



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Quality Timber Awards 2024

- (1) Small Wood, Single Stand or Compartment
- (2) Whole-Estate/Forest
- (3) New Commercial Wood

£3,000 of prize money available - winner's prize for each category: £1,000

What are the Awards for?

This Awards are for woodlands where high-quality timber production is a major objective. [EGGER](#), [James Jones & Sons Ltd](#), and [Tilhill](#) have teamed up to sponsor these award categories.

Who can enter the Quality Timber Awards?

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:

- 1) **New commercial woodlands (James Jones & Sons Ltd trophy)** - entry is open to newly-planted productive and predominantly conifer woodland of 10 hectares or more in extent; that have between three- and six- years' growth i.e. planted between the 2017/18 and 2020/21 seasons; and established on previously bare land where the planning, practice and management regime is designed to result in high-quality timber production.
- 2) **Small woods, single stands or compartments (Hunter Blair trophy)** – 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.
- 3) **Whole estates/forests (John Kennedy trophy)** – 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.

Guidance for Entrants

Guidance for entrants is given 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:

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Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Quality Timber Awards 2024

Name of forest/estate:	
Location:	
Area (hectares):	
Ownership details:	
How did you hear about the Awards:	
<p>It is important that a contact point is provided who will be responsible for liaising with us on important aspects such as arranging any judging visit. Both the owner and woodland names stated on this application form will be used on any 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 Numbers:	
Email address:	

Please indicate the competition categories that you consider are applicable to your woodland:

Please note that you can enter one, two or three categories e.g. if you have a large woodland area then you can enter the whole forest/ estate category and highlight individual stands or compartments, or areas of recent new planting, within the woodland for consideration for the separate prize categories.

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1. Please provide a brief summary of:

Aims:

Management objectives:

Progress to date:

Stakeholder engagement (whole estate/forest entries only):

2. 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.

Guidance for Entrants

Why enter – the prize

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 & Sons Ltd Trophy
- **Small woods, single stands or compartments** - Hunter Blair Trophy
- **Whole estates** - John Kennedy Trophy

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.sfwa.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).
- 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 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 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 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.