

BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards 2024

Biodiversity Champion Awards Entry Form

Welcome to the BIG Biodiversity Challenge and Awards! We invite you to nominate one person who has demonstrably gone the extra mile to enrich and enhance biodiversity.

Nominators will be asked to submit a short summary outlining the reasons why this person has been nominated and illustrating how they achieve the six key qualities needed to become a BIG Biodiversity Champion.

Key dates

- The deadline for entries is **Friday 24 May 2024 at 17:00**. Please complete and return the nomination form and supporting materials (high resolution images) to bigawards@ciria.org.
- The shortlist will be announced in **July 2024**; we will inform the primary contact for each successful entry.
- The shortlist will be invited to provide a short video about how they are championing biodiversity that prompted their nomination to the Challenge to be shared at the awards ceremony and more widely as part of our post-awards marketing campaign including via social media and on www.bigchallenge.info. The shortlist will not be judged on the video.
- The winners will be revealed at the in-person [awards ceremony](#) on **Wednesday 25 September 2024** (provisional date).

Entry guidelines

- Nominating candidates is free.
- Personal data is gathered in accordance with [CIRIA's privacy policy](#).
- Anyone can submit a nomination: the nominee, the employer (independent of or jointly with the nominee), or someone from another organisation.
- Entries should not be used to:
 - promote goods and services ([CIRIA](#) can encourage generic technology/processes but cannot accept registered trademarks in any submitted case study or illustrations) or
 - promote any political agenda
- In submitting your nomination, you understand that we will publish all submissions (including images) on www.bigchallenge.info and content may be shared elsewhere by [CIRIA](#). If you (or your nominee and their project partners) do not agree to this, please clearly state the restrictions that apply to your submission.

Biodiversity Champion awards categories

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

Judging criteria

An independent panel of judges will review all nominations based on the following six key qualities to become a BIG Biodiversity Champion.

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

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!


Biodiversity Champion Entry Form

1. Nominator details

Our primary contact throughout the awards cycle will be the person who made the submission. If you would prefer us to liaise with someone else after nominating, please inform bigawards@ciria.org.

Name	Daisy Evans
Company	Kier
Job title	Ecologist
Email address	Daisy.evans@kier.co.uk

2. Nominee details

Name	Natasha James
Company	Kier
Job title	Senior Ecologist
Email address	Natasha.james1@kier.co.uk
Headshot photo (low resolution)	

3. Awards category

Awards category	<input type="checkbox"/> Early career professional Up to five years in biodiversity-related work <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Established professional More than five years in biodiversity-related work
How many years in biodiversity-related work	12 years
Project(s) person is nominated for	A417 – Missing Link

4. Biodiversity Champion qualities

Describe how the nominee demonstrate the following criteria (50 words max each).

Engaging	Natasha has completed many ecological talks to teams on site, local stakeholders, local organisations, such as Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, members of the public and television shows, for the purpose of engaging people in the ecological value of the area and what's being done to protect and enhance it.
Inspiring	It's evident by the example set that Natasha's passionate about the environment and doing what's right to ensure species aren't negatively impacted. During the reptile translocation Natasha would personally drive regularly to ensure the animals were taken to the most suitable receptor sites and had reduced travelling and holding times.
Enthusiastic	Enthusiasm for ecology is a clear driver in Natasha's work, she's more than happy to speak with anyone about the work being done as part of the ecological mitigation and has been awarded company-wide awards such as 'employee of the month' and 'Kier Stars' due to her ecological oversight.
Creative	During the project so far, it has been important to be pragmatic in the approach in mitigating for protected and notable species and habitats of importance, however where needed Natasha has found innovate ideas to deliver compensation strategies as seen from the submissions of both Kier entry categories.
Knowledgeable	Natasha is experienced in biodiversity delivery, and this can be seen when communicating with other technical disciplines involved with the project. It's important to deliver key information in a way that will be understood and accepted, and Natasha is well-versed at talking to different audiences to achieve a shared goal.
Outcomes driven	Natasha is always aiming high for the project delivery and ensuring the biodiversity measures are implemented when they need to be. Targets are set and collaborative working is how they're reached. For example, refurbishing a WWII feature required communication between multiple contractors, ecologist and health and safety specialists to accomplish.

5. Biodiversity Champion details

Summarise how this nominee has gone the extra mile to enrich and enhance biodiversity on this project, specifically addressing the judging criteria. (100 words max)

You may provide supporting evidence separately however this may not be considered during the judging process.

Natasha has been working as a senior ecologist at Kier for over 12 months, joining the
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A417 Missing Link project during the ecological early works in 2023. She has led the way with implementing and delivering the ecological mitigation, enhancement and compensation works. Working alongside a team of ecologists, Natasha has coordinated the operations team on the site as well as collaborating with the design team and engineers to ensure the special character of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has been not only conserved but also enhanced.