



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Construction industry challenged to 'go BIG for nature'

CIRIA is pleased to announce that the [Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2025](#), are open for entries! Led by CIRIA's Biodiversity Community of Practice, the Awards encourage the construction industry to 'go BIG for nature,' a bold evolution from the original 'do one thing' approach. This shift challenges organisations to place biodiversity at the heart of projects, exceeding standard business practices and compliance with applicable legislation.

The 2025 Awards emphasise the importance of long-term biodiversity impact, recognising projects that not only implement nature-based solutions but also ensure their success through ongoing monitoring and maintenance. By fostering collaboration across industries and communities, the Awards celebrate efforts that integrate biodiversity into the built environment, creating spaces where both nature and people thrive.

Getting involved in the Biodiversity Challenge Awards is FREE and easy. Simply choose from the [ten award categories](#), and [submit your entries and/or nominations](#) by Friday 6 June 2025.

**Adrien Baudrimont, Senior Research Manager, CIRIA** project lead stated *"I am thrilled to announce the launch of the 2025 Biodiversity Challenge Awards! This year, we are embracing our new tagline, 'Going BIG for Nature,' reflecting changes in legislation and the growing role of the construction industry in promoting and amplifying biodiversity. These awards celebrate the projects that put nature front and centre, as well as the people making it happen, ensuring nature thrives within the built environment. As the leading awards in this space, the 2025 Biodiversity Challenge Awards will shine a spotlight on the initiatives and individuals driving real change for nature."*

**Melissa Ralph, Green Infrastructure for Growth - Project Lead, Cormac; Biodiversity Champion and former Judging Panel Chair** added *"It is vital that the UK and global construction industry actively encourage biodiversity at all stages of project delivery. We must act boldly to create more space for wildlife, healthier ecosystems, and richer landscapes. The 2025 CIRIA Biodiversity Challenge Awards have been revitalised to reflect the national introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and are a great opportunity to reflect on your project team's success, impact, and legacy."*

This year we are delighted to gain sponsorship support from **Cormac, Ecology & Habitat Management (EHM), GreenBlue Urban, Heathrow, Kier Group, National Highways, TrustGreen, and Overall Winner prize sponsor Wildflower Turf.**

For further information on how to enter and gain inspiration from past entries, please visit [www.bigchallenge.info](http://www.bigchallenge.info). This year's Biodiversity Challenge Awards ceremony will take place on 24 September and details will be announced in due course.

**ENDS**

## **Notes to Editors**

For more information about CIRIA and/or the **Biodiversity Challenge Awards 2025** 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 co-ordinate 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](http://www.ciria.org).

### **About the Biodiversity Challenge Awards**

CIRIA's Biodiversity Challenge offers advice and learning to show how biodiversity improvements can be simple, affordable, and achievable. The Challenge has gained huge momentum with 900+ 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.

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

1. Place-making for nature award: Single building
2. Place-making for nature award: Multi-property
3. Place-making for nature award: Mixed land use and ownership
4. Biodiversity feature award: Nature recovery
5. Biodiversity feature award: Coastal eco-engineering
6. Biodiversity feature award: Infrastructure networks
7. Biodiversity feature award: Water management
8. Innovation for nature award
9. Biodiversity champion award: Early career professional
10. Biodiversity champion award: Established professional

There will be one Overall Winner (prize sponsored by [Wildflower Turf](#)) for the enhancement demonstrating an outstanding commitment to biodiversity. The Overall Winner and individual category winners from 2024 can be viewed at: [www.bigchallenge.info/2024-awards](http://www.bigchallenge.info/2024-awards).

To find out more visit [www.bigchallenge.info](http://www.bigchallenge.info) or email [bigawards@ciria.org](mailto:bigawards@ciria.org).

### **About the CIRIA Biodiversity Community of Practice**

This practitioners' network 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 provides thought leadership with the aim of developing key guidance resources through collaboration.

To find out more visit [www.bigchallenge.info/biodiversity-community-of-practice](http://www.bigchallenge.info/biodiversity-community-of-practice) or email [adrien.baudrimont@ciria.org](mailto:adrien.baudrimont@ciria.org).