



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Introducing the 2023 #BIGAwards winners

The thrilling conclusion to the 2023 BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards unfolded yesterday afternoon, 15 November at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where we announced our award winners, including the prestigious 2023 overall winner.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary, the BIG Biodiversity Challenge remains an industry cornerstone, driving biodiversity excellence in construction and the built environment. With over 65 entries received this year, we're delighted the Challenge and its ethos to "Do One Thing" for biodiversity continues to capture the attention of the construction industry.

Yesterday we were delighted to have Gary Grant, Technical Director, The Green Infrastructure Consultancy, MC the Awards ceremony. Special thanks also to our guest speakers Sadia Moeed, Area Director East Anglia, Environment Agency, Jackie Sharp, Interim Head of Policy and Technical, Landscape Institute and Merlin Hanbury-Tenison, Managing Director, Thousand Year Trust who all took time out of their busy diaries to join and inspire our industry audience.

Speaking at the event **Gary Grant, Technical Director, The Green Infrastructure Consultancy** concluded: *"At a time when biodiversity loss is being recognised as one of the greatest threats to civilisation, CIRIA's 10th annual BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards has been a great opportunity to showcase the work that ecologists and other professionals are doing to address the problem. I would like to thank all those who submitted projects and nominated champions. BIG congratulations to the winners!"*

We are pleased to announce that this year's BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards **Overall Winner** is **Northey Island Coastal Adaptation Strategy** submitted by **National Trust**.

Northey Island Coastal Adaptation Strategy was completed in May 2023, combating habitat loss due to sea level rise and climate change. It preserves vital saltmarsh, fosters biodiversity, and uses innovative techniques like sediment use, managed realignment, and cable undergrounding. This project sets a national example for coastal adaptation and biodiversity conservation, ensuring future generations enjoy its ecological significance.



Left to right: Daniel Leggett, Environmental Consultant, National Trust - Ewan Richardson, Civil Engineer, Royal HaskoningDHV

On winning, **Daniel Leggett, Environmental Consultant at National Trust**, part of the project team said: *"Receiving the overall winner accolade at the 2023 BIG Biodiversity Challenge is a genuine honour. As construction professionals, we must understand nature and design for it. This award reinforces our commitment to enhancing biodiversity, inspiring a lasting legacy of sustainable practices."*

Congratulations to all the Award Winners and Highly Commended entries, and to those that were shortlisted, and a big thank you to all those who submitted entries this year. A special thank you to our CIRIA Biodiversity Community of Practice [members and sponsors](#) for their support. Check out the [Awards winners' gallery](#).

2023 Award winners and sponsors

Overall Winner – prize sponsored by **Wildflower Turf Ltd**
Northey Island Coastal Adaptation Strategy
National Trust

Client-led Project Award – sponsored by **Kier**
Winner
Great Big Nature Boost
Severn Trent

Community Engagement Award – sponsored by **Arcadis**

Winner

Growing a Greener Estate

Trees for Cities (TfC) for Ealing Council

Habitat Creation Project of the Year (Large Scale) Award – sponsored by **Cormac**

Winner

Meon Vale

Tyler Grange Group Limited & St Modwen Homes Limited

Habitat Creation Project of the Year (Medium Scale) Award – sponsored by **Trustgreen**

Winner

Wetland Habitat Creation area - Sizewell C

Arcadis and EDF SZC

Habitat Creation Project of the Year (Small Scale) Award – sponsored by **Ecology and Habitat Management Ltd**

Winner

WHIP – Woodland Habitat Improvement Project

Harwell Campus in partnership with Adam Frost Design Ltd & Nurture Landscapes Ltd

Innovation Award – sponsored by **Heathrow**

Winner

The Wilder Blean Project

Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildwood Trust

Construction Phase Award

No entries

Biodiversity Legacy Award – sponsored by **Balfour Beatty**

Winner

Northey Island Coastal Adaptation Strategy

National Trust

Biodiversity Champion Award (early career) – sponsored by **BAM**

Winner

Emily Grimes

JLL

Biodiversity Champion Award (established professional) – sponsored by **Murphy**

Winner

Melissa Ralph

Cornwall Council

To find out more about the BIG Biodiversity Challenge please visit www.bigchallenge.info.

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Notes to Editors

For more information about CIRIA, the **BIG Biodiversity Challenge**, details of case studies entered in this years Challenge and winners (and photos) please contact:

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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 coordinate 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 and Awards

CIRIA's [BIG Biodiversity Challenge](#) offers advice and learning to show how biodiversity improvements can be simple, affordable, and achievable. The Challenge has gained huge momentum with 750+ entries received since 2013. Biodiversity improvements have included installing bug hotels and bat boxes, restoring riverbanks and wildflower meadows, and delivering detailed biodiversity action plans. Doing just one thing really can make a BIG difference in helping to reverse the decline of Biodiversity in the UK.

About the Biodiversity Community of Practice

This new practitioners' network oversees the BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards and aims to generate focused collaboration and enhance knowledge transfer aimed at improving and beneficially managing biodiversity across transport, utilities, housing, and development sectors. The network of industry experts from clients, contractors and consultants will provide thought leadership with the aim of developing key guidance resources through collaboration. To find out more email

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