



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The winners of the 2016 BIG Biodiversity Challenge are...

On Thursday 15 September, the [BIG Biodiversity Challenge](#) 2016 competition reached its finale with eight well deserved winning entries announced along with an overall winner of this year's Challenge. With an impressive 155 entries received this year across eight award categories, organisations have shown how their projects are helping to strengthen biodiversity across the UK.

Led by CIRIA's Biodiversity Interest Group (BIG), the BIG Biodiversity Challenge, asks the industry to 'do one thing' for biodiversity and industry has responded with a huge [breadth of entries](#) submitted for this year's Challenge. Speaking at the Awards, **Professor Steve Ormerod, Chairman of Council, RSPB & Professor of Ecology, Cardiff University**, concluded that *"Nature in the UK is in trouble, but the small and large changes we make together do make a difference for our wildlife – whether its integrating swift bricks into buildings, softening the design of new developments with nature in mind, or major landscape scale restoration at mineral extraction sites. I'm delighted to see how much the BIG Biodiversity Challenge is gaining momentum – evident from the number of entries received this year. My thanks go out to all the businesses for their commitment to improving biodiversity across all stages of the construction cycle"*.

We are proud to announce this year's BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards overall winner is **Breakthrough Community Enterprise/Nationwide Forestry Solutions** for their project **"Symbiosis"** - encompassing an acre of land with 11 industrial units on a much larger industrial estate, based on reclaimed coal spoil. The project comprises a nursery with 30000 native trees saplings (from local seed), open woodland, closed woodland, close scrub, meadow, and mature mixed hedge line habitats along with multi height mowing regime in the open areas.





Commenting on their win **Jon Murcott, Managing Director, Nationwide Forestry Solutions Ltd** said *"To be part of such a prestigious event, in the company of so many high profile organisations was an honour in itself. To win the Maintenance & Management Award left us all speechless, and then to top that by winning the Overall Award really does mean everything"*.

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.

Category winners

Overall winner (sponsored by Wildflower Turf) <i>Breakthrough Community Enterprise/Nationwide Forestry Solutions</i>	
Client Award (sponsored by Kier) <i>Gatwick Airport Ltd</i>	
Community Engagement Award (sponsored by Land Securities) <i>Carillion and EcoNorth</i>	
Large Scale Permanent Award <i>BDW Trading Ltd and Ashfield Land Ltd</i>	
Medium Scale Permanent Award	

<i>Kier Minerals Ltd</i>	
Small Scale Permanent Award <i>Artecology</i>	
Maintenance & Management Award (sponsored by Willmott Dixon) <i>Breakthrough Community Enterprise/Nationwide Forestry Solutions</i>	
Pollinator Award (sponsored by British Land) <i>Berkeley Homes (South East London) Ltd</i>	
Temporary Awards (sponsored by Sir Robert McAlpine) <i>Kings Cross Central Limited Partnership (KCCLP) in partnership with Ooze (Eva Pfannes and Sylvain Hartenberg) and Martjetica Potrc</i>	

The Awards category shortlists are available at www.bigchallenge.info

The BIG Biodiversity Challenge will continue next year and as always there will be opportunities for organisations to sponsor each award category. Details for 2017 Challenge and sponsorship packages will be announced shortly so do keep an eye out at www.bigchallenge.info

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Notes to Editors

For more information about the *BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2016* 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: Martin Ballard (Chair) - Willmott Dixon Holdings; Phil Askew- London Legacy Development Corporation; Hannah Bilston - BSG Ecology; Sam Bower - Balfour Beatty; Steve Gilder - Morgan Sindall; Dr Martina Girvan – Arcadis; Rid Hollands - Atkins; Cain Blythe- Ecosulis; Alberto Dominguez - Heatherwick Studio; Una Maginn - Avian Ecology; Neil Harwood – Arup; Wendy MacFarlane - The Ecology Consultancy; Susan Schnadhorst – Osborne.

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 [Michael Small](#) 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