

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)

### CAIRNGORMS (UK9002241)

#### Site Description:

Cairngorms SPA is a large area of mountain habitat, located in north-east Scotland. The plateau, at over 1,000m, has extensive alpine communities and is divided by deep glacial valleys. Extensive snow-bed communities are major features on the highest slopes, along with mires, springs, and grasslands on the corrie walls. In the middle slopes, heather and blaeberry heath occurs, with blanket mire, wet heath, pine and birch woodlands on the lower slopes.

The SPA is almost wholly contained within the following Sites of Special Scientific Interest: North Rothiemurchus Pinewood; River Feshie; Glenmore Forest; Northern Corries, (Cairngorm); Eastern Cairngorms; Allt Mor; and Cairngorms. Most of the Cairngorms SPA lies within the Cairngorms Massif SPA.

The Cairngorms SPA was extended to include Glenmore Forest and Fiacail a' Choire Chais on 31 May 2000 and further extended to include Inverey Woodlands on the 7 March 2005.

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

Cairngorms SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **Scottish crossbill** *Loxia scotica* (1997, 60 individuals, 10% of the GB population); **golden eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* (1995, 12 pairs, 3% of the GB population); **peregrine** *Falco peregrinus* (1995, 12 pairs, 1% of the GB population); **merlin** *Falco columbarius* (1995, 14 pairs, 1% of the GB population); **osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* (2 pairs, 2% of the GB population); **capercaillie** *Tetrao urogallus* (1999 to 2004, six year mean of 9 lekking males equivalent to 18 individuals therefore, 1.4% of the GB population) and **dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* (1995, 240 pairs, 28% of the GB population).

Area: 50915.54 ha  
National Grid Reference: NO018975  
OS Sheets 1:50 000 – 35, 36, 43

The Cairngorms Massif SPA is a single species SPA classified on the 28 October 2010 for golden eagle. Holding 26 active golden eagle territories in 2003, the Cairngorms Massif SPA total includes the Cairngorms SPA population.

Classified on the 25 September 1997; extended on 31 May 2000 and 7 March 2005.

This (amended) citation adopted on 26 April 2018.