



# Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2022

## *New Native Woods Award Information Sheet*

**Winner's Prize: £1,000**

**Delivery Partner:**



### **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 are 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 2016/17 planting season and no earlier than 2001/2002. 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 2002 and 2017 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 2016/17 or before then, but not earlier than 2001/2002 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 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 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. 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 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 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 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.

### 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, 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 Woods Awards' website [www.sfw.co.uk](http://www.sfw.co.uk) and should be submitted electronically unless otherwise agreed in advance.

Please provide **supporting information such as visuals** e.g. up to 15no. photographs, any promotional material and/or weblinks that will help our judges make their decision including any short video(s) of up to 60 seconds maximum length and 3no. maximum that are in a small file size (maximum 5MB), a summary management plan, species' distribution/ vegetation pre-woodland establishment/ soils maps. 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 and that must be agreed in advance.

### Closing date for entries

**Please submit your application as early as possible and by midnight on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> 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 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 3no. videos of up to a maximum 60 seconds length each, if available.

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

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