



PRESS RELEASE

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You've got to be in it - to win it!

Entries for CIRIA's BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2016 are flooding in, with stakeholders across construction and the built environment competing to be recognised for their contribution to maintaining & enhancing biodiversity in construction. The closing date for entries this year is set for 8 August, so polish up those entries and showcase how you have taken up the challenge.

Since 2013, the challenge has gained huge momentum, with entries doubling between 2014 and 2015. With an increasing level of engagement and understanding of biodiversity across the industry, the competition is heating up, could your project be the one that shows winning promise?

The winners will be announced on 15 September at an awards ceremony, to take place at Coin Street neighbourhood centre in London. The centre, designed by Haworth Tompkins Architects, reflects the aspirations of the challenge in promoting sustainability and biodiversity.

Professor Dieter Helm, CBE, Chair of Natural Capital Committee and University of Oxford and **Professor Steve Ormerod**, Chairman of Council, RSPB & Professor of Ecology, Cardiff 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. A limited number of tickets are available to purchase, so keep your eye out for details on our website at www.ciria.org

Dr Owen Jenkins, CIRIA Director and Interim Chief Executive commented "*CIRIA's BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards provide organisations with a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to biodiversity within construction. They also demonstrate the enhancements that can be achieved and encourage others to follow suit whilst allowing organisations to gain national recognition as industry leaders. So if you have any project featuring biodiversity enhancements – no matter how big or small – sign up for the challenge and position your organisation at the forefront of good practice.*"

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

With two weeks to go before entries close, the 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 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 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
- Small scale permanent award
- Maintenance and management award – sponsored by Willmott Dixon
- Pollinator award
- Temporary 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 2015 overall winner and the individual category winners 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

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 michael.small@ciria.org