

CITATION

**ST NINIAN'S TOMBOLO
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Shetland Islands**

Site code: 1475

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: HU 371207

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 4
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 466

AREA: 12.36 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Geological: **Geomorphology:** **Coastal geomorphology of Scotland**

DESCRIPTION:

St Ninian's Tombolo SSSI is located in the south-west of the Shetland mainland close to the village of Bigton. The tombolo links St Ninian's Isle with the mainland.

St Ninian's tombolo is a classic site for coastal geomorphology. It is the largest sandy tombolo currently active in Britain. It is exceptional, firstly in its composition, which is mainly sand overlying shingle, and secondly in being an active feature that is part of a nearshore sediment circulation system. Hill machair and dunes at either end of the tombolo form an integral part of the system and help to illustrate the active phases of sand deposition and erosion.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1972 as St Ninian's SSSI

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 3 February 1987 with a 4 ha net reduction in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 15th December 2011

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 12.6 ha)