

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as  
Waterfowl Habitat

**CITATION FOR RAMSAR SITE**

**(Kampala criteria, 2005)**

**CAITHNESS LOCHS (UK13004)**

**Site Description**

Caithness Lochs Ramsar site consists of six lochs and a mire, Broubster Leans. The lochs range in type from oligotrophic to eutrophic and support a wide diversity of aquatic and wetland vegetation.

**Interest Features (marked in bold)** N.B All bird figures relate to numbers at the time of designation:

Caithness Lochs Ramsar site qualifies under Ramsar Criterion 6 by regularly supporting 1% or more of the individuals in a population of waterbirds (1993/94 to 1997/98):

- **Whooper swan** *Cygnus cygnus* (winter peak mean of 240 individuals, 1% of the Iceland/UK & Ireland biogeographic population).
- **Greenland white-fronted goose** *Anser albifrons flavirostris* (winter peak mean of 440 individuals, 1% of the total biogeographic population), and
- **Greylag goose** *Anser anser* (winter peak mean of 7,190 individuals, 7% of the Iceland/UK/Ireland biogeographic population).

Area: 1381.19 ha

National Grid Ref: ND075604

OS Sheet 1:50,000 – 7, 11, 12

Designated on 2 February 1998, site extended on 13 October 2000.

This (amended) citation adopted on 1 September 2025.

Measured site area corrected from 1378 ha

**Associated designations**

The boundary of the Ramsar site is coincident with Caithness Lochs Special Protection Area (SPA). It also contains the entire area of the Broubster Leans Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Loch of Mey SSSI, Loch Calder SSSI, Loch Heilen SSSI, Loch Scarmclate SSSI, Loch Watten SSSI and Loch of Wester SSSI.