



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
05 May 2016

Have you taken the BIG Biodiversity Challenge?

CIRIA is delighted to announce that the BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2016 is now open for entries. Now in its third year, the Challenge invites leaders from across construction, infrastructure, transport, retail and Government to 'do one thing' for biodiversity.

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.

Last year's BIG Biodiversity Challenge concluded with an Awards ceremony at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, recognising more than 100 organisations who submitted more than 200 entries from sites all over the country. Enhancements included installing bug hotels and bat boxes, restoring riverbanks and wildflower meadows and delivering detailed biodiversity action plans. Doing just one thing really can make a BIG difference in helping to reverse the decline of Biodiversity in the UK.

Michael Small, Project Manager, CIRIA says:

The response to last year's awards was overwhelmingly positive, with more than double the number of organisations signing up to take the challenge from the 2014 Awards. These organisations demonstrated that they are more than happy to share their knowledge and ideas and submit interesting and innovative entries. The 2016 Awards promise to be bigger and better and we have increased the number of categories to make the awards more inclusive. CIRIA's Biodiversity Interest Group is really looking forward to learning about the new projects out there and recognising them at the 2016 Awards later in the year."

The Challenge is free to enter and there are also fantastic sponsorship opportunities for organisations wanting to be involved in the year's Awards. For further information on how to enter, and to be inspired by last year's entries, please visit www.bigchallenge.info. The BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2016 Awards ceremony will take place on 15 September at a central London venue.

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Notes to Editors

For more information about CIRIA and/or the **BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2016** 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 enhancement. The BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards are divided into eight categories:

- Client award
- Community engagement award
- Large scale permanent award
- Medium scale permanent award
- Small scale permanent award
- Maintenance and management award
- Pollinator award
- Temporary award

There will one overall winner for the enhancement that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to biodiversity. The 2015 Overall winner and the individual category winner can be viewed at <http://www.bigchallenge.info/#!2015-winners/c1fzj>

To find out more visit www.bigchallenge.info or email michael.small@ciria.org

About the BIG 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. For further details email michael.small@ciria.org