

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: EIRK BOG SPA

SITE CODE: 004108

Eirk Bog is located within the Owenreagh River valley, approximately 1 km north of Moll's Gap and some 15 km south-west of Killarney, Co. Kerry. The underlying geology is Old Red Sandstone. The morphology and vegetation of the bog is intermediate between raised and Atlantic blanket bog. Eirk is part of a larger complex of bogs, which are separated by streams containing fen vegetation. Patches of wet heath and some small areas of woodland occur in association with the bog vegetation.

At the time this site was designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) it was used by Greenland White-fronted Goose. This species continues to utilise the site (<20 birds) and, although the population using Eirk is small, this is the most southerly location in Ireland utilised by Greenland White-fronted Goose and one of the few places where it continues to use peatland habitats. Greenland White-fronted Goose is regarded as a special conservation interest for this SPA.

Eirk Bog is used as a feeding site by Greenland White-fronted Geese from the Killarney Valley flock. This small flock is the most southerly in Ireland and is one of the few flocks that continue to utilise peatland habitats. Eirk Bog is a Statutory Nature Reserve.

11.2.2013