

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
19	K	Milham Dale	SE 825 608	35	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 inclusion of the area show as open country on the Draft.

Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

Milham Dale is the forked western end of the Thixen Dale that runs WSW from Thixendale village, ending at Thixendale Grange.

The **NLT** attributes for the dale are RLE. In the **Phase I Habitat** Survey, the target note for **location 6** (SE 824608) states that it is a south-facing moderately steep slope side, with invasion of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and dog-rose *Rosa canina*. Species listed include: cock's foot grass *Dactylis glomerata*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, smaller cat's-tail *Phleum bertolonii*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, quaking grass *Briza media*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*.

The target note for **location 7** (SE 828608) lists the following species: sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, quaking grass *Briza media*, timothy *Phleum pratense*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, cock's foot grass *Dactylis glomerata*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*.

The target note for **location 5** (SE 824605) states that scrub dominates towards the top. The open areas on SE-facing slope are dominated by upright brome *Bromopsis (Bromus) erecta*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, and salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*.

Although there is no Phase II Habitat survey for the site, area **K**, including the road verge, was surveyed in early July 1999 as a **Site of Importance for Nature Conservation** and a total of 72 herbs, including 12 grasses and 17 calcicolous indicator species were listed. The **BioDAT** citation describes the south-facing banks as having pronounced chalk grassland flora which includes: salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, field scabious *Knautia arvensis*, upright brome, *Bromus (Bromopsis) erectus*, woolly thistle, *Cirsium eriophorum* and tor-grass, *Brachypodium pinnatum*. The north-facing banks support chalk grassland herbs like salad burnet, *Sanguisorba minor*, hoary plantain, *Plantago media*, small scabious, *Scabiosa columbaria* and quaking grass, *Briza media*.

The North Wolds Way long-distance footpath runs through the site.

A recent survey, including **visiting the site** in August 2002 and inspecting **aerial photographs** taken in 2000, shows that the site appears as described in 1980s, except that there has been more extensive scrub invasion around **location 6**, and that it has not received any recent agricultural improvement.

The evidence presented here suggests that the area mapped is predominantly unimproved calcareous grassland and is correctly mapped on the Draft Map as open country.

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