

For immediate release

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Scottish Woodlands celebrates 10 years of FSC Certification



Scottish Woodlands Ltd, the country's leading forest management and contracting business, is celebrating a decade of offering FSC certification through its Resource Manager and Group Scheme arrangements.

Scottish Woodlands Ltd was the first major national player to achieve FSC status in 1999, and helped Grange Fencing to deliver the first UK-sourced FSC certified fencing panel to the launch of United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) which took place in Central London in May of that year.

Grange Fencing now use an increasing proportion of FSC timber in the fencing they supply. Duncan Hill, Managing Director "is delighted to note that from their early venture together, Scottish Woodlands has now achieved FSC certification for a decade. Munro Sawmills Ltd achieved FSC status at the same time and cut the timber for the first FSC fence panel. Philip Blake, Managing Director "welcomes the continued certification attained by Scottish Woodlands in marketing timber from sustainable forests in the UK."

Both international forest certification schemes operating in the UK use the independent UK Woodland Assurance Standard as the basis for their UK woodland certification programmes. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification is one of two options available. UKWAS Executive Chair, Peter Wilson said "Scottish Woodlands played an important role in the development of the UKWAS so I am delighted to congratulate them on celebrating their first 10 years of offering forest certification to the UK's woodland owners."

At the recent 10th anniversary renewal of its Certificate through SGS Qualifor, Scottish Woodlands Ltd has added the "FSC Controlled Wood" accreditation to its scope, to ensure that all of the 125,000 cubic metres of non-certified timber which it brings to certified markets each year come from legal and sustainable sources, carries a credible eco-label as well as demonstrates a secure chain of custody.

Rob Shaw, Scottish Woodlands' Safety, Environment and Quality Director says, "back in 1999 we knew we were doing the right thing, but we didn't know at the time just how critical these accreditations would become. Certification has now become a market access requirement for most markets, and new EU rules will shortly make "Controlled Wood" a requirement for any forest owner, to prove that any timber put to market isn't controversial. Joining our company's Group Certification Scheme is one of the easiest ways for clients selling timber to access the certified world. We have developed a robust management system to facilitate legal compliance in all areas of forest certification."

The Scottish Woodlands FSC Resource Manager and Group Scheme now has over 82,000 hectares under management, and 190 members distributed across Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Notes to Editors:

- For further information, please contact Rob Shaw, SEQ Director, Scottish Woodlands Ltd at E: rob.shaw@scottishwoodlands.co.uk, T: 01349 846999, or Jean Nairn, Business Support Manager, at E: jean.nairn@scottishwoodlands.co.uk, T: 0131 451 5154.
- **Scottish Woodlands Ltd** is predominantly an employee owned company. The core business is forest management and timber harvesting, and a growing presence in utilities, landscaping and renewable energy. Scottish Woodlands operates from a network of 16 offices throughout the UK, utilising the company's biggest asset - more than 125 staff. Web: www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk.
- The company's new [FSC certificate](#) is available on the website.
- In the FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises, it is stated that "companies supplying FSC Controlled Wood shall make claims regarding FSC Controlled Wood or use the statement 'FSC Controlled Wood' only in business to business relation with FSC certified Chain-of-Custody operations acquiring FSC Controlled Wood for the purpose of mixing with FSC certified material in mixed products."
- **SGS Qualifior** can be contacted via Douglas Orr at douglasorr@btinternet.com.
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