



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

New Native Woods Award 2024

Winner's Prize: £1,000

What is it for?

The competition is to reward new native woodland by natural regeneration or planting where the exemplary use of silvicultural techniques, planning, practice and management are delivering high quality native woods. The New Native Woods Award is sponsored by the [Woodland Trust Scotland](#) and they have donated a prestigious trophy that is awarded to the winning entry.

Who can enter the New Native Woods Award?

Entry is open to new native woodland projects anywhere in Scotland that **must** have at least three years minimum of growth and no more than 20 years' growth i.e. if planting happened on, or before, the 2020/21 planting season and no earlier than 2003/2004. 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 natural regeneration or planting 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 3 years ago though within the last 20 years i.e. between 2004 and 2021 to include a significant proportion of young regenerated/planted trees.

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

Definitions

- *Recently regenerated/planted trees* - trees already with at least 3 years growth i.e. planted in 2018/9 or before then, but not earlier than 2003/2004 so they have between 3- 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](#).

Guidance for Entrants

Guidance for entrants is at the end of this form. Please read these notes before completing your form.

Closing date for entries

Please submit your application as early as possible and **by midnight on Sunday, 31st March 2024 at the very latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.

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

Jean Nairn, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, 1 Ravelston House Loan, Edinburgh EH4 3LY
Tel: 07954 847055 Email: admin@sfw.co.uk Socials: [Twitter](#); [LinkedIn](#)



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

New Native Woods Award 2024

Name of woodland:	
Location:	
Ownership details:	
How did you hear about the Award:	
<p>It is important that a contact person is provided who will be responsible for liaising with us on important aspects such as arranging any judging visit.</p> <p>Both the owner and woodland names stated on this application form will be used on any trophy, 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.</p>	
Name of Contact:	
Contact Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
<p>Please include a map showing the woodland location, the meeting point and directions as necessary including the What 3 Words reference (https://what3words.com, W3W). You may provide us with a revised meeting point at a later date, but it saves time for us to have this information when you submit your entry.</p>	
Meeting point for any judging visit (W3W):	

1. Please provide a brief summary of your new native woodland's background, aims, management objectives, design and implementation. State the total area in hectares.

2. In no more than 500 words, please describe what you have achieved through your woodland management highlighting the progress made towards meeting your objectives. State why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this prestigious award.

3. Location Map and Supporting Information (please tick boxes as appropriate):

- a. You **must** include a **location map** showing the meeting point (including What 3 Words, W3W reference) and directions to the meeting point for any judging visit.
- b. **Supporting information and images** – please acknowledge that you have read the ‘Guidance for Entrants’ notes below.
- c. **Supporting information and images** – please list attachments of relevant supporting information (documents / maps, photographs, videos).
Please state if photos can not be used for publicity purposes – see the ‘Guidance for Entrants’ below.

Your entry form and any supporting information should be submitted **by email** to: admin@sfa.co.uk as early as possible, unless otherwise agreed in advance, and **by midnight on Sunday 31st March 2024 at the very latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered. If material needs to be sent **by post**, this needs to be **arranged in advance and three copies** are required.

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Guidance for Entrants

Why enter – the prize

A **£1,000 cash prize** is awarded to the winning project at the discretion of the judges as an exemplar to others. 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. Other high-quality entries may receive a judges' commendation.

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

How to enter

- Download the current entry form from the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards' website: www.sfa.co.uk.
- After reading the **How to Enter** section (on page 1 and repeated below), complete this entry form if your project complies with the entry criteria and refer to the **Supporting Information and Images** section below.
- **Completed entry form and any supporting information** including images to be **up to 10MB per entry** and sent by email (sent in 2-3 emails if necessary). Any videos can be submitted as a hyper or downloadable link.
- The completed entry form and any supporting information should be **submitted electronically unless otherwise agreed in advance**. If material needs to be sent by post, **three copies are required**.
- If eligible, you may enter more than one category (one the entry form for each category).

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

- Please submit your application as early as possible and **by midnight on Sunday, 31st March 2024 at the very latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.
- Our judging panel will consider entries and make awards at their discretion. If your project is shortlisted, expect the judges to arrange a site visit with your nominated contact person – see below.

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Supporting information and images

You may include relevant **supporting information especially images** with your entry to help our judges in their decision making. Examples can include:

- Materials can be previously published documents such as a summary management plan; maps - species' distribution / vegetation pre-woodland establishment / soils; publicity leaflet(s).
- Photographs – **up to 15 photographs**. Each one to be no larger than 2MB in size, and preferably in a landscape format. Please include people and / or scenic views in your images.
- Videos – **up to 3 videos** and each one can be up to 60 seconds in length. Any videos should be a maximum file size of 5MB and can be submitted as a hyper- or downloadable link (e.g. WeTransfer).
- Please state if photos / videos cannot be used for publicity purposes.
- **Your complete entry (form and attachments) should be no greater than 10MB** with all attachments – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. If material needs to be sent **by post this must be agreed in advance and three copies** are required.

Publicity

An objective of Scotland's Finest Woods and its partners is to showcase entrants as exemplars of good practice so as to encourage other projects in future years. 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 invited to provide publication quality photography as well as videos, if available. Guidance is given in the section above about submitting images and videos for those who wish to do so.

Judging

The safety of Judges and entrants is paramount. The judges expect to directly notify **shortlisted entries** in April 2024 and will aim to safely **visit selected sites during April/May 2024**. 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**. 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. Please refer to Supporting Information and Images section above.

Award ceremony

The 2024 prize-giving awards ceremony will be confirmed after the March closing date. **The Awards' Ceremony may coincide with the Friday of the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, i.e. 21st June 2024**, for those invited to attend in person and able to do so.