



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2020

New Native Woods Award Information Sheet

Winner's Prize: £1,000

Delivery Partner:



**WOODLAND
TRUST SCOTLAND**

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 which 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 2014/15 planting season and no earlier than 1999/2000.

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 2000 and 2015 to include a significant proportion of young planted/regenerated trees.

If 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 2014/15 or before then, but not earlier than 1999/2000 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 Scottish Forestry's guidance paper available: [here](#).

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 2020**. You will be contacted by the judges directly regarding any site visit during April 2020. If you do not hear from the judges by early May, unfortunately due to the strength of competition your entry has not been short-listed this time, however please do re-enter in future years!

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 land owner.

Award ceremony

The winners will be presented with their prizes on **Friday, 19th June 2020** 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 though must not in total exceed 10MB – 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 Awards' website 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 Tuesday, 31st March 2020 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 if it is available.

For more information please see www.sfwa.co.uk or contact:

Angela Douglas, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, c/o A Douglas Consultancy, Bramblewood, Munloch, Ross-shire, IV8 8PF. Tel: 07969 327015. Email: admin@sfwa.co.uk

See www.sfwa.co.uk for full information and follow us on [Twitter](#) !

Scotland's Finest Woods is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland (SC294388) and a Scottish Charity (SC039099)