

## **SITE SYNOPSIS**

**SITE NAME: ILLAUNNANOON SPA**

**SITE CODE: 004221**

Illaunnaon, also known as Lamb's Island, is a small low-lying island located *c.* 2 km west of Letterfrack, Co. Galway, situated at the mouth of Barnaderg Bay on the east side of Ballynakill Harbour. It is composed of metamorphic rocks and supports a sward of coastal grassland. The site comprises the island and the surrounding marine waters and intertidal rocks.

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

Illaunnaon supports a nationally important population of Sandwich Tern (80 pairs in 1984, 35 pairs in 1995 and 90 pairs in 2001). Other species recorded on the island in 2001 include Common Tern (20 pairs), Black-headed Gull (70 pairs) and Common Gull (12 pairs).

Illaunnaon SPA is of conservation importance due to the presence of a breeding population of Sandwich Tern that exceeds the qualifying threshold for national importance. The presence of two species, Sandwich Tern and Common Tern, which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive is of note.