

SCHEDULE OF QUALIFYING LAND FOR MAPPING OPEN COUNTRY

Ramblers' Association East Yorkshire and Derwent Area	North East Region 5	Sheet 1 of 1
Yorkshire Wolds: Nine Springs Dale		

RA Map	Site references	Name on Map	OS Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Parcels
12	A, B, E.	Nine Springs Dale	SE 868 693	45	4

Qualifying type	Vegetation Type	Justification for inclusion	
Mountain	Heather Moor	Predominance of qualifying type (M, M, H, D)	80 %
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 to add an additional area of open country as shown.

Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

Nine Springs Dale is NW of Duggleby. The NLT definitive attributes are RLE. Area A forms the entry, Nine Springs Dale, in the Grasslands Inventory (ID 6056) and includes an SSSI (1003550). Area E is the entry referred to as North Grimstone Ridge (ID 6051) in the Grasslands Inventory.

The SSSI citation (1983) comments that the eastern side of the dale supports species-rich chalk grassland showing affinities with the southern type but with many northern species; it was formerly more extensive but is now confined to the eastern side of the dale. The sward is characterised by sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* with meadow oat *Avenula pratensis*, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, carnation sedge *Carex flacca* and patches of tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*. Herbs present include frequent salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, hoary plantain *Plantago media* and dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, together with less common species such as basil *Origanum vulgare*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria* and clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*. The main floristic interest is the abundance of bloody crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum* and the blue flax *Linum perenne*. The grassland has been invaded by scattered bushes of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and a stand of gorse *Ulex europaeus* has become established.

The **Phase II Habitat** survey carried out in August 1983 for the west-facing side of Nine Springs Dale, **area A** recorded 7 grasses and 52 other herbs, of which 11 were calcicolous indicator species. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to the NVC CG2c and CG2d sub-communities. The most abundant grass was sheep's fescue. In addition to the herbs mentioned in the SSSI citation the following calcicolous indicator species were the most abundant: rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, cowslip *Primula veris* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

The upper and lower slopes of the Peak have received some agricultural improvement, but **aerial photographs** taken in 2000 and a **site visit** in September 2002 suggest that the steeper middle section, **area E**, which is in the **Grasslands Inventory**, remains unimproved. A **more recent visit** in May 2003 found cowslip *Primula vulgaris*, salad burnet, *Sanguisorba minor* glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, pignut *Conopodium majus* and early purple orchid *Orchis mascula* as components of a sward dominated by the grasses quaking grass *Briza media*, upright brome *Bromus erectus*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, and sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*.

The Centenary Way crosses **E** and touches the extreme western edge **B**.

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 be mapped as open country.

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