

**CITATION****QUENDALE  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST  
Shetland Islands**

Site code: 1318

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: HU 380134

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 4  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 466

AREA: 142.76 hectares

**NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES****Coastlands:** Machair  
**Freshwater habitats:** Sand dune  
Machair loch**DESCRIPTION:**

Quendale SSSI is located at the southern end of the Shetland mainland at the head of the Bay of Quendale. The SSSI includes Quendale Beach, the sand dunes, machair grassland inland from the beach and the Loch of Hillwell.

This is the largest sand dune system in Shetland and contains the best regional examples of dune, dune slack and machair-like vegetation. Marram *Ammophila arenaria* is the dominant plant species over much of the dune area. A more varied flora exists in the dune slacks and dune pasture including moonwort *Botrychium lunaria*, curved sedge *Carex maritima* and felwort *Gentianella amarella*.

Towards the northern limit of the sand dune system is the Loch of Hillwell. This is the most nutrient rich loch in Shetland and the only 'machair loch' in the islands. The flora of the loch includes several species of rare pondweed, notably *Potamogeton friesii*, and the water crowfoot *Ranunculus baudotii*.

The Loch of Hillwell is a locally important site for wintering and breeding waterfowl.

**NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1972

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 7 November 1986

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 16 February 2011

**REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected (from 143.37 ha).