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
20	A B C	Keasey Dale	SE 87 54	46	2

Qualifying type		Vegetation Type		Justification for inclusion	
Mountain		*Heather Moor*		*Predominance of qualifying type (M, M, H, D)*	*90%*
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 shown on the draft map.

Description of land submitted

This site consists of two dales situated to the south-west of Huggate in the Yorkshire Wolds. Keasey Dale (B, C) and Well Dale (A) are joined by a wooded plantation which seemed from the aerial photograph to be too heavily wooded to submit. Keasey Dale consists of an area of unimproved chalk grassland on a north-west facing dry valley slope. Neither of the areas has any public rights of access at present but can be reached from a long distance footpath which joins the northern end of the two dales.

Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

The **Phase II Habitat survey** for Keasey Dale recorded 15 grasses and 48 other herbs, of which 18 were calcicolous indicator species. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to the NVC CG2c and CG2d sub-communities (see Table). Sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* was the most abundant of the grasses recorded and quaking grass *Briza media* was recorded as sparse to plentiful. Wild thyme *Thymus praecox* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* were the most plentiful of the characteristic calcicolous indicators herbs with clustered bell-flower C*ampanula glomerata*, rock rose *Helianthemum nummularium* and small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* being sparse.

Keasey Dale is designated an **SSSI.** The citation explains that the site is important as one of the best remaining examples of species-rich northern chalk grassland. Chalk grassland was formerly more widespread in North Humberside (now the East Riding of Yorkshire) but has become restricted in distribution due to agricultural reclamation, afforestation and lack of grazing management and consequential scrub encroachment. This grassland supports a plant community-type of which sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovin*a, meadow oat-grass *Avenula pratensis* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* are the characteristic grass species. Crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatu*s, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and quaking-grass *Briza media* are also notably abundant. The site is particularly herb-rich, with frequently occurring species including common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatu*s, wild thyme *Thymus* praecox, fairy flax *Linum catharticu*m, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolat*a, lady's bedstraw *Galium veru*m, harebell *Campanula rotundifoli*a, small scabious *Scabiosa columbari*a, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and cowslip *Primula veri*s. As is typically the case on these short-sward chalk grasslands, the mosses *Scleropodium puru*m, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* and *Dicranum scoparium* are widespread. The presence of saw-wort *Serratula tinctori*a, clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata* and dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* is of particular note as these species are all either rare or have a restricted distribution in northern chalk grasslands. Another notable feature of the site is the abundance of three orchid species, frog orchid *Coeloglossum virid*e, fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* and common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsi*i, northern chalk grassland usually being poor in orchid species which are more widespread in the South of England.

The Phase II Habitat survey for Well Dale (area A) recorded 14 grasses and 36 other herbs, of which 17 were calcicolous indicator species. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to the NVC CG2d sub-community. (floristic data for this site has been omitted in error from the survey report)

Our study of **aerial photographs**, taken in 2000, suggests that none of the areas A, B and C has been improved since the Phase II survey.

Observations during a **visit** in July 2003 supported the view that the areas are still predominantly unimproved.

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 CMO	Date:	11.2003