

Biodiversity Community of Practice

The thought leadership practitioner
forum for biodiversity within the built
environment



About CIRIA

CIRIA is the Construction Industry Research and Information Association, a neutral, independent and not-for-profit member organisation.

Our vision is to be the leading enabler and preferred partner to drive collaboration across the built environment and construction sectors, to research, develop and transfer knowledge.

CIRIA Products

CIRIA delivers robust, authoritative, independent good practice guidance which is applicable across sectors. Our guidance is designed for a range of users, from policy makers to practitioners.

Our guidance is developed collaboratively with industry and academic experts. Our methods ensure consensus, quality and the latest thinking underpin everything we do. We use high quality practitioner case studies to share knowledge and illustrate practice through examples.

We raise awareness of our good practice guidance through training, events, communities of practice, social media, blogs and press releases. Our key messages are widely disseminated to help embed good practice into industry throughout the UK and internationally.

CIRIA Research Ambitions

CIRIA's sixty plus year history and future purpose are aligned to our ambitions, designed to make a tangible difference to the sectors in which we work.

We take a holistic, systems-based approach to critical industry challenges within our five core research ambitions:



**Embedding
Sustainability**



**Achieving Net
Zero Carbon**



**Increasing
Resilience**



**Improving
Delivery**



**Harnessing
Innovation**

CIRIA Biodiversity Community of Practice

Planned activities and members benefits in 2024

Aim & Objectives

2024 is the third year for CIRIA's Biodiversity Community of Practice. Early 2022, CIRIA's long standing Biodiversity Interest Group was relaunched as a formal, funded Community of Practice to enable it to do more to support the implementation of high-quality biodiversity within the construction industry.

The aim is to build a strong practitioner network demonstrating thought leadership in practical biodiversity improvement.

Objectives include:

- to share knowledge between sectors and professions
- to collaborate on the development of practical guidance
- to grow the network and encourage membership from new organisations and sectors
- to share case studies of good practice
- to advance practice toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15



2023 BIG Biodiversity Awards winners and highly commended

Background

2024 will be a critical year for biodiversity. The delayed BNG mandatory requirement is scheduled for January, with more guidance and details released by Defra leading to the rollout. Biodiversity net gain principles demonstrate how a proposed development will be of benefit to biodiversity in a measurable manner and counteract any biodiversity losses. The United Nations recognise the need for improved biodiversity through Sustainable Development Goal #15.

Environmental and sustainability practitioners have a vital role to play in attaining this goal and in implementing government regulation and legislation aimed at improving biodiversity. Promotion, collaboration, and knowledge transfer through this community will help improve the outcomes for biodiversity within construction and the built environment.

The Biodiversity CoP was created early 2022 as a response to this fluctuating and sometimes challenging context. It offers a platform for biodiversity practitioners to share knowledge and build capacity. The Biodiversity CoP took the lead on the Biodiversity Challenge Awards through a series of webinars showcasing good practice from past award winners. CoP members scoped and led a series of Biodiversity Net Gain-specific webinars and are actively participating in CIRIA's annual Blue Green Conference series.

Membership includes environmental and sustainability professionals, project managers, contractors, designers, suppliers, regulators, government bodies, academics and other key stakeholders with an interest in, or need to deliver biodiversity. This includes the transport, utilities, housing and development sectors.



Key outputs

Sector leading activities will include webinars, annual events, online and social media visibility, biodiversity resources, and updated good practice guidance (subject to interest).

Online Biodiversity CoP events will support knowledge sharing and good practice and will be free to Community of Practice members. Events in planning include:

- 2024 Biodiversity Challenge & Awards - Launch webinar (includes winners showcases) - Q1
- Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain - A practical webinar on navigating BNG – Q2

In-person Biodiversity CoP events will be designed to grow networking and knowledge sharing opportunities for CoP members and biodiversity practitioners. Two to four complimentary tickets for CoP members (depending on funding level). 2024 in person events include:

- Biodiversity topic-specific session scoped and led by the CoP - Q2
- 2024 Biodiversity Challenge Awards Ceremony - Celebration of biodiversity improvements within the construction industry. Flagship event! - Q3
- Contribution to CIRIA's Blue-Green Infrastructure conference - Q4

The Biodiversity CoP will enhance its visibility through new content on the dedicated website, and online presence which will better showcase the CoP work and interests:

- Updates to bigchallenge.info to showcase events and biodiversity resources
- Online exposure through CIRIA media channels

Subject to level of interest within the group, the CoP could lead on the scoping of good practice guidance for biodiversity. This will include consideration of updating existing guidance and/or the need for new one.



Membership benefits

Membership subscriptions support and maintain the community of practice and its activities throughout 2024.

2024 membership benefits include:

- **Join the Biodiversity Project Steering Group (PSG):** The PSG meets online three to four times per year for focused meetings which include:
 - Updates critical to biodiversity;
 - Relevant presentations from PSG members or invited guests;
 - Discussion of practical experiences, challenges and opportunities for biodiversity;
 - Updates on the metrics on the reach and impacts of the CoP (to be defined in Q1).
- **Visibility** of your organisation's membership via the CoP dedicated website (bigchallenge.info), social media and CIRIA newsletters
- **Sponsoring:** Members are de facto sponsors of a Biodiversity CoP event (included with membership fee). Members may choose sponsoring a Biodiversity Challenge Award category, one of the Biodiversity CoP-led events, or a specific component of the Awards ceremony (first come first served)
- **Speaking opportunities:** CoP members are requested to assist in development of the events programme. This enables the CoP to prioritise topics, speakers and types of events and provides an opportunity for members to present on their projects. Events include Biodiversity Challenge & Awards events, biodiversity-specific session, CIRIA Blue Green conference
- **Judging opportunity:** Members are invited to join the Biodiversity Award judging panel and assess entries
- **Free access to all online Biodiversity CoP events** for individual practitioners within their organisations
- **Two free tickets per organisation to in-person events** (and up to four, dependent on membership subscription)
- **Lead the industry on biodiversity guidance:** PSG members will be involved in shaping and scoping future CIRIA guidance on biodiversity net gain

Why join a CIRIA community?

The benefits to your company from contributing to our efforts



Our downloads

Our Guidance is downloaded over 50,000 times per year



Our reach

Our members and downloads span 50 countries worldwide

Our reputation

Our reputation in the industry is long established and widely recognised. The principles of quality, sustainability and collaboration have been the foundation for what we do for many years.

The benefits of being involved in a CIRIA effort are various:

- Deliver significant corporate value for modest levels of investment
- Raise awareness of your corporate brand through logo on outputs and submission of case studies and content
- Network with peers, clients and thought leaders in the sector
- Get your message heard and influence industry direction
- Demonstrate tangible leading contribution to improvement in the sector, fulfilling ESG goals
- Provide CPD for your staff, aiding routes to chartership and personal career growth
- Assist future work winning through involvement with industry leading good practice



Want to know more?

This Project



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