

## **GROUND BRIDGE**

### **Views About Management The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Article 28(2)**

#### **A statement of Environment and Heritage Service's views about the management of the Ground Bridge Area of Special Scientific Interest ("the ASSI")**

This statement represents the views of Environment and Heritage Service about the management of the ASSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the area's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. Environment and Heritage Service has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of the ASSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the ASSI and there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest. It is also very important to recognise that management may need to change with time.

The management views set out below do not constitute consent for any operation or activity. The written consent of Environment and Heritage Service is still required before carrying out any operation or activity likely to damage the features of special interest (see the Schedule on pages 1 and 2 of the attached Document B for a list of these operations and activities). Environment and Heritage Service welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the ASSI to ensure that the management of this area maintains and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

### **MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

#### **The physiographical series**

Earth science features provide information about a region's geological history and can also aid interpretation of geological processes in the past and present.

The earth science interest at Ground Bridge occurs as an active river cave and gorge. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance of the ASSI and its earth science interest.

Provided no damaging activities are undertaken without consent, as set out in the Schedule, the needs of owners, occupiers and the Department can be met. Earth science features such as those at Ground Bridge may require occasional management intervention in order to maintain access to the cave and related features. This could include selectively removing vegetation or debris from the cave and cave entrance.



Specific objectives include:

Maintain the geological series in an undamaged state.

Maintain access to the geological series.



**E Diane Stevenson**  
Authorised Officer

Dated the 29<sup>TH</sup> of NOVEMBER 2007