

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DOOGORT MACHAIR SPA

SITE CODE: 004235

Doogort Machair SPA is a small coastal site situated in the north-east corner of Achill Island, adjacent to the village of Valley and approximately 3 km east of Doogort, Co. Mayo. The site comprises machair and associated habitats, including foredunes and freshwater marsh, as well as two lakes, Lough Doo and Lough Nambrack.

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

This site traditionally supported a breeding Dunlin population with ten pairs recorded here in 1985. The population declined to two pairs in 1996 and by 2009 no breeding Dunlin were recorded at the site. However, Dunlin has been recorded here during the early stages of the breeding season in recent years, indicating its potential as a breeding resource for this scarce breeding bird whose national population has declined in recent years. The site can also be of importance for other breeding wader species - a 1996 survey recorded eleven pairs of Lapwing and one pair of Ringed Plover. It is also used on occasion by Chough.

Doogort Machair SPA is of ornithological importance for its suitability as a breeding site for Dunlin (*Calidris alpina* subsp. *schinzii*), which is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Chough is also listed on Annex I of this Directive.

19.6.2013