

# SCHEDULE OF QUALIFYING LAND FOR MAPPING OPEN COUNTRY

Ramblers' Association East Yorkshire and Derwent Area	North East Region 5	Sheet 2 of 2
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RA Map	Site references	Name on Map	OS Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Parcels
16	A, C, H	Raisthorpe Dale : Court Dale and Honey Dale	SE 847 620	18	2
Qualifying type	Vegetation Type	Justification for inclusion			
Mountain	Heather Moor	Predominance of qualifying type (M, M, H, D)			
Moor	Rough acid grassland	Contiguous to large parcel of open country			
Heath	Calcareous grassland	Contiguous to existing access land or common land			
Down	Scattered trees or scrub	Provides clearer physical boundary to larger area			
	Bracken	Local value of small parcel (view, feature, accessible, PRoW etc)			
	Rock outcrops	Provides means of access to other access land			
		Steep sided			

This submission supports the area included on the draft map and seeks extend the boundaries of open country as shown.

## Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

Court Dale (H) is at the E end of a series of dales west of Raisthorpe Manor supporting chalk grassland that may qualify for Open Access. Honey Dale (C) connects Court Dale to Back Dale (G) (possible access land). The NLT attributes for the dales are RLE. Court Dale is listed in the **Grasslands Inventory** as Raisthorpe Dale H NY/SE86/R02.

In the **Phase I Habitat** Survey, the target note for **location 14** (SE849616) in Court Dale states that the SW-facing steep slope is invaded by elder *Sambucus nigra* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. Species listed include: downy oat-grass *Helictotrichon (Avenula) pubescens* meadow oat-grass *Helictotrichon (Avenula) pratensis* quaking-grass *Briza media* crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* red fescue *Festuca rubra* sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and smooth meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*. 18 other herbs are also listed.

The **Phase II Habitat** survey in August 1982 for the SW-facing slope of Court Dale (**area H**) recorded 9 grasses and 49 other herbs, of which 6 were calcicolous indicator species. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to NVC CG7a.. The most abundant grass was sheep's fescue and the most abundant calcicolous indicator species was wild thyme *Thymus praecox*, followed by clustered bell-flower *Campanula glomerata*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, purging flax *Linum catharticum* and salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*. A **visit** in May 2003 found bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus* over the whole site.

Honey Dale (C) is marked on the OS map as rough grassland and was mapped as calcareous grassland in the Phase I Habitat Survey.

The bank (A) at southern end of Court Dale appears from an aerial photograph to have a similar vegetative cover to that in Court Dale (H). A **visit** in May 2003 confirmed this and found that bulbous buttercup was even more abundant in area A than in H.

The Centenary Way long-distance footpath runs along the NE edge of Court Dale.

A recent survey of Court Dale, including **visiting the site** in July 2002 and inspecting **aerial photographs** taken in 2000, shows that the site appears as described in 1985. The aerial photographs suggest that the boundaries shown on the Draft Map are marginally incorrect.

The evidence presented here suggests that the area mapped is predominantly unimproved calcareous grassland and should be mapped as open country.

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