

BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards 2024

Judging Guidelines

BIG Biodiversity Challenge

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 construction sites, developments, or existing buildings.

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards

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.

Judging process

An independent panel of judges will be assigned to each category and will choose a winner from the submissions. The winner of each category (biodiversity projects only) will be put forward for the Overall Winner award. **The judges' decisions will be final.**

Awards categories

There are eleven awards categories to choose from: nine biodiversity projects and two biodiversity champions.

Awards categories 1 – 9 | Biodiversity Projects

1. Client Award
2. Community Engagement Award
3. Habitat Creation: Project of Year Award (Large scale biodiversity enhancement 5ha and above)
4. Habitat Creation: Project of Year Award (Medium scale from 0.5 to 5ha)
5. Habitat Creation: Project of Year Award (Small scale up to 0.5ha)
6. Innovation Award
7. Multi Benefits Award
8. Biodiversity Legacy Award
9. International Biodiversity Project Award

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.

Winning submissions will be chosen from these categories and awarded to the projects that demonstrate the most outstanding commitment to biodiversity as determined by the criteria set out below:

- The project/enhancement that most goes beyond normal business practice
- The extent to which specific biodiversity values were considered and carried through to the delivery of the enhancement
- The habitat created is or will potentially become most ecologically valuable
- The project/enhancement is most replicable

Awards categories 10 – 11 | Biodiversity Champions

10. Biodiversity Champion Award (Early career professional: up to five years in biodiversity-related work)
11. Biodiversity Champion Award (Established professional: more than five years in biodiversity-related work)

The judges will look for the following key qualities (but not limited to) when awarding the Biodiversity Champions: engaging, inspiring, enthusiastic, creative, knowledgeable, and outcomes driven.

Overall Winner Award

The judges will select an Overall Winner from the nine biodiversity projects award winners for the enhancement that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to biodiversity.

If you have any queries about [BIG Biodiversity Challenge](#) or the entry process, please email bigawards@ciria.org.

Thank you for your interest in the [BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards 2024](#). Best of luck!

Evaluation indicators and judging criteria | Awards categories 1 – 9

The judges will review the biodiversity projects based on:

The extent to which the project has gone beyond normal business practice		The extent to which specific biodiversity values were considered and carried through to the delivery of the enhancement	
10 points	Extensive consideration beyond normal business practice	10 points	Thorough consideration of biodiversity
8 points	Good level of consideration beyond normal business practice	8 points	Good level of consideration of biodiversity
5-6 points	Fair consideration beyond normal business practice	5-6 points	Fair consideration of biodiversity
3 points	Some consideration beyond normal business practice	3 points	Some consideration of biodiversity
1 point	Not gone beyond normal business practice	1 point	No consideration of biodiversity
The extent to which the habitat created is or will potentially become ecologically valuable		The extent to which the project/enhancement is replicable	
10 points	Extensive ecological value/potential	10 points	Extensive opportunities for replicability
8 points	Good level of ecological value/potential	8 points	Good opportunities for replicability
5-6 points	Fair level of ecological value/potential	5-6 points	Fair opportunities for replicability
3 points	Some level of ecological value/potential	3 points	Some opportunities for replicability
1 point	No level of ecological value/potential	1 point	No opportunities for replicability

1. 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. They may be responsible for a range of project scales either as single or collective projects.
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?

2. Community Engagement Award

Description	An enhancement/initiative that demonstrates the importance of engagement with local communities, workers on site, and others. It should also demonstrate raising awareness and championing the importance of biodiversity to the public, and achieving life learning and practical outcomes.
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?

3. Habitat Creation: Project of Year Award (Large scale biodiversity enhancement 5ha and above)

Description	<p>An enhancement that will have a long term 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.</p> <p>Note this category will actively seek projects that go over planning and/or statutory obligations.</p>
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the enhancement go beyond normal business practice? • Is the enhancement/project replicable? • Has long term management been considered (>5 years)? • 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 compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans? • To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

4. Habitat Creation: Project of Year Award (Medium scale from 0.5 to 5ha)

Description	<p>An improvement that will be long lasting after the construction process. Examples may include pocket parks, courtyards, trees and wildflower planting.</p>
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the enhancement go beyond normal business practice? • Is the enhancement/project replicable? • Has long term management been considered (>5 years)? • 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 compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans? • To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

5. Habitat Creation: Project of Year Award (Small scale up to 0.5ha)

Description	A small scale improvement that will be long lasting after the construction process. Examples may include green roofs, green walls, rain gardens, hibernacula, habitat restoration and planting. Low cost/high impact improvements will be reviewed positively.
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the enhancement go beyond normal business practice? • Is the enhancement/project replicable? • Has long term management been considered (>5 years)? • 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 compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans? • To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

6. Innovation Award

Description	<p>Successful, innovative, and unusual enhancements that demonstrate application of bespoke products and interventions, data collection, collation and sharing of processes, as well as projects that demonstrate unusual and alternative approaches to the normal.</p> <p>Interventions that demonstrate effective enhancement of biodiversity on construction projects with a lasting legacy that support continual learning and improvement will be viewed most favourably.</p> <p>This is a category open to a wide range of interpretation and the winning scheme will be selected at the judging panel's discretion.</p>
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the enhancement go beyond normal business practice? • Have judges viewed this type of intervention/application of technology before? • Was training was carried out? • Were local communities engaged? • Is the innovation replicable? • How extensive were the biodiversity values delivered? • What benefits does the innovation bring to construction sites? • Has the intervention made collection of biodiversity data easier? • Did the innovation overcome an identified problem? • Can the innovation become mainstreamed?

7. Multi Benefits Award

Description	An enhancement that delivers multi benefits from biodiversity. Going beyond Biodiversity Net Gain and maximising the additional benefits nature-based solutions bring.
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the enhancement/project go beyond normal business practice? • Is the enhancement/project replicable? • Did the enhancement bring wider benefits to the location eg contribute to air quality improvements or amenity benefits or temporary habitat creation? • Did the enhancement compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans? • To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered? • What other benefits were considered and carried out?

8. Biodiversity Legacy Award (monitoring, maintenance, and management)

Description	An enhancement that demonstrates a long term commitment to improving biodiversity on site. This may include collation, collection and monitoring of data; the introduction of enhancement management plans; and alternative approaches to maintenance schedules and planting policies.
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the enhancement/project go beyond normal business practice? • Is the enhancement/project replicable? • Has long term management been considered (>5 years)? • Have innovative approaches to maintenance and management been adopted? • Did the enhancement compliment local or regional Biodiversity Action Plans? • To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

9. International Biodiversity Project Award

Description	Recognising biodiversity achievements from beyond the UK.
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the enhancement/project go beyond normal business practice? • Is the enhancement/project replicable? • Has long term management been considered (>5 years)? • To what extent were specific biodiversity values considered?

Evaluation indicators and judging criteria | Awards categories 10 – 11

The judges will look for the following key qualities (but not limited to) when reviewing the Biodiversity Champion nominees:

Quality	Description
Engaging	Someone who is inclusive, who communicates by listening as well as speaking
Inspiring	Someone who motivates others with honour, integrity, and courage
Enthusiastic	Someone who shares their enthusiasm about biodiversity with others, who perseveres and strives 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 disseminates that knowledge to others
Outcomes driven	Someone who demonstrates their positive biodiversity impacts

10. Biodiversity Champion Award: Early career professional (up to five years in biodiversity-related work)

Description	<p>This award recognises an individual who has contributed most to the ethos of 'doing one thing' for biodiversity either within their organisation, as part of a wider project team, as part of a supporting group, or a local grassroots initiative.</p> <p>We want to recognise professionals starting their biodiversity journey and already making an impact.</p>
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the key qualities above

11. Biodiversity Champion Award: Established professional (more than five years in biodiversity-related work)

Description	<p>This award recognises an established biodiversity practitioners (more than 5 year working in biodiversity-related projects/effort) who has contributed most to the ethos of 'doing one thing' for biodiversity either within their organisation, as part of a wider project team, as part of a supporting group, or a local grassroots initiative.</p>
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the key qualities above