

Ramblers' Association East Yorkshire and Derwent Area	East Region 8	Sheet 1 of 1
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RA Map	Site references	Name on Map	OS Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Parcels
19	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N P Q R S T U V X Z	Millington Dale	SE 84 54	299	24

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 already shown on the draft.

Description of land submitted

Millington Pastures are of both geological and biological interest covering an exceptionally fine system of deeply incised dry valleys in the chalk karst of the Yorkshire Wolds. As described in the SSSI citation, dry valleys are a major feature of the chalk karst, and this system is the finest in England being deeply cut, branching, undisturbed and complete in a small area. Head deposits and slope morphologies are well preserved and there is a complex of springs at the valley foot. Much of the valley system is occupied by unimproved chalk grassland exhibiting a range of community types on the varying slopes and aspects. The dale is an area already much used by walkers and others and its designation as open country would significantly improve an already valuable recreational asset by opening up new dales to which there is no access at present.

Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

Millington Pastures is designated a SSSI. It comprises Millington Dale (D, E, F, M and N) which has two side valleys at its southern end, Lily Dale (A, B) and Sylvan Dale (C); further north the dale divides several times: Scoar Dale (G, H, I, J, K and L), branching off in a northwesterly direction, Frendal Dale (P, Q, R, and S) the continuation in the north and Pasture Dale (T, U and V) and Nettle Dale (X) to the east. All the dales are interconnected.

The SSSI citation states that tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* is dominant over much of the site, although this is generally held in check by grazing, and is accompanied by finer grasses. Common grassland herbs are widespread, with local abundance of characteristic chalk species such as dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, bloody crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum*, rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and thyme *Thymus praecox*. The springs in the valley bottom give rise to calcareous marsh communities containing narrow-leaved water-parsnip *Berula erecta*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, hoary willow-herb *Epilobium parviflorum*, water cress *Nasturtium officinale* and brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*.

The **Phase II Habitat survey** covered the whole site except for Sylvan Dale (C) and recorded 25 grasses and 98 other herbs, of which 26 were calcicolous indicator species. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to the NVC CG2c, CG2d, CG3, CG4a/b and CG4 sub-communities (see Table).

Of the 25 species of grasses, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* is abundant and of the 25 characteristic calcicolous herbs salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* is the most abundant and rock rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa* plentiful in some of the dales. In Millington Dale and Scoar Dale sheep's fescue was the most abundant grass but in Pasture Dale and Frendale it is not recorded. Similarly, crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* was sparse in Millington and Scoar Dales but not recorded in Pasture Dale and Frendale. Tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* was plentiful in Scoar Dale but only sparse in Millington and Pasture Dales. Of the herbs salad burnet was abundant in all the dales and fairy flax was plentiful in all the dales, rock rose was plentiful in all the dales except Frendale.

Our study of **aerial photographs**, taken in 2000, and **visits** in June and September 2003 suggest that there has been no significant agricultural improvement in any of the areas since the Phase II survey.

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 PA EC	Date:	11.2003
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