

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
3	A B	Wye Dale	SE 92 35	12	4

Qualifying type	Vegetation Type	Justification for inclusion	
Mountain	Heather Moor	Predominance of qualifying type (M, M, H, D)	100%
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

Wye Dale is a small chalk dale incised in the western edge of the Yorkshire Wolds with steep sides running from east to west. Area A is shown on the draft map, but area B is not. The head of Wye Dale (B) is adjacent to a minor road.

Comments supporting vegetation type and justification for inclusion:

The **Phase II Habitat** survey recorded 14 grasses and 51 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 community (see Table). Sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* is recorded as being abundant and red fescue *Festuca rubra* and quaking grass *Briza media* as plentiful. Of the characteristic indicator herbs, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* was plentiful.

The dale is designated as a **SSSI**. The citation describes the dale as having uncultivated north and south-facing slopes which support a rich flora and there are large populations of pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and twayblade *Listera ovata*. A lack of grazing has resulted in invasion by hawthorn scrub. The floristically-rich turf includes many species characteristic of chalk grassland including harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, crosswort *Galium cruciata*, lady's bedstraw *G. verum*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, hoary plantain *Plantago media*, salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, cowslip *Primula veris*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and wild thyme *Thymus praecox*. Grasses include sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, downy oat-grass *Avenula pubescens*, quaking-grass *Briza media*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red and sheep's-fescue *Festuca rubra* and *F. ovina* and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*.

Study of **aerial photographs** suggests the lower western end may have been improved but the rest, including the head of the dale, B, appears to have remained unimproved grassland since the Phase II survey. Viewing the area from the public road on a **visit** in August 2003 confirmed that areas A and B both appear to be unimproved calcareous grassland. Addition of area B would provide access to the whole area and could eventually be developed into interesting round walks.

Conclusion

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

Prepared by:	MB SD TKH AD	Date:	11.2003
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