

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

MORANGIE FOREST, HIGHLAND (UK9001791)

Site description:

The Morangie Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) is a coniferous plantation on the north side of the Cromarty Firth. The boundary of the SPA broadly follows the boundary of the Morangie Forest including part of Kinrive-Strathroy SSSI but excluding the majority of coniferous plantations that are too young to support breeding capercaillie. The SPA therefore consists of two woodland areas separated by the valley of the Strathroy River. Although most of the site is commercial forestry less than 70 years old, large areas retain a ground flora of heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and blaeberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) more typical of native pine woodlands. There are also two areas of old pinewood within the SPA. Kinrive Wood, part of Kinrive-Strathroy SSSI, is ancient woodland and Scotsburn Wood is a long-established woodland of plantation origin.

Qualifying interest:

The Morangie Forest SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting a breeding population of European importance of the **Annex I** species **capercaillie** *Tetrao urogallus*. The site supports approximately 30 individuals, representing about 2.8 % of the GB population.

Area: 3512.92 ha

National Grid Reference: NH 743795

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Scottish Natural Heritage

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