

Cairngorms National Park
Partnership Plan 2017-2022

Habitats Regulations Appraisal Report

Appendix I: Information on European sites considered by the Habitats Regulations
Appraisal

Ramsar Sites

April 2017

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Ramsar Sites

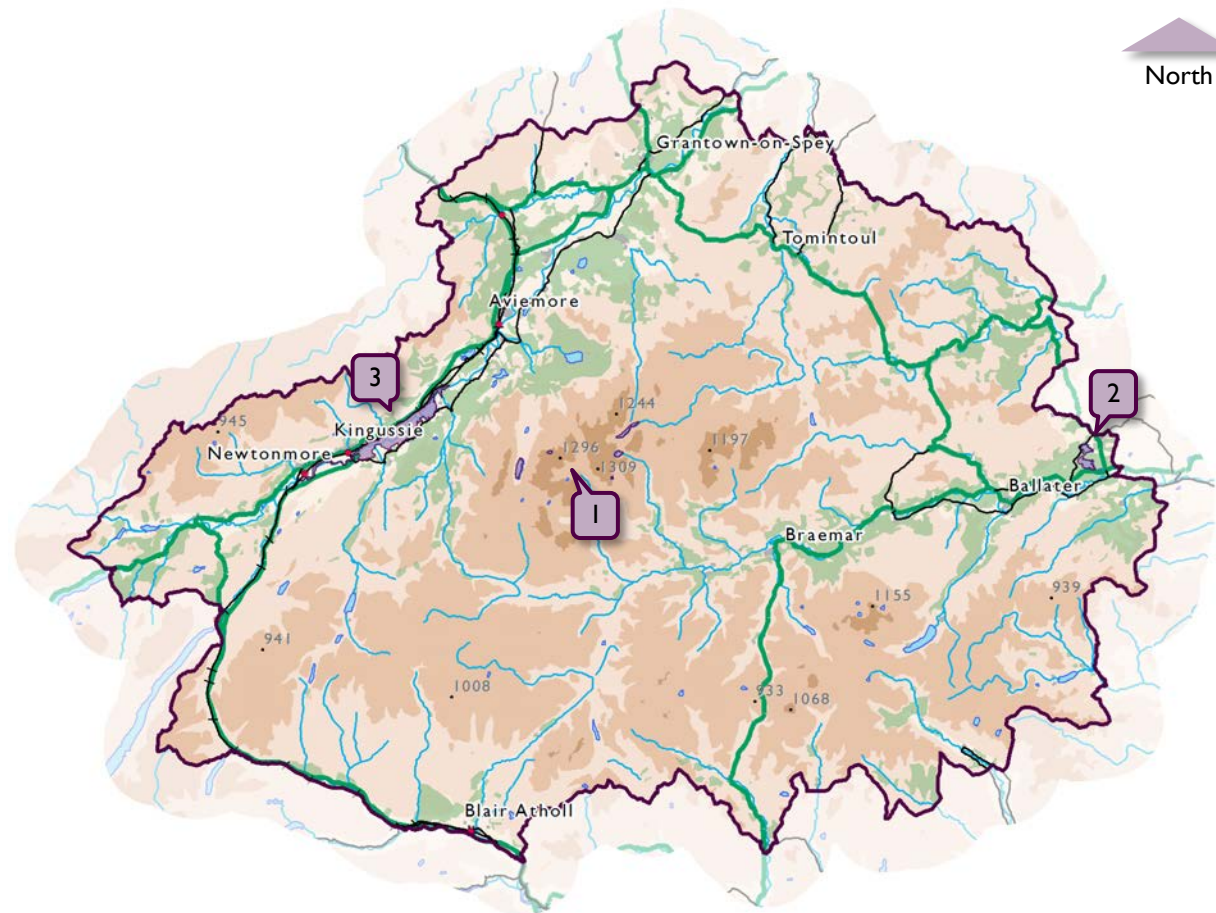
Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance designated in recognition of their fundamental ecological functions as well as their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

While Ramsar sites are a global designation, Paragraph 211 of the revised Scottish Planning Policy (June 2014) refers to the fact that all Ramsar sites are also European sites and / or Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Therefore, where the interest features of Ramsar sites overlap with those of European sites it is Scottish Government policy to afford them the same protection. The Ramsar interests should be adequately protected by consideration of the effects of plans on the European sites defined above.

There are three Ramsar sites within the Cairngorms National Park, all of which are wholly located within its boundary.

Location of Ramsar Sites

- 1. Cairngorm Lochs p. 142
- 2. Muir of Dinnet p. 144
- 3. River Spey - Insh Marshes p. 146



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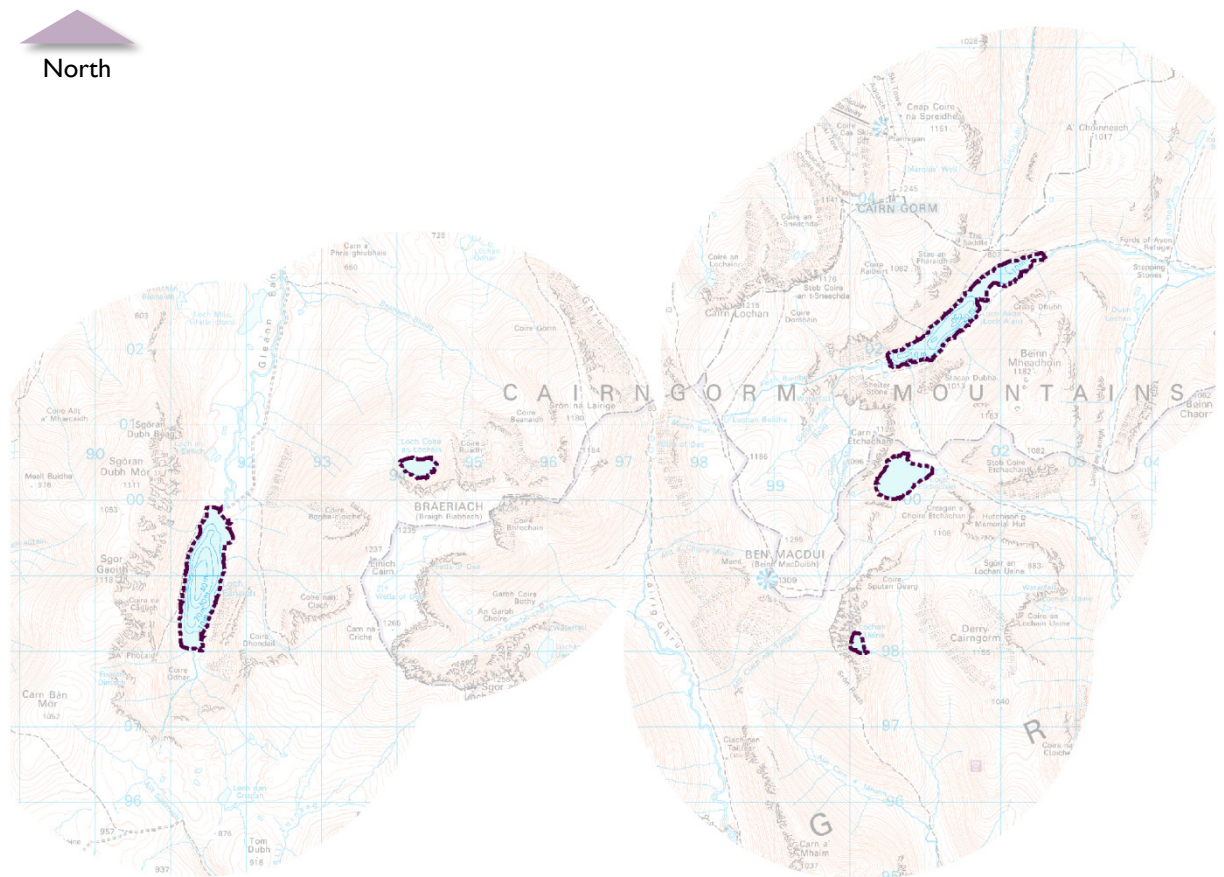
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Cairngorm Lochs Ramsar Site

Local Authority	Highland
Ramsar status	Designated
	24/07/1981
Latitude	57 04 08 N
Longitude	03 47 27 W
SPA EU code	UKI3002
Area (ha)	172.99
Area (ha) in CNP	172.99 (100%)

General overview

The Cairngorm Lochs Ramsar site consists of Lochs Etchachan, Uaine, Coire an Lochain, Avon and Einich which are amongst the highest standing waters in the UK. The first three lochs are corrie lochans at altitudes of 900-1000 m whilst the other two are much larger and occupy the upper reaches of major glacial troughs at lower altitudes. All five lochs are extremely oligotrophic. The three corrie lochans have shorelines predominately of ice-polished boulders and have continuous ice cover from December to May in most years. Lochs Avon and Einich have more varied shorelines with boulders, glacial drift and



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storm beaches and much shorter periods of ice-cover. All the lochs have an arctic-alpine nature and support specialised populations of plankton.

Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Cairngorms Special Area of Conservation, Cairngorms Special Protection Area and Cairngorms Massif Special Protection Area.

Factors currently influencing site

- Water quality
- Game or fisheries management
- Invasive species

Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8411
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK13002.pdf>

Status of Qualifying Features

Qualifying Features	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Oligotrophic loch	Favourable	Water management, other	23/06/2010

Muir of Dinnet Ramsar Site

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
Ramsar status	Designated 10/05/1999
Latitude	57 05 00 N
Longitude	02 55 00 W
SPA EU code	UK13049
Area (ha)	157.6
Area (ha) in CNP	157.6 (100%)

General overview

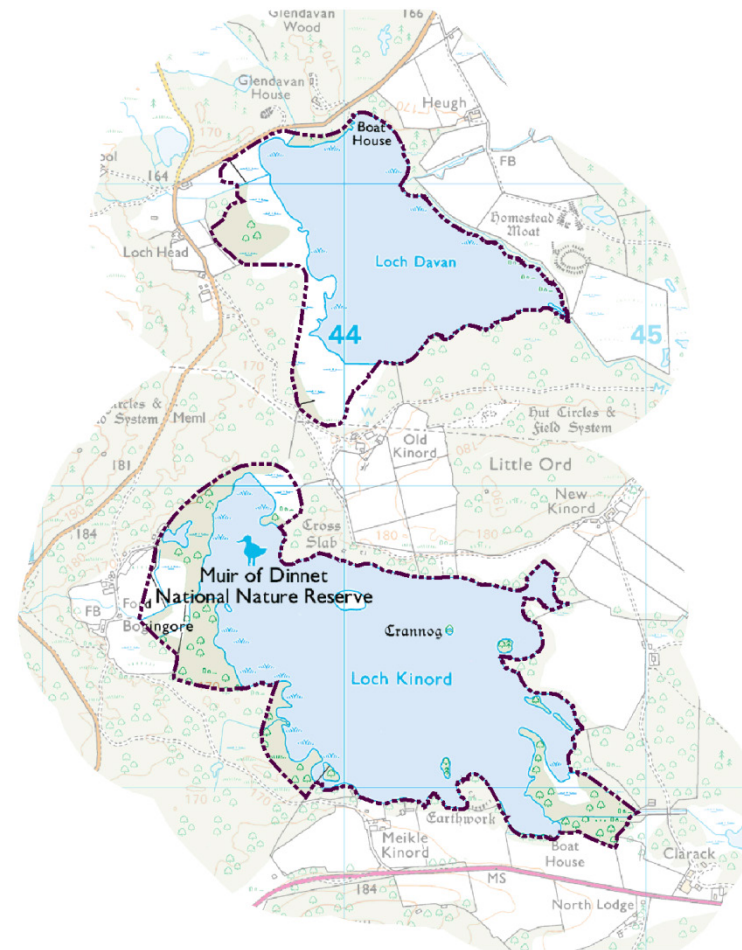
The Muir of Dinnet Ramsar Site comprises two neighbouring freshwater lochs (Davan and Kinord) of high importance as a roost for greylag geese in autumn and winter.

Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Muir of Dinnet Special Area of Conservation, The Muir of Dinnet Special Protection Area and the River Dee Special Area of Conservation.

Factors currently influencing site

- Agricultural operations
- Water quality
- Game or fisheries management
- Invasive species



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Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8448
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UKI3049.pdf>

Status of Qualifying Features

Qualifying Features	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable	No negative pressures identified	10/12/2012

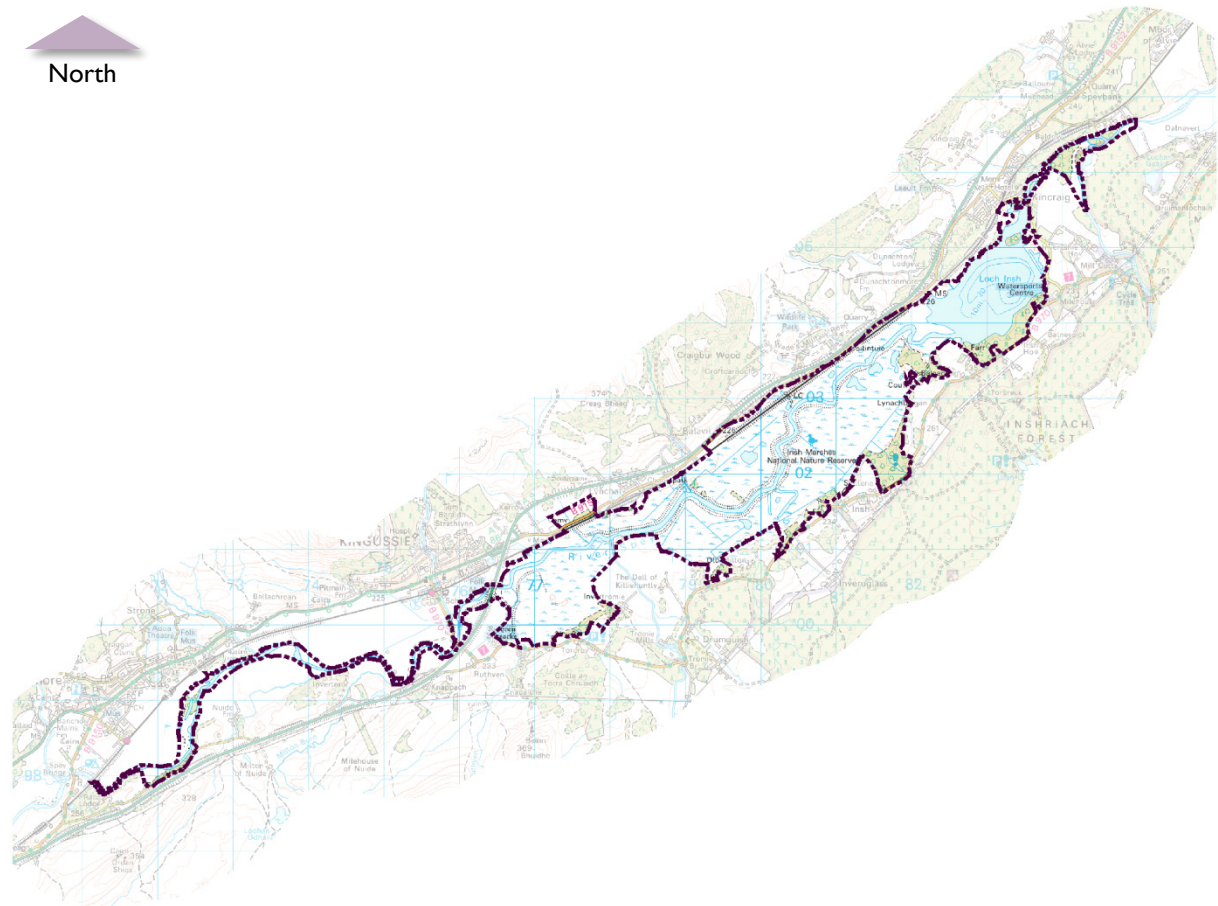
River Spey – Insh Marshes Ramsar Site

Local Authority	Highland
Ramsar status	Designated
	02/02/1997
Latitude	57 05 24 N
Longitude	03 59 48 W
SPA EU code	UK13053
Area (ha)	1,158.77
Area (ha) in CNP	1,158.77 (100%)

General overview

The Insh Marshes lie either side of the River Spey upstream of Loch Insh. Partly due to seasonal flooding there is a very large area of swamp, fen and carr which together form the largest single unit of poor-fen floodplain mire in Britain.

The site includes Loch Insh and the River Spey between Newtonmore and Kingussie which support large numbers of wintering wildfowl, as well as a significant assemblage of rare breeding waterfowl. The Feshie-Spey confluence has extensive river shingles which support a large number of rare invertebrates.



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Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Insh Marshes Special Area of Conservation, River Spey Special Area of Conservation and River Spey – Insh Marshes Special Protection Area.

Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing.
- Recreational disturbance.
- Forestry operations.
- Potential impacts from new development due to additional nutrient loading.

Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8452
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UKI3053.pdf>
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Status of Qualifying Features

Qualifying Features	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Mesotrophic loch	Favourable	Invasive species, recreation / disturbance	30/07/2010
Trophic range river/stream	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	07/07/2003
Flood-plain fen	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	04/10/2002
Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>), non-breeding	Favourable	Recreation / disturbance	28/03/2010
Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	31/07/2001