



PRESS RELEASE

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You've got to be in it, to win BIG

With less than three weeks left before the 2017 CIRIA BIG Biodiversity Challenge closes, organisations in the construction industry are competing to gain recognition for their contribution to maintaining & enhancing biodiversity. The closing date for this year's entries is 12th June, so does your project have what it takes to be an award winner?

Since 2013, the BIG Biodiversity Challenge has grown from strength to strength, with over 150 entries received in 2016. As the level of engagement and understanding of biodiversity grows across the industry, the competition is fierce. Seize this opportunity to showcase your project and take the challenge.

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on the evening of 14 September, at the Blu Fin Building, central London. The elegant and energy-efficient building was designed by award-winning architects Allies & Morrison. The edifice is covered in 2,000 blue aluminium fins, specifically provided to reflect the sun at different parts of the day, providing shade as well as keeping the building cool.

Stephanie Hilborne OBE, Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts and **Keith Clarke, Chair of Future Cities Catapult, Non-Executive Chair, Forum for the Future** and visiting **Professor at Aston University** will be taking time out from their hectic schedules to outline their vision for the future of biodiversity in construction as a special treat for guests. Details for the awards evening will be announced soon so please save the date.

Suzanne Simmons, CIRIA Project Manager, said *"CIRIA's BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards provide organisations with an amazing opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to biodiversity within construction. The awards are a testament to the quality of enhancements that can be achieved, when people do at least one thing for biodiversity on construction sites. This can lead to so many bigger and better biodiversity enhancements as well as encouraging others to follow suit. In taking up the challenge, you will gain national recognition as industry leaders. So if you have projects featuring biodiversity enhancements – no matter how big or small – position your organisation at the forefront of good practice and take the challenge now!"*

The BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards would not be possible without sponsorship support from: **Berkeley Group, British Land, Kier, Land Securities, Sir Robert McAlpine, and Wildflower Turf Ltd.**

The BIG Biodiversity Challenge is free to enter and there are fantastic sponsorship opportunities for organisations wanting to champion biodiversity and raise their profile. For further information on how to enter, and to be inspired by last year's entries, please visit www.bigchallenge.info.

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Notes to Editors

For more information about CIRIA or the **BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2017** and to request a Press Pass for the Awards please contact:

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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.

About the BIG Biodiversity Challenge

CIRIA's BIG Biodiversity Challenge offers advice and learning to show how biodiversity enhancements can be simple, affordable and achievable. Signing up couldn't be easier; it's free to enter and all you need to do is sign up on the website www.bigchallenge.info and submit your case study. This year the BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards are divided into eight categories:

- Client award – sponsored by **Kier**
- Community engagement award – sponsored by **Land Securities**
- Large scale permanent award
- Medium scale permanent award – sponsored by **British Land**
- Small scale permanent award
- Maintenance and management award
- Pollinator award – sponsored by **Berkeley Group**
- Temporary award
- BIG Biodiversity Champion award - sponsored by **Sir Robert McAlpine**

As in previous years' there will be one overall winner (prize sponsored by Wildflower Turf Ltd) for the enhancement that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to biodiversity. The 2016 overall winner and the individual category winners can be viewed at <http://www.bigchallenge.info/2016-winner>

To find out more visit www.bigchallenge.info or email <mailto:suzanne.simmons@ciria.org>

About the BIG Biodiversity Interest Group

Led by CIRIA's Biodiversity Interest Group, the BIG Biodiversity Challenge invites the industry to add one new biodiversity enhancement to a construction site, development or existing building, however big or small, permanent or temporary, and be creative about enhancing biodiversity.

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. For further details email <mailto:suzanne.simmons@ciria.org>