



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Farm Woodland Awards 2025

Winner's prize includes £1,000 of prize money

What is the Award for?

Farm and croft woodlands are an important part of Scotland's landscape with a variety of woodland types, from newly planted woods to old shelterbelts, native and productive conifer species. The Farm Woodland category demonstrates the [integration of trees](#) into the farming business to show the added benefit of trees on a farm which may help the business to grow, become more resilient, or increase biodiversity. Farm woodland can contribute to carbon sequestration and can benefit the farm and farmer in many ways such as shelter, shade, biodiversity, riparian, flood management and run-off prevention. This award is sponsored by [F&W Forestry UK Ltd](#) and is presented with the Lilburn trophy and £1,000 in prize money

General criteria for entries

- Please note where 'farm' or 'farming' is used this also applies to 'croft' or 'crofting'.
- Entry is open to active farmers/crofters with a **farm/croft anywhere in Scotland**.
- The business must have a Rural Payments' **Business Reference Number** (BRN).
- **Farm/croft woodland** may be managed by one or more people - there is no need to give your age!
- The **farmer/crofter** must be directly involved, to a greater or lesser extent, with the farm/croft woodland management that forms part of the farming business and is to its benefit. The [Integrating Trees Network](#) includes examples of such benefits.
- Your entry can include more than one woodland block on the farm. The '**Guidance for Entrants**' notes (at the end of this form) states more details about age, size and type of woodlands that are eligible, and gives guidelines on what the judges are seeking from your entry to identify this year's winner.
- Your entry can include up to 3 short videos and 15x photographs – see '**Guidance for Entrants**' notes for more detail.
- If eligible, you may enter more than one category (up to 3 categories – please check questions specific to each category).

What type of farm/croft woodland(s)?

Please refer to the Guidance Notes at the end of this form for eligibility of your farming business and woodland enterprise.

Guidance for Entrants

'Guidance for Entrants' notes are listed at the end of this form. **Please read these notes before completing your entry form.**

Closing date for entries

Please submit your application as early as possible and **by midnight on Saturday, 31st May 2025 at the latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.

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

Jean Nairn, Executive Director, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Email: admin@sfw.co.uk Tel: 07954 847055 (leave message) Socials: [Twitter](#); [LinkedIn](#)

Scotland's Finest Woods - Registered office: 1 Ravelston House Loan, Edinburgh EH4 3LY

T: 07954 847055 E: admin@sfw.co.uk

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



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Farm Woodland Award 2025 - Entry

Name of farm/croft:	
Location:	
Farm/croft owner's name, & type of ownership:	
BRN:	
How did you hear about the Award:	
<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. Please include details of an additional contact if you are likely to be unavailable for significant periods. The farm/croft and owner, as well as their forester if applicable, stated on this application form will be used on any certificates, or other records, in event of winning. Therefore please ensure details are correct.</p>	
Name of Contact(s):	
Contact Address:	
Phone Numbers:	
Email address:	
<p>Please include a map showing the farm/croft location, where the farm/croft woodlands are and the meeting point with directions as necessary (including a What 3 Words, W3W reference, https://what3words.com). You may provide us with a revised meeting point at a later date, but it saves time to have this information when you enter.</p>	
Meeting point for judging visit (W3W):	

Please mark the competition category that you are entering:					
	Farm/croft woodlands – has a BRN in Scotland, with woodlands of at least 2ha (4.9 acres) and a tree canopy of at least 20% with a minimum of five years growth (young woodlands).				
	Who is applying (please tick):				
	<input type="checkbox"/> the Farmer / Crofter	<input type="checkbox"/> the Forester / Woodland Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		

Entry form continues on the next page ...

1. Please provide a brief summary of your farm/croft woodland(s)'s background, aims, woodland management objectives, farming/crofting activities and how you are integrating the woodland with the farm/croft.

State the area of both the farm/croft and woodland(s) being entered in hectares.

2. In no more than 500 words please describe what you have achieved through your integrated farm/croft woodland management and highlight the progress made towards meeting your objectives, state why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this prestigious award. Clearly explain your existing farm/crofting practice and state how the woodland improves your farming/crofting activities and ideally your productivity.

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, videos and images** – please acknowledge that you have read the 'Guidance for Entrants' notes below. ☐
- c. **Supporting information, videos and images** – please list attachments of relevant supporting information (documents / maps, photographs, videos). ☐
Please state if videos and 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@sfgwa.co.uk as early as possible, unless otherwise agreed in advance, and **by 23:59 on Saturday 31st May 2025 at the latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.

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

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Guidance for Entrants

Judging

The judges expect to directly notify **shortlisted entries** after the closing date and will aim to **visit selected sites during the summer of 2025**. If you do not hear from the judges by September 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. Judges will assess entries against the following criteria:

- Quality of entry form and supporting information
- Clarity of management objectives clearly delivering direct farming/crofting benefits with good woodland practice and demonstrating benefits in relation to the [Integrating Trees Network](#) and carbon sequestration.
- Quality of project design and implementation

- The degree of progress and necessary adaptation(s) since inception
- Likelihood of achieving the project's original objectives.

Aspects that the judges will be looking for include:

- An innovative and/or enterprising approach
- Successful integration of the woodland(s) with the farming/crofting activities ideally improving productivity
- How the woodland benefits contribute to the farm/croft's financial sustainability
- Woodland type appropriate to the site with natural heritage and any historic environment safeguarded
- Maximising overall biodiversity benefits
- Direct or indirect economic benefits to those on the farm/croft and/or nearby
- Ideally how peers are encouraged to also manage farm woodlands in a positive way.

What type of farm/croft woodland(s)?

- The farm/croft must be actively managed with a BRN.
- The area of woodland must be 2 hectares (4.9 acres) or more in size, with tree canopy cover (or the potential to achieve this if a young woodland) of at least 20%.
- If the woodland is younger or of mixed age, it may have been established by planting or natural regeneration on previously bare or cropped land, or on land that has previously had tree cover.
- It can be of any established tree species or woodland type and contain integral open space and/or woody shrubs or other farm crops/ground cover.
- There **may be one or more woodland areas** on the farm/croft included in the entry.
- The [Integrating Tree Network](#) illustrates some of the benefits to integrating trees and woodlands into the farming/crofting operations. The farm/croft's woodland(s) will be used in a sustainable and potentially enterprising way with responsible management providing direct farming benefits in terms of productivity and financial sustainability. Benefits to the farmer and farm may include some of the following: generating income from sustainably managed woodlands; carbon sequestration; using biomass, fuelwood or wood chips on site or selling these as a renewable, clean, carbon-neutral energy; for livestock shelter or shade; biodiversity; riparian, flood management and run-of prevention; sporting interests; amenity or other objectives.

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 and Criteria** sections on page 1 and **Guidance for Entrants**, complete this entry form if your project satisfies all the entry criteria. Please also refer to the **Supporting Information and Images** section below.
- **Completed entry form and any supporting information** including videos and images to be **up to 10MB per entry** and sent by email (sent in 2-3 emails if necessary). Please submit any videos as a hyper or downloadable link (e.g. YouTube or WeTransfer).
- The completed entry form and any supporting information should be **submitted electronically**.
- If eligible, you may enter more than one category (up to 3 categories – please check each category form for specific questions).
- Please submit your application as early as possible and **by 23:59 on Saturday, 31st May 2025 at the latest**.
- 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 over the summer.

Supporting information and images

You may include relevant **supporting information especially videos and 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 hyperlink or downloadable link (e.g. YouTube or WeTransfer).
- Please confirm that photos / videos can be used for publicity purposes or clearly state otherwise.
- **Your full entry (form and all attachments) should be no greater than 10MB** – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary.

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 Lilburn trophy, as stated on page 1, 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.

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 and to demonstrate the breadth of forest and woodland projects across Scotland. 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. Please confirm that photos / videos can be used for publicity purposes or clearly state otherwise.

Award ceremony

The 2025 prize-giving awards ceremony will be confirmed after the closing date. **It is anticipated that the Awards' Ceremony will be held during National Tree Week in November 2025**, for those invited to attend in person and able to do so.

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