

File ref:

County: Durham **Site Name:** Fairy Holes Cave

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

Local Planning Authority: Wear Valley District Council

National Grid Reference: NY 936357 **Area:** 208.8 (ha) 515.9 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50 000 92 **1:10 000** NW 93 NW, SW

First Notified: 1961* **Date of Revision:** 1990/91

Other Information:

1. This site is identified as of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review.
2. During the 1990/91 revision the boundary of this site has been considerably extended, whilst that part of the site formerly notified as SSSI has been excluded from the boundary due to its having been affected by quarrying.

* Under Section 23 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.

Description:

Fairy Holes Cave contains the longest known stream passage in the Yoredale Limestone of the North Pennine Dales. Its simple linear form and the way that it has developed along naturally occurring lines of weakness in the rock are characteristic of caves in that part of Northern England to the north of the Ingleborough-Wharfedale area of North Yorkshire, and it is significant as the best developed example of this type.