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Contents

About <i>Scottish Forestry</i>	1
Readership	1
Who writes for <i>Scottish Forestry</i> ?	2
Suitable subject matter.....	2
Types of article.....	2
Peer-reviewed articles	2
Acceptance of articles.....	2
Copyright and publication elsewhere	2
Length of articles.....	3
Formatting	3
Use of images.....	3
Charts and graphs	3
Tables	3
Colour.....	4
How to send articles and images	4
Proofreading responsibility.....	4
Sponsorship and acknowledgements	4
References and citations.....	4
Copies of articles for authors.....	5
Deadlines for 2023 editions	5

About *Scottish Forestry*

Scottish Forestry is the journal of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, and the only forestry publication in Scotland to include scientific articles. It has existed under different titles since 1858, and with its current name for 75 years.

As well as disseminating forestry management knowledge and forest science, the journal fosters understanding of and passion for woodland, forestry and trees, particularly in Scotland but also beyond. Powerfully argued, well-written, thought-provoking articles increase understanding of the serious issues that confront our forests and their potential to help address environmental, social and economic challenges.

Readership

The journal's readership is the members of the RSFS, who receive a copy of each edition. To join, visit <https://www.rsfs.org.uk/index.php/become-a-member>. The journal is also taken by specialist international libraries and is sent to the six legal deposit libraries, part of the UK legal deposit system, which are The British Library, London; National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh; Bodleian Library, Oxford; Cambridge University Library; Trinity College, Dublin; and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

The readership is uniquely eclectic, including forestry professionals and companies, conservationists and ecologists, academics and scientists, government agencies and policy makers, students, owners of woodlands large and small, and individuals who simply love woodlands, trees and their wildlife and wish to continue learning about all aspects of forests. The journal provides a unique service in facilitating the sharing of knowledge, experience and ideas across the diverse community of people who have a stake, responsibility and interest in Scotland's forests and their future.

Who writes for Scottish Forestry?

You do, we hope. We welcome your ideas and creativity – please contact the Editor for an initial discussion. We accept contributions from different walks of life, including lay-people and non-members, not just academics, scientists, forestry professionals and members of the RSFS.

Suitable subject matter

As an applied subject, forestry builds on knowledge from a wide range of disciplines and subjects, and topics in recent editions have included: alternative conifer species, woodland creation, tree protection and deer, agroforestry, wood quality, native woodlands and natural regeneration, animal habitats and habitat management, climate change, carbon accounting, historical/archival subjects, foresters themselves, biodiversity, conservation, ecology, economics, wildfire, social aspects, genetics, policy, soils, surveying, community/urban forests, rewilding, forest management technology including drones and thermal imagery, and more. The emphasis is on a Scottish context and relevance but if you want to write about forestry in another country, don't let the national focus stop you. If you are unsure if your topic is a good fit, the Editor welcomes new ideas and is happy to explore possibilities with you.

Types of article

Articles published in *Scottish Forestry* include research and review papers, reports, technical papers, case histories, book reviews, letters and discussion or opinion pieces.

Peer-reviewed articles

Peer review is available for longer research, review and technical papers – *ask the Editor for the separate guidance for these*. Preference is given to original, substantiated research, and relevant, topical issues. We encourage discussion of potential contributions with the Editor prior to submission. In general, articles should not have been published elsewhere, or they should be significantly amended if so: brought up to date, significant additions made or shortened; in these cases, discuss with the Editor.

Acceptance of articles

The final decision on whether an article is accepted for publication rests with the Editor, who may consult the journal's Editorial Group in reaching this decision.

Copyright and publication elsewhere

Apart from news items, in general no article or paper should be submitted while offered for prior or simultaneous publication in another journal. Worldwide copyright for text and artwork is retained by the Royal Scottish Forestry Society (RSFS), but commentary, discussions or opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Society. The author of any article published by RSFS is the first owner of its copyright in accordance with requirements of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Length of articles

Most reports and articles should be 1,000–3,000 words, although research and review papers may be longer than this. The maximum for any research paper is 7,000 words (including references, captions, tables etc). As a rough guide, one page will take 700 words and one illustration. Shorter opinion pieces may be most suitable as letters if up to 600 words in length (although shorter letters are strongly preferred).

Formatting

The simpler the article format sent by the author the better, as the publishing process requires a Word document cleared of most formatting. So a relatively unformatted, simple Word document on a normal A4 page is best. Do include headings and subheadings where appropriate, and we will convert them to the house style.

Use of images

We ask you to provide at least one good quality image (photo, chart, illustration, etc) per two-page spread (i.e. per 700-1,400 words of text). Images should usually be sent as jpgs, PDFs, PNGs, TIFFs, EPS or another suitable file format. To be of publication quality, they should be 300dpi at the size they are likely to appear in print – if you don't know how to check or adjust this, a rule of thumb is that files of at least 2MB in size are usually good enough for print (though PDFs and EPS can work at smaller sizes than this). Photos you'd like to be considered as possible cover photos for an edition of the journal should be at least 6MB. You must name the photographer / copyright holder of each submitted image, and you must provide an informative caption for each.

When referring within the text to accompanying figures, please write e.g. '**Figure 1**' in bold text. Please also indicate where within the text you would like each figure to appear (this may change slightly when the page is laid out during the design phase, but we will seek to place it as close as possible to its desired position relative to the text).

Charts and graphs

Charts and graphs must be provided as separate image files rather than embedded within a Word document. Providing them as PDF files usually gives a good chance of them being sufficiently crisp and high-resolution. JPGs may be harder to get to sufficient quality. Other file format options include PNG and EPS.

Titles of figures should not be embedded within the image file – the text of titles/descriptions of figures should be supplied in a Word document.

Be sure to retain editable versions of any charts and graphs right up until publication, because our proofreading process will sometimes identify amendments that need to be made at a late stage. Consider whether your text – e.g. in legends, keys and axis labels – will be large enough to be legible in the printed journal, especially if your figures are reduced in size in the page design process.

Tables

Tables should be submitted as simple Word document tables, not as image files. We will format them to the house style during the page design process. Each table should be submitted in its own, separate Word document.

Colour

Scottish Forestry is produced in full colour. We encourage, where appropriate, the use of colour in images, tables, graphs and photographs throughout the text.

How to send articles and images

Articles must be sent by email as Word documents. Large files can be sent within a zip folder attached to an email if necessary, or you may use a free file transfer service such as <https://www.wetransfer.com>.

Proofreading responsibility

All copy is proofread in-house, but we do ask you to proofread diligently before submitting your work. Please carefully consult and adhere to the journal's style guide and to the referencing system guide we provide you. This reduces the risk of deadlines being missed and your article having to be held over for a later edition. If the Editor finds your submitted draft has a large number of deviations from the style guide that are time-consuming to correct individually, it may be returned for you to carry out the corrections before resubmitting. You will receive an electronic proof of your article or paper for checking before publication.

Sponsorship and acknowledgements

If you wish to publish an article containing the results of sponsored research then please give prior advice to your sponsors that your intention is to publish the research. As an author you should acknowledge your sponsors as appropriate. In some cases sponsoring bodies may wish to endorse an article prior to its publication. You are welcome to acknowledge those who have helped you during the preparation of your article, e.g. those who read and commented on earlier drafts.

References and citations

Please consult the journal style guide and take care to format citations and references as stipulated. We now use the ICL iteration of the Harvard referencing system – if your references have a large number of deviations from the referencing guide that are time-consuming to correct, it may be returned for you to carry out the corrections before resubmitting, and this may delay publication. You are also asked to be extremely diligent in checking the accuracy of your references, for example ensuring details such as publication year, title, authors, etc are all correct.

You are asked to be diligent in ensuring that every citation in the text corresponds to a source included in your References list at the end – and vice versa. On completion, remove any formatting that links citations and references, as this causes problems with the journal's page design software, and remove any hyperlink text.

Sources you cite should be relevant and, taken together, should provide a fair and balanced overview of the current state of research or scholarly work on the topic. Within reason, this applies also to opinion pieces where they use citations.

You may also include a bibliography which lists texts you have not referred to directly in your work but which have had an influence on your ideas.

For peer reviewed articles, see the additional guidelines for authors of peer reviewed articles.

Copies of articles for authors

All authors will receive a pdf copy of their article for further dissemination as they wish. You should advise us if you wish to receive a personal copy of the edition that carries your article. Like many other charities trying to keep on top of costs, we no longer send multiple copies to authors.

Deadlines for 2023 editions

For general (non-peer reviewed) articles the deadlines for final drafts are:

Spring 2023 edition (dispatch w/c 27 Mar)	Friday 27 January 2023
Summer 2023 (dispatch w/c 24 July)	Friday 26 May 2023
Autumn/Winter 2023 (dispatch w/c 27 Nov)	Friday 29 September 2023

The journal often fills up before these deadlines, therefore your article may not be published until a subsequent edition. The earlier it arrives, the earlier it can be considered.

For peer-reviewed articles:

Authors should allow a long lead-in time from submission of a first draft to publication (publication depending upon the manuscript successfully passing through the peer review process). NB. The dates below should be considered the final possible dates for publication in the 2023 editions of the journal, and submission at these dates does not guarantee publication in the author's preferred edition. In reality, articles should be submitted well before these final deadlines in order to stand a good chance of publication in the preferred edition.

SPRING 2023

Deadline for receipt of first draft for peer review	31 Oct 2022
Peer review comments sent to authors by	9 Dec 2022
Deadline for receipt of final draft	20 Jan 2023

SUMMER 2023

Deadline for receipt of first draft for peer review	6 Mar 2023
Peer review comments sent to authors by	17 April 2023
Deadline for receipt of final draft	15 May 2023

AUTUMN / WINTER 2023

Deadline for receipt of first draft for peer review	14 July 2023
Peer review comments sent to authors by	25 Aug 2023
Deadline for receipt of final draft	22 September 2023

PROVISIONAL DATES FOR FIRST EDITION OF 2024:

Deadline for receipt of first draft for peer review	30 Oct 2023
Peer review comments sent to authors by	8 Dec 2023
Deadline for receipt of final draft	19 January 2024

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