

## Cairngorm Mountain shamed into opening “early” but the blunders continue

### Description

#### Videos

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 Here's an update on our snowsports season opening! ...

  306

8.8K views · a day ago

Susan Smith and Colin Matthews. The body language, with Mr Matthews gazing into the distance, tells a tale. References in the video to CMSL using the snow cannon are a travesty of the truth. Parkswatch has had reports that four were in use while the BBC were on site filming but as soon as they left, two were switched off!. Video posted 15th December

After Alan Bratney's expose of how the management at Cairngorm Mountain were failing to take advantage of the cold and snowy conditions ([see here](#)), it appears someone kicked ass. The following day, Susan Smith, their Chief Executive and Colin Matthews, their head of operations, appeared on a video ([see here](#)) announcing Cairngorm Mountain would open for this weekend and not Wednesday 21st December as previously announced. Would that all parkswatch posts had such rapid results!

Susan Smith described the opening as an “early Xmas present”. What she didn't say is that it is a present worthy of Scrooge.

The only uplift that will be available are the two magic carpets and the car park tow so the area for downhill snowsports will be very limited. Related to this is only 150 tickets are available – compare that to the potential demand, the 8.8k people who had viewed of the video. Lastly, the price for an adult ticket will be a whopping £38:

## Winter 2022-2023 Day Lift Pass Prices

Please ensure you read our full Mountain Report and view our live webcams which has all information on daily conditions. Lift and run accessibility is subject to change due to snow coverage and weather conditions.

Lift passes for this winter season are available on an individual day basis only. Day pass sales may be limited due to snow and weather conditions. 5 & under ski for free at Cairngorm Mountain, please bring your eligible children to the ticket office upon arrival to collect your day passes or pay just £25 for a season pass (5 & under).

**Online booking has opened for this weekend, for the improved beginners area only. Enjoy our new magic carpets taking you 200 metres up the slopes effortlessly. We have a limited number of tickets on a first come basis.**

Please note it is essential for customers to be able to ski to book a lift pass. If you are skiing for the first time please [book a lesson](#). If you cannot ski we will not issue passes and equipment to maintain a safe environment for all users.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Please read our Terms and Conditions [here](#).

Pass Type	Price (Full-Day)	Afternoon Ticket*
Adult (18+ Yrs)	£38	£27
Young Child (5 Yrs & Under)	£0	£0
Junior (6-17 Yrs)	£24	£16

Earlier this week Cairngorm Mountain had not published their prices for this season. Their management, however, is so inflexible that they cannot even adjust day prices to reflect what uplift is available and for an “early opening”. With magic carpets being the slowest form of uplift possible, how many runs will snowsports enthusiasts get for that?

If that was the good news, the bad news is that comments on facebook reveal that people who had booked the tube slides above the lower car park over the Xmas period have had their bookings cancelled because of the snow! If the tube slides cannot operate in these conditions, one wonders how long the magic carpets will do so?



Photo of lower magic carpet from Cairngorm Mountain Facebook page

With the met forecasting windier conditions and more precipitation tomorrow, snow should drift over and infill the magic carpets quite rapidly and will be very difficult to keep clear. Indeed by the time someone has travelled from bottom to top, their skis and boots could be completely submerged in snow which will make accidents likely. For this reason magic carpets on the continent are often now enclosed in shelters.

Twelve days ago, just before the cold weather arrived, the magic carpets were nowhere near finished ([see here](#)). It seems HIE had assumed there would be no natural snow in December and was planning to finish the work by the scheduled opening date on 21st. It is therefore almost certain that beneath the snow the work is unfinished and there will be extensive bare surfaces. These will be at high risk of being washed away when the snow melts. The Cairngorms National Park Authority when granting planning permission should never have allowed construction work to proceed over the winter months, but then they should also have questioned the sustainability of this whole project.

Currently there is masses of snow at Cairn Gorm. Had HIE invested in new lifts instead of spending over £26m repairing the funicular, not only would there be thousands of people able to enjoy Cairn Gorm this weekend, the business would be paying for itself.

### Category

1. Cairngorms

### Tags

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