

## CITATION

**SANDSIDE BAY  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Highland (Caithness)

Site code: 1405

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NC 965655

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 11  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 449

AREA: 81.2 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Biological: Coastlands: Sand dunes**

## DESCRIPTION

Sandside Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies just north of Reay, on the north coast of Caithness. The site is in two parts. The main part of the site includes the foreshore, dunes, dune slacks and the banks of the Burn of Isauld. The second part of the site is an area of herb-rich grassland within the golf course. Sandside Bay SSSI is one of two coastal sites designated to represent dune and links habitats in Caithness.

The dunes are dominated by marram grass *Ammophila arenaria*, with flowering plants such as Alpine meadow-rue *Thalictrum alpinum*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, bird's foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, and lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* on the stabilised back slopes. The links have species-rich short turf with uncommon species including cowslip *Primula veris* and the nationally scarce curved sedge *Carex maritima*.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 18 June 1986  
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 17 March 2008

## REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 77.2 ha).