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# 3. CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

## 3.1 Introduction

Article 5(1)(d) of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (codification) as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (the EIA Directive) requires that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) prepared by the developer contains *"a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment."*

Article 5(1)(f) of the EIA Directive requires that the EIAR contains *"any additional information specified in Annex IV relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected."*

Annex IV of the EIA Directive states that the information provided in an EIAR should include a *"description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects."*

This chapter of the EIAR presents a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, relevant to the Proposed Development and its specific characteristics, including site location, layout, unit types, design, construction methods and the project's size and scale.

The consideration of alternatives is an effective means of avoiding environmental impacts. As set out in the *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)* (EPA 2022)[1], the presentation and consideration of reasonable alternatives investigated is an important part of the overall EIA process.

It is important to acknowledge that although the consideration of alternatives is an effective means of avoiding environmental impacts, there are difficulties and limitations when considering alternatives. These include hierarchy, non-environmental factors and certain site-specific issues as outlined below.

### Hierarchy

EIA is concerned with projects. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines (EPA, 2022) state that, in some instances, neither the applicant nor the competent authority can realistically be expected to examine options that have already been previously determined by a higher authority, such as a national plan or regional programme for infrastructure which are examined by means of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the higher tier form of environmental assessment.

### Non-environmental Factors

EIA is confined to the potential significant environmental effects on the environment and this influences the scope and nature of alternatives. However, other non-environmental factors will be important to the

[1] *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2022. Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR). [online] Available at: https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring-assessment/assessment/EIAR_Guidelines_2022_Web.pdf*

developer of a project, for example project economics, land availability, engineering feasibility or planning considerations.

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### Site Specific Issues

The consideration of alternatives also needs to be set within the parameters of the availability of the land, i.e. the site may be the only suitable land available to the developer, or the need for the project to accommodate demands or opportunities that are site-specific. Such considerations should be on the basis of alternatives within a site itself, such as variations in design and layout.

## 3.2 Consideration of Alternatives

## 3.3 Methodology

The European Union Guidance Document[2] (EU, 2017) on the preparation of EIAR outlines the requirements of the EIA Directive and states that, in order to address the assessment of reasonable alternatives, the developer needs to provide the following:

- A description of the reasonable alternatives studied; and,
- An indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option with regards to their environmental impacts.

There is limited European and national guidance on what constitutes a 'reasonable alternative,' however the EU Guidance Document[2] (EU, 2017) states that reasonable alternatives "*must be relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and resources should only be spent assessing these alternatives.*"

The guidance also acknowledges that *"the selection of alternatives is limited in terms of feasibility. On the one hand, an alternative should not be ruled out simply because it would cause inconvenience or cost to the developer. At the same time, if an alternative is very expensive or technically or legally difficult, it would be unreasonable to consider it a feasible alternative."*

The EPA Guidelines[1] (EPA, 2022) state that "*It is generally sufficient to provide a broad description of each main alternative and the key issues associated with each, showing how environmental considerations were taken into account in deciding on the selected option. A detailed assessment (or 'mini-EIA') of each alternative is not required.*"

Consequently, having regard to the legislative and guidance requirements, this chapter addresses alternatives under the following headings:

- 'Do-Nothing' Alternative;
- Alternative Locations;
- Alternative Design and Layouts;
- Alternative Land Uses;
- Alternative Processes; and
- Alternative Mitigation Measures.

Each of these is addressed in the following sections.

## 3.4 "Do-Nothing Alternative"

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Annex IV, Part 3 of the Directive 2014/52/EU states that the description of reasonable alternatives studied by the developer should include *"an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the project as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge."* This is referred to as the 'Do-nothing' Alternative. The *Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report* (EC, 2017)[2] states that this should involve the assessment of "*an outline of what is likely to happen to the environment should the project not be implemented – the so-called 'do-nothing' scenario."*

If the Proposed Development did not proceed, the site would likely remain in its existing use in the short term, subject to ongoing land management and natural change. No construction or operational effects associated with the Proposed Development would arise. However, the Do-Nothing Alternative would result in the non-delivery of 133 no. residential units on lands that are predominantly zoned for residential development under the Galway City Development Plan (GCDP) 2023-2029. The site forms part of the wider Knocknacarra Masterplan lands, which have been identified for residential growth, active travel connectivity, public open space and supporting community infrastructure. Consequently, the site would not contribute towards the housing delivery, compact growth and sustainable neighbourhood objectives of the GCDP, nor towards wider national and regional planning policies for the development of appropriately zoned and serviced lands within the existing suburban area of Galway City. The potential for additional investment and employment in the area in relation to the construction and operation of the proposed site would also be lost.

A comparison of the potential environmental effects of the 'Do-Nothing' Alternative when compared against the chosen option of constructing a Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) at this site are presented in Table 3-1 below.

*Table 3-1 Comparison of environmental effects when compared against the chosen option*

| Environmental Consideration | Do Nothing Alternative | Chosen Option (Development of Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD)) |
|---|---|---|
| ***Population & Human Health*** | No new build residential units available locally and regionally at a time when there is a significant shortage of housing in Ireland.<br><br>No potential for dust and noise or traffic effects generated by the Proposed Development to affect sensitive receptors.<br><br>The employment and economic benefits associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development would be lost. | Job creation during construction phase and associated short-term economic benefits arising from the influx of workers to the area.<br><br>133 new residential homes introduced to the housing market in Galway City. The Proposed Development would contribute to housing supply in Galway City and its environs.<br><br>Based on the assessment detailed in Chapter 9 Air Quality, Chapter 10 Climate, Chapter 11 Noise & Vibration and Chapter 15: Material Assets, and with the mitigation measures proposed, there will be no significant effects related to air quality, noise or traffic from the Proposed Development. |

[2] *European Commission, 2017.Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/EIA_guidance_EIA_report_final.pdf.*

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| Environmental Consideration | Do Nothing Alternative | Chosen Option (Development of Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD)) |
|---|---|---|
| ***Biodiversity (including Bats)*** | No habitat loss or disturbance to ecological receptors. No loss or disturbance of identified roosting features. | The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid or minimise impacts on biodiversity. Areas of scrub, trees and grassland will be removed as part of the proposed construction works. However, biodiversity enhancement measures outlined in Chapter 6 Biodiversity will result in a significant net gain in hedgerow habitat and a likely net gain in the overall number of trees within the site. Following implementation of mitigation and enhancement measures detailed in Chapter 6 Biodiversity, significant effects on identified Key Ecological Receptors are not anticipated. |
| ***Land, Soils & Geology*** | No excavation works carried out therefore no impact on landcover or existing land use within the Proposed Development site. | Construction of the Proposed Development will require excavation of topsoil, subsoil and bedrock to facilitate buildings, roads, drainage infrastructure and underground services. Potential effects include the disturbance and removal of soil and geological materials and the risk of contamination from accidental spillages during construction. With the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Chapter 7 Land, Soils and Geology, significant effects on land, soils, subsoils or bedrock are not anticipated. |
| ***Hydrology and Hydrogeology*** | No potential for effects on surface water and groundwater. No potential for effects on downstream receptors. | Construction and operation of the Proposed Development have the potential to affect surface water and groundwater quality. With the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Chapter 8 Hydrology and Hydrogeology, significant effects on surface water, groundwater, flood risk or downstream receptors are not anticipated. |
| ***Air & Climate*** | No potential for exhaust and dust emissions to affect sensitive receptors. | The Proposed Development will result in temporary dust and exhaust emissions during construction and minor increases in traffic emissions during operation. The design incorporates sustainable transport measures, including pedestrian and cycle infrastructure. With the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Chapter 9 Air Quality and Chapter 10 |

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| Environmental Consideration | Do Nothing Alternative | Chosen Option (Development of Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD)) |
|---|---|---|
| | | Climate, significant effects on air quality and climate are not anticipated. |
| ***Noise & Vibration*** | No potential for noise impacts on nearby sensitive receptors. | Construction and operation of the Proposed Development will result in changes to the existing noise environment. During the construction phase, noise impacts are generally predicted to be short-term, however brief temporary noise increases may occur at some residential receptors. With the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Chapter 11 Noise & Vibration, significant effects on sensitive receptors during the operational phase are not anticipated. |
| ***Landscape & Visual*** | No potential for landscape and visual effects. | The Proposed Development will alter the appearance and character of the site through the introduction of residential development and associated infrastructure. However, the proposed housing is consistent with the prevailing character and land use of the surrounding area, which is predominantly residential. As the proposed landscaping matures, the development will increasingly assimilate into the established urban landscape. Accordingly, the Proposed Development will be in keeping with its surroundings, and significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity are not anticipated. |
| ***Cultural Heritage & Archaeology*** | No potential for impacts on unrecorded, subsurface archaeology. | Ground disturbance during construction has the potential to affect previously unidentified archaeological remains. Archaeological mitigation measures, including test trenching, are proposed prior to construction. With the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage, significant effects on archaeological or cultural heritage resources are not anticipated. |
| ***Material Assets*** | No additional traffic generated and therefore no direct or indirect effects on roads and road users. | Construction and operation of the Proposed Development will generate additional traffic and demand on local infrastructure. Mitigation measures, including a Traffic Management Plan, will be implemented during construction. |

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| Environmental Consideration | Do Nothing Alternative | Chosen Option (Development of Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD)) |
|---|---|---|
| | No additional demand on public water, foul sewer and communications network. | With the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Chapter 15 Material Assets, significant effects on roads, road users and local infrastructure are not anticipated |
| ***Major Accidents and Natural Disasters*** | No construction or operational activities associated with the Proposed Development and therefore no increase in the potential for major accident or natural disaster related effects. | Potential risks associated with major accidents and natural disasters were considered as part of the design and assessment process. With the implementation of embedded design measures and mitigation measures detailed in Chapter 16 Major Accidents & Natural Disasters, significant effects arising from major accidents or natural disasters are not anticipated. |

## 3.5 Alternative Locations

As outlined in Chapter 2 of this EIAR, the Proposed Development site is partly located on lands identified as *"Knocknacarra District Centre (South) Opportunity Site".* Policy Objective 10.21 of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 (GCDP) sets the vision for these lands and this is outlined in detail in Section 2.3.6 of Chapter 2 Background of this EIAR. The vision emphasises creating an attractive, liveable, and well-designed urban centre that integrates into the community, prioritising placemaking and sustainable mobility. In line with the city's population growth targets, a significant portion of the site's development capacity will be dedicated to housing, as per this Proposed Development.

Under the GCDP (as amended by Variation No. 1 dated 9th of February 2026), the lands are zoned mostly for '*R- Residential'* with a portion of lands zoned '*Knocknacarra District Centre (South) Opportunity Site'* & '*Recreation & Amenity'*, both of which permit residential and commercial development. The lands zoned *'RA - Recreation and Amenity'* consist of pedestrian and cyclist access linking the Proposed Development to the adjacent Kingston Park (An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) Ref. 323873). The lands being zoned mainly for residential use present an opportunity to advance the site through a co-design process with relevant landowners, supporting the development objectives of the GCDP for the Knocknacarra area, as set out in Policy 3.4 *Sustainable Neighbourhoods: Outer Suburbs.*

This co-design process, detailed further in Chapter 2 of the EIAR, commenced in 2023 when a design team appointed by the project developers of the Knocknacarra District Centre (South) and the broader Kingston lands undertook a master planning exercise encompassing the Proposed Development site, in consultation with Galway City Council (GCC) through a series of meetings held in January, March and December 2023 and January 2024 and April 2026. This collaborative approach established a cohesive strategy for access, connectivity, permeability and land use, informing individual planning applications brought forward by the respective landowners, including the first phase of the masterplan (LRD East) comprising 362 no. residential units, submitted to GCC on 16th October 2025, permitted on 9th April 2026, and currently on appeal with ACP (ACP Ref. 324237). The Proposed Development represents the second phase of this masterplan, building on and extending the connectivity established by LRD East.

The lands comprising the site of the Proposed Development are available to the applicant for development and consideration of alternative sites which are not available to the applicant is not considered necessary or appropriate. During the design process for the Proposed Development, as set

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out below, several iterations of the site layout and alternative designs were considered. The documentation submitted with this planning application demonstrates that the subject site and the surrounding area have the environmental capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development without any significant impacts on the environment.

The assessments presented in this EIAR conclude that the Proposed Development can be accommodated at the subject site without giving rise to significant adverse effects on the environment, subject to the implementation of the embedded design measures and mitigation measures identified in the relevant chapters.

In conclusion, the Proposed Development location is the preferred location for the Proposed Development.

## 3.6 Alternative Design and Layouts

### 3.6.1 Background

This section discusses the layout of the Proposed Development and provides an overview as to the manner in which the Proposed Development design has evolved and provides evaluation of the comparable potential for environmental effects.

The design process was an iterative process, where findings at each stage of the design's evolution were used to further refine the design, always with the intention of minimising the potential for environmental impacts.

In particular, in developing the proposed design, cognisance was taken of the opinion from Galway City Council (GCC) through the various Large Scale Residential Development (LRD) process consultations. The opinion of various other consultees also informed the design of this Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development site is located within a Masterplan Area for Knocknacarra District Centre (South). As outlined in the Planning Report which accompanies this application to GCC, in 2023, a design team was appointed to design the Knocknacarra District Centre (South) and the broader "Kingston lands," as outlined in the Planning Report.

By incorporating adjacent lands to the north and northeast, zoned as 'Regeneration and Opportunity Sites', and coordinating a joint approach, the land bank's full potential could be realised through a number of distinct planning applications, which were informed by early master planning exercises in consultation with the planning authority. Through this process, a cohesive plan for access, connectivity, permeability and a diverse mix of uses could be established, with individual developers and landowners subsequently progressing detailed designs and seeking planning permission from GCC. The Proposed Development has been informed by this design process which is detailed in brief below.

An initial meeting was held with GCC in January 2023 with follow up meetings in March and December 2023, January 2024 and April 2026. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the main constraints of the subject lands and agree basic design principles for the lands. GCC offered input on what, in its view were the key deliverables for the subject lands, as well as high level agreement on site access strategies, connectivity and character areas.

### 3.6.2 Proposed Development Layout Evolution

The final Proposed Development site layout takes account of all site constraints as well as feedback from the various stage meetings with GCC as part of the LRD process and also opinions from various consultees. Figures 3-1 to 3-3 illustrate the evolution of the wider Masterplan and the subsequent

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progression of its residential component through the LRD East and Proposed Development applications.

The original Masterplan for the Rahoon and Knocknacarra area comprised a mix of residential, retail and leisure uses. The masterplanning process commenced in 2023 and considered access, connectivity, permeability, green infrastructure and an appropriate balance of land uses across the wider area, thereby providing a coordinated design framework to inform subsequent planning applications, including the Proposed Development.

The original Masterplan provided for more than 500 residential units and therefore exceeded the mandatory EIA threshold applicable to the construction of dwelling units under Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. During the subsequent design-development process, the overall residential scale was reduced in response to identified site constraints.

The residential component of the Masterplan is now being progressed through two separate but related planning applications. LRD East comprises 362 residential units and was submitted to Galway City Council in October 2025. Permission was granted in April 2026, and the application is currently the subject of an appeal to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The Proposed Development comprises the remaining western portion of the residential lands and provides for 133 residential units. Collectively, LRD East and the Proposed Development are referred to in this EIAR as the "Proposed Project".

Following the reduction in residential unit numbers, neither LRD East nor the Proposed Development individually exceeds the mandatory EIA threshold. The combined residential yield of the Proposed Project is 495 units and therefore also falls marginally below the applicable threshold. Nevertheless, an EIAR has been prepared for each application, having regard to the scale of the original Masterplan, the close functional and spatial relationship between the two residential phases and the combined scale of the Proposed Project.

The preparation of separate planning applications does not alter the coordinated nature of the Proposed Project or the requirement to assess the potential cumulative effects of its component phases. Accordingly, this EIAR assesses the Proposed Development independently and cumulatively with LRD East, the remaining elements of the wider Masterplan and other relevant plans and projects.

Figures 3-1 to 3-3 do not represent three directly competing alternatives for the same planning application. Rather, they illustrate how the original wider development concept was refined in response to site constraints and progressed through two coordinated residential applications within the overall Masterplan framework.

### Stage 1– Emerging Masterplan Principles

During the initial masterplanning stage, the project design team engaged with Galway City Council through meetings held in January, March and December 2023 and January 2024 as discussed above in section 3.6.1. The principal matters considered included access, connectivity and permeability, transport, green infrastructure, the relationship with surrounding neighbourhoods and the distribution of land uses. These matters informed the development of the coordinated Masterplan illustrated in Figure 3-1.

### Stage 2 – Masterplan and Phasing Strategy

On foot of the consultation process outlined above, the emerging masterplan strategy identified the Proposed Development site as a prime location for residential development, strategically connected to the proposed urban village to the north and accessible from the existing roundabout on the Western Distributor Road, off the southern arm junction. The resultant masterplan is illustrated in Figure 3-1. Arising from this, it was agreed that the residential element of the masterplan would be delivered in two phases. Phase 1 (LRD East) was submitted to GCC on 16th October 2025 and was permitted on 9th

April 2026; a decision which is currently the subject of an appeal to ACP (ACP Ref. 324237). This application provides for 362 no. residential units to the eastern part of the masterplan site (LRD East). Phase 2 of the masterplan, discussed at Stage 3 below, comprises the Proposed Development – the subject of this EIAR.

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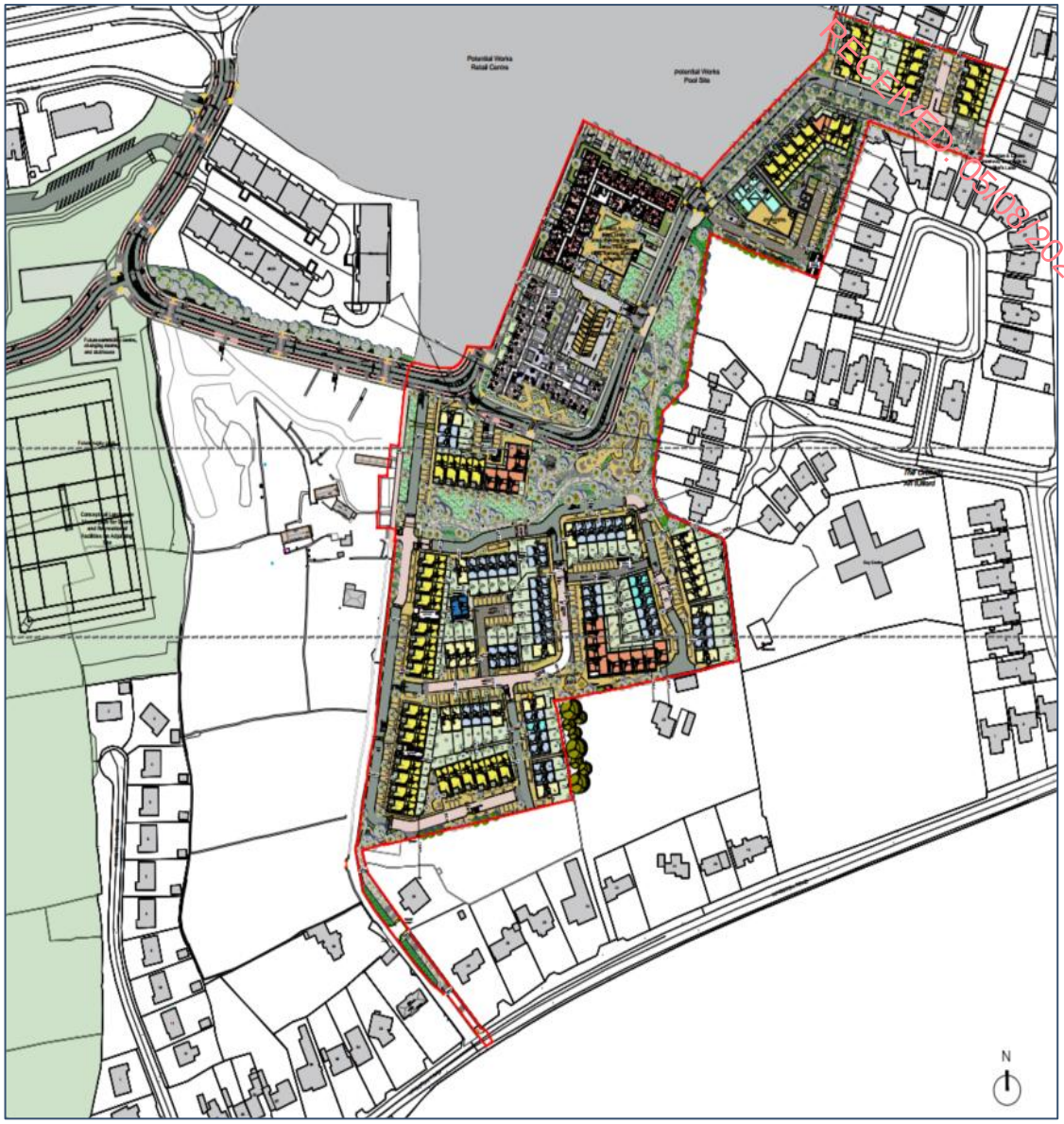
### Stage 3 - Finalised Layout

The final design upon which this environmental impact assessment is based builds upon the masterplan and Phase 1 (LRD East) application described above and comprises Phase 2 of the masterplan (Proposed Development). The Proposed Development provides connectivity to the Phase 1 site (LRD East) and extends access to the west and beyond, including to the proposed Galway City Council Public Park Urban Realm Project (ACP Ref. 323873). The landscape strategy has been developed across both phases to ensure seamless integration upon completion, with connection points, access routes and levels fully coordinated throughout. The Proposed Development is part of the overall Proposed Project (i.e. LRD East and the Proposed Development) which has been defined in Chapter 1 of this EIAR.




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*Figure 3-1 Original Masterplan Layout for the Wider Rahoon and Knocknacarra Lands.*




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*Figure 3-2 Final Layout Iteration for LRD East only.*

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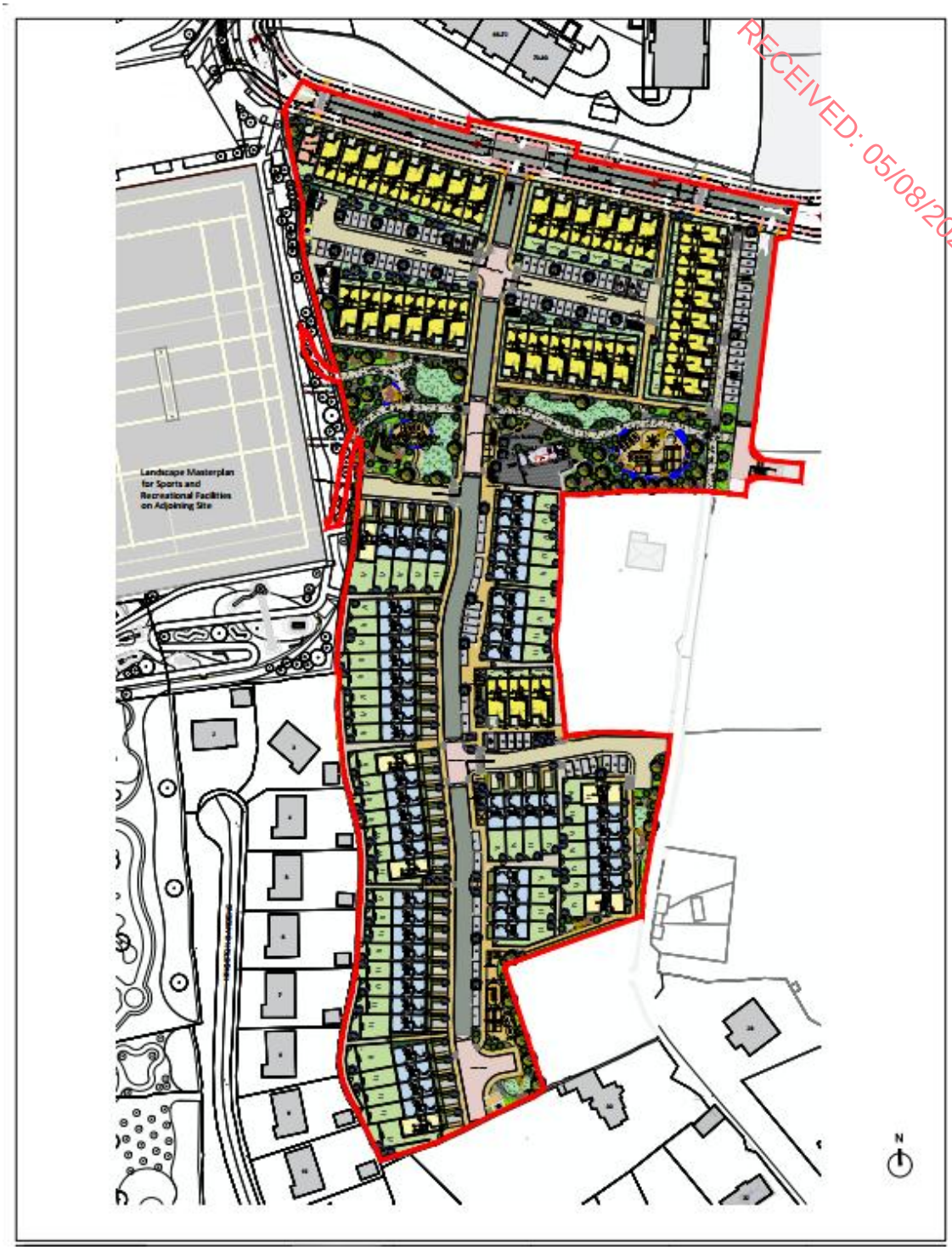



*Figure 3-3 Final Layout Iteration (Proposed Development).*

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### 3.6.2.2 Links and Connectivity

The Proposed Development site benefits from its proximity to important green network projects like Kingston Park and Millars Lane (ACP Ref. 323873). The connectivity between these new developments and the broader urban context is vital. Early integration with the future public park and associated infrastructure supports green network objectives of the GCDP, provides access to green spaces and promotes permeability and walkability design principles.

The Proposed Development site design incorporates pedestrian-friendly green corridors that link these spaces which will not only make the Proposed Development more cohesive but also foster community interaction and social engagement.

### 3.6.2.3 Transport

The provision of access to the Proposed Development site was one of the most critical considerations in the design process. With Altán Road identified as a primary access point, it was essential to ensure these access routes were designed to facilitate ease of movement while promoting sustainability. Access from Kingston Road has also been included in the design. However, it is important to note that access points aim to prioritise active travel over car dependency. The design ensures a seamless integration of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure which aligns with sustainability goals and will create a more liveable, human-centred environment.

### 3.6.2.4 Green Infrastructure

The design of the Proposed Development addresses environmental resilience through biodiversity and nature-based solutions. Biodiversity corridors are maintained and enhanced where possible. Landscape design integrates Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) such as rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable surfaces to mitigate flooding risks. Nature based solutions have been considered from an ecological enhancement point of view as well as from an aesthetic and recreational quality of the environment. The inclusion of these features ensures that nature-based solutions become part of the long-term resilience strategy for the area.

### 3.6.2.5 Neighbourhoods

The masterplan acknowledges both the existing residential development in Rahoon and Knocknacarra and the future potential for growth in these neighbourhoods. This is achieved through thoughtful street design, public spaces, and pedestrian and cycle routes that connect residents to surrounding amenities, schools, parks, and planned future public transportation hubs. Diversity of tenure and use promotes social inclusion and provides improved amenity for the wider area.

The emerging masterplan strategy identified the Proposed Development site as a prime location for residential development, strategically connected to the proposed urban village to the north, with an accessible route from the existing roundabout on the Western Distributor Road, off the southern arm junction. The residential element of the masterplan has been submitted in two phases: Phase 1 was submitted to GCC on 16th October 2025 and was permitted on 9th April 2026 and is currently under appeal with ACP (ACP Ref. 324237). Phase 1 provides 362 no. residential units (LRD East) to the eastern part of the masterplan site, delivering connectivity to Kingston Road on the south and the Western Distributor Road. Phase 2 (Proposed Development) builds upon this masterplan, providing connectivity to LRD East and extending access to the west and beyond, including the proposed Galway City Council Public Park Urban Realm Project (ACP Ref. 323873). The landscape strategy has been developed across both phases (Proposed Project) to achieve seamless integration upon completion, with connection points, access routes and levels fully coordinated throughout.

The Proposed Development presented for assessment as part of this EIAR can be considered to be informed by co-design from a large team who have been guided by meaningful input by the Planning

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Authority (GCC) from the various consultations carried out and informed by current European, National and Local policy regarding design, housing quality, biodiversity, sustainable drainage, sustainable transport and placemaking. In addition, the proposed design takes into account updated guidance and legislation at a local and national level which would influence the scheme design.

## 3.7 Alternative Land Uses

The Proposed Development comprises residential uses and public amenity uses. It is considered that the proposed land uses are deemed appropriate for these zoned lands as outlined in the GCDP. As such consideration of alternative land uses was not considered necessary.

## 3.8 Alternative Processes

The management of processes that affect the volumes and characteristics of emissions, residues, traffic and the use of natural resources has formed part of the consideration of reasonable alternatives through the project's development.

Construction of the Proposed Development will require energy and natural resources, together with standard construction materials including aggregates, concrete, metals, pipework and mechanical and electrical components. Resource use, material handling and waste generation will be managed in accordance with the CEMP (Appendix 4-1) and the measures described in Chapter 4.

The processes to be employed during the construction of the Proposed Development, and described in Chapter 4 of this EIAR, are standard best practice for the construction industry in Ireland. There will be no novel processes or methods employed. Since the proposed processes represent industry standard best practice, alternative processes were not considered to be reasonable and were therefore not considered further in the EIAR.

## 3.9 Alternative Mitigation

Mitigation has been developed iteratively alongside the design of the Proposed Development. Where practicable, potential effects have been avoided through design, including the siting and layout of development, retention and enhancement of ecological features, coordination of drainage and SuDS infrastructure, provision of open space, and integration of pedestrian and cycle connections. Where effects could not be avoided through design, measures were developed to reduce and manage those effects during construction and operation. Alternative mitigation approaches were considered by the relevant specialists where appropriate, with the measures presented in this EIAR selected having regard to their effectiveness, practicability and consistency with good practice.