulative impact assessments have been completed and are presented within each technical chapter. A summary of the assessments is presented in Chapter 20 – Cumulative Impact Assessment.
		An Update was requested on consultation with prescribed bodies.	Consultation and correspondence with prescribed bodies is presented in this Chapter and provided in Appendix 5-1.
		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.	Works at the Wherrew Raw Water Intake and Pumping Station (RWI&PS) are set out in Chapter 3 – Project Description.
		The Commission's representative queried whether any derogation would be required.	The need for derogation has been considered in the NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011) and Chapter 7 – Biodiversity, none is required.
		The Commission's representative advised when drafting the NIS to refer to previous works at Lough Talt.	Reference to previous works at Lough Talt is taken into account in the NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011), as well as Chapter 7 – Biodiversity and Chapter 10 – Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology).
		The Commission's representative asked for further details on an Article 27 Declaration.	The Article 27 Declaration would be made once a contractor is appointed. This is stated in Chapter 3 – Project Description and captured in the Environmental Management Plans submitted with the application. Refer also to Chapter 14 – Resource and Waste Management.
		The Commission's representative queried would the wastewater be recycled.	Details of wastewater recycling are included in Chapter 3 – Project Description.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
		The Commission's representative queried would there be welfare facilities provided at the site.	Details of proposed welfare facilities are set out in Chapter 3 – Project Description. No amendments have been proposed to welfare facilities at existing sites.
		The Commission's representative referenced the drawings provided in the presentation. It was note 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.	Pipeline drawings have been provided at 1:1000 scale.
		The Commission's representative queried did the water catchment extend beyond Mayo and Sligo.	The catchment extent was taken into consideration in the WFD.
		The Commission's representative advised that the EIAR submitted should be clear on all potential impacts related to the Proposed Development	All potential impacts and resulting effects are clearly stated in each technical chapter of this EIAR, including residual, cumulative and interactive effects. A non-technical summary is also provided in Volume 1.
		The Commission's representative confirmed that it requires eight soft copies and two hardcopies.	These will be provided.
Joint Mayo and Sligo County Councils meeting	08/05/2025	There are site access restrictions on the protected stretch of road on the R294 between Ballina and Bonniconlon where the proposed booster pump station is to be located. A discussion was held and it was confirmed that access would not be granted directly off the R294. It was also advised that access from the secondary road from the R294 will need to have a setback distance of 70 to 90 m from the junction with the R294.	Access and set back requirements in compliance with County Mayo and County Sligo's Policies and Objectives have been incorporated into the Design. See the Engineer's Report.
		Regarding visual impacts relating to the Break Pressure Tank being located at the Windy Gap, concerns were	The proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank (BPT) site incorporates mitigation measures for potential for visual impacts, including fencing and landscaping design. These are presented in Chapter 3 – Project Description and

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
		raised regarding the boundary treatment which may be considered high.	assessed in Chapter 18 – Landscape and Visual Assessment as well as Chapter 7 – Biodiversity (habitats).
		Impact of abstraction cessation of the Lough Talt intake on the *Vertigo Geyeri* Fen should be taken into account given that the current mitigation measure includes for irrigation in certain areas of Lough Talt which may ultimately be flooded after the proposed works due to the increase in lake levels. A response to this will need to be addressed in the NIS supporting the Planning Application.	Potential impacts relating to the cessation of abstraction have been taken into account in the NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011) as well as Chapter 7 – Biodiversity and Chapter 10 – Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology).
		Water supply demand figures were requested to be presented clearly where relevant, including future demands for Ballina and adjacent WSZ that will be fed from the upgraded scheme.	Figures are presented where relevant.
		Site 20, as shown on the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Slide, is quite close to the pilot study site for the *Vertigo Geyeri*. The site was identified as a potential construction site compound however it may be removed if it poses a risk to the pilot study site.	Information presented during the meeting was preliminary. The final design as proposed is presented in Chapter 3 - Project Description. Potential effects on the *Vertigo geyeri* Fen and other biodiversity receptors have been assessed in Chapter 7 – Biodiversity, and protected habitats and species in the NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011).
		The representative of Sligo County Council is generally in support of the project and the only risk that they could see is if the cessation of the abstraction at Lough Talt poses a negative impact to the *Vertigo Geyeri* Fen.	Potential impacts relating to the cessation of abstraction have been taken into account and presented within the NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011) as well as Chapter 7 – Biodiversity and Chapter 10 – Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology).
Mayo County Council (MCC) – Roads	05/2024 (In person	MCC Roads noted that pipes should preferably be placed in verge, footpath or off the road where possible and should avoid being laid within road lanes where possible.	Recommendation has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
	Ballina MCC Office)	It was noted that works on Mullafarry Road (to front of Lisglennon) would affect Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements to/from the two quarry sites in this area. This would potentially have a significant impact on these businesses. It is advised that if works will affect this road, that consultation with the quarries be undertaken in advance. Route selection should take these impacts into consideration.	Recommendation has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development. Consultation with local stakeholders will be implemented via a Stakeholders Communication Plan, as set out in the preliminary Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), submitted with this EIAR.
		Traffic Management at Belleek Road – Caravan Park is open all year round. Alternative access route would need to be considered during closures.	Traffic management will be controlled via a Construction Works Traffic Management Plan (CWTMP). A preliminary CWTMP has been submitted with this EIAR.
		Passing bays need to be provided on local roads where diversions or closure are proposed. Particularly near Behy NS.	Traffic management will be controlled via a CWTMP. A preliminary CWTMP has been submitted with this EIAR.
		Road Opening Licences will be reviewed by MCC Roads.	Traffic management will be controlled via a CWTMP. A preliminary CWTMP has been submitted with this EIAR.
		Reinstatement at Quignashee would likely require geogrid or similar type solution to reinforce the road embankment after creating the pipe trench. Detail would need to be looked at as part of the design development.	Following completion of the works, all roads will be reinstated in consultation with the MCC.
		MCC noted that a number of planning permissions have recently been granted in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The other works will need to be considered and potentially coordinated with the Proposed Development works.	Cumulative impact assessments have been completed and are presented within each technical chapter. A summary of the assessments is presented in Chapter 20 – Cumulative Impact Assessment.
Mayo County Council and Sligo	13/04/2026	MCC queried the use of the 450 mm crossing of the Moy, would it be sufficient?	Design details are included in the Engineer's Report submitted with this application.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
County Council Planners Combined meeting	(virtual meeting)	Potential impacts from ceasing abstraction from Lough Talt need to be captured. Impacts to trees in Belleek woods and bats need to be assessed.	Ecology and biodiversity receptors, including trees and bats, are assessed in Chapter 7 – Biodiversity. Assessment of protected habitats and species are provided in the NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011), including impacts from cessation of abstraction at Lough Talt.
		Windy Gap site in Mayo is located within a scenic area. Potential visual impacts need to be considered. Fence should just be a wire fence.	The proposed Windy Gap Break Pressure Tank (BPT) site incorporates mitigation measures for potential for visual impacts, including fencing and landscaping design. These are presented in Chapter 3 – Project Description and assessed in Chapter 18 – Landscape and Visual Assessment as well as Chapter 7 – Biodiversity (habitats).
		Are the changes at Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant (WTP) significant, is screening of the new tank sizeable tank, proposed?	The proposed repurposing works at the Lough Talt WTP site incorporates mitigation measures for potential for visual impacts, including screening. These are presented in Chapter 3 – Project Description and assessed in Chapter 18 – Landscape and Visual Assessment as well as Chapter 7 – Biodiversity (habitats).
Sligo County Council (SCC) – Roads	21/08/2024 (Teach Laighne, Sligo – in person meeting)	SI Proposals & Traffic Management: a. Overview of SI proposals and associated traffic management plans was provided in County Sligo and areas of route close to Sligo boundary for information.	Comment was in relation to SI works, however traffic management proposals that are relevant to construction works have been incorporated into the design and assessed in the EIAR. Traffic management will be controlled via a CWTMP. A preliminary CWTMP has been submitted with this EIAR. Consultation with local stakeholders will be implemented via a Stakeholders Communication Plan, as set out in the CEMP, submitted with this EIAR.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
		Working Hours: a. Standard working hours discussed. Site specific working hours requirements not expected to be required for this area.	Comment was in relation to SI works, however construction working hours are set out in Chapter 3 – Proposed Development.
		Road Opening Licence Process: a. T1 submission to be completed to SCC. This meeting has provided an overview of the proposed works. Details of SI proposals, duration and associated Traffic Management (TM) to be provided in submission. b. Advance warning message boards may be required. c. Noted that consultation with TII would be required for N59 crossing (near Ballina) – note for info only.	Comment was in relation to SI works, however licensing requirements as relevant to construction works have been accounted for in the preliminary CWTMP has been submitted with this EIAR. Consultation with local stakeholders will be implemented via a Stakeholders Communication Plan, as set out in the CEMP, submitted with this EIAR. General environmental management measures are set out in the CEMP, submitted with this EIAR.
		Reinstatement Requirements: a. Slit trenches to be reinstated as per Purple Book requirements for regional roads. b. There are not currently any surfaces within protected period in the works area in Sligo.	Comment was in relation to SI works; however construction and reinstatement works will be carried out as set out in Chapter 3 – Project Description. Roads will be reinstated upon completion of the works, in consultation with the County Council.
		Works by Others in the Area a. Overlay of the R294 in the works area is proposed in coming years. The proposed watermain works will be taken into account and surfacing scheduled to follow completion. b. Tobercurry by-pass road is due to be resurfaced. Works schedule may overlap. Discussions with UE to be continued to ensure any closures are coordinated to minimise impact on road users.	Comment was in relation to SI works; however cumulative impact assessments have been completed and are presented within each technical chapter. A summary of the assessments is presented in Chapter 20 – Cumulative Impact Assessment. Consultation with local stakeholders will be implemented via a Stakeholders Communication Plan, as set out in the outline CEMP, submitted with this EIAR.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
Sligo County Council (Roads)	21/01/2026 (Teach Laighne, Sligo – in person meeting)	Proposed mitigation measures were discussed. Preferred approach is to implement stop/go, road closures will be implemented where required. Constraints that may require a road closure include bridges and culverts or where there is a safety concern. Pipeline route to be routed to one side along outer lane, to follow left hand side as preference (and away from lake shore) SW. Pipeline to be installed via open cut methodology, trenchless methods used for crossings. Works to be phased, with consideration for seasonality and local sensitivities. SCC specified that summer works preferred to avoid school run. Preference summer months (June, July & Aug) to facilitate school year. SCC requested a pack with SI, bridges and crossings, with an opinion of risk, visual assessment of priorities and seasonal consideration.	Project level traffic management measures are set out in the preliminary CWTMP. The Appointed Contractor will set out local measures as part of the detailed design phase, including assessment of risk for bridges and crossings.
		The following sensitivities were identified: ▪ Bridges, approx. 20 culverts; ▪ HGV route for Coillte, Wind farm; ▪ Schools, bus routes; ▪ Knock airport; ▪ Eurocycle route; ▪ Church at Sligo wedding destination; ▪ Boggy ground (wet in winter); ▪ Existing utilities; and ▪ Tourism. The following were also noted:	Construction methodology is set out in Chapter 3 – Project Description. Bridges and culverts have been incorporated into the pipeline route and are shown on drawings. It is proposed that bridges and culverts will be crossed using trenchless methods. Project traffic management measures are included in the preliminary CWTMP submitted with this EIAR. SI logs are included in Appendix 9-1. The Appointed Contractor will produce a detailed design for each bridge and culvert prior to commencement of works, including proposed traffic management measures, temporary and permanent reinstatement. In addition, the following have also been assessed as part of the EIAR: ▪ Population and Human Health (Chapter 6);

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
		▪ Runoff high risk and key SCC consideration for Lough Talt; ▪ Excavation near Lough Talt in rock - risk of damage to existing abstraction; and ▪ Sensitivities need to be considered in traffic management and phasing of the works.	▪ Biodiversity (Chapter 7); ▪ Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology) (Chapter 10); ▪ Roads, Traffic and Transport (Chapter 15); and, ▪ Effects on designated sites (NIS – AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011).
		SSC require proper notice in advance of road closures, as much as possible. Proposed traffic management measures require appropriate public clarity, including social media and a point of contact. SCC require roads to be reinstated in accordance with the Purple Book. SCC highlighted that works would need to be mindful of road resurfacing schedule and known repair spots. Cleg test to be called out in employer requirements.	Appointed Contractor will produce and implement a Stakeholder Communication Plan, as set out in the outline CEMP, submitted with this EIAR.
		Vertigo Geyeri was discussed regarding effects on the Trinity College Dublin (TCD) study and changes to the abstraction from Lough Talt.	Lough Talt Abstraction is proposed to cease upon commissioning of the Proposed Development. Effects on *Vertigo Geyeri* and associated habitat have been assessed in Chapter 7 – Biodiversity and the NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011).
		Details of energy recovery were discussed.	Solar panels are included as part of the Proposed Development. No power is proposed for export off site. Details are provided in Chapter 3 – Project Description.
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)	29/10/2024 (email)	AtkinsRéalis requested to speak about our proposals in order to ensure that we have concurrence from IFI of the process prior to planning application stage and to ascertain if any raw bathymetry data from the IFI 2016 survey is available adjacent to the intake works at Wherrew.	Contact within IFI was confirmed, further consultation was undertaken, as set out in this Chapter.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
		IFI responded that a Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer would respond to this soon.	
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)	28/07/2025 (meeting between AtkinsRéalis, Fishtek and IFI)	The Wherrew Raw Water Intake was discussed. IFI required that the intake be appropriately screened to prevent access by fish. The main factors impacting the screening requirements to protect fish relate to approach velocity and mesh size. The main species limiting the design characteristic of the screen is the European eel, specifically the juvenile elver stage. The maximum approach velocity for eel may be able to be increased based on location of the offtake and site-specific factors, providing proof of effectiveness and no harm to fish can be given. Depending on the screen location and site-specific factors, it may be feasible to increase the approach following Environment Agency (England) guidance, and acceptance by IFI of any evidence given.	All responses are included in the design as set out in Chapter 3 – Project Description and assessed in the Chapter 7 – Biodiversity of this EIAR and the NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011). Environmental management measures are included in the CEMP submitted as Appendix 3-1 of Volume 3 of this EIAR. The Appointed Contractor will prepare a site-specific CEMP prior to commencing work on the site.
		In addition to the above, discussions with IFI confirmed that best practice is for fish to be screened at the point of abstraction (i.e. at the entrance to the pipe within the Lough), with no fish handling. Only after all options that do not require fish handling are explored and discounted (including acceptance of reasons by IFI) would a solution requiring fish handling (e.g. the fish recovery and return (FRR) system currently conceptualised by AtkinsRéalis following Uisce Éireann requests) be acceptable as the correct solution for the site.	Alternatives considered are presented in Chapter 4 – Alternatives. Best practice guidance was used in the design of the proposed FRR system. The Appointed Contractor will be required to comply with these requirements and will be undertaken in consultation with IFI.
		IFI would be keen to know where any proposed screens have been installed previously, ideally in Ireland, to enable IFI to discuss effectiveness of the screens.	A site visit was arranged with IFI to Terryland Waterworks on 20th January 2026 (see below).

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
IFI	09/12/2025 (Virtual Meeting between AtkinsRéalis, Fishtek and IFI)	IFI raised concerns about minimising fish handling and potential impacts, expressing a preference for screening at the lakeshore end. IFI requested more information on operational performance, fish counts, and the effectiveness of deterrence measures.	Alternatives considered are presented in Chapter 4 – Alternatives. Provisions for operational performance are set out in Chapter 3 – Project Description. The Appointed Contractor will be required to comply with these requirements and will be undertaken in consultation with IFI. A site visit was arranged for IFI to Terryland Waterworks as an example of the type of system that is proposed for the Wherrew raw water intake. A technical note was prepared to address any outstanding questions posed by the IFI representatives. This is included in Appendix 5-1.
IFI	13/01/2026 (Virtual Meeting)	The following topics were discussed: ▪ Best practice guidance for design of FRR systems; ▪ Design details of the fish lift, such as abstraction velocity, deterrents, latest monitoring equipment, operation time; ▪ Fish behaviour, monitoring and detection methods; and ▪ Zebra mussels.	Proposed design for the FRR system is included in Chapter 3 – Project Description. The Appointed contractor will produce the final design using best available technology in accordance with best practice guidance and consultation with IFI.
IFI	20/01/2026 (In person meeting at Terryland waterworks with AR, UÉ and IFI)	A site visit was arranged with IFI to Terryland Waterworks on 20th January 2026. A number of technical questions regarding the function and fish safety of the Terryland system and how it would apply to the proposed system to be installed at the Wherrew raw water intake.	Answers and recommendations from this site visit are included in the design and are incorporated into the EIAR and NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2026; Document Reference: 0089328DG0011). A technical note was issued addressing outstanding queries raised by IFI representatives. Note is included in Appendix 5-1 of Volume 3 of this EIAR.
National Monuments Service	09/09/2025 (virtual meeting)	Meeting was in relation to proposed Site Investigation (SI) works and future construction was discussed. Noted four locations where the Zones of Notification (ZoN) extend into	SI Report is provided in Appendix 9-1. The cultural heritage report prepared by the archaeologist monitoring the works is submitted as Appendix 17-7.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
		narrow class three public roads. NMS would take a pragmatic approach to this work as long as a robust desktop study was completed and the redline is within the public realm.	
		Archaeological method statement and licence to be provided in advance of works, including how will these areas be accessed.	The cultural heritage report prepared by the archaeologist monitoring the works is submitted as Appendix 17-7.
		Pre-works – possibly need to re-consult NMS, need to contact owner to state test features probably 3 m trenches before to consent owner to site.	Consultation was undertaken on 18th February 2026.
		Robust desktop studies, including underwater impact assessment and surveys – dive and wade surveys, and ensure other significant water bodies are included.	SI Report is provided in Appendix 9-1. The cultural heritage report prepared by the archaeologist monitoring the works is submitted as Appendix 17-7. A follow-up meeting was held with NMS on 18th February 2026.
National Monuments Service (NMS)	18/02/2026 (in person meeting, Ballina)	There are four ZoNs overlapping the Red Line Boundary (RLB). It is proposed that these are not tested pre-planning, but once the road is closed and the site has been secured, these sites will be pre-opened, recorded and resolved in advance of construction, under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist. If a find is discovered, it is recommended that the pipeline be moved to the other side of the road where possible. All finds will be reported.	Effects on cultural heritage receptors are assessed in Chapter 17 – Cultural Heritage. Environmental protection measures for cultural heritage receptors are included in the CEMP, submitted with this EIAR.
		Archaeological monitoring to take place where required.	Effects on cultural heritage receptors are assessed in Chapter 17 – Cultural Heritage. Environmental protection measures for cultural heritage receptors are included in the CEMP, submitted with this EIAR. The Appointed Contractor will prepare a site-specific CEMP prior to commencing work on the site.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
		Cultural landscape to be preserved and included in the assessment, mitigation.	Effects on cultural heritage receptors are assessed in Chapter 17 – Cultural Heritage. Environmental protection measures for cultural heritage receptors are included in the CEMP, submitted with this EIAR.
		Mitigation to avoid and minimise effects to be included in the CEMP and complied with by the Contractor, as follows: ▪ Location of known finds and proposed mitigation to be communicated to Contractors in advance of works; ▪ Finds to be avoided as primary mitigation measure; ▪ Where a find cannot be avoided, it must be fully resolved; and ▪ Mitigation to be monitored by an archaeologist.	Effects on cultural heritage receptors are assessed in Chapter 17 – Cultural Heritage. Environmental protection measures for cultural heritage receptors are included in the CEMP, submitted with this EIAR.
		Proportionate approach to testing is proposed. The pipeline will be predominantly laid within paved roads or adjacent to existing pipeline, where testing pre-application is not requested. Pre-application testing is required in green field sites. Where it is not possible to carry out testing (e.g. no access to a site), this needs to be communicated to NMS. A licence is required for testing works, to be completed pre-planning.	Additional testing was undertaken in greenfield locations where access was approved by landowners. Results are presented in Appendix 17-8.
		NMS enquired about potential features within Belleek Manor.	No finds were discovered during testing and monitoring for SI works or walkover, and the grounds are landscaped. Access is not expected to be permitted by the landowners for additional testing pre-application. Effects on cultural heritage receptors are assessed in Chapter 17 – Cultural Heritage.

Consultee	Consultation date	Summary of Engagement	Applicant's Response
			Environmental protection measures for cultural heritage receptors are included in the CEMP, submitted with this EIAR. The Appointed Contractor will prepare a site-specific CEMP prior to commencing work on the site.
		Content of the EIAR Chapter was discussed. Digital Repository Island UÉ to be considered for the Proposed Development.	Effects on cultural heritage receptors are assessed in Chapter 17 – Cultural Heritage. Environmental protection measures are included in the CEMP, submitted with this EIAR
NPWS (DAU)	26/01/2026 (Email)	A letter requesting consultation was issued to the NPWS through the Development Applications Unit (DAU) on 15 January 2026. A copy is included in Appendix 5-1. The NPWS responded and had "no comment" to make at that time.	A copy of the email is included in Appendix 5-1.

5.2.1 An Coimisiún Pleanála Determination Letter

Notification of determination of pre-application consultation was served by ACP under Section 37B(4)(a), dated 19th June 2026 (see Appendix 5-1). Within it, the Commission advised that, following consultation under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), it is of the opinion that the Proposed Development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A(2)(a),(b) and (c) of the Act and would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of Section 37A. Application for permission must therefore be made directly to ACP under section 37E of the Act.

A list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the Proposed Development was included in the letter and presented in Table 5-1. Further notifications should also be made where deemed appropriate.

5.3 Non-Statutory Consultation

5.3.1 Public information events (February-April 2025)

Three non-statutory public information events were held between February and April 2025 to present the Proposed Development scope and timeframe and to gather feedback from stakeholders. These events provided an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the Proposed Development, ask questions, and share their views directly with the project team (including the Applicant, design team and environmental team).

Prior to the first public information event, an online briefing was arranged for local Teachta Dála (TDs), Senators to inform them of the Proposed Development and the non-statutory public consultation. This online briefing was held via Teams on Friday 28th February 2025. An additional meeting was held later that day for local Councillors, however, none of the local Councillors or their representatives attended.

Initially two public information events were organised in two separate locations within the locality of the Proposed Development:

- Bonniconlon Community Centre, Monday 3rd March 2025 (6 pm to 9 pm); and,
- Killala Community Centre, Wednesday 5th March 2025 (6 pm to 9 pm).

Following feedback received from locals at these events, a third event was held:

- Teach Laighne, Humbert Street, Tobercurry, Sligo, Tuesday 8th April 2025 (6 pm to 9 pm).

All landowner engagement prior to the events as well as the subsequent handling of feedback and further stakeholder engagement was conducted by the Uisce Éireann team and Landowner Liaison Officer (LLO).

Additionally, as part of the non-statutory public consultation processes at the beginning of 2025, the following non-exhaustive scope of work has been carried out:

- The public information events were advertised in the Western People and The Sligo Champion Newspapers in the week leading up to the events;
- The public information events were advertised on Midwest Radio and Ocean FM in the week leading up to the events;
- Display board material with information regarding the Proposed Development route layout and additional information was presented at the events;

- Information sheets regarding the Proposed Development were provided for the public to take home with them at the public information events;
- Hardcopy feedback forms were available for stakeholders to provide their feedback at the public information events; and
- Members of the project team were on hand to discuss the Proposed Development with stakeholders and address any queries or issues at all public information events.

5.3.2 Non-Statutory Public Consultation (24th March to 20th April 2026)

Uisce Éireann held a further non-statutory public consultation for the proposed Ballina and Lough Talt Water Supply Upgrade, which ran from Tuesday 24th March to Monday 20th April 2026. The aim of the non-statutory public consultation was to provide information on the Proposed Development to the local community and other key stakeholders, and to gather their feedback to help shape the project moving forward.

Through a combination of online communication, targeted stakeholder outreach, and an in-person public information event, Uisce Éireann ensured that landowners, local residents, community groups, elected representatives, and statutory bodies had clear, accessible channels to review project information and provide feedback. This process supported transparency, encouraged early dialogue, and helped build understanding of the project's purpose, benefits, and potential impacts.

The following communication materials were prepared:

- Project webpage;
- Project information leaflet;
- Stakeholder letters / emails;
- Social media posts;
- Press release;
- Newspaper advertisement;
- Radio advertisement;
- Briefing presentation for elected representatives; and
- Public Information Event display boards.

A comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken to establish a list of all project stakeholders. This important exercise ensured that all possible stakeholders were identified and afforded the opportunity to participate in the public consultation and provide their feedback. Stakeholder groups identified included:

- Councillors and TDs (Elected Representatives);
- Local Authorities (Mayo County Council and Sligo County Council);
- Landowners;
- Members of the public and community groups (including local residents, businesses and schools);
- Non-Statutory Bodies; and
- Prescribed Bodies.

Uisce Éireann held a public information event in Kennedy Glasgow House in Ballina on Wednesday 15th April 2026 from 3 pm to 8 pm. The project team determined that this was the ideal location to hold the Public Information Event, given its relative central location within the scheme extents.

The format of the Public Information Event was informal. Attendees were greeted at the door by a member of the project team and provided with a copy of the project information leaflet. Attendees were then given the opportunity to walk around the room and view the project information on display. Several members of the project team were in the room and available to engage with any attendees to discuss the project with them and address any queries or issues they had.

The feedback received during the consultation demonstrated a high level of public and community interest in how the Proposed Development will affect day-to-day water services, local amenities, and the surrounding environment. The feedback from members of the public, landowners, and community groups focused primarily on practical and lived experience issues, including water quality and reliability of water supply, as well as construction impacts, road reinstatement, flood risk, and the visual and noise effects of the proposed works. Community groups also highlighted the importance of protecting and enhancing local amenities, particularly walking trails, and expressed a desire for clear, accessible information as the project progresses. Across all groups, there was a consistent expectation that Uisce Éireann will communicate proactively, minimise disruption, and demonstrate how stakeholder input is shaping the design.

Statutory bodies provided more technical and regulatory feedback, emphasising compliance with various regulations and guidelines, particularly in relation to the potential impact of the works on roads and associated structures such as bridges and culverts. Their feedback reinforces the need for robust design proposals, early coordination with relevant authorities, and adherence to established approval processes and guidelines. Taken together, the feedback provides a comprehensive understanding of the issues that matter most to stakeholders and sets a clear framework for how the project team should respond through design refinement, mitigation commitments, and ongoing engagement.

Collectively, this feedback has informed the refinement of the Proposed Development design and will continue to guide the preparation of the SID application. The public consultation has promoted the need for and the benefits of the project to a broad range of stakeholders, highlighted local priorities, and reinforced the importance of ongoing communication and engagement as the project progresses.

5.4 Landowner Engagement

Landowner engagement is an essential and ongoing process to enable landowners to raise questions or concerns related to the Proposed Development. Uisce Éireann engaged the services of a land liaison officer who carried out site visits to local landowners and discussed the Proposed Development, and the land take required for the Proposed Development. Meeting with landowners provided an opportunity for the landowners to engage with the process and give them clarity around the methodology and approach to the Proposed Development.

The LLO served as a dedicated point of contact throughout pre-planning stages, including ground investigation works, archaeological testing and advance notification of surveys or site visits. The LLO will continue to work with landowners through the Construction Phase.

There are approx. 55 landowners within the RLB. Landowner communication was both via formal written correspondence (letter and/or email), also by phone and in person where appropriate.

5.5 References

An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) (2026). 7th Schedule SID (Applicant): Pre-Application Consultations (Stage 1). Available at: https://www.pleanala.ie/en-IE/7th-Schedule-SID-Applicant-Guidelines/7th-Schedule-SID-(Applicant)-Pre-Application-Cons [Accessed August 2026]

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) (2013). Fish Protection at Cooling Water Intake Structures: A Technical Reference Manual – 2012 Update. Document Reference: 3002000231. Available at: https://www.epri.com/research/products/000000003002000231.

Environment Agency (2022). Screening at intakes and outfalls: measures to protect eel. Science Report GEHO0411BTQD-E-E. The Environment Agency, Bristol, UK.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2022). Guidance on the Information to be Contained in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. Available at: https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/EIAR_Guidelines_2022_Web.pdf. [Accessed: November 2025]

Power (2007). Fish and cooling water intakes: Debunking the myths for review. Access Intelligence LLC. Copyright 2026. Available at: https://www.powermag.com/fish-and-cooling-water-intakes-debunking-the-myths/. [Accessed: February 2026]

Turnpenny, A.W.H. and O'Keefe, N. (2005). Best Practice Guide for Intake and Outfall Screening. Science Report SC030231. The Environment Agency, Bristol, UK.

AtkinsRéalis

AtkinsRéalis Ireland Limited
150-155 Airside Business Park
Swords
Co. Dublin
K67 K5W4

Tel: +353 1 810 8000

© AtkinsRéalis Ireland Limited except where stated otherwise