Bat Survey Results Report -

Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) and Aerial Tree Climbing Survey Results

Fenwood Estates: Proposed Construction of a New Residential

Cudworth Parkway, Barnsley

21st September 2026

Job Number A5956

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Executive Summary

This document outlines the results of both bat surveys, which included a ground-level tree assessment and aerial tree climbing survey, conducted between on 17th August 2026 and 29th August 2026 on trees assessed as having PRFs at the site south of Cudworth Parkway and Weetshaw Lane Roundabout.

The proposals entailed the clearance of much of the site, followed by the construction of a residential development, along with associated landscaping and access, which would connect with Weetshaw Lane Roundabout along the northern site boundary.

As works would affect multiple trees, a GLTA was commissioned to assess if any of the trees on site had suitable PRFs for bats, followed up by an aerial tree climbing survey to determine the level of potential for bat roosting in those PRFs.

During the Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA), five trees (BT1 – BT5) were recorded as having PRFs. BT1 had three separate PRFs while the other trees had one each.

These trees needed to undergo an aerial climbing survey to further assess if bats were using any of the PRFs as roosts. All five trees were successfully climbed, so all seven PRFs were assessed. All seven PRFs were assessed as negligible/no potential for roosting bats, no field signs or other evidence of bat use were identified.

However, this doesn't rule out the presence of bats as they utilise many different roosts during the year. In the unlikely event that bats were present within the trees surveyed during works, they would be disturbed, and the roost sites damaged or destroyed. Bats and their roosts are protected from damage and disturbance under the Wildlife & Countryside Act and the Habitats Regulations, and therefore this could result in a legal offence.

Mitigation measures recommended included what to do in the event of discovering a bat on the site, and wildlife friendly lighting. No further surveys were recommended within this report.

As recommended within the PEA and BNG Assessment, twelve bat boxes should be erected. Any boxes should be positioned at least 7m high, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing southwest to southeast as recommended by the Bat Conservation Trust.

1 Introduction

1.1 *Background*

This document outlines the results of both bat surveys, including a ground-level tree assessment and aerial tree climbing surveys conducted on 17th August 2026 and 29th August 2026 on trees with bat potential at the site south of Cudworth Parkway and Weetshaw Lane Roundabout (see Figure 1.1 for the site location).

The proposals entailed the clearance of much of the site, which comprised mixed deciduous woodland, modified grassland, various scrub habitats, and bare ground. The proposals included the construction of 140 new residential dwellings with associated landscaping and access.

As the works would affect multiple trees containing potential bat roosting features, bat surveys were recommended to determine the usage of the trees on site by bats.

1.2 *Scope*

This document aims to fully assess the likely ecological effects of the proposed works on bats. The scope of the report is to:

- Assess the likely effects of the works upon bats against relevant legislation and policy.
- Provide the results of the ground-level tree assessment, to ensure trees affected by the works that could be utilised by bats were identified.
- Provide the results of the tree-climbing survey, to assess which trees containing roost features were being utilised by bats.
- Recommend mitigation and enhancement measures to reduce the impact of the proposals on bats, if required.

The report is only concerned with the effect of the development upon bats. It does not consider effects on any other protected species, or on other features of ecological value.



Figure 1.1: Site location. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018.

1.2 *Relevant legislation*

Legislation	Relevance
The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	The primary piece of legislation by which biodiversity in the UK is protected.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)	This prohibits killing, injury, disturbance, damage and/or destruction of breeding sites and/or resting places and the sale of protected species. For activities that would be likely to result in a breach of species protection under the regulations to legally take place, a European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licence must first be obtained from Natural England.
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Requires that public bodies have regard to the conservation of biodiversity. This means that Planning Authorities must consider biodiversity when reaching planning decisions. Section 41 of the Act lists habitats and species that are conservation priorities in England.
The Environment Act 2021	Introduced various methods to protect and improve the environment, including biodiversity and ensure consistent protection across the UK.
National planning policy	Government planning policy relating to biodiversity and the natural environment is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, including through the protection and enhancement of ecological networks, priority habitats and species, and by identifying and pursuing opportunities to secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Local planning policy	The Barnsley Local Plan and emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies for South Yorkshire identify priority habitats and species, requiring that development proposals avoid harm, deliver measurable biodiversity net gain, and incorporate mitigation such as ecological surveys, habitat retention, timing of works, and habitat enhancement measures. Consequently, any construction, refurbishment, or land-use change in Cudworth must consider potential impacts on all wildlife, ensuring compliance through appropriate assessment, mitigation, and where necessary, licensing.
Other nature conservation policy	Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) were the UK's response to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity. The UKBAP described the biodiversity of the UK and contained Action Plans for the most threatened habitats and species. It was implemented at a local level through regional and local BAPs. Whilst the UKBAP has expired, BAPs are still used at a more local level in some areas and species and habitats which were previously priorities within the UKBAP are now listed as Species of Principal Importance within Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. This site is covered under the '*Barnsley Biodiversity Trust Biodiversity Action Plan'*.

2 Methodology

2.1 *Desk Study Methodology*

Available online resources, such as the MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside), data provided by West Yorkshire Ecological Service and Sheffield Biological Records Centre, were interrogated for relevant information. Records of protected and/or notable species, including bats, within 2km of the site were requested to inform the desktop study further.

2.2 *Field Study Methodology*

2.2.1 *Ground level tree assessment (GLTA)*

On 17th August 2026, Alana Woolley BSc (Hons) ACIEEM, a suitably experienced Ecologist, conducted this GLTA following best practice methodology. With the aid of binoculars, potential roost features were identified based on British Standard BS 8596:2015. These features could include natural holes such as knot holes or butt rots, manmade holes, woodpecker holes, cracks or splits in branches, loose bark forming cavities, ivy *Hedera helix* stems forming suitable cavities between mats and bark, or bat/bird boxes. Various factors influence the potential value of identified features, such as their orientation and the surroundings.

Any recorded features were assessed as suitable or not, as set out in Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good practice guidelines (Bat Conservation Trust, 4th Edition, 2023) in which the general bat roost potential levels are defined. Please refer to Table 4.2 of the guidelines and Table 2.2.1.1 below for further information. Figure 3.3 provides the locations of all trees recorded during this survey as having roosting potential.

2.2.1.1 *Suitability of trees for bats*

Suitability	Description
NONE	No potential roost features, or it was considered highly unlikely that any potential roost features were present.
FAR	Further surveys are required to determine if 'potential roost features' are present.
PRF	The tree has a minimum of one potential roost feature.

2.2.2 *Aerial Tree climbing surveys*

The surveys were carried out by Alca Ecology Ltd, on behalf of Encon Associates Ltd, on 29th August 2026 following best practice methodology. Aerial rope access methods and endoscopes were utilised by suitably licensed bat ecologists to more closely inspect the PRFs identified during the GLTA. Key parameters assessed included cavity size, depth, and signs of bat activity such as guano, scratch marks, or the presence of an individual. The data collected informed targeted recommendations for further actions if required. Please refer to Table 2.2.2.1 below for further information.

2.2.2.1 *Classification and Survey Requirements for Bats in Trees*

Classification of Tree	Description of Category and Associated Features	Likely Further Surveys Required
Negligible/No potential	PRF assessed as having no potential for roosting bats. For example, a woodpecker hole that is angled slightly upward and has filled with water.	None.
Low Roost Suitability (PRF-I)	One or more PRFs are suitable for individual or very small numbers of bats either due to small size or a lack of desirable surrounding habitat.	No further surveys required. Appropriate compensation may be required in advance of works, and a precautionary method statement must be applied.
High Roost Suitability (PRF-M)	One or more PRFs are suitable for multiple bats. Has potential to be used by a maternity colony.	If aerial inspection confirmed a roost, a licence from Natural England must be obtained before any works affecting the tree proceed. If aerial inspection didn't find evidence of a roost, appropriate compensation may still be required in advance of works, and a precautionary method statement applied.

2.2.3 *Bat Activity Surveys*

2.2.3.1 Habitat Assessment

This assessment was undertaken to assess the suitability of the site for foraging and commuting bats. This included gathering evidence to determine areas that may have importance for exhibiting social behaviours. Habitat suitability was assessed using guidance from 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines' (Bat Conservation

Trust, 4th Edition, 2023). Table 2.2.3.2 below summarises the criteria for assessing habitat suitability for commuting and foraging bats.

2.2.3.2 *Criteria for Assessing Habitat Suitability for Commuting and Foraging Bats*

Suitability	Potential Flight Paths and Foraging Habitats
None	No habitats are likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year.
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site that would be considered as likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats. Small level of uncertainty allowed to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	Habitat has potential to be utilised by a small number of bats. Examples include low-quality habitats that aren't well connected to other habitats in the wider landscape.
Moderate	Continuous habitat, connected to the wider landscape, which could be used by bats for commuting and foraging.
High	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape. Likely to be used regularly by bats for commuting and foraging purposes. The habitat can also be close and connected to known roosts.

2.3 *Limitations*

The surveys were undertaken at appropriate times of year and during suitable weather conditions. Sightlines were good with all relevant parts of the site being visible. Therefore, there were no significant limitations to the surveys.

The ecology of a site can change quickly over time. Therefore, this survey is considered valid for one year from the date of the report.

3 Results

3.1 *Site Context*

The site was located at the northern edge of Cudworth, Barnsley, in South Yorkshire (see Figure 1.1 for location). Although Barnsley is a metropolitan borough with mixed housing developments, the green belt and regenerated colliery provide a variety of habitats and a high potential for protected species. These habitats include deciduous woodlands, semi-improved grassland and varied patches of open ground.

Concerning the site itself, the northern boundary was adjacent to a main road (A628, Cudworth Parkway). The southern boundary, along with some of the eastern and western boundaries, was bordered by residential housing with associated access and gardens. The site itself was crisscrossed by paths, evidently regularly utilised by the public. The eastern area of the site formed dense scrub and woodland so remained much less disturbed by the public.

The local area and the site were both assessed as providing moderate suitability for commuting and foraging bats, allowing them to utilise the site, adjacent habitats and linear features for foraging and commuting purposes. Waterbodies near the site included a stream that runs approximately 60 metres to the north, and another stream roughly 250 metres east of the site boundary.

3.2 *Desktop Study*

This study was completed within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report, (Appendix 1) previously submitted by Encon Associates Ltd in May 2026. In summary and specifically concerning bats, four records of three bat species were provided within 2 km of the site boundary. These records consisted of common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula* and Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii*. One EPS licence for common pipistrelle in 2009 was returned by MAGIC within 2km of the site.

The desktop study indicated that there were low numbers of bats roosting, foraging and commuting in the local area, due to the low number of recent local records and EPS license returns. However, this wasn’t considered conclusive since the lack of records could be due to a lack of local recording rather than an accurate reflection of the populations.

3.3 *Tree Descriptions*

The below summary only concerns trees on the site assessed as PRF. Please refer to Table 3.4 and Figure 3.3 for more information.

Five trees were identified as having PRFs (BT1 – BT5). Two were mature sycamores *Acer pseudoplatanus*, one was a lime sp. *Tilia* sp. and two were immature goat willows *Salix caprea*. All of these trees were within the site boundary. Four of the trees had one PRF each, except for BT1 which was a sycamore with three PRFs.

All trees with PRFs were climbed by a suitably qualified and licensed bat ecologist to assess the activity of the features identified during the ground level tree assessment.

3.4 *Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) Results*

Tree Ref	Trees Species	Feature(s)	Aspect	Height (metres)	Safe to climb
BT1	Sycamore	Three branch tear-outs	SE/E	2.5 - 5	Yes
BT2	Sycamore	Occluded union	SE	5	Yes
BT3	Goat Willow	Knothole	N	6	Yes
BT4	Goat Willow	Knothole	N	6	Yes
BT5	Lime sp.	Vertical split	SW	7	Yes

3.5 Aerial *Tree Climbing Survey Results*

This survey was conducted on a single visit, on 29th August 2026.

All trees assessed as having PRFs during the GLTA were climbed to conduct a thorough inspection for signs of bat presence and assess roosting potential. All five trees were climbed and their PRFs inspected using an endoscope to determine whether there was any evidence of bat use. All PRFs were identified as negligible/no potential.



Figure 3.3: Location of trees assessed as having PRFs during GLTA. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright database right 2018.

PRF Photographs:

Please refer to Table 3.4 for a description of the PRF found.



Photo 1: BT1, one of three branch tear outs facing SE/East.

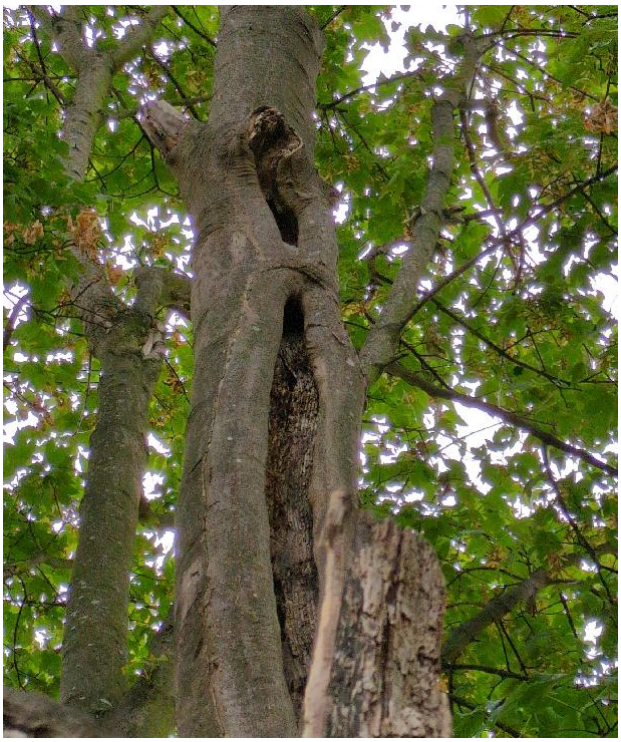


Photo 2: BT1, second branch tear out.



Photo 3: BT1, branch tear out three.



Photo 4: BT3, knothole on northern aspect of tree approximately 6 metres high.



Photo 5: BT4, knothole on northern aspect of tree.



Photo 6: BT5, vertical split on SW aspect of the tree.

4 Assessment of Likely Impacts in Absence of Mitigation

4.1 *Introduction*

The CIEEM guidelines require that the potential impacts of the proposals should be considered in the absence of mitigation. In order for a significant adverse effect to occur, the feature being affected must be at least of local value. However, in some cases, features of less than local value may be protected by legislation and/or policy, and these are also considered within the assessment. Although significant effects may be identified at this stage of the assessment, it is often possible to provide appropriate mitigation.

4.2 *Site Preparation and Construction Activities*

The PRFs identified during the GLTA were assessed as being of negligible roosting potential during the tree-climbing surveys. However, this doesn't completely rule out the presence of bats roosting onsite, as they utilise many different features on trees throughout the year. In the unlikely event that bats were present within the trees surveyed during works, they would be disturbed, and their roost sites damaged or destroyed. Bats and their roosts are protected from damage and disturbance under the Wildlife & Countryside Act and the Habitats Regulations, and therefore this could result in a legal offence.

4.3 *Site Operation*

Although no bat roosts were identified during the surveys, mitigation measures were recommended to minimise the risk of disturbance should bats become present unexpectedly. Please refer to section 5.3 for more information.

5 Discussion and Recommendations

5.1 *Introduction*

This section contains recommendations for further work that are needed to fully assess the ecological impacts of the proposals and to mitigate any potential adverse effects considered to be possible from the assessment. In addition, recommendations for the enhancement of the site for bats are included.

5.2 *Further surveys*

No further surveys are required regarding bats on the site.

5.3 *Mitigation Measures*

5.3.1 *Unexpected Discovery of Bats*

In the event a bat is discovered on the site during works to the trees or elsewhere, all works should be stopped immediately, and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted for further instruction.

5.3.2 *Wildlife-friendly Lighting for Bats*

New lighting associated with the proposals must be designed to minimise the effects on nocturnal wildlife, particularly bats, and should follow best practice guidance. Lighting pollution should also be minimised in all retained habitats on the site. The following principles will minimise the impact of lighting on nocturnal wildlife and should be applied to the lighting design across the site:

- Use of low-level bollard lighting to minimise light spill.
- Directing lights away from the edges of the site and the use of hoods or similar measures to direct light away from important habitats.
- Restriction of UV light frequencies through the selection of suitable lighting elements or the use of filters.
- Use of warm white spectrum lighting elements.

It is noted that certain standards of lighting may be required in certain areas to allow safe working during hours of darkness. In these areas, it is not necessary to comply with the best practice guidance where it would be unsafe to do so. However, directional lighting, which will prevent ‘throw’ onto external areas should be used.

5.4 *Recommendations for Ecological Enhancements*

5.4.1 *Introduction*

Planning policy requires all new developments to provide some form of ecological enhancement. Due to the character of the existing site and the extent of the proposed plans, opportunities for enhancements are limited, although opportunities remain available. The

following measures would provide some ecological enhancements within the proposed development and therefore contribute towards relevant planning policy requirements for biodiversity enhancement.

5.4.2 *Bat boxes*

As recommended in Appendix 1, twelve bat boxes should be erected.

Any boxes should be positioned at least 7m high, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing southwest to southeast as recommended by the Bat Conservation Trust.

6 Summary and Conclusion

6.1 *Summary*

This document outlines the results of both bat surveys, which included a ground-level tree assessment and aerial tree climbing survey, conducted on 17th August 2026 and 29th August 2026 on trees assessed as having PRFs at the site south of Cudworth Parkway and Weetshaw Lane Roundabout.

The proposals entailed the clearance of much of the site, followed by the construction of a residential development, along with associated landscaping and access, which would connect with Weetshaw Lane Roundabout along the northern site boundary.

As works would affect multiple trees, a GLTA was commissioned to assess if any of the trees onsite had suitable PRFs for bats, followed up by an aerial tree climbing survey to determine the level of potential for bat roosting in those PRFs.

6.2 *Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA)*

Five trees (BT1 – BT5) were recorded as having PRFs. BT1 had three separate PRFs while the other trees had one each.

6.3 *Aerial Tree Climbing Surveys*

These trees needed to undergo an aerial climbing survey to further assess if bats were using any of the PRFs as roosts. All five trees were successfully climbed, so all seven PRFs were assessed. All seven PRFs were assessed as negligible/no potential for roosting bats, no field signs or other evidence of bat use were identified.

6.4 *Conclusion*

After both surveys were completed, no evidence of bat roosting was identified within the trees.

However, this doesn't rule out the presence of bats as they utilise many different roosts during the year. In the unlikely event that bats were present within the trees surveyed during works, they would be disturbed, and their roost sites damaged or destroyed. Bats and their roosts are protected from damage and disturbance under the Wildlife & Countryside Act and the Habitats Regulations, and therefore this could result in a legal offence.

Mitigation measures recommended included what to do in the event of discovering a bat on the site, and wildlife friendly lighting. No further surveys were recommended within this report.

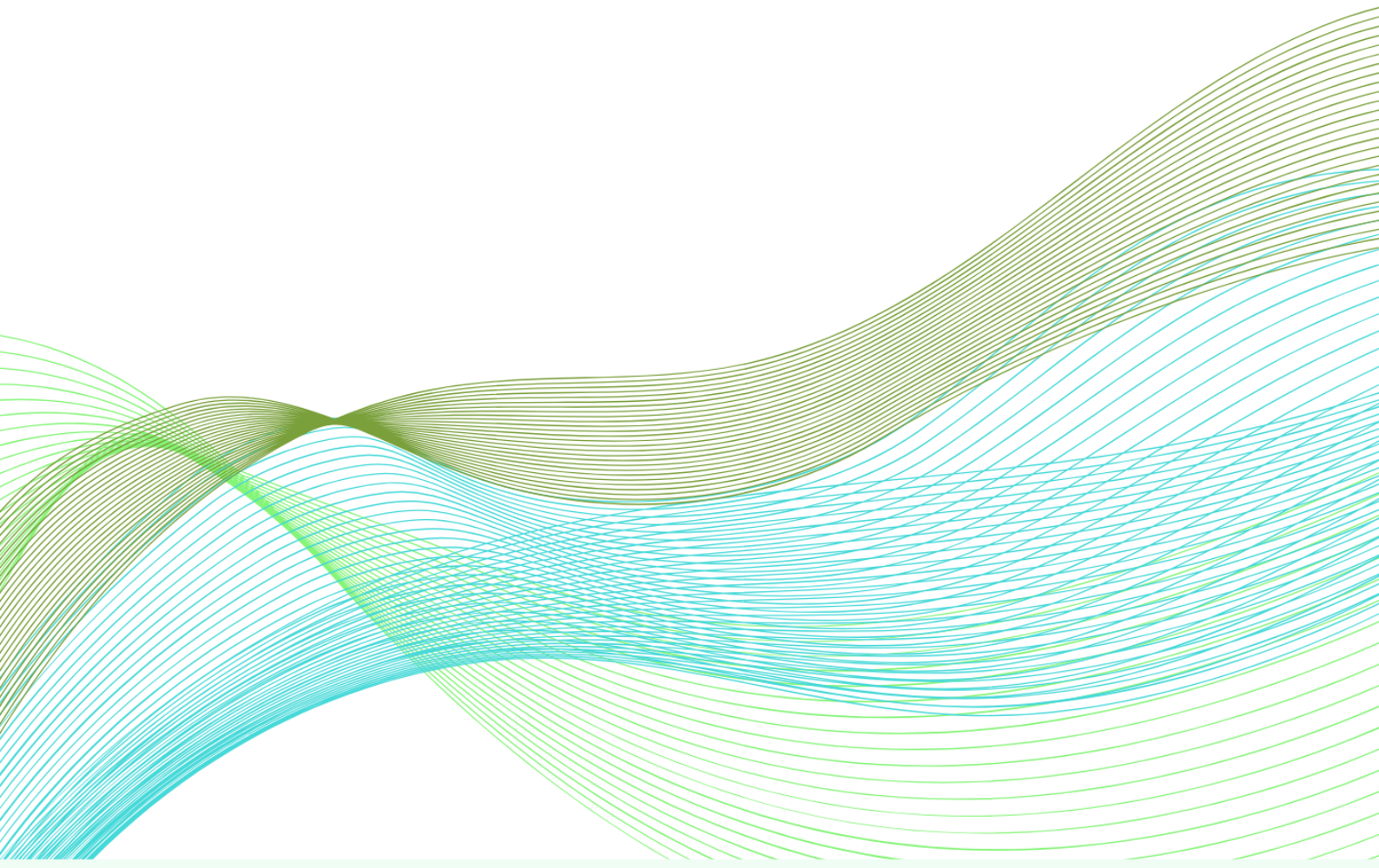
As recommended within the PEA and BNG Assessment, twelve bat boxes should be erected on the new buildings. Any boxes should be positioned at least 7m high, sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day, facing southwest to southeast as recommended by the Bat Conservation Trust.

7 Useful References

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