

# Mineral Products Association Biodiversity Awards 2024



# THE AWARDS

The Mineral Products Association (MPA) recognises the exceptional achievement and future potential of the mineral products industry in protecting and enhancing the nation's biodiversity. Whether through progressively managing their operational sites or through restoring quarries, MPA members are committed to improving biodiversity. These awards reflect the fact that the industry is uniquely placed to benefit nature.

These awards are for biodiversity-led projects. Restoration schemes that are not biodiversity-led, but which may have biodiversity components, can be entered for the Restoration Awards.

## WHO QUALIFIES?

The awards apply to all producer members of the MPA. They apply to minerals sites of all types – including operational, restored and part-restored quarries/extraction sites (including those operated for aggregates, cement, dimension stone and industrial uses), manufacturing plants and areas of the seabed that have been dredged for aggregates as well as land managed by companies that has not been worked. Consultants working for producer members may also apply in association with members.

Sites may be managed or owned by the MPA member or a third party as long as the entrant has clear involvement in creating the biodiversity. Entries can include sites or projects entered previously but which have progressed or demonstrate new features.

## ENTRY DEADLINE FRIDAY 12 APRIL 2024

### THERE ARE FOUR CATEGORIES:

- 1. Innovation:** for companies demonstrating examples of best practice.
- 2. Landscape scale restoration:** for companies demonstrating a major contribution to making habitats bigger, better and more joined up.
- 3. Planned restoration schemes:** that have been approved (through planning) but not yet implemented, that demonstrate an innovative future vision that will deliver major wildlife benefits.
- 4. Individual or Group contribution:** made by a member of staff, a volunteer or advisor, or group involved in helping management or monitoring of a site, reflecting commitments, drive and achievements.

Sites can be entered under one or more of the categories, but a separate entry is required for each.

### JUDGING CRITERIA

**Innovation:** Imaginative approaches to nature conservation for example through:

- Specific action for particular species, eg niche habitats for invertebrates.
- Addressing particular issues or realising opportunities.
- Enabling engagement and access, eg voluntary groups assisting in site management and wardening.
- Avoidance and mitigation, eg design of schemes or site management close to protected sites or species.
- Monitoring and reporting, eg measuring.
- Other innovative actions that don't fit easily within the other categories.

**Landscape-scale restoration:** Habitat creation, restoration and management at scale that helps to deliver more, bigger, better and joined-up areas for wildlife and fits within a wider context of contributing to, for example, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Local Nature Partnerships objectives, green infrastructure, biodiversity or landscape enhancement strategies.

**Planned restoration schemes:** Restoration schemes that have been approved by a planning authority but not yet delivered, which when implemented will deliver significant wildlife benefits, particularly priority habitats, demonstrate innovative approaches to dealing with issues, and/or outcomes based on partnership working and dialogue with regulators and communities.

**Individual or Group Contribution:** Achievements due to the commitment, drive and enthusiasm of particular individuals within or with a company, or groups eg volunteers, working with a company or site.

Projects demonstrating benefits to priority species and habitats are encouraged:

- **UK priority habitats and species** as defined by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (and previously prioritised in the UK and local Biodiversity Action Plans).

**WHO WILL JUDGE THE AWARDS?** The judging panel will be made up of people with specialised knowledge of nature and biodiversity. It will include representatives from Natural England and MPA as well as independent judges.

**HOW TO ENTER** Just stick to answering the questions in the simple entry form along with supporting data plan or maps and a small selection of photographs as appropriate to demonstrate the extent of the biodiversity achievement. There is no need to produce an elaborately presented entry.

**THE PRIZE** All entries who are judged to have reached award standard will receive commemorative certificates. The entrant judged to have made an outstanding contribution to biodiversity for each category of award will be the overall winner in that category. The MPA may, at their own initiative, decide to make special awards. All entrants will have potential for recognition at national, regional and local level.

**THE TIMETABLE** Applications must be submitted by **Friday 12th April 2024**. Preliminary assessment will be desk based which will then produce a shortlist of sites for judging visits in late Spring/early Summer. Awards will be presented in October 2024.

As a consequence of budget pressures, the way the 2024 entries are assessed and considered is likely to change compared to previous years. Similarly, the way any event held to support the awards is conducted should also be expected to change. Further details of both these developments will be communicated to members in Q1 2024.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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# SUBMISSIONS

## 1. INNOVATION CATEGORY

- The completed entry form and summary of your entry in Word or pdf.
- Any additional supporting evidence you may wish to include, including weblinks.
- Preferably high resolution photographs of your activity, habitats and/or species benefitting. These photos will be used by MPA across various media (eg print/online) for publicity purposes and future showcasing of the industry's restoration work. By submitting an entry you give MPA permission to use the image(s) you provide in future publicity and showcasing of the industry's restoration work (e.g. via print/online/social media) and confirm that the copyright on the image(s) provided permits MPA to use the image(s) in the ways outlined above. If any credits are necessary for the use of the image(s) for the purposes outlined above, it is the responsibility of the entrant company to tell MPA what these are.
- If possible, a short endorsement from any wildlife groups/partners you have worked with.

## 2. LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION CATEGORY

- The completed entry form and summary of your entry in Word or pdf.
- A site plan indicating the area under consideration.
- A copy of your company/site Biodiversity Action Plan if you have one.
- At least two high resolution photographs of key habitats. These photos will be used by MPA across various media (eg print/online) for publicity purposes and future showcasing of the industry's restoration work. By submitting an entry you give MPA permission to use the image(s) you provide in future publicity and showcasing of the industry's restoration work (e.g. via print/online/social media) and confirm that the copyright on the image(s) provided permits MPA to use the image(s) in the ways outlined above. If any credits are necessary for the use of the image(s) for the purposes outlined above, it is the responsibility of the entrant company to tell MPA what these are.
- Where possible, high resolution photographs, of species that are benefitting. \*Please see note above on copyright issues that applies to any photos supplied with your submission.
- If possible, a short endorsement from any wildlife groups/partners you have worked with.
- Any additional supporting evidence you may wish to include, including web links.

## 3. PLANNED RESTORATION SCHEMES CATEGORY

- The completed entry form and summary of your entry in Word or pdf.
- A site plan indicating the area involved.
- Plans illustrating the key features of the planned restoration.
- If possible endorsement from any wildlife or community groups you have worked with, and/or the planning authority.
- Any additional information.

Please supply digital copies.

## 4. INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION CATEGORY

- The completed entry form and summary of your entry in Word or pdf.
- Any additional supporting evidence you may wish to include, including weblinks.
- Preferably high resolution photographs of the individual concerned. These photos will be used by MPA across various media (eg print/online) for publicity purposes and future showcasing of the industry's restoration work. By submitting an entry you give MPA permission to use the image(s) you provide in future publicity and showcasing of the industry's restoration work (e.g. via print/online/social media) and confirm that the copyright on the image(s) provided permits MPA to use the image(s) in the ways outlined above. If any credits are necessary for the use of the image(s) for the purposes outlined above, it is the responsibility of the entrant company to tell MPA what these are.

**Please supply digital copies sent electronically eg uploaded to the Dropbox that MPA will organise, or by WeTransfer to [info@mineralproducts.org](mailto:info@mineralproducts.org).**

**Please do not feel obliged to spend time on an elaborate presentation. A Word document with the relevant information in a simple folder will suffice for the printed versions.**

**Entry deadline: Friday 12th April 2024**

# UK BROAD AND PRIORITY HABITATS

[HTTPS://JNCC.GOV.UK/OUR-WORK/UK-BAP-PRIORITY-HABITATS/#LIST-OF-UK-BAP-PRIORITY-HABITATS](https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-habitats/#list-of-uk-bap-priority-habitats)

BROAD HABITAT	INCL PRIORITY HABITAT	BROAD HABITAT	INCL PRIORITY HABITAT
Rivers and streams	Rivers	Calcareous grassland	Lowland and upland
Standing open waters & canals	Lakes and ponds	Neutral grassland	Lowland and upland meadows
Arable and horticultural	Arable field margins	Improved grassland	Floodplain grazing marsh
Boundary and linear features	Hedgerows	Dwarf shrub heath	Lowland and upland heathland
Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	Traditional orchards	Fen, marsh, swamp	Upland flushes, fens and swamps
	Wood-pasture & parkland		Lowland fens
	Upland oakwood		Purple moor grass and rush pastures
	Lowland beech and yew		Reedbeds
	Upland mixed ashwoods	Bogs	Lowland raised
	Wet woodland		Blanket
	Lowland mixed deciduous	Inland rock	Rock outcrop and scree
	Upland birchwoods		Open mosaic
Coniferous woodland	Native pine woodlands	Supra littoral sediment	Coastal vegetated shingle
Acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland		



**Cover:** Redwing catching worm, Roy McDonald, Volunteer (Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust) College Lake Nature Reserve, Tring, Buckinghamshire

**Above:** Slight mist rising off the water and showing the reedbeds in early morning light, Jill Bewley, Volunteer (Cotswold Lakes Trust) Cleveland Lakes, Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire