

## **SITE SYNOPSIS**

**SITE NAME: STABANNAN-BRAGANSTOWN SPA**

**SITE CODE: 004091**

Stabannan-Braganstown SPA is situated approximately 4 km inland from Dundalk Bay in Co. Louth. It is a small, flat alluvial plain adjacent to the River Glyde and is bounded to the north and south by low, rolling hills.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Greylag Goose.

In winter this site is utilised by an internationally important wintering population of Greylag Goose (1,391) – all figures are five year mean peaks for the period 1995/96 to 1999/2000. The population of Greylag Goose utilising the site has declined in recent years but is still of national importance. The site also supports smaller populations of Greenland White-fronted Goose (24) and Whooper Swan (60). Small numbers of Bewick's Swan (2) have also been recorded at the site. At night most of the geese and swans roost in Dundalk Bay. Other species typical of agricultural land also occur, notably Golden Plover (876) and Lapwing (300).

The site is of ornithological importance as it supports an important population of Greylag Goose, which on occasion occurs in numbers of international importance. It is of note that three species that regularly occur at the site are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan and Golden Plover.