

Planning Inspectorate Appeal – Reference CROW/5/M/04/2486 – Milham Dale

The East Yorkshire and Derwent Ramblers' Association (EY&D RA) disagree with the appellants Grounds of Appeal and make the following comments.

1. 'The vegetation cover indicates that only 59% of the area can be classified as down with the remainder being improved or semi-improved'.

The information supplied previously by EY&D RA (see submission no 19K) does not agree with this. It indicates that this area is predominantly unimproved calcareous grassland. The Phase I Habitat Survey supports this as does the BioDAT report.

During his visit to the site in January 2004 Dr McLellan records areas of semi-improved calcareous grassland and areas of semi-improved neutral grassland. He indicates that there are chalk indicator species present in some of the semi-improved grassland. Grasslands are difficult to classify because many of the species can only be identified in early summer. At certain times of the year calcareous grassland can take on the appearance of neutral grassland also, north facing slopes usually have fewer calcicolous species.

We therefore disagree with Dr McLellan's classification of semi improved neutral and semi-improved calcareous grassland. We believe it is all unimproved calcareous grassland.

2. 'The land parcel is not of an open character, being a steep sided area surrounded by arable land and improved grassland. The only views within the dales are linear rather than open'.

The description of Down as applied to the Yorkshire Wolds is, 'generally within an open landscape and whilst individual land parcels might comprise enclosures of varying size, they will be part of a typical chalk landscape sometimes with open vistas across undulating countryside and sometimes comprising steep-sided scarp slopes and dry valleys with more limited views.'

The area complies with this description and is part of a steep-sided dale typical of the Yorkshire Wolds.

3. 'areas to the north and east will be removed as they are less than 50% down. This particular area.....would not be a beneficial area of open country in isolation.'

Hopefully this Ground of Appeal will not be allowed. This area has the North Wolds Walk footpath passing through it and would therefore not be 'isolated'.

We believe that the information we have provided previously and the additional information supplied by Dr McLellan indicates that this area fulfils the downland criteria and should remain as open country on the provisional map.