
Part 1 — The Geodiversity Audit

This register of sites has been created mainly from the designated sites found in the Geopark and given a unique NWHG reference number. The maps show the location of the designated sites. There are also a number of local sites that have also been identified and included which are considered important from a geodiversity aspect. These are not identified on the maps.

Geological Conservation Review (GCR) Sites

More than 50 Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites have been identified within the NWHG as part of the Geological Conservation Review Series undertaken between 1977 and 1990. In general, each GCR site selected is regarded as representing the best example of each aspect of geology under consideration, on the basis of its scientific value rather than its educational or historic significance. Nonetheless, GCR sites form an important component of any GA, in addition to other (non-GCR) sites which also play an important part.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Most of the GCR sites in the NWHG occur within Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It is the GCR which provides the scientific underpinning of every geological SSSI. SSSIs, supported by robust conservation legislation and protected through a range of planning measures, are extremely effective in giving legal protection to nationally and internationally important geological and geomorphological sites.

Listing and description of key geodiversity sites and other related features

This audit now lists the various sites and describes their individual characteristics. Each site is considered under the following key attributes:-

- Name of feature and NWHG reference
- Location, grid reference and photograph (as appropriate)
- GCR site reference, block, volume and notified feature of SSSI??
- Description and geological significance: The geological significance of feature(s) displayed at the site and the importance in an Earth Science context.
- Accessibility: Remoteness and/or difficulty in accessing the site. Proximity to any road, ease of access and all abilities access.
- Conservation: General condition of site including fragility. Conservation requirements.
- Visibility and “clarity”: Overall visibility: how easy is it to see and identify the main feature(s)? What is the overall visual impact of the feature/site? How dramatic/inspiring?
- Interpretation and interpretation potential: How is the site currently interpreted (e.g. panels, guide books, used on geological walks)? Ease of interpretation: how difficult is it to be understood by specialists or non-specialists? How can the site be interpreted in the future? Importance as an educational resource and potential.
- Key references