

## Nomination form for BIG Biodiversity Champion 2023

<b>Nominee Name</b>	Victoria Iggo
<b>Award category</b>	Early career professional (up to 5 years working on biodiversity-related projects/effort)
<b>How many years working on biodiversity-related projects/effort?</b>	4 years
<b>Project(s) person is nominated for</b>	<p><b>Kent County Council (KCC) – Road infrastructure improvement project.</b></p> <p>Over the last four years SYSTRA has been developing a significant highway scheme on the A249 in Kent for Kent County Council. The Grovehurst Junction scheme will look to reduce congestion on the A249, improve pedestrian and cycle facilities and support further development, housing, and economic growth in the area.</p> <p>SYSTRA Ecology was commissioned to complete ecology surveys and provide an Ecological Impact Assessment to support planning submission as well as supporting the wider team with ecology inputs on the outline design stage. Conditioned planning was granted, and Victoria successfully discharged the relevant ecology planning conditions. Through her actions Victoria has enabled ground investigation and archaeological works, vegetation clearance, has inputted into the detail design and supported the client at tendering stage. Victoria is now supporting the Construction Manager playing a key compliance and auditing role. Victoria is the Lead Ecologist for the scheme successfully leading the project through each of the various stages.</p>
<b>Nominee Organisation</b>	SYSTRA Ltd
<b>Nominator name (can be same as above), organisation &amp; email for</b>	Ana Togridou, PhD MCIEEM CECOL Nature Positive Discipline Lead, SYSTRA atogridou@systra.com

<b>contact</b>	
<b>Describe how the nominee best meets the following criteria (no more than 50 words each):</b>	
<b>Engaging</b>	Victoria created a positive and connected working environment that fostered the successful delivery of the project and drove forward enhancements for biodiversity, collaborating with the client, the local authority, landscape architects and engineers. Victoria formed strong communications channels with the onsite ecology team securing successful mitigation of ecological constraints.
<b>Inspiring</b>	Victoria inspired the other disciplines to consider biodiversity working together to tie in the visual screening and highways requirements with the habitat creation for Biodiversity Net Gain. She inspired the design team to add value by including nature-based solution elements on the design and receptor sites above mitigation requirements.
<b>Enthusiastic</b>	Victoria with her enthusiasm, enjoyed the tasks and stayed on top of things. Her enthusiasm inspired the onsite ecology team, and everyone felt proud for the work they were delivering. The client found Victoria easy to work with and trusted her to do a good job for biodiversity.
<b>Creative</b>	To complete works in the most sustainable way, Victoria suggested materials cleared from local areas were re-used to create biodiversity enhancements. Hibernacula constructed within the reptile receptor site were built using wood cut from tree maintenance and clearance within the local road network, which otherwise would have been disposed of.
<b>Knowledgeable</b>	Victoria has a cohesive knowledge of wildlife legislation and guidance. She reacts with professionalism when facing a change. Victoria knows when to seek expert advice and constantly seeks for opportunities to further develop. Victoria took the extra mile, worked weekends to complete water vole mitigation next to expert licence holders.
<b>Outcomes driven</b>	Through her actions during design Victoria was able to ensure Biodiversity Net Gain of more than 20% was met. She managed resistance from designers and ensured

suitable enhancements for water voles, reptiles and great crested newt were delivered both on site and at offsite locations above planning requirements.

**In 100 words provide a summary of how this nominee has gone the extra mile to enrich and enhance biodiversity on this project**

Victoria is an excellent Ecology project manager. By entering this career path work became for Victoria more than just work. She secured enhancements for protected species, soft landscaping and recycling of materials. She went the extra mile by providing onsite training on water vole mitigation and reptile translocation. She delivered for biodiversity more than it was expected based on the planning and licencing obligations of the project by securing a 20% biodiversity net gain and habitat enhancements. She inspired the local community at the receptor sites by adding educational signs and she received thriving feedback from the county ecologist.

**Please attach a photo**

