

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as
Waterfowl Habitat

CITATION FOR RAMSAR SITE

(Kampala criteria, 2005)

CAIRNGORM LOCHS (UK13002)

Site Description:

The Cairngorm Lochs Ramsar site consists of Lochs Etchachan, Uaine, Coire an Lochain, Avon and Eanaich (previously Einich) which are amongst the highest standing waters in the UK. The first three lochs are corrie lochans at altitudes of 900-1000m whilst the other two are much larger and occupy the upper reaches of major glacial troughs at lower altitudes. All five lochs are extremely oligotrophic. The three corrie lochans have shorelines predominately of ice-polished boulders and have continuous ice cover from December to May in most years. Lochs Avon and Eanaich have more varied shorelines with boulders, glacial drift and storm beaches and much shorter periods of ice-cover. All the lochs have an arctic-alpine nature and support specialised populations of plankton.

The boundary of the Ramsar site is within both the Cairngorms Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Cairngorms Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Interest Feature (marked in bold):

Cairngorm Lochs Ramsar site qualifies under Ramsar Criterion 1 by virtue of it containing:

- **Oligotrophic loch.**

A range of specialised wetland plants are associated with this habitat and are protected and managed as part of it.

Area: 174.83 ha

National Grid Ref: NN914988

OS Sheet 1:50,000 – 36

Designated on the 24 July 1981.

This (amended) citation adopted on 1 September 2025

Measured site area corrected from 179 ha