



## A Flag for BANFFSHIRE: Competition & Vote

Flags are an ancient art form that developed especially to clearly display allegiance and identity. They have subsequently become the premier medium for expressing social pride, indeed it is difficult to imagine events as diverse as sports matches, military parades or musical festivals without a wide range of flags being flown.

A flag for Banffshire will be a free, public symbol for all to use that will:

- Raise recognition and awareness of the area nation-wide
- Express the pride in our local community
- Celebrate the heritage and culture of our corner of the country

### **The Competition**

Individuals, schools and other groups are invited to create proposals in-line with the competition terms and conditions (below) and bearing in mind the Flag Institute design guidelines. The deadline for submissions is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

An assessment panel - including representatives from the community councils, Lord Lieutenancy, local schools and community care as well as the Flag Institute and the Lyon Court - will then choose a final set of designs to be put to a public vote. The designs will all be drawn to the same standard.

The public vote will be held through a combination on physical, postal and online voting in May/June. The winner will be announced once registered in the Lyon Court's Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland and the Flag Institute's UK Flag Registry.

### **Contact**

Further information, downloadable competition packs can be found via:

- Website: [www.lordlieutenantbanffshire.co.uk](http://www.lordlieutenantbanffshire.co.uk)
- Email: [countyflags@hnmedia.co.uk](mailto:countyflags@hnmedia.co.uk)
- Social Media: Facebook: Banffshire – Lord-Lieutenant  
Instagram: LordlieutenantofBanffshire  
Twitter: AndySimpson56 @asimps32

### **Useful Links**

In addition to the information provided in this pack these links will be helpful:

- Court of the Lord Lyon: [www.courtofthelordlyon.scot](http://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot)
- Lyon Court Honorary Vexillologist: [www.vexillologist.scot/](http://www.vexillologist.scot/)
- Flag Institute: [www.flaginstitute.org](http://www.flaginstitute.org)



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## Brief Background of BANFFSHIRE



The historic county of Banffshire extends from Ben Macdhui in the Cairngorm Mountains, along the Deveron and Spey valleys to the shores of the Moray Firth from east of Crovie to west of Portgordon. The shape of the county is very elongated, being 50 miles from north to south, but near Keith only 8 miles from east to west. Records show that Banffshire existed the twelfth century. In 1975 the County Council of Banffshire was included within Grampian Region. However, the name Banffshire continues to define the Lieutenancy (the King's representative in the area) and the coastal constituency for the Scottish parliament. Several organisations, such

as the Boys Brigade, Bowling and the Women's Institute, have Banffshire as the title of their administrative area. A number of other groups have also adopted the name - including coastal swimmers, environmentalists and Northern Light watchers. Brown "Historic Banffshire" signs mark the boundaries on several roads.

### Communities

Banffshire has two Royal Burghs, Banff and Cullen, and its main towns are Aberlour, Banff, Buckie, Dufftown, Keith and Macduff. There are many other thriving smaller communities, each with their own character and story. Tomintoul is one of the highest villages in Scotland. Dufftown is described as the whisky capital of the world. Portsoy has frequently starred as the backdrop for films and television programmes. Crovie is one of the most photographed places in the North East of Scotland. Many others have their own claims to fame.



### Landmarks

North of the Cairngorm mountains, Ben Rinnes, Knock Hill and the Cullen Bin dominate the landscapes. The Deveron, the Isla, and Spey along with other rivers run through the landscape. Sandy beaches at Boyndie, Cullen, Sandend and other places mark a golden boundary with the sea. Elsewhere, the high cliffs of Troup Head and rock formations such as the Bow Fiddle rock provide a border between land and sea. The countryside and waters are home to a very wide variety of wildlife, from golden eagles to red deer and from dolphins to gannets and puffins. Four thousand years of human activity have also provided recognisable landmarks. Stone circles and standing stones pay testimony to earlier settlers. Sixty-one Castles are scattered around the county. Many are in ruins, but others, such as Ballindalloch

thrive. Iconic and historic bridges cross the rivers. The distinctive shape of whisky stills are found throughout the county.

In 2002, to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee, the charity Plant Life International launched the County Flowers campaign. From a shortlist Banffshire voters chose the Dark-red Helleborine (*Epipactis atrorubens*). This is an orchid, and the Rare Plants Register lists it as scarce nationally, and even scarce in Banffshire.



## Industry

The county has a wide range of industries. The food and drink sectors are represented by global players producing whisky, shortbread and salmon through to smaller specialities such as honey, brewing and game. Arable farming dominates much of the landscape. However, the Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society was founded in Banff. Fishing continues to make an important contribution to the local industry. Boat building and design at Buckie and Macduff provide employment opportunities for many. The Banffshire coast is a key place for renewable energy with the landfall sites for the major East and West Moray Windfarms. Tourism is an increasingly important economic sector. Hundreds of thousands of people visit the distilleries. Outdoor adventure activities are available both in the mountains and at the coast. Golf and

fishing attract many. Eco tourism is a growing industry including coastal bird and sea life through to safaris in the mountains. Major events such as Highland games, music festivals and the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival all attract large crowds.

## People

While many residents can trace their Banffshire ancestors back through several generations, others from across Scotland, the UK and the world have found a welcome in the area. All contributing to the life of each community. Sport, music, arts, and faith groups thrive through the contributions of those who live here. Banffshire people have also made an impact on the world with links that continue. Banff in Canada, for example, was given its name by a resident of Dufftown.

### Further information:

'The Spirit of Banffshire' – Andrew Simpson and Eleanor Gillespie (published 2022)

'I love Banffshire' – Clare Russell (published 2009)

'The Spirit of Banffshire' video by Erin Smith -

<https://youtu.be/lhS8JwfyQhw>

[Banffshire - Wikipedia](#)

[Banffshire - Wikishire](#)



### Shades of Banffshire Tartan

*(Designed at Keith Kilt & Textile School)*

Black – Aberdeen Angus cattle

Gold – whisky

Lighter gold and white – coastline

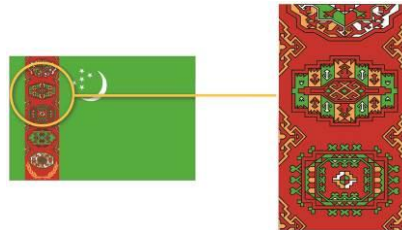
Blue – royal visits

## Flag Design Guidelines

Below are some basic principles of flag design. Further information can be found in the Flag Institute Guiding Principles of Flag Design, available as a free download at: <http://www.flaginstitute.org/wp/product/guiding-principles-flag-design/>

### Keep it Simple

The flag should be simple enough that a child can draw it from memory; else it will be too hard for people remember and reproduce.



### Use Meaningful Symbolism

The flag's elements, colours, or patterns should relate to what it will represent. The flag should symbolise the area as a whole rather than any other entities which are better served by having their own flags (i.e. try not to symbolise specific towns or the country)

### Try to Use Two to Three Basic Colours

Limit the number of colours on the flag to three, which contrast well and come from the standard colour set: red, orange, yellow, green, light blue, dark blue, purple, black and white. Dark and light colours will contrast well against each other, in particular yellow or white will work well on any of the other colours and vice versa.

### No Lettering or Seals

Avoid the use of writing of any kind or an organisation's badge, seal or coat of arms. Writing and other intricate detail is difficult to see at a distance and will likely be unrecognisable when the flag is flying in the wind. It is better to use elements from an appropriate coat of arms as symbols on the flag.



### Be Distinctive

Avoid duplicating other flags, if designs look too similar then the flags could be mis-identified.

### How Will it Fly in the Wind?

Remember, the design must be distinctive when flying on a high pole in a strong wind, and when hanging in windless conditions too. Also remember that it will almost always have ripples caused by the wind.

## Helpful Tips for Flag Design

Flag design expert, Philip Tibbetts, has much experience and working with local schools and communities. Here are his tips to help inspire budding designers.

### Getting Started

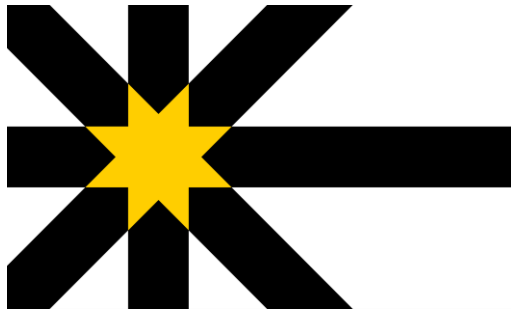
When looking to design a flag for a town or area begin by looking at a number of sources for inspiration to find something that is important and unique. Such elements include:

- Meaning of the areas name
- Legends and folklore
- Traditional emblems and colours
- Local people, achievements and industries

There are many traditional flag symbols that could be adapted to represent aspects of Sutherland such as the stars or wildcats.

### Examples of Best Practice

New symbols or adaptations of old symbols can be very powerful. For example:

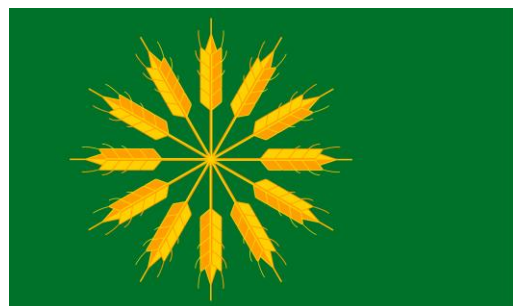


#### Sutherland

The Sutherland uses colours from the former council coat of arms. The Nordic Cross and Saltire shapes represent that the county was the historic mainland border between Scotland and the Vikings. The golden sun represents the rising and setting sun of Sutherland's two coasts as well as the origins of its name as 'South Land' as the sun is highest in the south.

#### Tiree

The island's sobriquet as the 'Land of Barley' is referenced by the ears of barley, which also serve to recall the barley sheaf emblem used in the council's arms. Here they are arranged into a circular pattern to symbolise the rays of the sun as Tiree is famed for the highest amount of sunshine in Britain.



## Terms & Conditions

### Eligibility

- This is a community competition. It is open to individuals and groups
- For all entrants under the age of 16 an adult will be required to approve the entry and agree to these Terms and Conditions. The adult may be the entrant's parent, guardian or teacher. The adult must provide their own contact details (not the child's).

### Requirements

- Entries may be constructed in any medium and submitted in A4 size
- All entries must be the original work of the entrant(s) and must not infringe the rights of any other party.
- By entering the competition you release your design into the public domain in order for it to become a freely useable symbol for all.
- You agree to allow your design to undergo professional manipulation to make it suitable for production.
- The competition organisers accept no responsibility if entrants ignore these Terms and Conditions and entrants agree to indemnify the organisers from any breach of these Terms and Conditions.

### Submission

- Entries can be sent electronically to the competition email address, or via post. Addresses are detailed on the entry form page.
- Please package postal entry carefully to avoid damage in transit.
- Entries must be accompanied by a fully completed and signed entry form.
- Further copies of the entry form are available to be picked up from: *Aberdeenshire Council, Town House, Low Street, Banff; Moray Council Annexe, High Street, Elgin; Northern Scot Offices 74-76 South Street, Elgin*
- Please ensure your name and contact details are clearly included.
- Entries cannot be returned and may be archived or destroyed. Please remember to retain a copy of your designs.
- The personal data provided will only be used for the purposes of administering the competition and will be destroyed after its conclusion.
- Unsuccessful entrants will not be contacted in respect of their entry and no feedback on any entry will be provided.
- The decision of the assessment panel and the result of the public vote are final

### Disclaimer

- The organisers reserve the right to disqualify any entry which breaches any of the Terms and Conditions.

## Entry Form

**Instructions:**

Please complete this form and either submit with your design electronically to [countyflags@hnmedia.co.uk](mailto:countyflags@hnmedia.co.uk) or by post to:

The Northern Scot  
74-76 South Street  
Elgin IV30 1JG

*Schools only – a collection can be arranged from your school office. Please send an email to the above address to make arrangements.*

**Name:** (please print)

**Organisation** (if applicable):

**Address:** (please provide contact details of a guardian or teacher if under 16)

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

**Rationale for your design:**

**Declaration:**

I hereby confirm [a] that I have read and agreed to the terms and conditions of the competition [b] that I am the originator and owner of the design/images submitted and that, to my knowledge, I am not infringing any copyright [c] that release these designs/images into the public domain, as set out in the terms and conditions.

**Signature:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_