

Planning Inspectorate Appeal – Reference CROW/5/M/04/2405 – Vessey Pasture Dale

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

- 'Ecologically the land fails to meet the Countryside Agency's downland criteria' because less than 75% is unimproved grassland.

The information previously supplied by EY&D RA (see submission no 16L) agrees with some of the evidence supplied by Dr Mark McLellan and enclosed with Birdsall Estates Company Ltd Appeal. The Phase I and Phase II Habitat Surveys and the SSSI citation support the classification of unimproved calcareous grassland.

Dr McLellan visited the site in January 2004 which may account for his classification of Compartment I at the western end of the area as semi-improved grassland. The majority of the indicator species are not visible during winter months or are not easy to identify. Also true calcicoles may be absent from north facing slopes in the Yorkshire Wolds which will alter their appearance (ref. Crackles F E, *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire*). If this area is classified as unimproved there would be more than 75% unimproved grassland. We concede that reseeded areas and the track are improved.

We believe that the area has been mapped correctly as open country on the provisional map and will provide an area of open access adjacent to the Yorkshire Wolds Way footpath .