

CITATION

**YELL SOUND COAST
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**
Shetland Islands

Site code: 1686

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: HU 470760 (centred on)

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 3
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 468 and 469

AREA: 868.79 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Mammals: Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

DESCRIPTION

Yell Sound Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest is located in the north of Shetland Mainland. It comprises 11 separate areas: the islands of Brother Isle, Uynarey, Samphrey and Orphasey, Gluss Isle and Fora Ness which are two islands connected to the mainland by ayres, the headlands of Calback Ness and Mio Ness and stretches of coastline at Cul Ness, Lunna Ness and the Ness of Copister. The site is notified for its population of otter.

Yell Sound Coast SSSI consists of low rocky coastlines backed by areas of peaty moorland with numerous sources of fresh water. This habitat provides suitable conditions for otters and sustains a nationally and internationally important breeding population. It is estimated that the site supports at least a fifth of Shetland's population and 2.5 % of the British population.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 17 March 1998

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 22 February 2011

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from c. 1688 ha)

Yell Sound Coast SSSI is part of Yell Sound Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated for the European species listed below. Part of Yell Sound Coast SSSI is also part of The Ayres of Swinister SSSI, which is designated for the feature listed below.

Yell Sound Coast SAC

Species : Common seal (*Phoca vitulina*)
: Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

The Ayres of Swinister SSSI

Geomorphology : Coastal Geomorphology of Scotland