

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Strategy](#)
Subject: RE: West Monkton & Chidden Fitzpaine Neighbourhood Plan SEA
Date: 09 March 2022 15:25:46

Dear Ann Rhodes,

Thank you for the above consultation received on the 3rd February 2022, which Somerset Ecology Services (SES) has considered.

Due to limited capacity a full response is not possible at this time. However, SES do not consider a full SEA is required regarding the modifications to the West Monkton & Chidden Fitzpaine Neighbourhood Plan. Although, SES would also like to advise that the West Monkton & Chidden Fitzpaine Neighbourhood Plan includes the following key considerations with future developments: -

- The protection of existing ecological networks and opportunities to restore and enhance these networks through good development design, in accordance with paragraphs 170(d) and 174(a) and (b) of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 and Taunton Deane Core Strategy 2011 -2028: Policy CP 8 Environment
- The protection of priority habitats and species and opportunities to secure measurable net gains for biodiversity through good development design, in accordance with paragraphs 170(d) and 174(a) and (b) of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019, the draft Environment Bill and Taunton Deane Core Strategy 2011 -2028: Policy CP 8 Environment
- The aims and objectives of Somerset County Council's Somerset Pollinator Action Plan (see <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/biodiversity/#Somerset-Pollinator-Action-Plan>), to protect and increase the amount and quality of pollinator habitat and manage greenspace to provide greater benefits for pollinators.
- External lighting schemes should fully accord with *Guidance Note 08/18 Bats and artificial lighting in the UK* (ILP and BCT 2018). Lighting should be designed so that areas to be lit will not disturb or prevent bats using their territory or having access to their resting places, in order to maintain the 'Favourable Conservation Status' of populations of European Protected Species and in accordance with Taunton Deane Core Strategy 2011 -2028: Policy CP 8 Environment
- Mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change and opportunities to ensure future resilience to climate change impacts (such as nature-based solutions), in accordance with paragraph 149 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 and the climate and ecological emergency (declared by both Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council).
- Following a ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union ("Dutch N" Joined Cases C-293/17 and C-294/17 Coöperatie Mobilisation for the Environment UA and Others v College van gedeputeerde staten van Limburg and Others), the geographic area administered by West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine Neighbourhood Plan has been mapped by Natural England as falling within the hydrological catchment which flows into the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar. Consideration must therefore be given to any increase in phosphates resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan.

Kind regards

Thomas Bell

Ecologist

Somerset Ecology Services,

Economy and Planning,
Somerset County Council,



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