



BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2023 - 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 construction sites, developments or existing buildings.

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.

Judges decisions will be final.

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2023 – Categories and Criteria

There are ten project categories in the **BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2023** and these are listed below. In addition, there is the Judges' Overall Winner.

Award Categories 1 - 8

Winning submissions will be chosen from these categories and awarded to the project that demonstrates 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

Award Categories 9 - 10

Judges will look at the following 6 keys to become a Biodiversity Champion (but not limited to): engaging, inspiring, enthusiastic, creative, knowledgeable, and outcomes driven. More details below.

Overall Winner Award

Judges will then select an Overall Winner from the ten category award winners, for the enhancement/professional that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to biodiversity.

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.

Evaluation Indicators and Criteria for Categories 1 - 8

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
<p>10 Points =extensive consideration beyond normal business practice</p> <p>8 Points = good level of consideration beyond normal business practice</p> <p>5/6 Points = fair consideration beyond normal business practice</p> <p>3 Points = some consideration beyond normal business practice</p> <p>1 Point = not gone beyond normal business practice</p>	<p>10 Points = thorough consideration of biodiversity</p> <p>8 Points = good level of consideration of biodiversity</p> <p>5/6 Points = fair consideration of biodiversity</p> <p>3 Points = some consideration of biodiversity</p> <p>1 Point = no consideration of biodiversity</p>
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
<p>10 Points =extensive ecological value/potential</p> <p>8 Points = good level of ecological value/potential</p> <p>5/6 Points = fair level of ecological value/potential</p> <p>3 Points = some level of ecological value/potential</p> <p>1 Point = no level of ecological value/potential</p>	<p>10 Points = extensive opportunities for replicability</p> <p>8 Points = good opportunities for replicability</p> <p>5/6 Points = fair opportunities for replicability</p> <p>3 Points = some opportunities for replicability</p> <p>1 Point = no opportunities for replicability</p>

Evaluation Indicators and Criteria for Categories 9 - 10

1. Engaging: Someone who is inclusive; who communicates by listening as well as speaking. Score from 1 (poor/not enough information) to 10 (outstanding)	2. Inspiring: Someone who can motivate others with honour, integrity and courage. Score from 1 (poor/not enough information) to 10 (outstanding)
3. Enthusiastic: Someone who can share their enthusiasm about biodiversity with others; who can persevere and push to achieve positive outcomes on projects. Score from 1 (poor/not enough information) to 10 (outstanding)	4. Creative: Someone who is prepared to seek solutions when faced with challenges; who looks for opportunities and innovative ways to overcome hurdles. Score from 1 (poor/not enough information) to 10 (outstanding)
5. 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. Score from 1 (poor/not enough information) to 10 (outstanding)	6. Outcomes driven: Someone who can demonstrate their positive biodiversity impacts. Score from 1 (poor/not enough information) to 10 (outstanding)

*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	1) CLIENT-LED PROJECT 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?

Award Category	2) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD
Description	An enhancement/initiative 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 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?

Award Category	3) HABITAT CREATION: Project of the year AWARD (Large scale biodiversity enhancement 5ha and above)
Description	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. Note this category will actively seek projects that go over planning and / or statutory obligations
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 (5years+)? – 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	4) HABITAT CREATION: Project of the year AWARD (Medium scale biodiversity enhancement of 0.5 to 5ha)
Description	An improvement that will be long lasting after the construction process. Examples may include pocket park, courtyard, trees and wildflower planting.
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 (5years+)? – 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	5) HABITAT CREATION: Project of the year AWARD (Small scale biodiversity enhancement of 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 (5years+)? – 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	6) INNOVATION AWARD
Description	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. 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. This is a category open to a wide range of interpretation and the winning scheme will be selected at the judging panel's discretion.
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?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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?
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Award Category	7) CONSTRUCTION PHASE AWARD
Description	A temporary enhancement which takes place during the life of the construction programme. Examples may include a green hording, temporary green walls, community/workforce engagement initiative, or single / multiple installations such as bird or bat boxes, bee hives, insect hotels, and alterations to programming or sequencing of work to accommodate wildlife during a project programme.
Suggested criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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	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 (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	9) BIODIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD (Early career professional: up to 5 years in biodiversity-related work)
Description	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 grass-roots initiative. We want to recognise professionals starting their biodiversity journey (up to 5 years working on biodiversity-related projects/effort), and already making an impact.
Suggested criteria	<p>Judges will look at the following 6 keys to become a Biodiversity Champion (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - Outcomes driven: Someone who can demonstrate their positive biodiversity impacts

Award Category	10) BIODIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD (Established professional: 5+ years in biodiversity-related work)
Description	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.
Suggested criteria	<p>Judges will look at the following 6 keys to become a Biodiversity Champion (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - Outcomes driven: Someone who can demonstrate their positive biodiversity impacts