



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2021

Quality Timber Awards Information Sheet

£3,000 of prizes

Delivery Partners:



James Jones
& SONS LIMITED

Three competition categories:

New commercial woods; Small woods, single stands or compartments; and Whole-estates/forests

What is it for?

This Award is for woodlands where high quality timber production is a major objective. **BSW Timber, EGGER, Iggesund Forestry and James Jones & Sons Ltd** have teamed up to sponsor these award categories.

There is also **new for 2021, an optional extra Award you may enter** for Climate Change related activities in addition to the Community Woodlands Award. Please refer to **the Climate Change Champion Award** information sheet, guidance and entry form at www.sfwa.co.uk.

Who can enter?

Entry is open to woodland anywhere in Scotland where production of high quality timber is a major objective of management. There are three prize categories and entrants can apply for as many as are valid to their woodland:

- **New commercial woodlands** - entry is open to newly-planted productive and predominantly conifer woodland of 10 hectares or more in extent; that have between one and six years' growth i.e. planted between the 2014/15 and 2019/20 seasons; and established on previously bare land where the planning, practice and management regime is designed to result in high quality timber production.
- **Small woods, single stands or compartments** – entry is open to a small woodland, stand or compartment of trees where the exemplary use of silvicultural techniques, practice and management results in high quality timber production. Crops should include a proportion of trees that are at least 10 years old and have reached pole stage or beyond so providing a reasonable indication of future timber quality.
- **Whole estates/forests** – entry is open to multi-purpose forests or woodlands where a number of different activities are taking place and in which high quality timber production is a major objective. Other objectives might include, for example, providing recreation and visitor facilities and/or conservation. The size of the forest or woodland area is not restricted, but must be appropriate to and capable of sustaining the stated objectives.

Prizes

There is £3,000 in cash prizes available. This shall be awarded by way of **£1,000** for the winning project in each category at the discretion of the judges. In addition, the following prestigious trophies will be awarded at the discretion of the judges with custody for one year:

- **New Commercial Woods** - James Jones Trophy
- **Small woods, single stands or compartments** - Hunter Blair Trophy
- **Whole estates** - John Kennedy Trophy

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

Award ceremony

Details are to be confirmed, however **it is expected the 2021 Awards' Ceremony will be held virtually to keep everyone safe during the 2nd half of June. The Awards' Ceremony may coincide with Friday of the Royal Highland Show i.e. 18th June 2021, in case it may be possible to get together in person.**

Judging

The safety of Judges and entrants is paramount. The judges expect to directly notify shortlisted entries in April 2021 and will aim to safely-visit selected sites during April/May 2021. If you do not hear from the judges by early May unfortunately your entry has not been short-listed. However, you are encouraged to re-apply 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 management planning and implementation
- The degree of progress and necessary adaptation since inception
- The outcome to date including the quality, or potential for quality, of the timber crop.

Aspects that the judges will be looking for include:

- An innovative approach
- An understanding of timber market requirements
- Species selection appropriate to the site
- Choice of appropriate silvicultural techniques
- Application of good health and safety practise
- Safeguarding and enhancing natural heritage and historic environment features
- Provision of recreation and visitor facilities (especially in larger woodland estates)
- Economic benefits to the land owner.

Keeping safe

It is requested that **only one person on behalf of the entrant is available to meet the judge(s) on-site.** Each person attending will **need to keep a safe distance** and wear an appropriate face mask (unless exempt)/use hand sanitiser/wear suitable protective gloves. Judges will provide their own PPE. The entrant is to **have a pre-arranged route for the judging** where any travel is on foot or on a surface reasonable enough to allow the judge(s) to use their own vehicles (road cars unless advised otherwise) or that does not require any vehicles/transport and that has **suitable, specified viewpoints.**

Judges are to be specific with entrants in advance of the visit about what they want to see and/or have made available before or at the site visit.

Entrants must provide the most relevant supporting information including images in the form of photographs, site-based or aerial based video. All visual supporting material must be in short, small file sizes ideally provided as website or YouTube links.

How to enter

Simply complete a short entry form with basic location and contact details, and state in no more than **500 words** why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this prestigious award and be an exemplar to others. Copies of this entry form can be downloaded from the Scotland's Finest Woodlands Awards' website www.sfw.co.uk and should be submitted electronically if possible unless otherwise agreed in advance.

Please provide **supporting information such as visuals** e.g. up to 15no. photographs, promotional material and/or up to 3no. short videos of up to 60 seconds maximum length and in a small file size (maximum 5MB) to help our judges make their decision. If agreed in advance, to ensure ease of data transfer, larger or longer specialist audio-visual material may be accepted.

In addition, list other supporting information e.g. a summary management plan, species distribution and/or other relevant maps (e.g. for new commercial woodlands vegetation pre-woodland establishment and/or soils maps), any publicity leaflet(s) etc although you do not have to provide these at this stage, unless you consider they are important to your application. Be aware the judges may ask for these to be provided directly to them electronically at short notice prior to any visit or to be available for the day of the visit. Emailed versions of all material are to be provided though must not in total exceed 10MB – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. If material needs to be sent by post three copies are needed.

Closing date for entries

Please submit your application as early as possible and by Wednesday, 31st March 2021 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 up to three videos of maximum 60 seconds length if 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 **You can now follow us on [Twitter](#) !**

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