

# SCHEDULE OF QUALIFYING LAND FOR MAPPING OPEN COUNTRY

Ramblers' Association East Yorkshire and Derwent Area	North East Region 5	Sheet 1 of 2
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RA Map	Site references	Name on Map	OS Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Parcels
18	F, G, J	Water Dale (East)	SE 832 615	43	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 Map and seeks extend the boundaries of open country as shown.

## Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

Water Dale is a long valley west of Thixendale village. It consists of an east-west main dale and a road runs along the main valley bottom. This site is at the eastern end of the dale, nearest the village. The NLT attributes for the dale are RLE. The area is part of a **Country Stewardship Agreement** (Chalk and Limestone).

In the **Phase I Habitat** Survey, the target note for **location 11** (SE835618) states that the site is a steep S-facing bank dominated by tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* with scattered hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub. Other species listed include: quaking- grass *Briza media*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and 21 other herbs.

The target note for **location 12** (SE839612) describes the site as a bank dominated by by tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*. Other species included: sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, quaking- grass *Briza media*, upright brome *Bromopsis (Bromus) erecta*, fern-grass *Catapodium (Desmazeria) rigidum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, timothy *Phleum pratense*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, hairy rock-cress *Arabis hirsuta* and 20 other herbs.

Although there is no Phase II Habitat survey for the site, area F, including the road verge, was surveyed in late July 1999 as a **Site of Importance for Nature Conservation**. It describes the site as follows: "Most of the slope is dominated by tor-grass with abundant false-oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*; very locally upright brome is also prominent in the sward...Although the grassland is generally species-poor, typical chalk grassland herbs as salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, quaking-grass and lady's bedstraw retain a foothold in gaps amongst the tor-grass. There are also scattered pockets of short turf with sheep's fescue, wild thyme *Thymus praecox*, mouse-ear hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum* and carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris*."

Inspection of an **aerial photograph** taken in 2000 suggests that a small area, J, around an earthwork, should be mapped as open country.

The Wolds Way long distance footpath runs through the site.

A recent survey, including **visiting the site** in August 2002 and May 2003 and inspecting aerial photographs, shows that the site appears as described in 1980s, 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, apart from the minor addition mentioned above, correctly mapped on the Draft Map as open country.

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