

CITATION**NESS OF CULLIVOE
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**
Shetland Islands

Site code: 1217

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: HP552024

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 1
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 470

AREA: 11.07 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES**Geological: Structural and metamorphic geology: Moine****DESCRIPTION:**

The Ness of Cullivoe is a small peninsula which projects into Bluemull Sound from the north east of the island of Yell.

Most of Yell is composed of rocks which are believed to be related to rocks in northern Scotland known as the Moine. Underlying these are ancient rocks similar to the Lewisian gneiss found in the Western Isles and along the north west coast of Scotland, whilst to the east the rocks forming the western sides of Unst and Fetlar are younger and are correlated with the Dalradian rocks of the southern Highlands of Scotland. All three groups are metamorphic rocks, i.e. rocks which have been altered by intense heat and pressure.

The Ness of Cullivoe lies within a geological unit known as the Hascosay Slide - a zone of intensely deformed and sheared rocks, up to a kilometre wide, which marks the boundary between the Moine rocks of Yell and the Dalradian rocks to the east. The Hascosay Slide Zone mainly comprises fine grained, banded blastomylonite; a type of rock produced by intense shearing under very high temperature conditions deep in the Earth's crust. Caught up within these fine grained rocks are large bodies of coarse grained Lewisian gneiss.

The rocks of the Hascosay slide provide important evidence about the geological evolution of Shetland and the formation, around 430 million years ago, of the Caledonian Mountain Belt of Britain and Scandinavia.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 25 January 1988.
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 10 February 2009

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 10.9 ha)