

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BALLINTEMPLE AND BALLYGILGAN SPA

SITE CODE: 004234

Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA comprises two separate areas of fields supporting agriculturally-improved grassland, situated on the north side of Drumcliff Bay, Co. Sligo.

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

The fields at Ballintemple and Ballygilgan support an internationally important population of Barnacle Goose (1,838 – 4 year survey mean for the period 1993-2003). The population of Barnacle Goose at the site has increased in recent years (3,930 in 2008 and *c.* 5,000 in 2011) and is now the most important site in the country for this species. The geese feed for much of the winter on fields at Ballintemple and Ballygilgan, which are their core feeding sites, and roost on the nearby island of Inishmurray.

Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA is of ornithological importance for the internationally important population of Barnacle Goose that it supports – this species is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Parts of the Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA are designated as a Statutory Nature Reserve and parts are designated as a Wildfowl Sanctuary.