

CITATION**NESS OF CLOUSTA – THE BRIGS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**
Shetland Islands

Site code: 1216

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: HU 303580, HU 305585

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 3
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 467

AREA 69.37 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES**Geological: Igneous petrology : Old Red Sandstone Igneous****DESCRIPTION:**

Ness of Clousta is approximately 4.5 km north-west of Aith in west Mainland Shetland. This site exposes the middle Old Red Sandstone Clousta conglomerate and contemporaneous volcanic tuff rings. The outcrops indicate that the conglomerate was deposited by a braided stream in an alluvial fan setting.

Of particular interest is the presence of tuff rings which interfinger with the conglomerates. The Muckle Head and Muckle Billerin tuffs are basic in composition and represent portions of phreato-magmatic pyroclastic cones. In the case of Muckle Billerin an associated basic lava flow is present. The Brigs tuff is acidic in composition and contains angular clasts of feldspar porphyry probably originating through explosive disruption of an already largely consolidated lava dome.

These outcrops show the way the braided rivers were displaced by, and then slowly buried by the tuffs in a remarkable demonstration of sediment/volcanic relationships.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – 29 September 1989
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act – 26 August 2008

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 69.9 ha).