

COUNTY: DURHAM

SITE NAME: GOD'S BRIDGE

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Local Planning Authority: Teesdale District Council

National Grid Reference: NY 957126

Area: 9.3 (ha.) 22.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 92

1:10,000: NY 91 SE

First Notified: 1986

Description:

The site covers the immediate area around God's Bridge, a natural limestone bridge across the River Greta. This is the best example in Britain of a natural bridge left over an active river course by the process of sub-riverbed cave development on a limited scale. The site also includes the section of river where a significant proportion of the flow leaks into parallel shallow cave development and then resurges a few hundred metres further downstream. Since these caves extend under the natural bridge they show a second level of solutional activity.

Other Information:

This is a new site identified as of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review.