

CITATION**QUI NESS TO PUND STACKS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Shetland Islands**

Site code: 1319

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: HP622033

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

AREA: 2.12 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES**Geological: Igneous petrology : Ordovician igneous****DESCRIPTION:**

Qui Ness to Pund Stacks SSSI consists of coastal rock exposures to the north of Sand Wick on the eastern side of the island of Unst. These form the upper levels of the Shetland ophiolite; a sequence of basic and ultrabasic igneous rocks of Ordovician age that are believed to represent the lower portion of a slice of ocean crust. The rocks were obducted into their present position as nappe structures.

The foreshore exposures between Qui Ness and Pund Stacks show a sequence of massive and layered gabbros cross-cut by minor swarms of metabasite dykes. The geology is similar to that occurring at Ham Ness but the site is notable for the excellent displays of the different types of layering present in the gabbros, as well as the regional dyke trend.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 7 June 1989

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 10 December 2009

Measured area of site amended to 2.12 ha from 2.2 ha.