BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2017 - Judging Guidelines

Introduction

The **BIG Biodiversity Challenge** *'do one thing'* is designed to encourage implementation of biodiversity enhancements on construction and development sites. It invites participants to add at least one new biodiversity enhancement to their project during the construction period.

The **BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards** are an annual event that are intended to highlight and showcase projects that have incorporated outstanding and innovative biodiversity enhancements on construction sites, developments or existing buildings through the BIG Biodiversity Challenge. The awards seek to recognise biodiversity enhancements that go **beyond normal business practice** [1] and this is the primary criterion for the Awards.

Full award descriptions and assessment criteria for case study submissions are included below to help you to decide which category suits your project best. These will be used as the basis to assess entries when judging.

A judging panel will be assigned to each single category and each panel will choose a winner from their assigned category. The winner of each category will then be put forward for the **Overall Winner** award.

Those submitting case studies will have an opportunity to nominate a **BIG Biodiversity Champion.** Each category judging panel will also select a nominated person from their category submissions to be placed on a shortlist for the BIG Biodiversity Champion Award. Shortlisted nominees do not have to come from shortlisted projects. Eight shortlisted nominees, one from each category, will be put forward for public vote.

Judges decisions will be final.

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2017 – Categories and Criteria

There are eight categories in the **BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2017** and these are listed below. Winning submissions will be chosen from each category and awarded to the project that demonstrates the most outstanding commitment to biodiversity as determined by the criteria set out below.

An **Overall Winner** will be selected from the 8 category award winners based on a combination of all the following criteria:

- The project / enhancement that most goes beyond normal business practice

- The project / enhancement is most replicable

- The habitat created is, or will potentially become most ecologically valuable

- The extent to which specific biodiversity values were considered and carried through to the delivery of the enhancement.

---

[1] An enhancement that goes further than the statutory and non-statutory requirements assigned to a project from eg planning or requirements from code for sustainable homes, BREEAM etc.

BIG Biodiversity Champion 2017

2017 sees the introduction of a new award for a *BIG Biodiversity Champion*. This will be in recognition of individuals who have demonstrably gone the extra mile to enrich and enhance biodiversity on their construction projects. Those entering schemes to the BIG Biodiversity Awards are invited to nominate the one person involved in their project who fits the criteria described below. This is in recognition of the fact that more often than not biodiversity interventions often arise from the energy, commitment and enthusiasm of a single champion.

All shortlisted nominees will be informed before the shortlisted is released on-line for public vote. The winner will be announced at the BIG Biodiversity Awards in London in September 2017. The *BIG Biodiversity Champion* will be selected from a nominee shortlist from each category based on the following 5 key qualities needed to become BIG Biodiversity Champion 2017:

- **Engaging**
  Someone who is inclusive; who communicates by listening as well as speaking
- **Inspiring**
  Someone who can motivate others with honour, integrity and courage
- **Enthusiastic**
  Someone who can share their enthusiasm about biodiversity with others; who can persevere and push to achieve positive outcomes on projects
- **Creative**
  Someone who is prepared to seek solutions when faced with challenges; who looks for opportunities and innovative ways to overcome hurdles
- **Knowledgeable**
  Someone who understands their subject; who increases their knowledge and awareness as they progress and is capable of sharing and disseminating that knowledge with others.

Judging Panel - Evaluation Indicators and Criteria

1. Score options to indicate the extent to which the project has *gone beyond normal business practice**	2. Score options to indicate the extent to which specific biodiversity values were considered and carried through
10 Points =extensive consideration beyond normal business practice **8 Points =** good level of consideration beyond normal business practice **5/6 Points** = fair consideration beyond normal business practice **3 Points** = some consideration beyond normal business practice **1 Point** = not gone beyond normal business practice	**10 Points** = thorough consideration of biodiversity **8 Points =** good level of consideration of biodiversity **5/6 Points** = fair consideration of biodiversity **3 Points =** some consideration of biodiversity **1 Point =** no consideration of biodiversity
3. Score options to indicate extent to which the habitat created is, or will potentially become ecologically valuable	**4. Score options to indicate the extent to which the project / enhancement is replicable**
10 Points =extensive ecological value/potential **8 Points =** good level of ecological value/potential **5/6 Points** = fair level of ecological value/potential **3 Points** = some level of ecological value/potential **1 Point** = no level of ecological value/potential	**10 Points** = extensive opportunities for replicability **8 Points =** good opportunities for replicability **5/6 Points** = fair opportunities for replicability **3 Points =** some opportunities for replicability **1 Point =** no opportunities for replicability

***An enhancement that goes further than the statutory and non-statutory requirements assigned to a project from eg planning or requirements from code for sustainable homes, BREEAM etc.*

Award Category	**TEMPORARY BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT AWARD**
Description	A temporary enhancement which takes place during the life of the construction programme. Examples may include a green hording, temporary green wall, community engagement initiative or installations such as bird boxes, bee hives, insect hotels, and alterations to programming or sequencing of work to accommodate wildlife
Suggested criteria	− Does the enhancement / project go beyond normal business practice? − Is the enhancement / project replicable? − How were the opportunities for the temporary enhancement/s identified? − Was it possible to retain or relocate the enhancement after construction? − Did the enhancement raise awareness of biodiversity on the construction site? − Were new areas of habitat been created? − Were existing habitats been protected? − How ecologically valuable was the habitat created? − Did it enhance natural connectivity? − Did the enhancement bring wider benefits to the location eg contribute to air quality improvements or amenity benefits or temporary habitat creation? − Did it compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans? − To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

Award Category	**LARGE SCALE PERMANENT AWARD** (*Biodiversity enhancement <u>10 ha and above</u>*)
Description	An enhancement that will leave a long term legacy with positive impact on biodiversity after the construction process. Examples may include infrastructure projects (energy, transport and water), mixed-use development or restoration of land previously used for other purposes such as mineral extraction.
Suggested criteria	− Does the enhancement go beyond normal business practice? − Is the enhancement scheme replicable? − Has long term management been considered? − Have new areas of habitat been created? − Have existing habitats been protected? − How ecologically valuable is the habitat created? − Did it enhance natural connectivity? − Did it compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans? − The extent to which specific biodiversity values were considered.

Award Category	**MEDIUM SCALE PERMANENT AWARD** (*Biodiversity enhancement <u>0.25-10 ha</u>*)
Description	An enhancement that will have a long term and positive impact on biodiversity after the construction process. Examples may include pocket parks, courtyards, tree and wildflower planting.
Suggested criteria	− Does the enhancement / project go beyond normal business practice?* − Is the enhancement / project replicable? − Has long term management (5 years+) been considered? − Have new areas of habitat been created? − Have existing habitats been protected? − How ecologically valuable is the habitat created? − Did the enhancement / project enhance natural connectivity? − Did the enhancement/project compliment Biodiversity Action Plans? − To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

Award Category	SMALL SCALE PERMANENT AWARD *(Biodiversity enhancement 0-0.25 ha)*
Description	A small scale enhancement that will exist beyond the construction phase. Examples may include green roofs, green walls, rain gardens, hibernacula/habitat restoration and soft landscaping.
Suggested criteria	− Does the enhancement / project go beyond normal business practice?* − Is the enhancement / project replicable? − Has long term management (5 years+) been considered? − Have new areas of habitat been created? − Have existing habitats been protected? − How ecologically valuable is the habitat created? − Did it enhance natural connectivity? − Did it compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans? − To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

Award Category	POLLINATOR AWARD
Description	An enhancement which safeguards and supports pollinators through the creation or protection of suitable habitat; that demonstrates the importance of pollinators' contributions to biodiversity; that raises awareness of declines in the number, diversity and geographical ranges of pollinators. This award is inspired by DEFRA's National Pollinator Strategy. Examples are pollinator friendly vegetation and habitat creation such as wildflower planting, bee hotels, pollinator awareness raising initiatives etc
Suggested criteria	− Does the enhancement / project go beyond normal business practice? − Was flowering vegetation specifically selected to provide food for pollinators? − Was the flowering period considered to enable pollination? − Was overwintering and nesting habitat provided? − Did the enhancement/project compliment local/regional Biodiversity Action Plans? − To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

Award Category	MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT AWARD
Description	An enhancement that demonstrates a long term commitment to improving biodiversity on-site. This may include the introduction of enhancement management plans and alternative approaches to maintenance schedules and planting policies.
Suggested criteria	− Does the enhancement / project go beyond normal business practice?* − Is the enhancement / project replicable? − Has long term (5 year +) management been considered? − Have innovative approaches to maintenance and management been adopted? − Did the enhancement / project compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans? − To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

Award Category	CLIENT AWARD
Description	An enhancement from a client organisation, demonstrating a top down approach to delivering biodiversity on-site. Organisations may range from developers to those responsible for the delivery of energy, transport and water networks.
Suggested criteria	− Does the enhancement go beyond normal business practice? − Is the enhancement replicable? − Have new areas of habitat been created? − Have existing habitats been protected? − How ecologically valuable is the habitat created? − Did the enhancement improve natural connectivity? − Did the enhancement compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans?

Award Category	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD
Description	An enhancement that demonstrates the importance of engagement with local communities, workers on site and others; raising awareness and championing the importance of biodiversity to the general public
Suggested criteria	− Does the enhancement go beyond normal business practice? − Was training was carried out? − Were local communities engaged? − Will the community remain engaged with the scheme after construction has been completed? − How innovative, extensive, productive and replicable were community engagement activities? − How extensive were the biodiversity values delivered?

Award Category	BIG BIODIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD
Description	Those entering schemes to the BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards are invited to nominate one person involved in their project who has demonstrably gone the extra mile to enrich and enhance biodiversity.
Suggested criteria	**5 key qualities to become a BIG Biodiversity Champion** − **Engaging** Someone who is inclusive; who communicates by listening as well as speaking − **Inspiring** Someone who can motivate others with honour, integrity and courage − **Enthusiastic** Someone who can share their enthusiasm about biodiversity with others; who can persevere and push to achieve positive outcomes on projects − **Creative** Someone who is prepared to seek solutions when faced with challenges; who looks for opportunities and innovative ways to overcome hurdles − **Knowledgeable** Someone who understands their subject; who increases their knowledge and awareness as they progress and is capable of sharing and disseminating that knowledge with others