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## **ECOLOGY - NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

1.1 Ecological surveys of the Site have been undertaken by Aspect Ecology, including a desk study, habitat survey and specific faunal surveys.

1.2 A number of nature conservation designations are present in the vicinity of the Site. In particular, Medway Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies approximately 3.8km from the Site, notified for its important numbers of waterbirds, particularly overwintering birds. In addition, Borden Nature Reserve, a Parish reserve, is located adjacent to the Site, whilst two Local Wildlife Sites are located 2km from the Site.

1.3 Much of the Site comprises low value habitats, predominantly arable land, with habitats of ecological value limited to scrub, hedgerows and woodland. In terms of fauna, the Site supports foraging and commuting bats, bat roosting opportunities, foraging Badger, and possible breeding Skylark.

1.4 The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise effects on ecology, including providing a high level of open space, with scope for significant habitat restoration and creation. Mitigation measures are proposed to minimise effects during construction and upon operation, whilst enhancements can be achieved by creating and restoring habitats of ecological value such as orchards, hedgerows and wildflower grassland. Following mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures, it is considered that the Proposed Development would result in an overall benefit to biodiversity.