

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ALL SAINTS BOG SPA

SITE CODE: 004103

All Saints Bog is a lowland raised bog located about 5 km north-west of Birr in Co. Offaly. It is separated from the River Little Brosna callows by a fragmented esker ridge. The site is unique in that it contains the largest stand of birch (*Betula* sp.) woodland in the country growing on an active raised bog.

At the time this site was designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) it was known to be utilised by part of an internationally important population of Greenland White-fronted Goose. Greenland White-fronted Goose is regarded as a special conservation interest for this SPA.

All Saints Bog was formerly used by part of the internationally important Greenland White-fronted Goose population based on the River Little Brosna. In recent years, however, there has been little or no use of All Saints by the geese following a general trend of less usage of raised bogs in favour of grassland sites. The last record of Greenland White-fronted Goose within the site was 75 individuals in 1993/94.

Merlin has been seen on the bog during the breeding season and may breed there. The peat dome and marginal areas provide good foraging habitat for this bird of prey species.