

# Water Project of the Year

## Eligibility

This category is open to UK based water, environmental, ecological or catchment scale projects that demonstrably secure clean water, enhance the natural environment, and build long term resilience.

Entries must evidence measurable environmental outcomes delivered during the 2025 qualifying period.

Projects may include clean water schemes, waste, water improvements, nature based interventions, habitat enhancement, river restoration, flood or drought resilience, catchment management, or cross sector or environmental initiatives.

### 1. Project Eligibility

- Open to projects delivered in whole or in part within the UK.
- Projects may be completed or in advanced delivery stages but must present clear outcomes evidenced within 2025.
- Eligible entrants include consultants, contractors, asset owners, environmental partners, water companies, NGOs or multi partner teams.
- Submissions must focus on a single project, not a portfolio, unless the programme forms one integrated environmental intervention.

### 2. Scope & Focus of Submission

#### Protection or Enhancement of the Natural Environment

Entries must demonstrate how the project:

- Improved water quality
- Enhanced biodiversity or habitat value
- Improved catchment health or ecological resilience
- Delivered measurable environmental uplift

Examples include biodiversity gains, habitat creation, improved ecological status, restored river morphology, or nature recovery outcomes.

### **Climate Resilience, Adaptation & Nature Based Solutions-Based Solutions**

Submissions should show:

- How the project addressed long-term climate risks, including drought, flooding, extreme rainfall or temperature impacts.
- Use of nature based solutions where suitable (e.g., wetlands, natural flood management, regenerative land use)
- How resilience measures deliver benefits beyond the project boundary

### **Innovation in Water Management or Environmental Delivery**

Projects should demonstrate:

- Novel approaches in water treatment, catchment modelling, monitoring or digital optimisation
- Innovative delivery approaches, materials, technologies or partnerships
- Creative, science led or community led solutions that improved environmental performance

### **Regulatory & Stakeholder Collaboration**

Entries must highlight:

- Collaboration with regulators, communities, landowners, local authorities or water companies
- How early engagement, shared planning or co-design improved delivery outcomes
- Evidence of transparent communication, compliance, and support from external stakeholders

## **Measurable Environmental Outcomes**

Submissions should provide robust evidence of:

- Environmental improvement (water quality metrics, ecological status, carbon reduction)
- Catchment or system-wide benefits
- Long-term environmental value or legacy impacts
- Independent validation, where available (monitoring data, regulator feedback)

## **3. Evidence Requirements**

Entrants should include proportionate evidence such as:

- Baseline and post project environmental data
- Biodiversity assessments or ecological reports
- Carbon calculations or climate resilience modelling
- Community consultation outputs
- Regulator or partner feedback
- GIS mapping, before and after imagery or monitoring dashboards

## **4. Judging Considerations**

Judges will consider:

- The scale and significance of measurable environmental outcomes
- Credibility and robustness of supporting evidence
- The degree of innovation relative to project type and context
- The effectiveness of partnership and regulatory engagement
- How the project contributes to long term environmental and climate resilience
- The transferability or replicability of the solutions developed