



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2022

Community Woodlands Award Information Sheet

£2,000 of prize money

Supporters:



Two competition categories: small community woodland and large community woodland group

What is it for?

All over Scotland people are working to support their local communities through woodland projects. Our judges want to recognise and reward their achievement.

What sort of project is eligible?

Entry is open to community-based woodland projects from any part of Scotland. There are two prize categories and entrants can enter the one applicable to their community woodland group:

- **Small community woodland group** - entry is open to projects such as community woodlands, urban woodlands or other projects that focus on involving communities with their woodland environment and thereby enhancing the lives of local people. Your community woodland group is likely to be entirely made up of volunteers and with an annual turnover of no more than £20,000. You will be asked to demonstrate the contribution that your project makes to the lives of local people and explain the steps you are taking to ensure sustainability of the project for the long term.
- **Large community woodland group** – you will be a large community woodland group and may have a member of staff or someone working with you on a dedicated time basis. Your turnover is likely to be over £20,000/annum. You will be asked to demonstrate how your project contributes to sustainable development across the three strands of social, economic and environmental development. The judges will be looking for a holistic approach that delivers outcomes and benefits across all three strands.

All entrants should be able to demonstrate significant and sustained community input.

Prizes

There is £2,000 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 prestigious **Tim Stead Trophy** will be awarded to the best winning project overall at the discretion of the judges with custody for one year. Other high quality entries may receive a judges' commendation. The winners and any commended entries will receive a **certificate** and a **wooden display plaque** recording their achievement.

Award ceremony

The 2022 prize-giving awards ceremony date and format will be advised after the end March closing date. The Awards' Ceremony might coincide with Friday of the Royal Highland Show i.e. 24th June 2022, in case it may be possible to get together in person. An additional presentation may be made on the project site so that all those involved can join the celebrations if Covid-19 safeguards permit.

Judging

The safety of Judges and entrants is paramount. The judges expect to directly notify shortlisted entries in April 2022 and will aim to safely-visit selected sites during April/May 2022. 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 project management objectives
- Quality of project design and implementation

- The degree of progress and necessary adaptation since inception, including looking at future sustainability of the group and its work
- Likelihood of achieving the project's original objectives.

Aspects that the judges will be looking for include:

- An innovative approach
- Active engagement by the local community
- Woodland management appropriate to the site
- Safeguarding and enhancing natural heritage and historic environment features
- Provision of recreation and other community facilities
- Direct or indirect economic benefits to the community.

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 especially 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 to provide the location, contact detail, summary project information and a statement 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 Woods Awards' website www.sfwa.co.uk and should be submitted electronically unless otherwise agreed in advance.

Please provide **supporting information especially 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), a summary project or business plan, latest annual accounts, map or publicity leaflets 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. 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 midnight on Thursday, 31st March 2022 at the very latest. Late entries will not be considered.

Publicity

An objective of Scotland's Finest Woods and its partners is to showcase 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:

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