

CITATION

SAXA VORD
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Shetland Islands

Site code: 1408

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: HP 628173

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

AREA: 55.47 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: **Birds:** **Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), breeding**
Guillemot (*Uria aalge*), breeding
Seabird colony, breeding

DESCRIPTION:

Saxa Vord Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located in the northern most part of Shetland on the island of Unst. The site is located on the coastline to the east of Saxa Vord hill overlooking Burra Firth and extends from Grisa Lee in the south to The Noup in the north. At The Noup the site boundary includes both sides of the headland and extends down the east coast to Ura. The site also contains several skerries which along with the sea cliffs support a wide range of seabirds. The site is notified for its nationally and internationally important breeding fulmar and guillemot populations and for the seabird colony as a whole.

The site supports a breeding colony of fulmar and guillemot contributing to 1.2% and 0.4% of the British population respectively.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 6 April 1988

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 13 September 2010

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 58.9 ha).

Saxa Vord SSSI is part of Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field Special Protection Area (SPA) which is designated for the birds listed below.

Birds : Breeding seabird assemblage, breeding
 : Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), breeding
 : Gannet (*Morus bassanus*), breeding
 : Great skua (*Stercorarius skua*), breeding
 : Guillemot (*Uria aalge*), breeding
 : Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), breeding
 : Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*), breeding
 : Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*), breeding