



The countryside charity
Gloucestershire



CPRE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AWARDS

recognising and celebrating projects across Gloucestershire which are delivering real benefits for the environment and for people and are exemplars of good practice which others might follow

In June 2007 the CPRE Gloucestershire Awards scheme was launched to encourage identification and recognition of projects which demonstrate sustainability and have resulted in significant improvements to the environment and facilities for communities.

Nominated projects are judged by an independent panel under three broad categories:

- well considered buildings – new, restored or converted
- innovative use of natural resources, including land and water
- projects developed by or for the local community

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2008

Bourne Mills – Stroud District



Bourne Mills are a symbol of the industrial heritage of the Stroud Valleys. The mill complex has been rescued by its owner and brought back into beneficial use for local businesses. The project is particularly notable for the care and attention to detail in its execution

Citation: For the foresight and persistence which has led to an exemplary restoration of this significant group of mill buildings

Brockweir and Hewelsfield Village Shop – Forest of Dean District



The local community has re-established its village shop and is running it as a community enterprise. This is an exciting new building, constructed in Forest of Dean green oak with photovoltaic cells and a ground source heat pump

Citation: For exemplary community action in re-establishing village services, and for the location, design, execution and management of a quality new building in this rural environment

Brockworth Court Tithe Barn Restoration - Tewkesbury Borough



Brockworth's historic Tithe Barn is an important element of the original centre of Brockworth. Following a devastating fire in 2006, the owner has fully restored the Barn to the highest of standards using local materials and it is now used for community purposes

Citation: For the exemplary reconstruction and renovation of Brockworth Court Tithe Barn, recognising its group importance with the Church and Brockworth Court

Cud Hill Common, Upton St Leonards – Stroud District



This area of common land overlooking Gloucester had been neglected. Through the initiative of the local community walls have been rebuilt, scrub cleared, interpretation provided and the area made stockproof enabling grazing to be reintroduced and a return of the characteristic limestone grassland flora

Citation: For the management of an important area of unimproved limestone grassland for the people of Gloucestershire

Priory Gardens, Gloucester – City of Gloucester



Close to Gloucester Cathedral is St Oswalds Priory. The Priory and its surroundings had become very run down. The area has been transformed by the City Council through an exciting landscaping scheme which also helps visitors understand the historical significance of the Priory

Citation: For the exemplary design of an important open area created for the people of Gloucester

Southrop Manor Barns - Cotswold District



This important group of barns in the centre of Southrop were sold in 1992. Instead of converting them to domestic uses, the new owner chose the challenging option of restoration for economic activity, providing workshops, an equestrian centre and holiday lets. The work has been carried out with meticulous attention to detail

Citation: For the establishment of economic viability for these important buildings in the centre of Southrop, and carrying out the scheme. Exemplary attention to the quality of detail and craftsmanship

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2009

Arlingham Horse Shoe Project – Stroud District



Four circular walks supported by special waymarking, map boards and an interpretive leaflet have been created around Arlingham by the Parish Council, starting and finishing at the Red Lion in the heart of the village. More people are now enjoying this remote part of Gloucestershire and contributing to the local economy

Citation: For the design and implementation of an innovative project of well interpreted Parish paths providing easier and rewarding access to all members of the public

Court Barn Museum - Cotswold District



Through the Guild of Handicraft Trust, a notable listed barn in the centre of Chipping Campden has been transformed into a small museum, telling the story of the Arts and Crafts movement in the Cotswolds. This was a challenging project. The quality of the conversion and the displays are outstanding

Citation: For the exemplary design and execution of a museum in an historic building, dedicated to the Arts and Crafts movement to which Chipping Campden and its surrounding villages are so closely associated

Dunkirk Millponds Restoration – Stroud District



Adjacent to Dunkirk Mill near Nailsworth lay three derelict millponds. Through the efforts of the Dunkirk Mills Management Committee and with extensive local volunteer effort the ponds have been fully restored to create an attractive and valuable habitat for wildlife and for the public to enjoy

Citation: For the achievement of a restored water management system in old millponds and the re-creation of three tranquil and beautiful ponds and associated habitats for the benefit of wildlife, local residents and the public

Hartpury Orchard Centre - Forest of Dean District



Gloucestershire is associated with orchards. A new orchard centre at Hartpury with extensive planting of local orchard tree varieties has at its heart a splendid new, traditionally-constructed, oak framed building incorporating renewable energy technology, rainwater harvesting and reedbed grey water treatment

Citation: For the development of a centre to explain and promote traditional varieties of Gloucestershire's pears, apples and plums, involving a new traditionally constructed building with exemplary environmental credentials

Toddington Village Hall – Tewkesbury Borough



Toddington has a stunning new village hall which not only meets all the requirements of the local community but is an exemplar in the way its external design and finish fits into the landscape and in its use of new technology to keep its environmental footprint as low as possible

Citation: For the construction of an ambitious new village hall, providing well chosen accommodation and technology with considerable care for the environment, and producing a very rewarding result for the village

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2010

The Wharf House & Over Canal Basin – Tewkesbury Borough



Largely with voluntary labour and recycled materials from the former Over hospital, the Canal Basin, Wharf House and the first 100 yards of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal have been fully restored. The Wharf House, now a restaurant, has information about the canal and there is full public access to the whole site

Citation: For the successful re-creation of the Canal Basin and Wharf House at Over in an exemplary manner of partnership and sustainability

Greenshop Group Headquarters, Bisley – Stroud District



2008 saw the opening of a new headquarters building for the Greenshop Group. The building is an excellent example of the use of sustainable construction principles and methods, and a working demonstration of what is possible using relatively low technology that can readily be applied elsewhere

Citation: For promoting and providing a unique exemplar for the use of sustainable building construction methods in Gloucestershire, now and in the future

Nailsworth townscape improvements – Stroud District



After some fourteen years of effort, a 147 year old fountain has been restored by Stroud District Council and relocated on the corner of Spring Street and Fountain Street in the centre of Nailsworth as part of a wider effort which has achieved significant improvements to the townscape of Nailsworth

Citation: For the enhancement of the centre of Nailsworth through the restoration and relocation of an historic fountain and associated townscape improvements

Saintbridge Wildlife Nature Reserve – City of Gloucester



Saintbridge Ponds had become undervalued and a target for vandalism and fly-tipping. Then the floods of 2007 overran the area. Following initial engineering work by contractors, volunteers set out to enhance the pond and its margins by habitat creation and new landscaping. The community now has the attractive Saintbridge Wildlife Nature Reserve to enjoy.

Citation: For the enhancement of Saintbridge Balancing Ponds, and for the important contribution that the Friends of Saintbridge Balancing Ponds made to its implementation. Of particular note is the impact that this voluntary action has had in strengthening the sense of community in this area

Symonds Yat Rock Viewpoint improvements - Forest of Dean District



Over 250,000 people a year come to see the stunning view from Symonds Yat Rock. The Forestry Commission has transformed the area with a new walkway and other improvements so that the view is now fully accessible to all. The work has been done to the highest standards

Citation: For the enhancement of one of the finest viewpoints in England with improved access, site improvements and interpretation; and for making the experience available to everyone, including visitors with limited mobility and the very young

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2011

Down Ampney Village Shop – Cotswold District



Down Ampney's village hall had to be rebuilt after a fire. The village community shop was a second-hand portacabin. The shop now has a permanent home in a purpose-built annex to the hall, housing the shop, post office and a café area. The combined building incorporates air source heating, rain water harvesting and solar voltaic panels

Citation: For the imagination and persistence of the local community which has created a central focus for the village and its activities with its rebuilt Village Hall, Shop, Post Office and cafe; and for the way the work has been undertaken with attention to sustainability

Greystones Farm Nature Reserve – Cotswold District



Greystones Farm is a working farm but managed to maintain and enhance the wildlife interest of an SSSI, to restore the biodiversity of adjacent agriculturally improved fields, to conserve an ancient monument, and to provide educational opportunities. It is a model of how farming, conservation and education can run hand in hand

Citation: For recognising that farming and conservation can go hand in hand, for demonstrating how this can be achieved in practice; and to encourage the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to develop the full potential of this outstanding area

Horsley 3 in 1 Project – Stroud District



A Victorian listed church interior has been sensitively adapted to create a light, airy, welcoming space for three different sets of users – church, school and community. Work has enhanced the space making it attractive for a wide range of different activities. The project re-used materials, and improved heating has made a building which was rather cheerless into one which is welcomingly warm

Citation: For promoting and achieving a most successful building recreation making full use of existing qualities and creating new ones to secure a multi-use future for it

Longborough Village Shop – Cotswold District



Longborough Village Shop was completely refurbished in 2009 as a community-run enterprise. The work has been done to a very high standard and the shop, with associated postal facilities and a small café area, is now a centrepiece of the village: it is a model of what can be achieved in a small community

Citation: For the refurbishment of the village shop and its reopening as a community owned shop, and for creating welcoming, friendly and wide ranging services that are so important for the everyday needs of the village

Rendcomb Village Hall – Cotswold District



Rendcomb Village Hall opened in 1965, but by 2008 the very basic hall was fast deteriorating and was cold, damp and very unattractive to prospective users. The inside of the hall has now been transformed into a warm, welcoming and high quality facility for the community, centrally heated by a ground source heat pump

Citation: For the inspiration and drive to design, fund and deliver a high quality community asset which provides the focus for Rendcomb and the surrounding villages

Stanway Watermill – Tewkesbury Borough



Stanway Watermill goes back to 1291. Originally a fulling mill, then a corn mill, it became the Stanway Estate saw mill, but by 1950s had fallen in disuse, the machinery was removed and the millpond filled in. Following a hugely ambitious restoration programme with great attention to detail, the mill is back in use producing stoneground wholemeal and sifted flour and is open to the public

Citation: For inspiration and the meticulous comprehensive restoration of an historic watermill, millpond and associated structures, and its re-use as a fully functioning mill, together with explanatory literature for visitors

Winchcombe Flood Relief works – Tewkesbury Borough



Winchcombe suffered badly in the summer floods in 2007. This project is a flood prevention scheme for the River Isbourne, involving reconstructing a weir, re-aligning the watercourse and other works to ensure more rapid conveyance of flood waters. The project, adjacent to a road, has been designed with great sensitivity to reflect the character of the town

Citation: For care in the design, selection of materials and execution of a flood management scheme on the River Isbourne which has delivered a very satisfactory solution which reflects the character of the area

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2012

Wormington to Sapperton Gas Pipeline Project – Tewkesbury Borough and Cotswold District



This is a 44 km major pipeline through the heart of the Cotswolds AONB. Working with the Conservation Board, a very substantial landscape reinstatement and community enhancement package was put together. Now it is hard to see the line of the route, the wider landscape has benefited from dry stone walling projects, and local community schemes have been supported. And the work was achieved with the minimum of disruption

Citation: For outstanding care and design sensitivity in the execution of this very large scale infrastructure project in the Cotswolds AONB which has resulted in the seamless reinstatement and enhancement of the landscape

Repair of Mickla Bridge – Forest of Dean District



Mickla Bridge is a Grade II Listed double clapper bridge. After heavy rains in 2009, it was declared at risk of collapse and not safe to use as a public right of way. As a result of action by the Countryside Archaeological Adviser the bridge has been carefully and sensitively restored. It is a delightful structure of considerable historic interest which could so easily have been lost

Citation: For identifying and carrying out an exemplary piece of repair work on an historic site at risk of collapse, to full conservation standards, and achieving the retention of a small but locally significant countryside feature

The Wallbridge Project – Stroud District



The Wallbridge Project is a partnership between the County Council, Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canals Trust. It has delivered a new bridge, solving a traffic problem, enabling the reinstatement of the Canal and towpath. Much of the canal restoration has been undertaken by volunteers to high standards, a Cotswold Canals Visitor Centre has been established and an enterprising volunteer has opened a new café

Citation: For bringing to life a derelict and badly damaged part of Stroud's Canal heritage, restoring a section of canal fully retaining its character, raising the profile of volunteer and community action, and providing an important visitor focus at the same time as resolving a long standing traffic problem. The project is an outstanding example of a creative partnership

Day's Cottage Orchard and Orchard Skills Centre – Stroud District



Recent years have seen a revival of interest in orchards and efforts to identify varieties of fruit special to Gloucestershire. Day's Cottage Orchard has over 90 Gloucestershire apple varieties. A skills centre has been developed in a handsome, unique 12 sided, canvas-roofed structure constructed from local sweet chestnut where courses are held on planting, pruning, budding and grafting techniques

Citation: For fostering Gloucestershire's rich heritage of apples and orchards and contributing substantially to their increase, by propagating traditional varieties, promoting methods of orchard management and teaching the skills necessary for others to do the same

Chedworth Roman Villa Revealed Project – Cotswold District



The visitor experience at the villa has been transformed. The National Trust has provided a new building over part of the site. A suspended walkway allows visitors to appreciate the size and complexity of the villa. This experience is reinforced by interpretation, bringing to life the world of the original occupants. A remodelled visitor building provides a new cafeteria, shop, and a Learning Centre. Everything has been carefully designed to fit in a sensitive landscape

Citation: For undertaking a radical review of the villa, its setting and its significance to visitors, which has resulted in the design and construction of an outstanding example of building within a site of historic and landscape importance, as well as skilfully accommodating new and improved facilities for visitors

Tirlebrook Barn at Pamington received a commendation. A derelict agricultural barn has been converted to a physiotherapy clinic. It is an excellent conversion and it is good to see an economic use rather than another conversion to a residential property.

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2013

Kingshill Meadow housing scheme, Cirencester – Cotswold District



Kingshill Meadow is a significant urban extension to Cirencester. Over 350 dwellings have been provided, both market and affordable, including 60 Extra Care units with communal facilities. A truly quality development has been achieved through great care over design with a restricted palate of building styles and particular attention walls, fences, ground detailing and landscaping

Citation: For the planning, design and development of a major residential and care project that demonstrates the importance of creating visual quality that reflects the variety of resident's needs, and that has been integrated with the urban fabric of Cirencester

Meysey Hampton Memorial Hall – Cotswold District



Meysey Hampton has had a village hall since 1920, provided in memory of those who lost their lives in the First World War, but after 90 years it needed replacing. The new building is both efficient and significantly enhances the character of the village. It was made possible by an outstanding local effort in fund raising

Citation: For the replacement of a much needed community building that is both efficient and which significantly enhances the visual character of the village: an exemplar of improvement in every sense

Stonesfield Close, Southrop – Cotswold District



A former haulage yard in the village of Southrop has been redeveloped for housing. Eight new houses have been carefully designed to integrate into the character of the village. They include three, much needed, affordable houses for local families provided through the Cirencester Housing Society for rent

Citation: For the planning, design and integration of a small residential project into an attractive Cotswold village

Churchdown Park Ponds – Tewkesbury Borough



Over a period of over 25 years, Churchdown Parish Council has been developing land adjoining their offices into an attractive local park. The most recent addition is an area of reed beds and wildlife ponds, completing the programme of site development that neatly bridges the more intensive recreational uses with the adjoining farmed countryside of the Green Belt

Citation: For creating and managing a new landscape feature of wildlife ponds and reed beds completing an outstanding example of a comprehensive range of outdoor amenities for local people in Churchdown

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2014

Applewood, Cashes Green – Stroud District



Applewood is a housing development on a brownfield site formerly occupied by Cashes Green Hospital and promoted through a Community Land Trust. Some of the original buildings have been retained, new dwellings are of a contemporary design and highly energy efficient, and careful attention has been given to landscaping and green space

Citation: For a thoroughly contemporary approach to volume house building, that reflects best practice in place-making by integrating efficient house design, and the natural and built assets of the site to create a new community

Capel's Mill Canal Realignment, Stroud – Stroud District



At Capel's Mill, 330m of new canal has been created through part of a waste tip, across a site sandwiched between the River Frome and a main road and crossed by a railway viaduct. The remains of tip have been capped with topsoil and seeded with wildflowers, creating an attractive new waterside space

Citation: For an inspired and elegant solution to the realignment of the canal in a location that posed a wide range of difficult engineering and environmental problems; and for using volunteers, local businesses and the community to help transform an old tip into an important area of waterside parkland

The Gillyflower, Elmore Court – Stroud District



Elmore Court has a new events venue – The Gillyflower. The design of the building had to complement the historic character of the Court and prevent noise disturbance. A highly innovative solution is a building constructed from rammed earth, with triple glazing and timber cladding, topped with a meadow roof

Citation: For creating a building that shows great imagination and sensitivity in itself, that respects the important historic setting of Elmore Court while providing an adaptable entertainment venue

Hartpury Village Hall and Play Area – Forest of Dean District



Hartpury has splendid new light, airy, spacious and welcoming multi use village hall. Constructed with a timber frame and red brick and timber cladding, the design reflects the adjacent school building in style and materials. Outside there is a grassed amenity area which will be used for various games, and a delightful fenced play area

Citation: For building a new village hall in keeping with its surroundings and with good sustainability credentials providing excellent facilities for community activities which is already well-used and supported by local people

Laurie Lee Wildlife Way – Stroud District



To mark the 100th anniversary of Laurie Lee's birth, the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has waymarked a five mile circular route through his beloved Slad Valley. The route links four of the Trust's finest nature reserves and incorporates ten "poetry posts" featuring Laurie Lee's poems. An eleventh post is located at the Museum in the Park in Stroud

Citation: For an inspired project to celebrate the literature of Laurie Lee in the centenary year of his birth by creating a signed walkway through the landscape and natural environment of the Slad Valley

The Westonbirt Project – Cotswold District



Westonbirt National Arboretum has a splendid new visitor "Welcome" building and a sensitively relocated and landscaped car park. The former car park occupied part of the downs which, together with the Old Arboretum, is a Grade 1 historic landscape. The downs are now being restored to their former glory

Citation: For undertaking the restoration of an important historic landscape and constructing a finely judged Welcome building for visitors to Westonbirt National Arboretum

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2015

Coln Valley Village Hall – Cotswold District



After 70 years of use, Coln Valley Village Hall was in desperate need of replacement. Working together, the community of only 300 people in five tiny villages has planned, fund-raised and managed the construction of a new hall carefully designed to fit in this very rural landscape and undertaking much of the non-specialist work through volunteers

Citation: For outstanding community engagement in providing a replacement Coln Valley Village Hall, and a new building that is both appropriate in scale and cost and fits easily into this very rural environment

Horsbere Brook Flood Storage Area – Tewkesbury District



Following severe flooding in 2007, the Horsbere Flood Storage Area was conceived to provide enhanced flood protection for parts of Gloucester but in a way that has also created an attractive wetland area enhancing wildlife and the landscape and providing a valuable new amenity for the local community

Citation: For the successful creation of a flood defence scheme protecting local urban areas while also creating new wetland habitat and landscape interest and increasing recreation opportunities and amenity

Rural Innovation Centre, Harnhill – Cotswold District



An attractive training centre for the Royal Agricultural University has been developed from redundant farm barns on the Harnhill Manor Farm. Clad in natural cedar boarding, the buildings fit well in the landscape. They also incorporate innovative energy solutions including photovoltaic and air sourced heat generation; and rain water is harvested from the roofs, saving water.

Citation: For the comprehensive adaptation of redundant farm buildings providing a contemporary educational centre that is visually appropriate in its rural setting, incorporates sustainable construction technologies, and demonstrates good economic management of the University's built resources

Sly's Close, Northleach – Cotswold District



Sly's close is a small development of six affordable houses in two terraces of three on a brownfield and sloping site off the main street in the centre of Northleach. Funded by a local charitable trust, architecturally the housing is superb with a varied building form, careful detailing and energy efficient design, and a new public space has been created

Citation: For bringing new life to the medieval fabric of Northleach by providing exceptionally well designed and detailed affordable housing that avoids pastiche, and the recreation of a public open space linking West End to Back Lane, and which is a significant exemplar for small scale residential design

Tirley Pressure Reduction Installation – Tewkesbury District



The Tirley Pressure Reduction Installation is a vital piece of infrastructure in the national gas grid. Set well back from public highways, the installation is surrounded by generous bunds planted with over 23,000 trees and shrubs and is an excellent example of successfully fitting a major engineering structure into the landscape through careful design

Citation: For designing and implementing a major engineering installation, vital to national gas distribution, that respects its landscape setting and has a minimal visual impact which will diminish further as the site planting grows and matures

Whitecroft Railway Station – Forest of Dean District



Whitecroft Station has reopened on the Dean Forest Railway. The station building is a reconstruction of the former building, faithfully recreating the original structure. The result is a delightful addition to the railway scene and welcome environmental improvements, and a valuable contribution to local tourism and the rural economy

Citation: For rescuing from dereliction, and bringing new life to another piece of the Dean Forest Railway's vision for the future, which will be of benefit for both residents and the visitors to the Forest of Dean

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2016

Berry Hill Community Orchard – Forest of Dean District



In Berry Hill, in the Forest of Dean, volunteers have transformed an area of waste ground leased from the Forestry Commission into an attractive community orchard. Paths have been laid out, benches have been provided, varieties of Gloucestershire's heritage fruit trees have been planted and biodiversity has been enhanced

Citation: For a project at the heart of the community, devised and implemented by volunteers of all ages and abilities, which recognises historical context, is simple in design, enhances biodiversity, and provides opportunities for a greater understanding of the world around in the Forest of Dean

Gloucester Services – Stroud District



Gloucester Services, the new motorway services on the M5, have set the highest standards of design and sustainable construction and are a joy to use. Their design integrates the buildings into the landscape, food is sourced locally, while the local community benefits from a percentage of the sales

Citation: For designing, building and operating motorway service stations which fit into the local landscape and exemplify sustainable development in respect of landscape, biodiversity, economic and social criteria

Renishaw Innovation Centre – Stroud District



This major new building is an exemplar of sustainable design and construction. It sits low in the landscape, is well insulated and mechanically heated, cooled and ventilated. An important element is an extensive solar array on the roof and walls which has been carefully designed to complement the architecture of the building

Citation: For a project to accommodate the company's activities in a building which incorporates best practice in terms of energy efficiency and sustainable construction and respects its setting in the landscape

Reordering of St Michael and All Angels church, Tirley – Tewkesbury Borough



This historic 13th century rural church was extensively damaged in the 2007 flooding of the Severn Vale, which effectively destroyed its interior. The church has been lovingly restored with great care and sensitivity to create a building more suited to present needs and to make it flood proof for the future

Citation: In recognition of a community and its advisors that when faced with serious flood damage to a much loved building, produced such an elegant solution, in both design and craftsmanship, that will be worthy of future generations

Stroud Rural Sustainable Drainage Project – Stroud District



This innovative project reduces the risk of flooding in the Stroud valleys after high rainfall by slowing the rate at which water flows from smaller streams into the River Frome. Simple measures such as “leaky dams” and field bunds have been applied which are inexpensive to provide and visually acceptable, and they work!

Citation: For developing and implementing, in conjunction with local people, a rural sustainable drainage project in the Stroud Valleys which reduces flood risk using innovative techniques and improves biodiversity

The Green Shop, Frampton on Severn – Stroud District



In 2014 Frampton on Severn lost its remaining shop and post office. The Frampton Court Estate came to the rescue providing land for a new shop on the edge of the village green. Great care has been taken with the design and construction materials in this sensitive location and the shop is stocked, as far as possible, with local produce

Citation: In recognition of the patronage of the Clifford family in providing and establishing a fitting new village shop in this sensitive location in Frampton on Severn, that will continue to give a focus and heart for that community into the future

Walled Garden Project, Stratford Park, Stroud – Stroud District



A delightful new garden and learning centre has been created in the hidden and abandoned walled garden adjoining the Museum in the Park. The project was the inspiration of the Friends of the Museum and has been largely delivered by volunteers. The garden is fully accessible for people with disabilities

Citation: For a new garden and learning centre in an historic site, inspired and part created by volunteers, which combines excellence in design and imaginative use of terrain with superb attention to detail

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2017

Dursley Tree House – Stroud District



Near the centre of Dursley is a tree house. This is no child's play house but a highly innovative domestic dwelling built on a difficult wooded sloping site with the principal floor elevated above the ground. The home makes extensive use of materials sourced from redundant buildings and is highly energy efficient

Citation: For a town centre energy neutral family home, preserving the natural environment, recycling materials imaginatively, using a derelict site in an innovative manner, supported by the local community

Ham Mill Lock Restoration – Stroud District



At Ham Mill, a Grade II listed Thames and Severn Canal lock has been fully restored. The brickwork of the lock chamber has been renewed, new lock gates have been installed, the original spill weir has been restored and the towpath realigned to its original level. The work has been done by Cotswold Canals Trust volunteers to the highest of standards

Citation: For an outstanding example of voluntary endeavour, engineering skill and conservation best practice which will now safeguard the future of Ham Mill Lock

Horsley Play Project – Stroud District



In Horsley, a run down play area has been transformed into a beautifully designed space with numerous opportunities for recreation and learning. The project was carefully planned with a huge input from the residents of the village and is an outstanding addition to the life of the community

Citation: For outstanding community engagement in providing a revitalised play area of excellent design and scale in the heart of the village

Kingswood Village Allotments – Stroud District



The village of Kingswood now has allotments. These are no ordinary allotments. They have been carefully laid out with raised beds to protect a population of Great Crested Newts, and they are cultivated using organic methods only and wildlife friendly products, and the tenancy agreements specifically promote and encourage local wildlife

Citation: For creating and managing sustainably new allotments in Kingswood which provide opportunities for local residents to grow their own food and foster biodiversity, whilst enjoying the benefits of shared knowledge and a growing sense of community

Little Pinnolds Holiday Cottage – Stroud District



This holiday home is not a new property but a carefully thought out rebuilding of a dilapidated and disused cow shed that has brought an existing building back into active use. Using the vernacular materials of Cotswold stone and wood the building fits well in its setting

Citation: For a well-designed and sympathetically located re-creation of a dilapidated cow shed to form a contemporary holiday home

Minchinhampton RFC Clubhouse – Stroud District



Minchinhampton Rugby Football Club has a new clubhouse. It is a thoughtfully designed simple, low cost, well insulated barn-like structure that fits well in the landscape. Great thought has also been given to the internal design which is light and airy. Through fund raising and a volunteer workforce this has been an outstanding community build effort

Citation: For a good example of both the persistence and commitment of a club membership to deliver a sporting and community asset, and simple and thoughtful design and detailing that has resulted in a building that is appropriate to its rural setting

Plusterwine and Alvington Court Saltmarsh Creation Project – Forest of Dean District



With climate change leading to increased storminess and gradual sea level rise, flood protection is an issue along the Severn Estuary as is the need to compensate for habitat loss. In this project, old flood defences have been breached and new ones created further inland to provide the necessary flood protection but also to enable habitat change where 39 hectares of new saltmarsh is now evolving

Citation: For devising, implementing and managing a scheme which makes a contribution to flood management in the Severn estuary by creating new saltmarsh habitat and thereby increasing estuarine biodiversity

STIHL Treetop Walkway – Cotswold District



The main way in to Silk Wood at Westonbirt Arboretum is now by a stunning tree top walkway which at 284m is the longest structure of its kind in the UK. It respects the landscape of the arboretum though its steel and timber construction and graceful curves, and there is extensive interpretation about trees and timber along its length as well as play features

Citation: For providing an outstanding opportunity for visitors to take to the tree tops with elegance of design, detailing and interpretive information

Stoke Orchard Community Centre – Tewkesbury Borough



Stoke Orchard now has a splendid Community Centre incorporating a Community Shop which is largely run by local residents. The design of the Centre was conceived by the Parish Council and is highly energy efficient. The external appearance looks good too, with the building set at the back of a new green space with play equipment

Citation: For a community centre designed on the Passivhaus principle, by forward thinking community leaders, supported and enjoyed by the community

Vegetable Matters Farm Shop – Cotswold District



“Vegetable Matters” is the name of a new farm shop in Ebrington offering fresh seasonable vegetables grown locally. The shop was purpose built and is constructed of high quality materials in keeping with adjacent agricultural buildings and fits well into the local landscape. It also scores well on environmental credentials including use of reclaimed bricks and energy efficiency. Three new jobs were created

Citation: For the use of re-cycled materials in a contemporary and appropriately sited new farm shop, selling locally grown or sourced produce throughout the year, encouraged and visited by visitors and many locals

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2018

Greystones Farm Discovery Centre – Cotswold District



The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust’s Greystones Farm is a place where people of all ages can discover what’s special about the Cotswolds countryside and learn about its wildlife and history. Farm buildings have been imaginatively converted to provide a hands-on education centre. The meadows are grazed and milk from the cows used to make single Gloucester cheese

Citation: For a project combining renovation of farm buildings, wildlife conservation and development of ‘old skills,’ creating a sustainable community and educational centre, used by all ages, helped by volunteers and continuing the work previously carried out at Greystones Farm and to the same high standard

Hayles Abbey Halt – Tewkesbury Borough



Hayles Abbey Halt closed in 1960 when the local railway service ceased. Located on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway it has now been rebuilt, reopening in 2017. The structure of the new halt faithfully follows that of the original. Its construction was undertaken entirely by volunteers with meticulous attention to detail

Citation: For planning and implementing the reconstruction of a missing feature on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway with local support and involvement, and completed by volunteer labour in less than a year

Kings Lodge, Cinderford – Forest of Dean District



92 homes have been built on a brown field site in a mix of house types and tenures. The development is contemporary in its visual appearance, and with a well-chosen palate of external materials has achieved a distinct character and sense of place. The properties are also highly energy efficient being built to the Code for Sustainable Homes Level Four

Citation: For the completion of a well-designed partnership housing project that has transformed a derelict brownfield site into an attractive environment for sustainable living

The Raymond Fenton Centre – Cotswold District



The Centre is a new youth and community building in South Cerney, designed to a brief from the Parish Council and with community input. It comprises an indoor sports hall, a café with an outside area, and a smaller 'group' room. The building looks good, fits in well with its surroundings, admirably meets the various space requirements, and is highly energy efficient

Citation: For planning a community centre with local consultation, which sits sympathetically within new residential properties, is well designed, energy efficient and used by the local community for a variety of pursuits

Tewkesbury Nature Reserve – Tewkesbury Borough



A 114 acre wetland reserve along the River Swilgate, the brainchild of local residents who saw the potential of this flood prone area to enhance wildlife and provide a real asset for the community. Following the setting up of a Trust in 2012 and advice from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the reserve has been created and is managed through volunteers

Citation: For planning, implementing and managing the creation of an extensive wetland nature reserve with public involvement and benefit

Whittington Close, St Briavels – Forest of Dean District



Nine affordable homes on a rural exception site which benefited greatly from early engagement with the community. This influenced the design of the development. The properties are deliberately small scale with a reduced eaves height and with dormers and hips to break up the roof line and follow the vernacular style of the older parts of the village

Citation: For engaging with partners and the community in developing design principles leading to the planning, construction and letting of sustainable, affordable housing in a rural village, satisfying local needs

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2019

Bells Field, Coleford – Forest of Dean District



Coleford is now the proud possessor of a splendid new 9 acre park. Designed in close consultation with the local community, this is a park for all ages with a multi-games area, a trim trail, and an amphitheatre for small theatrical and musical events. Great thought has gone into the landscaping and on enhancing biodiversity

Citation: For an ambitious project, well planned and designed for a wide variety of community activities, incorporating a flood defence scheme and enhancing biodiversity

Chesterton Obelisk Protect – Cotswold District



In a joint project between Cirencester Town Council and community groups, the setting of the Chesterton obelisk has been transformed through a carefully thought out planting scheme. An attractive walking route between the obelisk and the Roman amphitheatre has also been created. The project was designed with community input and implemented largely by volunteers

Citation: For a community planting project which designed and created an attractive, biodiverse landscape setting for public access to the Chesterton Obelisk which had become a neglected relic, obscured by vegetation

Maisemore Milestones Restoration – Tewkesbury Borough



Through the initiative of the Maisemore Local History Society, and with the help of Gloucestershire County Council and a local contractor, three milestones on the former turnpike road from Gloucester to Worcester have been recovered, carefully restored and reinstated, bringing back features of historic interest to the parish

Citation: For the restoration of the three Maisemore milestones on the historic route into Gloucester by local people giving new life to a significant local feature

St Francis, Theescombe – Stroud District



A highly imaginative building project has applied a unique design solution to the remodelling of a Cotswold stone cottage and a garage at a lower level to create an outstanding, contemporary family home which respects its setting while taking full advantage of the outstanding views from the location

Citation: For the confidence to take on a very challenging development, and produce an elegant design solution that both takes advantage of and respects its setting, creating an elegant contemporary home

Scarr Bandstand, Sling – Forest of Dean District



The Forest of Dean is renowned for its brass bands. Sling had its very own bandstand, the Scarr Bandstand, where local bands played for over 100 years but by the early 1980s it had become derelict. Led by the Friends of Scarr Bandstand, the bandstand has been restored and music performances have restarted with great success

Citation: For the reinstatement of an historical site by volunteers with a vision for community gathering, surrounded by natural forest, used by all generations

The Barn at Severn and Wye, Chaxhill – Forest of Dean District



A former agricultural building has been converted to a new public area at the Severn and Wye Smokery. On the ground floor is a fish market, chef's larder, gift shop and café and on the floor above an open-plan restaurant. Locally-sourced materials have been used wherever possible with thoughtful detailing of the finished building and the interior fitting out

Citation: For the completion of a thoughtful and well-designed restoration of traditional farm buildings to accommodate an elegant contemporary setting for The Smokery's new restaurant and retail activities

Westbury on Severn church spire re-shingling Forest of Dean District



Westbury on Severn church has a free-standing tower with a spire clad in oak shingles. Last renewed in 1938, by 2008 the shingles had reached the end of their life. It has taken 10 years of tireless fund raising to get the necessary repairs completed. These were substantially more extensive than anticipated at an eventual cost of £1 million. The new shingles were locally sourced from the Forest of Dean

Citation: For the determination to complete a daunting conservation and repair project, bringing new life to this Westbury landmark, better management to the Church's setting, and securing stronger links to the local community

PROJECTS RECEIVING AN AWARD IN 2020

Bledington Community Shop and Café – Cotswold District



Bledington now has a splendid community shop thanks to the energy, commitment and skills of local people. Largely funded by the community, designed by a local architect, constructed by a local builder, fitted out and mainly run by volunteers, the outcome is a great community asset which has more than proved its worth during the Covid-19 pandemic

Citation: For successfully engaging the support of the community of Bledington, achieving the realisation of such a well-designed shop and café; and delivering this critically important community asset

Lewiston Mill redevelopment, Brimscombe – Stroud District



Former mill buildings are a feature of the Stroud valleys and securing their on-going conservation and suitable uses is a challenge. At Lewiston Mill derelict buildings have been restored creating 20 residential units and five commercial units, all executed to very high standards both externally and internally. The result is an attractive development which has retained its industrial heritage

Citation: For the redevelopment of redundant mill buildings, which have been rescued, repaired and partially reconstructed, with the addition of appropriately designed new buildings, whilst retaining the industrial character of the site

Midcounties Co-op Store, Bourton on the Water – Cotswold District



Bourton's new Co-operative store has been designed to incorporate a wide range of environmentally friendly construction methods and control systems. For the user, the interior is exceptionally well designed and spacious and the store stocks a wide range of locally sourced produce benefitting local businesses while at the same time reducing "food miles"

Citation: For the creation of an exceptionally well-designed supermarket that combines a distinct calm and spaciousness with environmental management best practice; and careful sourcing of local produce; all adding up to an unusually good shopping experience

mindSCAPE – Forest of Dean District



MindSCAPE is all about improving the physical and mental well-being of people living with dementia and their carers by offering creative opportunities to access the countryside and reconnect to the landscape through art, inspired by the natural environment. It is delivered by Artspace Cinderford at various locations in the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean and has been very well received.

Citation: For an inspirational project which has enriched the lives of people with dementia and their carers by engagement with the natural environment through art

Nature Based Solutions at Oxstalls Campus and Plock Court - City of Gloucester



Joint Nomination

This project focusses on Wooton Brook on Gloucester's northern edge. The southern part was devised by the University of Gloucestershire. Within the campus, woodland areas and wildflower meadows have been established; and a wide strip of wildflower meadow has been created alongside more than half a mile of the Brook alongside playing fields. At the northern end Plock Court wetland Nature Reserve has been created by the City Council. Together the work has greatly enhanced biodiversity and aided flood management over a mile of interconnected habitat.

Citation: For the enhancement and management of the Wotton Brook corridor creating a variety of habitats and increasing biodiversity where people can enjoy and engage with nature

Sud Brook Riparian Restoration – City of Gloucester



When the housing was built in the Abbeydale area of Gloucester in the 1960s, the Sud Brook was straightened and placed within a concrete channel. This project has seen the removal of a stretch of the channel and reintroduction of meanders, berms and other traditional riparian features along the brook. The area has been transformed with an improved landscape, new water habitats and public access to the waterside

Citation: For the successful transformation of a stretch of valley to a naturalistic form increasing habitat and biodiversity, improving landscape and facilitating access for local people to a pleasant waterside environment