

Nomination form for BIG Biodiversity Champion 2023

Nominee Name	Cathy Burton
Award category	Established professional (more than 5 years working on biodiversity-related projects/effort)
How many years working on biodiversity-related projects/effort?	30 years
Project(s) person is nominated for	Restoring the biodiversity of Wharfedale
Nominee Organisation	SYSTRA
Nominator name (can be same as above), organisation & email for contact	Dr Ana Togridou, SYSTRA, atogridou@systra.com
Describe how the nominee best meets the following criteria (no more than 50 words each):	
Engaging	Cathy provides many talks, walks and workshops on biodiversity every year to numerous audiences. She is a mentor for the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Social Mobility Foundation (SMF) listening to the aspirations and concerns of her mentees and helping them in their ecology careers.

Inspiring	Cathy always insists on best practice and leads by example. She has the integrity and courage to challenge bad practices head on and provides the support and encouragement for her team to do the same. She has spoken up against projects which fail scientific scrutiny and impact biodiversity.
Enthusiastic	Cathy is a great ambassador for biodiversity. As a volunteer she leads citizen science projects and conveys her enthusiasm through public engagements events such as BioBlitzes, Otley Wildlife Arts and Yorkshire Rewilding Festival. Professionally she always pushes to achieve the right outcomes for biodiversity in her habitat enhancement recommendations.
Creative	Cathy is always keen to look for innovation in her work. She has used her research to inform conservation through new invertebrate translocation methods. She provides habitat enhancement solutions reaching beyond the norm to satisfy stakeholders. In her STEM work she continuously invents new learning aids for maximum impact.
Knowledgeable	Cathy continuously undertakes training and delivers it through presentations and workshops for many organisations. She is a CIEEM and SMF Mentor and Chartership assessor. She has written professional guidance on survey standards and delivers identification training. Those she has mentored have gone on to become professional entomologists and ecologists.
Outcomes driven	Cathy has helped many stakeholders gain grants for biodiversity. Her evidence and recommendations have led to sites becoming protected and her work on a local Nature Recovery Plan is driving habitat enhancement such as creation of community orchards and meadows. She is working with Leeds University to ensure measurable outcomes.
In 100 words provide a summary of how this nominee has gone the extra mile to enrich and enhance biodiversity on this project	
Cathy has gone above and beyond to enhance biodiversity in her local area and throughout the UK. As a volunteer she gives many presentations, demonstrations, and walks on biodiversity to a range of audiences and organises citizen science events each year. She passes on her knowledge as a STEM Ambassador, CIEEM and Social Mobility Foundation Mentor, and Chartership Assessor. Cathy has line managed and mentored many ecologists, hosted training and organised workshops. Her habitat enhancements have resulted in more biodiverse landscapes and in her spare time she has contributed to a local Nature Recovery Plan driving habitat and biodiversity enhancement.	
Please attach a photo	

