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| SFW dark blue | **Scotland’s Finest WoodsAwards** |

**New Native Woods Award 2017**

**Winner’s Prize: £1,000**

**What is it for?**

The competition is to reward new native woodland natural regeneration or planting where the exemplary use of silvicultural techniques, planning, practice and management is delivering high quality native woods.

Woodland Trust Scotland sponsors this award and donated a prestigious trophy that is awarded to the winning entry.

**Who can enter?**

Entry is open to new native woodland projects anywhere in Scotland that must have at least five years minimum of growth and no more than 20 years’ growth i.e. if planted that happened in, or before, the 2011/12 planting season and no earlier than 1996/97.

The area of new woodland created must be 1 hectare (2.5 acres) or more in size and predominantly of native species.

The woodland may have been established by planting or natural regeneration on previously bare land or on land that has previously had tree cover of predominantly non-native species i.e. it has been converted to new native woodland. Projects should have been established at least 5 years ago though within the last 20 years i.e. between 1996 and 2011 to include a significant proportion of young planted/regenerated trees.

Where the project is an expansion of existing native woodland, the pre-existing trees may be older than 20 years.

Definitions

* *Recently planted/regenerated trees* - trees already with at least 5 years growth i.e. planted in 2011/12 or before then, but not earlier than 1996/97 so they have between 5 and 20 years’ growth
* *Predominantly native* - around 75% or more of the trees should be native
* *Native* - species that arrived in Scotland without human assistance as listed in Table 1 of Forestry Commission Scotland’s guidance paper: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/seedsourcesscotland>

**Prizes**

A **£1,000 cash prize** is awarded to the winning project at the discretion of the judges and other high quality entries may receive a judges’ commendation.

In addition, the prestigious **Woodland Trust Scotland Trophy for New Native Woods** will be awarded at the discretion of the judges with custody for one year.

The winner and commended entries will receive a **certificate** and a **wooden display plaque** recording their achievement.

**Judging**

The judges aim to visit short-listed entries **during April/May 2017**. You will be contacted by the judges regarding any site visit during March/April 2017.

Our judges' task will be to find and reward the pursuit of excellence and the judges will assess entries against the following criteria:

* Quality of entry form and supporting information
* Clarity of management objectives
* Quality of project design and implementation
* The degree of progress and necessary adaptation since inception
* Likelihood of achieving the project’s original objectives.

Aspects that the judges will be looking for include:

* An innovative approach
* Species selection appropriate to the site
* Safeguarding natural heritage and historic environment features
* Maximising overall biodiversity benefits
* Successful engagement with the local community
* Provision of recreation facilities
* Direct or indirect economic benefits to the landowner.

**Award ceremony**

The winners will be presented with their prizes on **Friday, 23rd June 2016** at the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston.

**How to enter**

Simply complete a short entry form with basic location, contact details and state in no more than **500 words** why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this prestigious award.

If you wish, please provide any supporting information such as a summary management plan, species’ distribution/ vegetation pre-woodland establishment/ soils maps, any publicity leaflet(s) and photographs that will help our judges make their decision. In addition, a short video may be included though this must not be any longer than 60 seconds maximum length. Emailed versions of all material is preferred. Any email (including any attachments) must not exceed 10MB in total though you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. If material is sent by post then two copies are needed. Copies of this entry form can be downloaded from the Scotland’s Finest Woods’ website [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) and should be submitted electronically unless otherwise agreed in advance.

**Closing date for entries**

**Please submit your application as early as possible and by Friday, 31st March 2017 at the very latest. Late entries will not be considered.**

**Publicity**

An objective of Scotland’s Finest Woods and its partners is to showcase entrants as exemplars of good practice so as to encourage others. By entering the competition, entrants are accepting that their woodland may be used as an example of good practice in post-competition publicity and, as may be agreed with the entrant, in other ways.

In order to maximise the potential for obtaining publicity entrants are requested to provide publication quality photography as well as a video of up to a maximum 60 seconds length if available.

**For more information please see** [**www.sfwa.co.uk**](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) **or contact:**

Angela Douglas, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, c/o A Douglas Consultancy, 3 Salisbury House, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire, IV14 9AU. Tel: 07969 327015. Email: admin@sfwa.co.uk

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**Name of woodland: ……………………………………………………………………………...................**

**Location: ............................................................................................................................................**

**Ownership details: ………………………………………………………………………………….…..…**

*It is important that a contact point is provided who will be responsible for liaising with us on important aspects such as arranging any judging visit.* ***Both the owner and property names stated on this application form will be used on any certificates, or other records, in event of winning*** *therefore please ensure these are correct. Do include details of an additional contact if you are likely to be unavailable for significant periods of time.*

**Name of Contact: …………………………………………………………………………………….……..**

**Contact Address: ……………………………………………………………………………………………**

**..............................................................................................................................................................**

**..............................................................................................................................................................**

**Phone Numbers: ……………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**Email address: ……………………………………………………………………………………………….**

*Please include a map showing the woodland location and the meeting point and directions as necessary. You may provide us with a revised meeting point at a later date but it saves time for us to have this information at the time you make your entry.*

**Meeting point for judging visit: …………………………………………………………………………...**

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| 1. **Please provide a brief summary of your new native woodland’s background, aims, management objectives, design and implementation. State the area in hectares.**
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| **2. In no more than 500 words please describe what you have achieved through your woodland management and, highlighting the progress made towards meeting your objectives, state why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this prestigious award.** |
| **3. You must include a location map showing the meeting point and directions to the meeting point for the judging visit.**Please list any other supporting material you are submitting that will help our judges make their decision. For example: a summary management plan, species’ distribution/ vegetation pre-woodland establishment/ soils maps, any publicity leaflet(s) and photographs though no more than 5no. please. These should all be supplied by email unless otherwise agreed in advance.  |

Your entry form and any supporting information should be submitted as early as possible and **at the very latest by Friday 31st March 2017.**

Any entries received after 31st March 2017 will not be considered**.**

Submit this entry form electronically to admin@sfwa.co.uk with any supporting material (see page 2 ‘How to Enter’ earlier) unless otherwise agreed in advance. Two hard copies of any supporting material can be sent to:

Angela Douglas, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards,

c/o A Douglas Consultancy, 3 Salisbury House, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire, IV14 9AU.