



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
16 July 2019

#BIGAwards 2019 finalists revealed

We're delighted to announce the finalists for this year's BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards following tense debate during our judging session. Competition was fierce as the industry excels in going that extra mile to "Do One Thing" to enhance biodiversity.

With 75+ entries across eight categories plus nominees for the BIG Biodiversity Champion Award, our judging panel had a tough task to narrow down this year's shortlist. All category winners, the overall winner and our BIG Biodiversity Champion will be announced at an Awards ceremony on 12th September at the Hallam Conference Centre, in central London.

Peter Dorans, Corporate Relations Manager, The Wildlife Trusts and 2019 Judging Panel member said *"Choosing a winner from so many inspiring entries gets more challenging each year. Everyone should be able to experience the joy of wildlife in their daily lives, so it was great to see so many projects which are integrating natural spaces into the places where people live, work and play. We're all better off when our lives are a little bit wild and I'm looking forward to seeing more projects focussed on peoples' wellbeing as the awards and the industry's approach to wildlife continue to evolve"*.

Helen Denham, Sustainability Manager, Sir Robert McAlpine and 2019 Judging Panel member commented *"As a first time judge for these awards, it's fantastic and rewarding to see a wide diversity of entries this year including marine, heathland and inner city projects. As a biodiversity champion the lessons learnt from these entries should inspire future contributions"*.

The shortlisted projects and the nominees are listed below by category and can be viewed at www.bigchallenge.info. Voting for the 2019 BIG Biodiversity Champion will open soon.

2019 Finalists

Client Award sponsored by *Kier*

- Cormac Solutions Ltd for Cornwall Council
- Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

Community Engagement Award sponsored by *Grosvenor*

- Thames Water/Ambitious About Autism and TreeHouse School/Arcadis/ A host of volunteers
- Kier Highways

(continued overleaf)

Project of the Year Award medium / large scale (>5ha) sponsored by *Berkeley Group*

- Cormac Solutions Ltd for Cornwall Council
- Habitat First Group (HFG) - 2 project entries
- Heathrow Airport Ltd

Project of the Year Award small scale (<5ha)

- Redrow Homes
- Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission
- Kier Utilities
- Bournemouth University for Scarborough Council

Biodiversity Legacy Award sponsored by

- Cormac Solutions Ltd for Cornwall Council
- Heathrow Airport Ltd
- Thames Water/Ambitious About Autism and TreeHouse School/Arcadis/ A host of volunteers

Innovation Award sponsored by *Sir Robert McAlpine*

- Northumbrian Water Group, North Tyneside Council and Environment Agency
- Bournemouth University for Scarborough Borough Council

Pollinator Award sponsored by *Heathrow*

- Kier Highways, Highways England, Langdyke Countryside Trust
- John Sisk and Son Ltd
- Kier, ATM and Highways England

Construction Phase Award

- Siemens Mobility Ltd, Rail Electrification & Network Rail
- HOCHTIEF UK for TFL
- Kier Regional Building
- Keepmoat Homes for Salford City Council

This year's [Awards evening](#) will take place on 12 September at Hallam Conference Centre, 44 Hallam Street, London W1W 6JJ. For further information on the Challenge, this year's shortlisted entries (plus photos) please visit www.bigchallenge.info. Voting for the BIG Biodiversity Champion will be announced soon.

The BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards would not be possible without sponsorship support from: **Grosvenor, Heathrow, Kier, Sir Robert McAlpine**, and overall prize sponsor **Wildflower Turf Ltd**. A limited number of tickets for the awards evening are available for sale, [so book early](#) to avoid disappointment.

For organisations wishing to raise their profile as champions of biodiversity, the BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards provides fantastic sponsorship opportunities. To find out more please visit www.bigchallenge.info.

ENDS

(continued overleaf)

Notes to Editors

For more information about CIRIA, the BIG Biodiversity Challenge 2019, details of case studies entered in this year's Challenge (and photos) please contact:

Nipa Patel
tel: +44 (0) 20 7549 3300
email: nipa.patel@ciria.org

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:

- BIG Biodiversity Champion award
- Client award – sponsored by **Kier**
- Community engagement award – sponsored by **Grosvenor**
- Project of year award – small scale (< 5ha)
- Project of year award –medium-large scale (>5ha)
- Innovation award – new award for 2018 – sponsored by **Sir Robert McAlpine**
- Biodiversity Legacy award
- Pollinator award – sponsored by **Heathrow**
- Construction phase award

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. [Entries for 2019 can be viewed here.](#)

To find out more visit www.bigchallenge.info or email emma.fryer@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 emma.fryer@ciria.org