

<b>Ramblers' Association East Yorkshire and Derwent Area</b>	<b>East Region 8</b>	<b>Sheet 1 of 1</b>
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RA Map	Site references	Name on Map	OS Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Parcels
12	A B C D	Bishop Wilton Wold	SE 82 56	41	3
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 already shown on the draft map.**

### Description of land submitted

Bishop Wilton Wold Deep Dale is a chalk grassland site in a steep-sided dry valley-complex south of the A166 above Bishop Wilton.

### Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

Areas A, B and C are on the Bishop Wilton Wold site, which is a steep sided hill. Study of **aerial photographs** confirmed that the areas surveyed were still unimproved grassland and led us to add area D to our submission.

The **Phase II survey** for the whole site (areas A, B, C and D) recorded 16 grasses and 51 other herbs, of which 17 were calcicolous indicator species. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to the NVC CG4a/b sub-community (see Table). Sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* was abundant and red fescue *F. rubra* and tor grass *Brachiopodium pinnatum* was plentiful. The characteristic calcicolous indicator herbs included: glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, wild thyme *Thymus praecox*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella* and rock rose *Helianthemum nummularium*.

The whole site is designated as the **SSSI** Bishop Wilton Deep Dale. The citation describes it as a chalk grassland site in a dry valley-complex exhibiting a variety of aspects. In general, the south and east facing slopes are richer than the north or west facing ones; north-facing slopes are characterised by pignut *Conopodium majus*, with sweet vernal-grass, field woodrush *Luzula campestris* and barren strawberry. *Potentilla sterilis*. Tor Grass *Brachiopodium pinnatum* is locally dominant, interspersed with patches of finer grasses such as sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, red fescue *F. rubra*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, quaking grass *Briza media* and sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*. Typical chalk herbs which are locally frequent include harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, eyebright *Euphrasia nemorosa*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*, mouse-ear hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella*, bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, purging flax *Linum catharticum*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, cowslip *Primula veris*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and thyme *Thymus praecox*. Bare chalk along cattle paths and in a small chalk pit is colonised by parsley piert *Aphanes arvensis*, whitlow grass *Erophila verna*, dove's-foot crane's-bill *Geranium molle*, mouse-ear hawkweed, thyme and thyme-leaved speedwell *Veronica serpyllifolia*.

Our study of aerial photographs suggests that, except for part of B which now appears to be partially wooded, none of the areas have been improved since the Phase II survey. There are two Countryside Stewardship Agreements, designated Chalk and Limestone, affecting this site. One covers D and part of C; the other the small sector at the southwestern corner of area A.

A **visit** in August 2003 suggested no major improvements had been made since the Phase II survey, with an abundance of Fescues *Festuca rubra* and *Festuca ovina* in evidence.

### Conclusion

**We think the evidence presented here suggests that the area mapped, which was shown on the draft map, is unimproved calcareous grassland and should be mapped as open country.**

Prepared by:	MB SD TKH CC	Date:	11.2003
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