



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Ready to “Do One Thing” for Biodiversity in construction?

CIRIA is delighted to announce that the **BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2017** was officially launched on 28 February, in London. Now in its fourth year, and led by the BIG Biodiversity Interest Group, the 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 to be creative about enhancing biodiversity.

The well attended launch event, brought together clients, consultants, contractors, house builders, ecologists, landscape architects as well past awards winners who passionately discussed their 2016 award winning projects, highlighting how any biodiversity enhancement, big or small, can make a BIG difference.

Getting involved in the Challenge and Awards couldn't be easier. Simply [sign up](#) to take the Challenge, [enter the Awards](#), [sponsor](#) an award category or join us on social media @bigbiodiversity. This year we are also introducing the BIG Biodiversity Champion award with nominations sought for an individual who has contributed most to the ethos of doing one thing for biodiversity either within their organisation, as part of a wider project team, as part of a supporting group or a local grass-roots initiative. Details of all awards categories can be found at [www.bigchallenge.info](http://www.bigchallenge.info).

**Suzanne Simmons, Project Manager, CIRIA** says “CIRIA is delighted to invite the construction industry to take the BIG Biodiversity Challenge in 2017, now in its fourth year of existence. The Challenge celebrates the construction industry's commitment to biodiversity when organisations pledge to **do one thing** for biodiversity on site. The simplicity of this pledge has really captured the industry's imagination across the length and breadth of the country and this week's launch was all about celebrating depth and range of activities carried out. Last year's award winners demonstrated how the construction industry can rise to the BIG Biodiversity Challenge and in most cases exceeding the **one thing** commitment and doing much, much more.”

The awards would not be possible without industry support and we are delighted to gain support from **British Land, Kier, Land Securities, Sir Robert McAlpine, and Wildflower Turf Ltd.**

The Challenge and Awards are free to enter and we have a number of 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](http://www.bigchallenge.info). The BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2017 Awards ceremony will take place on 14 September, in London.

**ENDS**

## **Notes to Editors**

For more information about CIRIA and/or the **BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2017** and to request interviews with our 2016 awards winners 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](http://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. The Challenge has gained huge momentum with over 155 entries received last year, 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.

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](http://www.bigchallenge.info) and submit your enhancement. The BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards are divided into nine categories:

- **New:** BIG Biodiversity Champion award – sponsored by Sir Robert McApline
- 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
- Temporary award

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](http://www.bigchallenge.info) or email [suzanne.simmons@ciria.org](mailto:suzanne.simmons@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 [suzanne.simmons@ciria.org](mailto:suzanne.simmons@ciria.org)