



# Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

## Quality Timber Awards 2025

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

**£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 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 including continuous cover forestry, 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.** 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 23:59 on Saturday, 31st May 2025 at the latest.** Late entries will **not** be considered.

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

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

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



# Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

## Quality Timber Awards 2025 - Entry

<b>Name of forest/estate:</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Area (hectares):</b>	
<b>Ownership details:</b>	
<b>How did you hear about the Awards:</b>	
<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.  <u>Both the owner and woodland names stated on this application form will be used on any certificates, or other records, in event of winning.</u> Therefore please ensure these are correct. Do include details of an additional contact if you are likely to be unavailable for significant periods.</p>	
<b>Name of Contact:</b>	
<b>Contact Address:</b>	
<b>Phone Numbers:</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>	

**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.

	<b>New commercial woodlands</b> - 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.
	<b>Small woods, single stands or compartments</b> - 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
	<b>Whole estates/forests</b> - 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.

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@sfgwa.co.uk](mailto:admin@sfgwa.co.uk) as early as possible, unless otherwise agreed in advance, and **by 23:59 on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025 at the latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.

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

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

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

## Guidance for Entrants

### 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 including continuous cover forestry, 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.
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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, 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.

### How to enter

- Download the current entry form from the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards' website: [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://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. 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 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 submitted as a hyperlink or downloadable link (e.g. YouTube or WeTransfer).
- Please confirm that photos and 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. 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.

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

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 or videos can be used for publicity purposes or clearly state otherwise.

### 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 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.

### 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.

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

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