

## SITE SYNOPSIS

**SITE NAME: KILCOLMAN BOG SPA**

**SITE CODE: 004095**

Kilcolman Bog is situated on the southern foothills of the Ballyhoura Mountains in Co. Cork. It occupies a glacially eroded hollow in Carboniferous limestone. The site comprises a quaking fen fed by calcareous groundwater, with areas of reed swamp, freshwater marsh and wet grassland. The reed swamp is made up of Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) with some Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*). This grades into stands of Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*) with many associated species including Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Marsh Willowherb (*Epilobium palustre*) and Greater Spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*). There is a small permanent lake but in winter a large flooded area is usual.

This site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation for the following species: Whooper Swan, Teal and Shoveler. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands and, as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

Kilcolman Bog is an important site for wintering waterfowl, with nationally important populations of Whooper Swan (95), Teal (690) and Shoveler (150) – all figures are mean peaks for the 5 year period 1995/96-1999/2000. The Shoveler population is of particular note as it comprises 5% of the national total. Other species that occur include Wigeon (590), Mallard (188), Pintail (4), Pochard (39), Tufted Duck (27), Little Grebe (14), Coot (98), Golden Plover (162) and Lapwing (740). In the past very small numbers of Greenland White-fronted Goose (1-5) were recorded at the site but not in recent years. Gulls are also winter visitors, mainly Black-headed Gull (133) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (131).

Breeding birds include Little Grebe, Mute Swan, Coot and, on occasions, Shoveler. A population of feral Greylag Goose uses the site.

Kilcolman Bog is a privately-owned Nature Reserve and Wildfowl Sanctuary that has been managed for conservation since the 1970s. Management includes control of the water levels and supplementary feeding of the waterfowl during hard weather. The bird populations have been intensively monitored since the 1970s.

The site is of ornithological interest because it supports nationally important numbers of three species. Of particular note is the regular presence of Whooper Swan and Golden Plover, two species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site is notable as being one of the few sites in the country where almost daily observations have been made over a long period.

31.10.2014