

Representation received from Somerset CC Ecology Services

After reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan I consider that as the parish lies outside the Bat Consultation Zone (Mendip Local Policy DP6) that the plan does not require a Habitats Regulations Assessment carried out on it as per the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It is very unlikely that the greater horseshoe bat feature of the Mells Valley SAC would be affected by policies within the plan.

With regard to the proposed extension to the village I consider that the fields proposed are unlikely to play a role in supporting the maintenance of populations of important species. However, when applications for these developments come forward I would recommend that a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal be carried out on each of the site to confirm this prediction.