

**EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds**

**CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)**

**CUILLINS, HIGHLAND (UK9001781)**

**Site description:**

The Cuillins Special Protection Area (SPA) is a large, predominantly upland site on the island of Skye. The boundary of the SPA broadly follows that of the Cuillin Massif plus the island of Soay. The SPA overlaps the Cuillins SSSI, Sligachan Peatlands SAC and a large part of Strath SAC. The site rises from sea level to over 900 m and encompasses a diverse range of habitats including heather moorland, rough grassland, blanket bog, coastal woodland, freshwater lochs and lochans, montane heaths and exposed rock and scree.

**Qualifying interest:**

The Cuillins SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting a breeding population of European importance of the **Annex I** species **golden eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*. The site supports 8 pairs, representing approximately 1.9 % of the GB population. This population has a high breeding productivity for the west coast of Scotland and is one of the highest density populations in Britain.

Area: 29490.01 ha

National Grid Reference: NG 430190

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