

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BELLANAGARE BOG SPA

SITE CODE: 004105

Bellanagare Bog is a large bog located 6 km north-north-east of Castlerea in Co. Roscommon. It is classified as a western, or intermediate, raised bog as it displays features of both raised bog and blanket bog. The bog is underlain by muddy Carboniferous limestone with a low permeability. The sub-soil is predominantly of clayey limestone till. The site lies in an upland area at the top of a surface catchment divide. The surface of the bog is undulating and the peat is concentrated on ridges, with flushes occurring in between. A number of streams, including the Frances River, rise on the site.

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 Greenland White-fronted Goose population. The geese appear to have since abandoned the peatland sites in favour of grassland sites elsewhere. Greenland White-fronted Goose is regarded as a special conservation interest for this SPA.

In the past, the bog was used by wintering Greenland White-fronted Goose from the internationally important population that is centred on Lough Gara. However, the geese now feed mainly on intensively managed grassland and have not been recorded at the site in recent years. Red Grouse are known to occur at this site.