

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
21	A B C D E F	Thorn Dale	SE 86 52	75	6
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 and seeks to extend the boundaries of open country.

Description of the land submitted

This site comprises Thorn Dale (A) joined to the east to Minning Dale (B) by a strip of grassland (E) between two plantations; it also includes Blake's Dale (C) to the south west and Scarn Dale (D & F) to the southeast, both separated from the other areas by plantations. At present there is no right of way into the area but there are tracks and it is to be hoped that access could be arranged to what is a very attractive area, perhaps linking to Keasey Dale to the north.

Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

The **Phase II Habitat survey** for Thorn Dale, Minning Dale and Blake's Dale recorded 16 grasses and 46 other herbs, of which 21 were calcicolous indicator species. Unfortunately the quadrats for Thorn Dale are not marked on the survey map. We consider this to be a mapping error and do not doubt the validity of the floristic data collected. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the swards corresponded to the NVC CG2d, CG4c and CG7a sub-communities (see Table). Sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* is the most abundant of the grasses but quaking grass *Briza media* and tor-grass *Brachipodium pinnatum* were also recorded. The characteristic calcicolous indicator herbs include locally abundant salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and wild thyme *Thymus praecox*, rock rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum* and clustered bell-flower *Campanula glomerata*.

The Phase II Habitat survey for Scarn Dale recorded 7 grasses and 35 other herbs, of which 13 were calcicolous indicator species. Analysis of the data showed that the composition of the sward corresponded to the NVC CG2c sub-communities.

Our study of **aerial photographs**, taken in 2000, suggests that none of the areas has been improved since the Phase II survey. Furthermore, these photographs suggest that area E has a similar vegetation cover to B, which has led us to add area E to the submission. D has a similar vegetation cover to F. There is a **Countryside Stewardship Agreement** (1994), designated Chalk and Limestone, that covers the area E.

Observations on a **visit**, in July 2003, from minor roads, gave no indications of improvement.

Conclusion

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

Prepared by:	MB SD TKH BGO	Date:	11.2003
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