

## **PE1457/E**

### **The Woodland Trust Scotland**

The Woodland Trust Scotland is part of the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. Our vision is for our land to be rich in native woods and trees, enjoyed and valued by everyone. We have three aims: to enable the creation of more native woods and places rich in trees; to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future; to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees. Across the UK, we own over 1,000 sites and have over 500,000 members and supporters.

### **A National Tree for Scotland**

The Trust welcomes the potential designation of a national tree for Scotland as a fitting legacy for the Year of Natural Scotland. However, as a charity with an interest in all native woodland, we could not advocate any one species without input from both our membership and the wider public.

### **Online poll**

We carried out an online poll on our website for four weeks. The poll was promoted to supporters of the Woodland Trust through email and social media. The poll was also highlighted by organisations including Trees for Life, the John Muir Trust and Scottish Land and Estates, both through emails to supporters and posts on social media.

The poll was also featured on BBC Radio Scotland, on Good Morning Scotland, subsequent news bulletins, and Out of Doors. Articles also appeared on STV.tv, the Metro, Herald, Scotsman, Press and Journal and Courier. Media coverage for the poll totalled around 2.5 million Opportunities To See.

### **Responses**

630 valid responses were received. A full table of responses is included at the end of this submission. The poll shows strong support for Scots pine as the national tree of Scotland. Two thirds of votes were for Scots pine, a fifth were for Rowan, and a small number of votes for other species make up the remainder.

It also demonstrates that people value trees for a variety of reasons. Aesthetic, cultural and ecological reasons are cited by members of the public for choosing individual species. The iconic status of pine trees within the landscape figures highly.

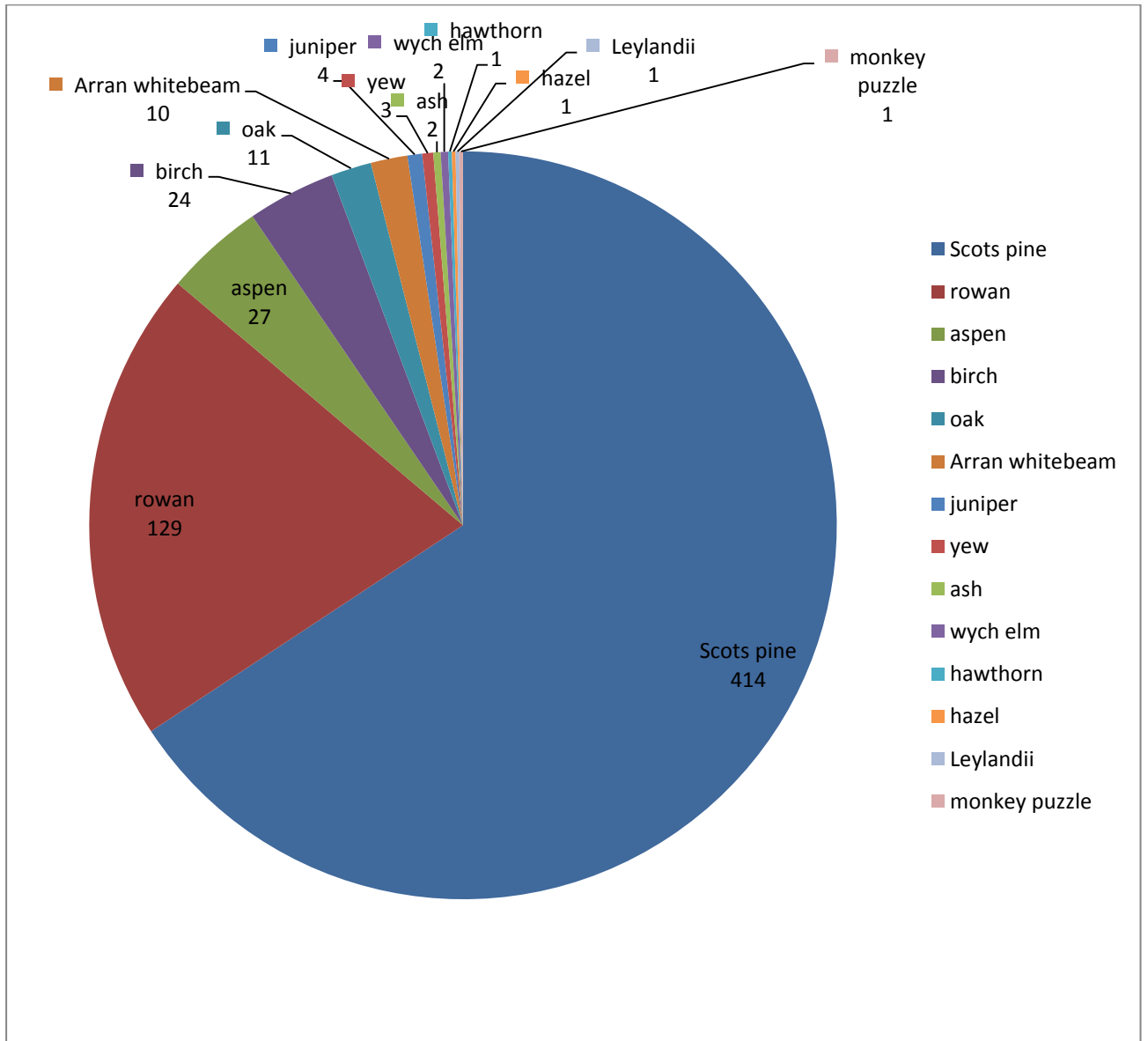


Figure 1: This chart demonstrates the number of votes received for each species of tree in the Woodland Trust Scotland's poll.



Figure 2: This word cloud demonstrates the most common words within comments left by respondents. The size of words is determined by its frequency. Varieties of tree and words such as ‘tree’, and ‘Scotland’ have been filtered out.

The following is a selection of comments from respondents to the National Tree for Scotland poll:

### Scots Pine

*“I love the fact that each Scots Pine has its own unique appearance, its ability to thrive in harsh conditions symbolises the Scottish spirit & when viewed amidst the mountains, perfectly portrays the beauty of Scotland.”*

*“It's beautiful, it's iconic and it's readily associated with Scotland”*

### Rowan

*“An attractive tree with beautiful berries in late summer, found everywhere in Scotland and keeps witches away!”*

*“small, colourful and hardy just like many Scots”*

### Juniper

*“Juniper is our smallest tree and is declining rapidly. Many of its natural habitats are suffering badly from grazing even though they are in SSSI's or nature reserves. This is a way to enhance the plight of this iconic species.”*

## Ash

*It's a lovely tree and the distinctive black buds in winter make it easily recognisable. And with this dreaded disease around, it needs all the help and support it can get!*

## Appendix 1

Species	Votes
Scots pine	414
rowan	129
aspen	27
birch	24
oak	11
Arran whitebeams	10
juniper	4
yew	3
ash	2
wych elm	2
hawthorn	1
hazel	1
Leylandii	1
monkey puzzle	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>630</b>

## Contact

For more information on this response please contact Rory Syme on 0845 2935607 or email [rorysyme@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:rorysyme@woodlandtrust.org.uk)