

## **CITATION**

**HAM NESS**  
**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Shetland Islands

Site code: 759

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: HP 636017

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

AREA: 30.66 hectares

## **NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES**

**Geological: Igneous petrology: Ordovician igneous**

## **DESCRIPTION:**

Ham Ness is a small headland in the south-east corner of the island of Unst. The rocks exposed here are part of the Shetland ophiolite - a sequence of basic and ultrabasic igneous rocks formed at the end of the Cambrian period around 500 million years ago, and believed to represent a slice of ocean crust. The rocks were obducted into their present position as nappe structures.

At Ham Ness, rocks representative of the higher levels of the ophiolite outcrop as a series of gabbros and microgabbros cut by a swarm of metabasite dykes. In places the swarm amounts to 50% of the outcrop and is interpreted as part of a sheeted dyke complex. The history of dyke injection was complex with several generations of dykes, some of which were intruded while the gabbro was still hot and plastic, others injecting through consolidated gabbro.

## **NOTIFICATION HISTORY**

First notified under the 1981 Act: 15 February 1990

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 10 March 2011

## **REMARKS**

Measured area of site corrected (from 31.6 ha).