

WALES | CYMRU

2026

AWARDS | GWOBRAU

20 YEARS OF CELEBRATIONS
MLYNEDD O DDATHLIADAU

Adeiladu Arbenigrywydd  **Constructing Excellence**
yng Nghymru in Wales



20 YEARS OF CELEBRATIONS
MLYNEDD O DDATHLIADAU

We are delighted to be celebrating our 20th CEW Awards in 2026 which are recognised across the Welsh built environment as the biggest and brightest celebration of best practice.

They are a clear demonstration of the core strength of construction in Wales and the desire and commitment to deliver buildings, roads, bridges, and facilities of all kinds in a collaborative and sustainable manner.

Our awards are open to all organisations and project teams involved in delivering buildings and civil engineering projects in Wales. Entries are welcomed from developers, clients, contractors, specialist and sub-contractors, engineers, of all disciplines, members of the design team and other consultants.

The key factor is that the project, scheme, process or philosophy contributes to the Welsh built environment and can be celebrated as an example of best practice.

Being recognised by your peers for excellence in construction will bring enormous benefits to your business, helping you to attract new clients cement existing relationships and raise your staff morale.

Again this year we would like you to consider nominating a Welsh SME although this is not compulsory. Welsh construction is underpinned by SMEs and they do not always receive the recognition they deserve.



For 2026 there will be two categories for the SME from 1 to 50 employees and 50 to 250 employees. We hope this will encourage our micro SME's to be nominated or enter themselves.

Following feedback from previous years we will be splitting Building Project of the Year into two, projects up to £5m and projects over £5m. Full details will be found in the entry forms.

Entries will be considered by an independent panel of judges. We would also remind you that all shortlisted submissions will be required to present to a panel of independent judges online during April 2026.

The winners from each region will go forward to the national finals that will take place in London November 2026, offering an opportunity to achieve acclaim on a truly national level.

For all enquiries regarding the awards please contact Susan Selkirk on **07553 347 099** or email **awards@cewales.org.uk**



Entry forms will be available online:
Friday 5th December 2025

The deadline for submissions:
27th February 2026 at 5pm

The Awards Dinner
will be held **12th June 2026**
Celtic Manor Resort, Newport

Categories

- ▶ **Building Project of the Year (above £5m)**
- ▶ **Building Project of the Year (below £5m)**

The Project of the Year category celebrates inspirational projects that deliver outstanding outcomes. We are looking for projects that exemplify the Constructing Excellence principles, which fully align with the collaborative work we are undertaking with the Construction Leadership Council.

Projects should demonstrate the successful implementation of better ways of working and so help to provide a template for others to learn from.

▶ Client of the Year

Construction clients have an important role to play in transforming the way the industry operates. How and when projects come to market significantly impacts the ability of the construction industry to provide innovative, whole life value-for-money solutions.

We are looking for a construction client that has been actively involved in delivering the construction programme and developed strategies for encouraging and rewarding excellence. It goes without saying we expect a culture of collaboration and transparency to be at the heart of how the client operates and empowers the wider team.

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▶ Delivering Value Award

Construction and the built environment play a huge role in underpinning our society and economy. To unlock better societal outcomes, we need to take an informed view of value and not simply make decisions based on cost.

Clients need to work with their stakeholders to consider how to unlock wider benefits throughout the construction project and the lifetime of the asset. Tools such as the Value Toolkit enable clients and design teams to take a more informed view of value across four capitals - Produced, Natural, Social and Human.

Whilst value can mean something different to everyone, what it shouldn't be is solely focused on cost. We are seeking projects that clearly demonstrate value-based decision making and the benefits it can bring.

▶ G4C Future Leader Award

Generation 4 Change (G4C) is the young professional voice of the UK built environment industry and a driving force for change. The Future Leader Award celebrates the younger generation of construction and seeks to showcase the hard work and leadership of these up-and-coming professionals. This should be a person with less than ten years of experience in the industry (typically less than 30 years of age).

▶ Infrastructure Project of the Year

The Infrastructure Project of the Year category celebrates inspirational projects that deliver outstanding outcomes. We are looking for projects that exemplify the Constructing Excellence principles, which fully align with the collaborative work we are undertaking with the Construction Leadership Council. Projects should demonstrate the successful implementation of better ways of working and so help to provide a template for others to learn from.

▶ Innovation Award

Innovation more than invention is critical to every sector to deliver outstanding results, break through productivity barriers and address our customers, communities and global needs. Our sector solves problems every day, yet rarely are we systemic in our organisations and projects to drive and embed a culture for innovation in our teams or our supply chain partners.

Successful applicants will demonstrate how they foster a culture for innovation and systematically solve quantified problems with new or repurposed tools and techniques used by other sectors or organisations - to deliver quantified better productivity, profitability, sustainability or any other critical element with the use of an innovative product or approach that can/will be repeatedly used within the organisation or wider sector.

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▶ Integration & Collaborative Working Award

Integration and collaborative working are key to overcoming challenges, managing risk and delivering better outcomes. We are looking for projects and practices that exemplify this approach with evidence of how all parties have been engaged, from clients to contractors and all across the supply chain.

Applicants must demonstrate the benefit that have been achieved through a collaborative and integrated working.

▶ People & Culture Award

Our people are our greatest asset - so attracting, motivating, supporting, developing and retaining the most diverse of human talent to our organisations and the sector is critical to ensure we totally understand and meet our customers' and wider communities' needs.

Strong constructive cultures, effective leadership, health & wellbeing, and psychological safety at every level are vital to ensuring we positively challenge and continuously improve, as is Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and ensuring functional competence through progression pathways and continuing professional development.

► Regeneration & Conservation Award

The Regeneration & Conservation Award aims to highlight projects or programmes that apply the Constructing Excellence principles to deliver better outcomes for an existing asset. These principles include procurement, innovation, collaboration, culture/people, productivity, client satisfaction, HS&W and Digital. Applicants must demonstrate how they achieve improved outcomes against these principles.

Applicants should demonstrate the use of specialist skills and techniques, where appropriate, to ensure any works are in keeping with existing historic/ heritage features.

► Residential Project of the Year

The Residential Project of the Year category celebrates inspirational projects that deliver outstanding outcomes. We are looking for projects that exemplify the Constructing Excellence principles, which fully align with the collaborative work we are undertaking with the Construction Leadership Council.

Projects must demonstrate the successful implementation of better ways of working and so help to provide a template for others to learn from.



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► Retrofit Award

The UK has Europe's oldest building stock and retrofit is crucial to deliver a net zero built environment and the high-quality homes and buildings our society needs.

The Retrofit Award aims to highlight projects or programmes that apply the Constructing Excellence principles to deliver better performance of an existing asset. These principles include procurement, innovation, collaboration, culture/people, productivity, client satisfaction, HS&W and Digital. Applicants must demonstrate how they achieve improved performance against these principles.

► SME of the Year - 1-50 employees

► SME of the Year - 51 to 250 employees

The UK government definition of Small to Medium Enterprises encompasses; micro (less than 10 employees and an annual turnover under €2m), small (less than 50 employees and an annual turnover under €10 million) and medium-sized (less than 250 employees and an annual turnover under €50 million) businesses.

SMEs are a core part of the supply chain and are the backbone of the construction industry. Constructing Excellence are seeking to showcase examples of organisations that embody best practise. Applicants should model the Constructing Excellence principles of procurement, innovation, collaboration, culture/people, productivity, client satisfaction, HS&W, Digital. If you are submitting for another category please think about nominating an SME you work closely with and give them the chance to shine.

► Social Impact Award – NEW FOR 2026

Construction and the built environment play a huge role in underpinning our society and are crucial in delivering better for staff and local residents alike. The Constructing Excellence Social Impact Award aims to celebrate organisations and projects that take an active role in delivering a positive impact for the communities and stakeholders they work with, placing the society they serve at the heart of what they do.

We are looking for organisations and projects that demonstrate a measured impact on societal outcomes, fair and responsible employment practices, progression opportunities and a commitment to their local communities. Applicants should demonstrate strategies that serve as a model for the future of the organisation and/or future projects to continue improving outcomes for society.

► Sustainability Award – this is a returning category NEW FOR 2026

All of us, within the construction industry and beyond, have a responsibility to deliver a sustainable build environment. It is a key driver behind many innovative tools, techniques and processes and impacts everything we do.

Constructing Excellence would like to celebrate those projects or organisations that seek to deliver a positive impact, or a reduced negative impact, on the natural environment and demonstrate whole life sustainability in their approach to construction. Successful applicants will exemplify the use of organisational culture, high quality design, effective procurement practices and innovative tools and techniques to provide improved environmental performance and outcomes.

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Friday 5th December 2025

The deadline for submissions:
27th February 2026 at 5pm

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Eligibility

How to Enter

1. Ensure you read all the guidance notes, category criteria and instructions on how to enter before completing the entry form. Any applications not meeting these requirements will not be considered by the judges.
All of this information is available to download at www.cewales.org.uk/cew-awards/awards-2025/
2. We would like you to consider nominating an SME within your award. Please see individual entry forms for instructions. NB this is not compulsory.
3. Judges will only score entries which are made on the official entry form.
4. Any organisation or project team submitting an entry for more than one category is welcome to do so providing each entry is presented as an individual submission using the appropriate application form.
5. Contact details are required for the applicant, client and any other organisation that should be recognised in relation to the award.
6. You must provide 5 high resolution photos jpeg format to support your application. Photos should be of all aspects of the project or process including people.
7. Print quality logos (eps) (jpeg) are required for the applicant, client and ALL other organisations that should be recognised in relation to the award. It is important that current logos are supplied in this format with the submission as they will be etched onto the glass trophy presented to the winners.
8. Information provided outside the specified word limits may not be taken into consideration.
9. Appendices will not be taken into consideration. Supporting images, graphs, tables etc can be embedded within the document. Within reason, captions can be included in addition to stipulated word count.
10. All projects and SME's must be based in Wales

The closing date for entries is: **Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 5pm**
No time extensions will be allowed.

- Submissions should relate to either ongoing work or any project or example of organisational change that was completed in the 12 months prior to 1st January 2026.
- Submissions must relate to activities in Wales and SME's must be based in Wales.

Specific Entry Considerations

- Clients must be made aware in advance of any entries that refer to them and the judges may require evidence of client endorsement.
- Membership of Constructing Excellence in Wales or a Constructing Excellence Club is not a requirement of entry.
- The organisers reserve the right to feature/display submitted material in any editorial or promotional work related to the work of Constructing Excellence in Wales.
- A précis of short-listed entries will feature on the Constructing Excellence in Wales website and elsewhere. Short-listed entrants may be requested to participate in Constructing Excellence in Wales related events or programmes of seminars and case history presentations.
- Winning submissions will automatically be put forward for National Constructing Excellence awards which will take place towards the end of 2026.
- The organisers reserve the right to reject any entry if, in their opinion, it fails to comply with the rules.

All submissions must be made via email to: **awards@cewales.org.uk**

Checklist

Your entry should consist of:

- 1 Completed entry form** – this is the only document used in the first stage of the judging process.
- 2 Logos (jpg & eps files for print)** for all key listed on the entry form.
- 3 High resolution images (print quality)** - 5 photos are required as separate files for publicity purposes.



Judging

- The panel of judges will consider each submission against the category criteria.
- Entries that have been shortlisted will be required to make an online presentation to the judging panels between 13th and 27th April, this is the second stage of the judging process. You will be informed of the date and time once the shortlist has been announced in the middle of March. Please make appropriate members of your team aware of this process.
- Winners will be announced during our Award Ceremony at the Celtic Manor Resort, Newport on Friday 12th June 2026.



- All awards are made at the discretion of the judges.
- The judges have the authority to move entries into more applicable categories. Their decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the awards.
- The right is reserved not to make awards in a particular category.
- The judges reserve right to refuse entries without giving reasons.
- Information supplied by the judges, or discussed between the judges and entrants, will be treated in complete confidence and confidentiality on the part of the entrants is requested.

Top Ten Tips

Simple guide to help make your awards entry more effective

- 1 **Read the category guidelines** Read through the category criteria carefully so that you are clear on what the judges are looking for in each category. Think carefully – are you sure you are entering the right category for the achievements you wish to promote.
- 2 **Read the entry form** Read through the details in the entry form carefully so you are clear about what you need to do. Separate entry forms are available for each category it is important the correct entry form is completed. If you are entering more than one category do not cut and paste as section details are different. If in doubt, call us. We recognise that it takes time to put together an entry submission, so we're always happy to try to clarify issues. All entry forms will have a contact telephone number for enquiries.
- 3 **Stick to the guidelines** Make sure that you read the guidelines thoroughly. Ensure that you provide all the materials requested. Submissions must be provided in the correct format otherwise they will not make it onto the shortlist.
- 4 **Keep the messages simple and clear** You should avoid making your entry wordy and difficult to read. Keep to the word count specified in each section of the entry form.
- 5 **Ensure that you insert the key data requested into your entry form, appendices will not be reviewed.** Judges will be looking for hard figures which clearly support your claims. For example, if you state that you work to reduce construction waste what are the figures to support this?
- 6 **Support your case with good images** Photographic images are an important part of your entry. We're not looking for just photos of gleaming finished buildings; we want to see before/after, work in progress, people and all aspects of the project.
- 7 **You're great but...** If you can get other people or organisations to support this then it's so much better. Testimonials from independent people are always helpful but these must be inserted into your entry form, appendices will not be reviewed by judges.
- 8 **Avoid jargon** Avoid unnecessary acronyms and technical terms which may not be understood by everyone.
- 9 **Don't leave your marketing department to do the entry without your input** Entries submitted by your PR people are easy to spot. Whilst the submission may look good you must ensure that it doesn't lack the hard business issues involved. The best entries involve collaboration between the construction and marketing team.
- 10 **Involve your team** Make sure that you involve your colleagues when putting the submission together. Ask your colleagues to look through the entry highlighting any areas which could be improved or tweaked to make it more interesting for the judges and help increase your chances of success.

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