

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)

## CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

### ABERNETHY FOREST (UK9002561)

#### Site Description:

Abernethy Forest SPA is the largest single remaining tract of native pinewood in Britain. The forest canopy is dominated by Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* with some birch (predominantly *Betula pendula*), rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and willow *Salix species*. There are numerous small lochs and streams, and the SPA includes Loch Garten, a substantial forest loch. Areas of open moorland towards the south and east of the SPA are dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris* and other plants typical of dwarf heaths.

The boundaries of the SPA are coincident with Abernethy Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and partly overlap with Cairngorms Massif SPA.

**Qualifying Interest** N.B All figures relate to numbers at the time of classification except where amended by the 2001 SPA Review (osprey) and/or subsequent surveys (capercaillie):

Abernethy Forest SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* (2 pairs, 2% of the GB population); **Scottish crossbill** *Loxia scotica* (up to 100 pairs, up to 20% of the GB population) and **capercaillie** *Tetrao urogallus* (1999 to 2004, six year mean of 32 lekking males equivalent to 64 individuals therefore 4.9% of the GB population).

Area: 5792.56 ha.

National Grid reference: NJ020143

OS Sheet 1:50,000 - 36

Classified on 25 April 1990

This (amended) citation adopted on 20 April 2018.