

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
20	A, B, C, D, E	Long Dale	SE 835 604	35	4
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 inclusion of the area show as open country on the Draft Map and seeks to extend the boundaries of open country as shown.

Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

Long Dale is the main east-west branch of the complex of dales lying to the south of Thixendale village. At its western end it is contiguous with Thixen Dale. . The **NLT** attributes for the dale are RLE. The dale is listed in the **Grasslands Inventory** as Long Dale A-C NY/SE86/L01-L02 The area D is shown as Thixendale G NY/SE86/T03). Areas A, C, D and E are part of a **Countryside Stewardship Agreement** (Chalk and Limestone).

In the **Phase I HS**, there is a target note for **location 13** (SE 841604) on the S-facing slope at E end of Long Dale just outside the SSSI. Species recorded include: sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, downy oat-grass *Helictotrichon(Avenula) pubescens*, tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, quaking-grass *Briza media*, upright brome *Bromopsis (Bromus) erecta*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, meadow oat-grass *Helictotrichon(Avenula) pratensis*, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* and 25 other herbs.

The **Phase II Habitat** survey in September 1983 for the whole of Long Dale, **A, B**, and C, recorded 11 grasses and 55 other herbs, of which 18 were calcicolous indicator species. Area A was the most species-rich. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to the NVC subcommunities CG2c and CG2d. The most abundant calcicolous indicator species were: 1autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*, rock rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, greater knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and wild thyme *Thymus praecox* and the most abundant grasses were: sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* and quaking grass *Briza media*.

Area **D** (CG4c) is a mosaic of tor-grass and sheep's fescue and is less species rich. The site was surveyed again in late July 1999 as a **Site of Importance for Nature Conservation**. According to the **BioDAT** database a total of 26 herbs, of which 7 were grasses and 5 were calcicolous indicator herbs. This is supported by the data from the Phase II Survey for quadrat 93 , which found wild thyme *Thymus praecox*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus* and lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*.

Virtually the whole of the site is part of an **SSSI** (1004472, Thixen Dale and Long Dale, 1985) . The citation provides information additional to that in the Phase II Habitat survey as follows: "The complex of valleys south of Thixendale village provides characteristic examples of a range of chalk grassland types found on the Yorkshire Wolds. On the south-facing slope of Long Dale (areas A and B), the grassland is a mosaic of close-grazed sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and lightly grazed tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*-dominated turf with scattered hawthorns *Crataegus monogyna*. It is rich in herbs including rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* and clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*. Red fescue *Festuca. rubra* dominates the north-facing slope (area C), with tussocks of tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* frequent towards the eastern end. This bank supports several chalk species at the western end, including salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, but further east it soon becomes more acid with an unusual mixture of calcicole and calcifuge species: heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, heather *Calluna vulgaris* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta* amongst dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* and crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*."

No botanical data is available for Fotherdale, area **E**, but inspection of **aerial photographs** taken in 2000 suggests that it is unimproved chalkland.

A recent survey, including **visual inspection** of the western end of the dale in July 2002 and inspection of aerial photographs, shows that the site appears as described in 1985 and that it has not received any recent agricultural improvement. The evidence presented here suggests that the areas outlined on the map, including that shown on the Draft map, are predominantly unimproved calcareous grassland and should all be mapped as open country.

Prepared by:	JJS, MB, TKH	Date:	June 2003
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