Ramblers' Association East Yorkshire and Derwent Area	East Region 8	Sheet 1 of 1

RA Map	Site references	Name on Map	OS Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Parcels
17	A B C D E	Fordon and East Dale	TA 05 75	20	3

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 inclusion of the area already shown on the draft map and seeks to extend the boundaries of open country.

Description of land submitted

The Fordon site comprises a disjunct series of dry grasslands centred on the village of Fordon. The south facing side of East Dale (C), is linked to a Y-shaped dry valley to the north of Fordon (A, B, D and E).

Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

The **Phase II Habitat survey** for areas A and B recorded 15 grasses and 44 other herbs, of which 19 were characteristic calcicolous indicator species. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to the NVC CG2c sub-community (see Table). The most abundant grasses were *Festuca ovina* sheep's fescue, *Festuca rubra* red fescue and *Briza media* quaking grass, with *Agrostis stolonifera* creeping bent and *Koeleria macrantha* crested hair-grass, locally plentiful. Characteristic indicator herbs include *Anacamptis pyramidalis* pyrimidal orchid, *Campanula glomerata* clustered bell-flower, *Gentianella amarella* autumn gentian, *Helianthemum*
Nummularium rock rose, *Scabiosa columbaria* small scabious and *Viola hirta* hairy violet.

East Dale, area C, is extremely diverse botanically with 15 grasses and 30 other herbs, of which 21 were indicator species. The NVC community types were determined by analysis of the floristic data (see Table). The western end, where *F. ovina* was abundant, was assigned to the CG2d community and the eastern end, which was dominated by *Bromus erectus* upright brome to CG3. *Sanguisorba minor* salad burnet and *H. nummularium* were plentiful and other characteristic indicator species recorded included: *Campanula glomerata* clustered bell-flower, *Carlina vulgaris* carline thistle, *Gentianella amarella,* small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and *Viola hirta* hairy violet.

These sites, together with area D, which was not part of the Phase II survey, form a large part of the Fordon Chalk Grasslands **SSSI.** These, according to the citation, are one of the most varied grassland systems, in terms of their floristic richness, aspect and management regimes, remaining in the Wolds. The citation states that the grassland communities include heavily-grazed, short-turf areas dominated by sheep's *fescue Festuca ovina* and red fescue *F. rubra*, mixed grasslands with fescues, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, hairy oat *Avenula pubescens*, quaking grass *Briza media* and crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, and areas of course grassland with upright brome *Bromus erectus* and cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*. Many areas are extremely diverse botanically, with an abundance of characteristic herbs such as clustered bell-flower *Campanula glomerata*, carline thistle *Carlina vulgaris*, woolly thistle *Cirsium eriophorum*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, rockrose *Helianthemum nummularium*, purging flax *Linum catharticum*, cowslip *Primula veris*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and thyme *Thymus praecox*. Additionally many less common species occur: pyramidal *orchid Anacamptis pyramidalis*, kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, purple milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*, frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride*, bloody crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum*, felwort *Gentianella amarella* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*.

Our study of **aerial photographs** taken in 2000 and a site **visit** in Aug 2002 indicate that the site has not been improved since the Phase II survey. This is to be expected since the whole site is part of an SSSI. It also suggests that area E, has a similar vegetation cover to area B, which has led us to add area E to the submission.

Conclusion

We think that the evidence presented here suggests that the areas mapped, including area E which were not shown on the draft map, is unimproved calcareous grassland and should be mapped as open country.

Prepared by:	MB SD TKH	Date:	10.2003