

CITATION

TONG SALTINGS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Western Isles

Site code: 1544

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NB440358

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 8
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 459

AREA: 441.24 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological:	Birds:	Breeding bird assemblage
	Coastlands:	Mudflats
	Coastlands:	Saltmarsh
	Coastlands:	Sand dune

DESCRIPTION:

Tong Saltings is located on the east of the Isle of Lewis, just north of Stornoway. This site contains one of the largest areas of saltmarsh and tidal flats in the Outer Hebrides, and is the best representative intertidal system on the eastern seaboard.

Lying at the confluence of two river estuaries, the intertidal flats have plentiful invertebrate fauna and grade into saltmarsh and *Calluna* heath. Sand dunes occur on the sand and shingle spit of Teanga Tunga and on the exposed eastern accreting spit and sandy shore at the head of Broad Bay. Maritime grassland covers Teanga Tunga and Steinish Island. The outcrops on the beaches are conglomerate rock.

The site is important for wintering, breeding and feeding birds, including terns, waders and wildfowl.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: January 1974

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 14 March 1984

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 30 March 2011

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 417.2 ha).