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**NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

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### **First Scottish Woodlands Student Excellence Award Announced**

The Scottish Forestry Trust is delighted to announce that the winner of the first Scottish Woodlands Student Excellence Award is Dave Auty, a post graduate student then based at the University of Aberdeen, who carried out research into "Modelling the effects of forest management on the wood properties and branch characteristics of UK-grown Scots Pine". The thesis has helped to clearly identify the effects of different types of silviculture on the wood quality properties of Scots Pine and has identified clear areas for further research in the future.

Speaking from Laval University in Quebec City where he is now based, Dave Auty said, "I am thrilled to receive this award from The Scottish Forestry Trust and Scottish Woodlands in recognition of my PhD thesis, and I am extremely grateful to the SFT, Forest Research and the University of Aberdeen for the opportunity to undertake the work and to make a positive contribution to wood quality research in the UK".

Guy Watt, the Chairman of The Scottish Forestry Trust's Projects and Research Committee said "The thesis produced by Dave Auty was an extremely impressive piece of work highlighting some key lessons for silvicultural management of an important tree species in UK forestry. Committee members were impressed by the quality of the final thesis and by the practical relevance of the findings".

Presenting the award to Dave Auty, Colin Mann, Managing Director of Scottish Woodlands Ltd and a Trustee of The Scottish Forestry Trust, said "I am delighted to present Dave with this inaugural award and wish him every success with his future work here at Laval. Not only is it important to recognise achievement through excellence but it is as important to support graduates as they start off on their career path in the forestry sector. I wish Dave every success in the future"

**Ends**

#### **Notes for Editors:**

**The Scottish Woodlands Student Excellence Award** was launched by The Scottish Forestry Trust in May 2011 to recognise excellence in the quality and relevance of the output from Trust funded PhD Studentships. The Award provides £250 per recipient as a result of funding provided by Scottish Woodlands Ltd.

**The Scottish Forestry Trust** is the leading UK Charitable Trust providing funds for research, education and training in support of British Forestry. Established in 1983 by a gifting of share capital, the Trust is a registered charity and has a remit to provide private sector funds to support research and education throughout the British forestry industry. Since 1983, the Trust has provided in excess of £1.7m to over 100 projects ranging from supporting post graduate education through to contributing towards industry applied research and assisting policy formulation.

**Scottish Woodlands Ltd** is a leading Forestry Management Company with a long tradition of serving forest owners and investors in Scotland and the rest of the UK. Originally established in 1913 as The Cooperative Forestry Society, its history can be traced back for almost 100 years. The current company, which is substantially employee owned, has grown and developed significantly to become a major player in the British forestry and timber industry, delivering over 800,000 tonnes of timber per annum into UK sawmillers, and planting in excess of 25% of private sector new woodland expansion with an annual turnover in excess of £45 million.

Further information, and a photograph of Dave Auty is available from SFT Director, Bob Stubbs at  
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