



PRESS RELEASE

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Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2017 – Winners announced

Last night's BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards saw a thrilling finale to this year's competition, with eight well deserved winning entries revealed along with the overall winner of this year's Challenge, as well as the first BIG Biodiversity Champion, voted for by the industry!

The BIG Biodiversity Challenge to "do one thing" for biodiversity was launched in 2013 by CIRIA's Biodiversity Interest Group (BIG), and what a journey it's been since then. With over 500 case studies submitted and 22 Awards presented plus 3 overall winners gaining recognition, this year's competition raised the bar further.

We were delighted to see the Challenge endorsed by **Stephanie Hilborne OBE**, Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts and **Keith Clarke CBE**, Chair of Future Cities Catapult, Non-Executive Chair of Forum for the Future and visiting professor at Aston University who both took time out of their busy schedules to join us.

Speaking at the Awards, **Caroline Hill, Head of Sustainability, Landsec** concluded *"We are delighted to be a sponsor of the BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards and follow how the construction industry continues to rise to the BIG Biodiversity Challenge - clearly evident from the entries received this year. My thanks goes out to all the organisations and individuals who continue to champion biodiversity. The Challenge is allowing us all to take small steps to make a BIG change for improving biodiversity throughout the construction process."*

We are proud to announce this year's BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards overall winner is **RG Group Redhill Quadrant Redevelopment**. The building project comprised of the phased replacement of an existing Sainsbury's Supermarket at Redhill in Surrey. Works include demolition of existing store and building and construction of a new build store with 2 layers of car parking above.



Dirk Vennix, CEO, CIRIA (right) and James Hewetson-Brown, MD, Wildflower Turf Ltd (left) presented the award to Colorado Goldwyn from RG Group

We are thrilled to announce the 2017 BIG Biodiversity Champion is **Victoria Pollard from Merseylink Civil Contractors JV**. Victoria was nominated by colleagues from the Mersey Gateway Project as she had sought to engage and promote biodiversity to site staff and members of the public in innovative ways with the aim of demonstrating biodiversity in action.



Anna Baker, Head of Sustainability, Sir Robert McAlpine(left) presented the award to Victoria Pollard from Merseylink Civil Contractors JV

Congratulations to all the category winners, commendations to those that were shortlisted, and a big thank you to all the entries received this year as well as our sponsors for their support.

Check out the [Awards winners' gallery](#) and the [Awards storify](#).

2017 Awards winners	Awards sponsors
BIG Biodiversity Champion Victoria Pollard, Merseylink Civil Contractors JV	
Overall winner RG Group Redhill Quadrant Redevelopment - RG Group	
Client Award The Wild West End - Arup, The Crown Estate, Grosvenor Britain & Ireland, The Portman Estate, Shaftesbury, Howard de Walden	
Community Engagement Award RG Group Redhill Quadrant Redevelopment - RG Group	
Large Scale Permanent Award Hampstead Heath Ponds Project - Atkins, City of London and BAM Nuttall	
Medium Scale Permanent Award Fitzroy Gate - St James (Berkeley Group)	
Small Scale Permanent Award Help for Hedgehogs Glenwood Park Development, Glenwood Farm, Near Devon – Redrow Homes Ltd	
Maintenance & Management Award Highways England Area 1 Blackhall Farm Management - Kier Highways	
Pollinator Award Aspen Way: Good Beebehaviour - Kier Group: Local Highways Division	
Temporary Award Spinney Fields - David Wilson Homes, Nicholsons and RSPB	

The 2018 BIG Biodiversity Challenge will be launched on 28 February at City Hall in London. Full details will be announced in due course via www.bigchallenge.info.

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Notes to Editors

For more information about the *BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2017* and *CIRIA Biodiversity Interest Group* please contact:

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Big Biodiversity Challenge Awards Judging Panel

We would like to thank all our judges for taking part this year. Our thanks goes out to: Louise Clarke (Chair), Jo Ferguson, Hannah Bilston, Corin Simmonds, Eva Gkenakou, Peter Dorans, Rosie Whichloe, Martina Girvan, Caroline Ford, Szilvia Zakar, Sam Bower, Jo Judge, Neil Harwood and Martin Ballard.

About CIRIA Biodiversity Interest Group

CIRIA's Biodiversity Interest Group acts as a working group to focus on delivering tangible outputs. We see biodiversity as a key emerging issue that needs a clearer understanding within the industry; otherwise it can become a second thought or add on rather than an integrated part of a project. Currently, unless it is a protected species or habitat, biodiversity enhancements are voluntary but we want to see it going further than this.

The biodiversity interest group meets regularly to discuss developments in the area, achievements in the industry, government initiatives and more. The group also share knowledge on the topic from different sectors in the industry, learn about what is being achieved and focus on what tangible outputs can be delivered such as guidance, knowledge sharing, training and capacity building. We also want to identify areas where you could benefit from collaboration with the industry. For further details contact Suzanne.Simmons@cira.org from CIRIA.

About CIRIA

CIRIA is the construction industry research and information association. It is an independent, not-for-profit, member-based research organisation that exists to champion performance improvement in construction.

Since 1960 CIRIA has delivered support and guidance to the construction, built environment and infrastructure sectors. CIRIA works with members from all parts of the supply chain to co-ordinate collaborative projects, industry networks and events. Its high quality guidance is delivered to industry through publications, training and other performance improvement activities.

For more information on CIRIA's products and services please visit www.ciria.org