

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	Paula Wakelin
Company	AtkinsRéalis
Job title	Associate Ecologist
Email address	paula.wakelin@atkinsrealis.com

2. Nominee details

Name	Liz Spedding
Company	AtkinsRéalis
Job title	Associate Ecologist
Email address	liz.spedding@atkinsrealis.com
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	21 years

work	
Project(s) person is nominated for	<p>The Moors at Arne Coastal Change Project ('the Project').</p> <p>An incredibly complex and demanding coastal realignment and habitat creation scheme, with multiple environmental constraints, which will deliver intertidal habitat to compensate for impacts of coastal squeeze on European designations within Poole harbour. The Client (Environment Agency) has said, "It's a big, complex project and certainly the most complex [managed realignment] scheme ecologically I have seen in the UK", Lyn Jenkins, Environment Agency.</p> <p>Moors at Arne Coastal Change Project Dorset Coast Forum</p>

4. Biodiversity Champion qualities

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

Engaging	Engages all elements of the team from the Project Partners, EA (Client), NE and RSPB, and contractor (Kier) to deliver high quality outcomes for the project. Manages complex multi-disciplinary ecological challenges, engaging participants in an accessible manner to achieve project goals. Highly inclusive and considerate, championing 'equality, diversity and inclusion'.
Inspiring	Liz is my 'role model'. Her calm dedication, attention to detail, methodical approach, ability to meet new constraints and resilience in the face of challenges is inspiring. In the position of Ecology Project Manager, Liz has selflessly supported and nurtured the team, championing the ethos of communication, collaboration and teamwork.
Enthusiastic	When working with Liz, it is clear she's passionate about ecology and delivering the best outcome for biodiversity, the project and the Client. This enthusiasm encourages colleagues to champion biodiversity with their clients, asking them to go above and beyond, where possible, and always making the right choices for biodiversity.
Creative	Liz was fundamental in developing the habitats and species mitigation design for the Project and much creativity was needed where the design had to accommodate the competing requirements of environmental receptors, including Annex I fen-meadow habitat, aquatic habitats and associated flora, water voles, sand lizards and protected and important plants.
Knowledgeable	As a Project Management Champion and Ecology Team technical reviewer, and with a wealth of experience, Liz is extremely knowledgeable about many aspects of ecology and ecological consultancy. Liz wrote the Environmental Statement Biodiversity Chapter for the Project; no mean feat given the breadth of habitats and species covered.
Outcomes driven	Liz is a highly professional and focussed individual that cares deeply about biodiversity. In relation to the Project, she always had her eye on the next task and was continuously planning the best way to achieve positive outcomes for the Client, whilst ensuring the best outcome for biodiversity.

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.

Liz has been integral not only in the delivery of the ecology works, but also the

maintenance of high standards of ecological consultancy, all underpinned by a desire to protect and enhance biodiversity and maximise the lasting ecological legacy of the project. Liz has maintained excellent relations with the AtkinsRéalis team and the Project Partners (EA, NE, RSPB), and subsequently the Principal Contractor throughout, despite challenges resulting from the complex nature of the Project. Liz has continued to lead on the project through detailed design, consenting and now into on-site delivery, for this dedication, I believe she deserves this award.