



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

New Native Woods Award 2025

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

What is the Award 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 with no more than 20 years' growth i.e. no earlier than 2004/2005 planting season. 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 within the last 20 years, i.e. from 2004 onwards 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 up to 20-years' growth i.e. planted no earlier than 2004/2005 growing season.
- *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 given at the end of this form. **Please read these notes before completing your form.** Your entry can include up to 3 short videos and 15x photographs – see '**Guidance for Entrants**' notes for more detail.

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.sfwa.co.uk or contact:

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

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

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New Native Woods Award 2025 - Entry

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of woodland: | |
| Location: | |
| Ownership details: | |
| 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 these 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): | |

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.

1. **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.

Please confirm that photos / videos can be used for publicity purposes or clearly state otherwise – 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 23:59 on Saturday 31st May 2025 at the latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.

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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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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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