

## CITATION

**EILEAN HOAN  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST  
Highland (Sutherland)**

Site code: 1692

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NC 445675

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 9  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 447

AREA: 48.41 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Biological: Birds: Greenland barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*, non-breeding  
Great black-backed gull *Larus marinus*, breeding**

## DESCRIPTION

Eilean Hoan Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located off the north coast of Sutherland, just east of Durness. The island has a nationally important wintering population of Greenland barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis* and a nationally important breeding population of great black-backed gull *Larus marinus*.

### **Greenland barnacle goose**

Along with the nearby Eilean nan Ron, Eilean Hoan supports approximately 1.8% of the UK wintering population of Greenland barnacle geese. The geese use Eilean Hoan both for feeding on the areas of maritime grassland and as a roost site where they are protected from potential predators by the isolation of the island from mainland Sutherland.

### **Great black-backed gull**

The island also has a nationally important breeding population of great black-backed gull. Approximately 2% of the UK population breed on the island.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 21 May 1998

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 17 September 2009

## REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 48.4 ha)

Eilean Hoan SSSI is also designated as part of the North Sutherland Coastal Islands Special Protection Area (SPA) for wintering Greenland barnacle goose.