

SCHEDULE OF QUALIFYING LAND FOR MAPPING OPEN COUNTRY

Ramblers' Association East Yorkshire and Derwent Area	North East Region 5	Sheet 1 of 1
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RA Map	Site references	Name on Map	OS Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Parcels
2	A B C D	East Heslerton Brow	SE 928 757	70	7
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 claims the area described, which did not appear on the Draft Map, should be mapped as open country.

Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

East Heslerton Brow lies on the north-facing escarpment of the Yorkshire Wolds. The **National Landscape Typology** definitive attributes are RLE and the underlying rock is Cretaceous chalk. The **Phase I Habitat** map designates the area as CG. The complex of spurs and small valleys (A) was part of a survey of chalk grassland in Humberside and North Yorkshire (England Field Unit Project No. 30, 1985, Site 71), included in the **Grassland Inventory** (NY/SE97/E01)), and notified (1954 and 1984) as an **SSSI** (1002414)..

The **Phase II Habitat** survey (August 1982) for the whole site recorded 14 grasses and 48 other herbs, of which 17 were calcicolous indicator species. The most abundant species recorded were: sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, crested hair-grass, *Koeleria macrantha* quaking grass *Briza media*, rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, wild thyme *Thymus praecox*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, and salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to the NVC CG7a and CG7c communities (see Species List). The **SSSI** citation, which includes an adjacent parcel to the SW (B), records that the chalk grassland community was dominated by red rescue *Festuca rubra* with abundant downy oat-grass

Helictotrichon(*Avenula*) *pubescens* and meadow oat-grass *Helictotrichon* (*Avenula*) *pratensis* and carnation sedge *Carex flacca*..

Many typical herbs were found to occur on the site including rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*, and, notably, purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*. This site was also rich in orchids which include twayblade *Listera ovata*, fragrant *Gymnadenia conopsea*, pyramidal *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, frog *Coeloglossum viride* and bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*.

Our study of **aerial photographs** taken in 2000 suggests that **areas A, B and D** have not been improved since the Phase II survey. When the site was **walked** in July 2002 and May 2003 many grass species were found including: red fescue *Festuca rubra*, downy oat-grass *Helictotrichon*(*Avenula*) *pubescens*, meadow oat-grass *Avenula pratensis*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, crested dogstail *Cynosurus cristatus*, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* and quaking grass *Briza media*. Timothy grass *Phleum pratense* was found only in small amounts close to the farm track. Herbs found on the site included: Rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, bird's foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, mouse-ear hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella*, carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris* and rock rose *Helianthemum nummularium*. The next field to the SW (SE 920753) (C), although more heavily grazed, appeared to have a similar species composition to the adjacent area (B). The grassland on the area (D) nearest to the farm is less species-rich but 6 calcicolous indicator species and 8 grasses were recorded in the Phase II survey.

A PRoW runs from East Heslerton village through the site to link with the Wolds Way, which runs along the S. margin of the site. The site affords good views over the Vale of Pickering towards the North York Moors. Several fields to the N. of the site, between Manor Farm and access point to the SSSI, are subject to a **Countryside Stewardship Agreement** that provides for public access. The area is close to a holiday caravan site.

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

Prepared by:	TKH	Date:	June 2003
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