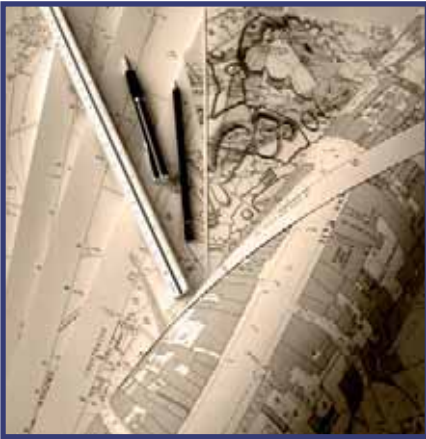


Cuckmere Haven Heritage Asset Plan East Sussex



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**CUCKMERE HAVEN
HERITAGE ASSET PLAN
EAST SUSSEX**

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Executive Summary

This report has been written in response to the need to collate and enhance the information on heritage assets within Cuckmere Haven, to inform discussions relating to coastal change and its impact on the historic environment.

Work undertaken here has involved collating the results of previous studies, primarily relating to the western half of the valley, and undertaking new analysis of primary data for the eastern side of the valley, including a detailed walkover. In conjunction a number of geoarchaeological surveys have been carried out and the results of these have been incorporated here. The report outlines the archaeological and historic context, outlines a map regression, then discusses the features identified within a number of grouped categories – Palaeo-environmental remains, River and Coastal Changes, Drainage and Reclamation, Settlement, Farming and Landuse, Military and Defence, Communications and Recreation. The features within each have been assessed for significance, as have the categories as a whole. The work is supported by a detailed database, GIS mapping and illustrations of historic maps and aerial photographs.

The report concludes that the Haven contains a plethora of heritage assets in many forms and from many periods. It contains evidence of a remarkable variety of activities ranging from medieval engineering, medieval and post-medieval farming, industrial exploitation and defence. Some of the evidence exists as prominent historic landscape features such as the medieval embankments and military defence features and others have less of an immediate impact, but by undertaking a modest degree of research are no less interesting, such as the potential evidence for salting. There is enough evidence both visible and below the ground to be able to suggest a reconstruction of the landuse and exploitation of the valley for nearly a thousand years. From the artefacts discovered within the valley and from the enormous potential palaeo-archaeological resource lying below the ground surface it may also, with further work, be possible to reconstruct the landuse and landscape from even further back.

The valley therefore has a high potential to inform our understanding of its environment and exploitation from all periods. However, its significance also lies in its coherence and the survival of evidence from all periods. While a range of activities has taken place here, more recent ones have not had a serious impact on those which have gone before. Even the medieval settlements of Exceat and Poynings Town have survived below ground without more modern buildings affecting their survival. This will have led not only to good survival of features but allows the palimpsest of individual upstanding features to be considered as a whole, allowing the appreciation of a landscape with considerable time-depth.

In overall terms using these criteria and based on the coherence and time-depth qualities of the historic landscape the overall historic landscape is considered to be of National Importance. The historic building resource, including the upstanding military structures which dominate this group, is considered to be of National Importance. While the true archaeological potential is unknown and will always be unless considerable below ground investigation is undertaken, based on current knowledge and including the palaeo-archaeological resource, the archaeological resource is considered of National Importance.

By assessing the relative value of each heritage asset within the context of its category, assessing the categories of features themselves and the three elements making up the cultural heritage resource, it will allow decisions to be made on the future of the resource based on an informed assessment of both its relative and overall value. Suggestions for further work to enhance knowledge on key elements within each category also ensures that any uncertainties on the significance of a feature or group of features can be addressed prior to the decision-making process.

CUCKMERE HAVEN HERITAGE ASSET PLAN

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	BACKGROUND.....	1
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
2.1	THE PURPOSE.....	2
3	METHOD STATEMENT	3
3.1	BACKGROUND AND SCOPE	3
3.2	INITIAL RESEARCH AND DATABASE DEVELOPMENT	3
3.3	DESK-BASED SURVEY.....	4
3.4	FIELD SURVEY.....	5
3.5	ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - CONTEXT	5
3.6	ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - METHODOLOGY.....	8
3.7	FURTHER WORK	11
4	RESULTS	12
5	SYNTHESIS OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY THROUGH TIME	13
5.1	DESIGNATED SITES	13
5.2	PREHISTORIC.....	14
5.3	ROMAN	16
5.4	EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD	16
5.5	MEDIEVAL PERIOD	16
5.6	MAP REGRESSION	19
5.7	COASTGUARD AND SHIPLAP COTTAGES: BUILDING REGRESSION	22
6	THEMES AND CATEGORIES	24
6.1	CREATION OF THE HAVEN AND PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL POTENTIAL.....	24
6.2	RIVER AND COASTAL CHANGES.....	28
6.3	DRAINAGE AND RECLAMATION	30
6.4	SETTLEMENT, FARMING AND LANDUSE	34
6.5	MILITARY AND DEFENCE	41
6.6	COMMUNICATIONS.....	46
6.7	RECREATION	48
7	CONCLUSIONS	50
8	BIBLIOGRAPHY	51

APPENDIX 1 – SOURCES

APPENDIX 2 –DATABASE – SEPARATE DOCUMENT

Figure List

Figure 1	All Sites within Cuckmere Haven by Category
Figure 2	Designated sites - Cultural Heritage
Figure 3	Pre-medieval sites within Cuckmere Haven
Figure 4	Medieval sites by category within Cuckmere Haven
Figure 5	Post-medieval sites by category within Cuckmere Haven
Figure 6	Modern sites by category within Cuckmere Haven
Figure 7	Drainage and Reclamation features
Figure 8	Settlement, Farming and Landuse
Figure 9	Communications
Figure 10	Military sites
Figure 11	Coastal and River change
Figure 12	Significance of sites within the Drainage and Reclamation and Settlement, Farming and Landuse categories
Figure 13	Significance of sites within the Communications and Military categories
Figure 14	Condition of all sites
Figure 15a	Zones exhibiting different conductivity values (Archaeology South-East)
Figure 15b	Interpretative cross-section of the valley deposits
Figure 16	Field Names

Historic Maps

Maps

Map 1	Map by John de Ward of the Cuckmere Levels between Longbridge above Alfriston and the sea at Cuckmere Haven 1618
Map 2	Yeakell and Gardners Sussex 1778-1783, 2 inch to 1 mile 1778-1783
Map 3	Plan of Cuckmere Salts and Level between Exceat Bridge and the Sea by Rand – 1792
Map 4	Sutton cum Seaford Tithe Map 1839
Map 5	West Dean Tithe Map 1940
Map 6	The Manor Farm of ‘Exceate’ 1860
Map 7	Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6 inch map 1878
Map 8	Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6 inch map 1890
Map 9	Ordnance Survey 3rd edition 6 inch map 1901
Map 10	Ordnance Survey 6 inch map 1911
Map 11	Ordnance Survey 6 inch map 1929
Map 12	Ordnance Survey 6 inch map 1939
Map 13	Current OS map 1:10,000

Aerial Photographs

Plates

Plate 1	1947 aerial photograph
Plate 2	1951 aerial photograph
Plate 3	1951 aerial photograph
Plate 4	1958 aerial photograph
Plate 5	1959 aerial photograph
Plate 6	1960 aerial photograph
Plate 7	1976 aerial photograph
Plate 8	Google Map aerial photograph of the possible Saltings at OA 358
Plate 9	Google Map aerial photograph of the Saltings at OA 267

**CUCKMERE HAVEN
HERITAGE ASSET PLAN
EAST SUSSEX**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

- 1.1.1 This report has been written in response to the need to collate and enhance the information on heritage assets within Cuckmere Haven to inform discussions relating to coastal change and its impact on the historic environment. East Sussex County Council have therefore identified the need to produce a Heritage Assets Plan (HAP) which draws together a number of previous studies that have been undertaken in this area so that a consistent HAP can be integrated with, and inform the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER). The project has been undertaken in accordance with a brief provided by East Sussex County Council (2010)
- 1.1.2 The report takes the form of a series of introductory chapters, followed by a background section which details the known history of the valley and area to provide a context to allow understanding of the more detailed analysis carried out as part of this project. The background chapter includes a detailed map regression of the area and the following sections are divided into the main themes, where the evidence for, and significance of, each theme is discussed, along with any recommendations for further work. The themes represented are:
- Creation of the Haven and Palaeo-environmental potential
 - River and Coastal Changes
 - Drainage and Reclamation
 - Settlement, Farming and Landuse
 - Military and defence
 - Communications
 - Recreation
- 1.1.3 All but the last of these themes is illustrated on figures 7-11
- 1.1.4 The data has been captured through GIS and associated database. Each asset identified has been given an individual OA number, plotted on the GIS and discussed in the text where relevant. Figures have been produced illustrating the themes as above, by period (figures 3-6), by significance (figures 12-13) and by condition (figure 14). Figures also illustrate a cross-section across the valley which shows the depth of deposits (figure 15), post-medieval field names (figure 16) and designated sites (figure 2). The database itself with selected fields has been included as Appendix 2; this includes Photos where relevant. The most significant historic map and aerial photographic sources have been included as illustrations.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 *The Purpose*

- 2.1.1 The aim of the work is to ensure that a proper evidence base of the historic environment, known heritage assets and potential assets is available to inform future decisions with regard to coastal change and its impact on the historic environment.
- 2.1.2 One of the aims of the survey is to ensure that the understanding of the heritage of Cuckmere Haven is consistent across the valley, given that prior to this project most existing survey work concentrated the on the western half of the valley owned by the National Trust.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 *Background and scope*

- 3.1.1 This work has been undertaken in line with the National Trust Guidance, Level 3 (National Trust 2001). The report has brought together all existing data and has included additional research and field survey to enhance this data. The survey has identified and defined all heritage assets and areas of archaeological potential following the criteria set out in the National Trust Survey Guidelines.
- 3.1.2 The work has been carried out using a number of previous detailed studies (see bibliography). This work mainly looks at the western side of the valley and the detail has not been duplicated here. These reports have been used to provide background material and more importantly data on individual sites and landscapes, which have been standardised into the gazetteer produced for this project.
- 3.1.3 This report therefore provides a synthesis and summary, concentrating on the development of the landscape and archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential, the significance of its elements and the need for further work. It is hoped that this will be sufficient to inform the exploration of options for the conservation and/or recording of heritage assets against a number of coastal change scenarios.
- 3.1.4 All sources and intensive survey has been undertaken within the valley itself – key sites have been added on the higher ground above the 10m contour where they contribute to the key context of the valley.
- 3.1.5 The bulk of new work for this report has been undertaken on the east side of the valley. In particular the walkover was carried out only on the east side of the valley, a small strip along the westernmost part and on the foreshore to look at military features. This has meant that the condition of sites in the western part has been taken from previous reports. It also means that only photos of the features identified on the 2010 walkover are included here.

3.2 *Initial research and database development*

- 3.2.1 There have been a number of key archaeological studies and research programmes in this area:
 - The Cuckmere Valley Project Fieldwalking Programme, 1982-3 by Paul Garwood – Fieldwalking through the Cuckmere Valley undertaken in arable areas in blocks from the Haven to Heathfield in the north – no land available for fieldwalking within the area of study
 - Chyngton Farm to Exceat Farm, East Sussex, Archaeological Desk-based assessment, MoLAS 2008 – looked at the archaeological potential along the line of 2km cable running from east to west to Exceat Bridge – only WW2 features recorded within the valley
 - Detailed documentary and survey work undertaken for the National trusts Chyngton Farm undertaken by Bannister, N. (1999), entitled Chyngton Farm Historic Landscape Survey
 - This was updated by James, R. (2004) - Archaeological and Historic Landscape Survey. Cuckmere Estuary (West) East Sussex

- An examination of the military features by Foot, W (2001) - Report in Cuckmere Haven (Defence Area 14) English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme report - Defence areas: a national study of Second World War anti-invasion landscapes in England
- A limited (in depth) borehole survey by Hunter, P., and Pine, C. (2004) - Report on the Results of Borehole Survey at Chyngton Farm, Cuckmere Estuary. Development Archaeological Services

3.2.2 Other works were consulted and are detailed in the bibliography below.

3.2.3 Data was collected from the National Monuments Record, the National Trust SMR and ESHER and existing reports were collected from the County Archaeologist and Cuckmere Project Officer. Discussions were held between OA and ESHER to agree the format of the GIS and database to ensure compatibility with the ESHER. The system agreed consisted of a spatial GIS element (ESRI ArcGIS 9.3) linked to a relational database element (Access 97) containing the gazetteer attribute data.

3.2.4 Primarily point data (shapefiles) have been generated for each of the heritage features identified. Where sites were of an extensive nature these were created as line and/or polygon shapefiles and referenced to the Access 97 database. The full database, with appropriate photos, has been included as Appendix 2.

3.2.5 Once the database was established and the existing data from the ESHER, NMR and National Trust was entered sites identified from the previous surveys was entered.

3.3 *Desk-based survey*

3.3.1 Two levels of survey were undertaken as part of this project:

- Full survey - Full survey of the area to the east of the river under the ownership of East Sussex County Council and the thin strip of land included within the survey to the west of the National Trust property owned by Seaford Town Council extending along the 10m contour.
- Updating existing data - Updating of the 2004 Bannister and James survey of the National Trust estate and the Foot 2001 analysis of the foreshore from any new data arising since 2004 and 2001 respectively

3.3.2 The data collection for the area to the east of the river has been comprehensive and included:

- Obtaining digital data from the ESHER and the National Monuments Record (NMR) for these areas (as above)
- Viewing aerial photographs¹ of the area from ESHER and from the NMR – key in identifying any features dating from the Second World War and of course earlier
- Viewing extra data held by the ESHER, including relevant fieldwork reports and grey literature

3.3.3 An extensive map regression was also undertaken for these areas. Maps studied included Estate Maps, Tithe and enclosure maps, Early surveys and All Ordnance Survey maps. A list of all maps consulted can be found in Appendix 1.

¹ The Cambridge Aerial Photographic Services were not consulted as they had just closed prior to the start of this project

- 3.3.4 These sources were viewed to identify new individual archaeological, historical and historic landscape features, including field boundaries, defence sites and historic buildings, all of which were allocated their own gazetteer number. Changes in the extent of the shoreline and uses thereof and any activities which may have removed or truncated archaeological deposits were also plotted from the historic maps and aerial photographs. Historic maps informed the understanding of the historic landscape character of the area and allowed an understanding of the development of the landscape into what is seen today.
- 3.3.5 The Ordnance Survey maps and some historic maps were provided by ESHER as digital geo-referenced tiles. Other maps were scanned in and ‘rubber sheeted’ over the modern OS map in *ArcMap*. This method of transformation is most suitable when the area in question is smaller and the priority is relative, rather than absolute accuracy. This is achieved by identifying multiple control points extant on both the historic scans and current mapping, for example buildings and field boundaries. *ArcMap* allows experimentation ‘on the fly’ with a number of different transformation algorithms to achieve an optimal fit with minimal distortion.
- 3.3.6 LIDAR data held by ESHER, supplied to them by the Environment Agency, was also incorporated into this study. The resolution of this data was quite low so its usefulness as a tool to identify features was limited. Care was taken to visit potentially significant features on the ground to differentiate natural anomalies on the LIDAR data from real features.
- 3.3.7 A number of parallel surveys were undertaken to inform this report looking at the palaeo-environmental potential of the valley in the form of a geoarchaeological conductivity survey (Bates 2010a) and a geo-electrical survey (Bates 2010b). A borehole survey was also undertaken to inform this survey to ground-truth the results of the two ground conductivity surveys (Bates, 2010a & Bates, 2010b).

3.4 *Field survey*

- 3.4.1 A walkover survey of the non-NT land was undertaken guided by the results of the previous studies (historic map regression etc) printed onto base-maps, and using a hand-held GPS device and a digital camera. The survey aim was to identify, locate and record archaeological and historic landscape sites and features on the ground, and to record their condition. Those sites already identified by the previous studies were checked against their entry, which was then enhanced, if appropriate. New sites and features were recorded and located. If especially significant new features were identified during this process these features were carefully considered in the context of possible further survey work.
- 3.4.2 In conjunction with the walkover survey a photographic archive was generated, using a camera with a 8.0 mega pixel resolution, which recorded significant features as well as aspects of the historic landscape. This archive was linked to the project database and will be supplied with it.

3.5 *Assessment of significance - context*

- 3.5.1 In 2010 *Planning Policy Statement PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment* was adopted by the Government as national guidance. It covers all aspects of the historic environment within a common set of policies, which recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource and that heritage conservation has wider benefits, while accepting that the level of conservation should be commensurate with the significance of the assets concerned. PPS5 requires planning authorities to consider the impact of any proposals on the significance of a historic asset or to its setting. There is a

presumption in favour of the conservation of designated historic assets. Planning authorities are also asked to consider the contribution of heritage assets to developing local distinctiveness and a sense of place and how development might enhance these assets.

3.5.2 A key feature of the PPS 5 policy is the holistic approach to the historic environment and the necessity to establish the significance of a heritage asset before decisions can be made on the significance of any effect on the identified and unidentified heritage resource.

3.5.3 'Heritage assets' embraces all manner of features, including buildings, parks and gardens, standing, buried and submerged remains, areas, sites and landscapes, whether designated or not and whether capable of designation or not.

3.5.4 The aim of the policies within the PPS is to conserve these assets, for the benefit of this and future generations. This is done by supporting their maintenance and by requiring that change to them is managed in ways that sustain and where appropriate enhance their heritage significance.

3.5.5 Significance is a key term within the PPS policies. It is defined thus:

- **Archaeological interest** - An interest in carrying out an expert investigation at some point in the future into the evidence a heritage asset may hold of past human activity. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them. These heritage assets are part of a record of the past that begins with traces of early humans and continues to be created and destroyed.
- **Architectural and Artistic Interest** - These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture.
- **Historic interest** - An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide an emotional meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place, and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

3.5.6 The significance of a heritage asset is the sum of its architectural, historic, artistic or archaeological interest.

3.5.7 Some sites have been identified as of a certain significance and protected by associated legislation:

'World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and conservation areas are all heritage assets. The process of designation has identified them as having a level of significance that justifies special protection measures' (para 13).

'The basic criterion for listing a building is that it must hold special historic or architectural interest. For a monument to be scheduled it must be nationally important by reason of its historic, architectural, artistic,

traditional or archaeological interest. Parks and gardens and battlefields may be registered if they are of special historic interest. Conservation areas will be designated if they are of special historic or architectural interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. All of these criteria have two components: the nature of the interest or significance that defines the designation and the relative importance of that interest or significance. Significance, as defined in the PPS, encompasses all of the different interests that might be grounds for designating a heritage asset. The principles of selection for both listed buildings and scheduled monuments are published by DCMS' (para 14).

National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are designated to conserve both the natural environment and cultural heritage of these areas. The policies in the PPS apply to the historic environment of these landscapes (para 16).

3.5.8 However, heritage assets can be of equal value to those discussed above even if they are not formally designated. The significance of undesignated assets is often only realised through a detailed study such as this.

3.5.9 Further exploration of the value of historic assets is discussed by English Heritage at a more philosophical level in *Conservation Principles* (2008). *Conservation Principles* identifies four types of heritage value that an asset may hold: aesthetic, communal, historic and evidential value. This is simply another way of analysing its significance. Heritage values can help in deciding the most efficient and effective way of managing the heritage asset so as to sustain its overall value to society.

3.5.10 In summary:

- **Evidential value** derives from the potential of the site to provide evidence of past human activity. The archaeological resource and its potential capacity to respond to investigative analysis make the primary contribution to evidential value.
- **Historical value** derives from the way in which past people, events, and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. This includes associative, illustrative and representational value, and encompasses among other things rarity of survival, the extent of associated documentation, the ability to characterise a period, and association with other monuments.
- **Aesthetic value** derives from the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. This includes not only formal visual and aesthetic qualities arising from design for a particular purpose but more fortuitous relationships of visual elements arising from the development of the place through time, and aesthetic values associated with the actions of nature.

3.5.11 Less tangible, but still vital to the significance of the monument, group of monuments or a whole historic landscape, is its/their **communal value**, at the heart of which are the multivalent meanings a place may have for contemporary society. Commemorative and symbolic values are founded in collective memory and historic identity (including reminding us of uncomfortable aspects of national history) while social value often derives from contemporary uses of a place. Spiritual value can come from the customs and teachings of organised religion as well as less formal beliefs, and is often associated with places sanctified by a long tradition of veneration.

3.5.12 Sensitivity values assessed here take into account the heritage values discussed in both PPS5 and Conservation principles but are based within and draw upon an

existing framework of assessing value as a first stage of assessing impacts upon the heritage resource.

3.6 Assessment of significance - methodology

- 3.6.1 The methodology to assess the value of the heritage assets will be undertaken in two stages. The first judges each individual feature for its importance within the themed landscape category in which it has been placed (eg communications, military and defence, settlement and landuse, drainage and reclamation etc). A number of features may contribute to a number of landscape categories. The second stage will be for each of the seven themed categories to be given an overall assessment score, using the DTi methodology discussed below to inform more strategic decisions.
- 3.6.2 The reason for this two-stage process stems from the fact that each category is made up of a number of individual heritage assets which in themselves tend to have a low value, especially when scored as separate entities using the DTi methodology outlined below. Their value therefore comes from their contribution to the integrity of each category defined and it is this that is being scored here.
- 3.6.3 The categories 'Aesthetic Value' (CP) and 'Communal Value' (CP) are best judged by those that have a relationship with the assets and landscape and are not assessed by this method. These important attributes will be developed in consultation with the stakeholders, and may lead in some cases to the heritage value being reconsidered.

Stage 1

- 3.6.4 For the purposes of this report the principals and terminology of PPS5 and Conservation Principles will be combined thus:
- Archaeological Interest (PPS5)/Evidential Value (CP)/Historic Interest/value (CP and PPS5) categorised here as 'research objectives'
 - Architectural and Artistic Interest (PPS5)/ categorised here as 'development of culture'
- 3.6.5 Each heritage asset will therefore be scored:
- 'Very high' - those key sites which contribute very highly to the category either in terms of research objectives in what they can tell us about the category, or where they can show the development of culture in relation to the type of category
 - 'High' – those key sites which contribute highly to the category either in terms of research objectives in what they can tell us about the category, or where they can show the development of culture in relation to the type of category
 - 'Medium' – those integral sites which contribute in a medium way to the category either in terms of research objectives in what they can tell us about the category, or where they can show the development of culture in relation to the type of category
 - 'Low' – those sites which contribute in a lesser way to the category either in terms of research objectives in what they can tell us about the category, or where they can show the development of culture in relation to the type of category
- 3.6.6 The term 'Negligible' is used in the assessment to indicate little or no value. 'Unknown' is also used where not enough information has been obtained to assess value or where deposits are buried underground and have not been investigated. It is

likely that in an environment such as this there is a potential for buried deposits to be waterlogged and may be of considerable Importance.

- 3.6.7 Professional judgement will be used to assess these values. Guidance does exist specifically for military structures and this will be used where appropriate (Schofield 2004).
- 3.6.8 The Stage 1 values, by category, have been illustrated on Figures 12-13, and have been added to each asset within the database.

Stage 2

- 3.6.9 The following tables are taken from the DTi Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). They are used as the first stage for the assessment of impacts and effects of road schemes on heritage assets. They provide a very useful, objective and visible way to assess and show the value/sensitivity of heritage assets. For this project the principles of PPG5 and Conservation Principles have been included within this table to allow a clear methodology to assess sensitivity to be adopted. The aim will be to score each landscape category for its significance in line with current national guidance and in line with national/regional/local priorities.
- 3.6.10 Once again the principles and terminology of PPS5 and Conservation Principles will be used thus:
 - Archaeological Interest (PPS5)/Evidential Value (CP) /)/Historic Interest/value (CP and PPS5) known in DMRB tables as ‘research objectives’
 - Architectural and Artistic Interest (PPS5)/ added to DMRB table as development of culture
- 3.6.11 These tables will be used to judge the sensitivity of each category of features. The value terminology has also been changed to reflect international, national, regional and local values rather than Very high to Low as defined by DMRB.
- 3.6.12 Text in plain text is the original DMRB text and that in italics is where the wider principles have been included. In the original DMRB text the Value column used the terms; Very High, High, Medium and Low, which have been adapted for ease of interpretation.

Table 3.1: Receptor sensitivity/ value - archaeology

Receptor Sensitivity/value	Description
<i>International</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). • Assets of acknowledged international importance. • Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives or <i>the development of culture</i>
<i>National</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments (including proposed sites). • Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance. • Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives or <i>the development of culture</i>.
<i>Regional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives or <i>the development of culture</i>.
<i>Local</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated and undesignated assets of local importance. • Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. • Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives or <i>the development of culture</i>.

Source: DMRB HA208/07 Annex 5 Table 5.1.

There is the potential for previously unknown below-ground archaeological features and deposits to be present, as discussed in Section 3. These would be of unknown value.

Table 83.2: Receptor sensitivity/ value - historic buildings

Receptor Sensitivity/value	Description
<i>International</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structures inscribed as of universal importance as World Heritage Sites. • Other buildings of recognised international importance.
<i>National</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments with standing remains. • Grade I and Grade II* (Scotland: Category A) Listed Buildings. • Other listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations not adequately reflected in the listing grade. • Conservation Areas containing very important buildings. • Undesignated structures of clear national importance. <p><i>Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives or the development of culture.</i></p>
<i>Regional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade II (Scotland: Category B) Listed Buildings. • Historic (unlisted) buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations. • Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character. • Historic Townscape or built-up areas with important historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures). <p><i>Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged regional research objectives or the development of culture.</i></p>
<i>Local</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Locally Listed’ buildings (Scotland Category C(S) Listed Buildings). • Historic (unlisted) buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association. • Historic Townscape or built-up areas of limited historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures). <p><i>Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged local research objectives or the development of culture.</i></p>

Source: DMRB HA208/07 Annex 5 Table 6.1

Table 3.3: Receptor sensitivity/ value - historic landscape

Receptor Sensitivity/value	Description
<i>International</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Sites inscribed for their historic landscape qualities. • Historic landscapes of international value, whether designated or not. • Extremely well preserved historic landscapes with exceptional coherence, time-depth, or other critical factor(s). <p><i>Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives or the development of culture.</i></p>
<i>National</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated historic landscapes of outstanding interest. • Undesignated landscapes of outstanding interest. • Undesignated landscapes of high quality and importance, and of demonstrable national value. • Well preserved historic landscapes, exhibiting considerable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s). <p><i>Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives or the development of culture.</i></p>
<i>Regional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated special historic landscapes. • Undesignated historic landscapes that would justify special historic landscape designation, landscapes of regional value. • Averagely well-preserved historic landscapes with reasonable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s). <p><i>Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged regional research objectives or the development of culture.</i></p>
<i>Local</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust undesignated historic landscapes. • Historic landscapes with importance to local interest groups. • Historic landscapes whose value is limited by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. <p><i>Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged local research objectives or the development of culture.</i></p>

Source: DMRB HA208/07 Annex 5 Table 7.1

3.7 Further work

3.7.1 Recommendations for future work have been made where there is a proven need to gain information before future change would make that impossible. This was targeted in descending order of necessity on:

- Further understanding the significance and extent of features which may be adversely affected by coastal change
- To further understand the condition of significant features where this is uncertain eg significant below-ground features

4 RESULTS

Results have been divided into a brief synthesis of the development of the landscape since the prehistoric period using information from the numerous reports written for the area. A series of themes have then been expanded which in turn leads to an understanding of the significance and value of the heritage assets. The results are supported by a series of maps showing the results by period and by theme and include a cross-section across the landscape showing the depth of buried deposits. Further evidence is supplied in the form of key historic maps and aerial photographs and a detailed database gazetteer. Figures 3-6 plot all features by period. Figure 14 shows the condition of identified features where known.

5 SYNTHESIS OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY THROUGH TIME

5.1 Designated Sites

- 5.1.1 There are a number of formally designated sites in proximity to the Haven. Two scheduled monuments are listed, the deserted medieval settlement (DMV) at Exceat – (OA 242) and the site of a Napoleonic fort (OA 298).
- 5.1.2 There are three concentrations of Listed Buildings, one at West Dean c 400m to the north east of the Haven containing OA 299-308 and 318, one at Exceat just to the north containing OA 234 and 240 and one to the west of Chyngton Farm c 600m to the west of the Haven containing OA 310-317. Two sections of anti-tank defence dating from World War II, one either side of the mouth of the Cuckmere River (OA 225, 270, 271) are also Listed.
- 5.1.3 The Haven itself is part of the South Downs Area of Natural Beauty, The Seaford to Beachy Head coast is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and this part of the coast is designated as a Heritage Coast.
- 5.1.4 The development of the Cuckmere Valley has taken place over an extended time period. Table 5.1 summarises the different stages.

Table 5.1: Quaternary epochs.

<i>Epoch</i>	<i>Age (BP)</i>	<i>Traditional stage (Britain)</i>	<i>Climate</i>
Holocene	Present 10,000	Flandrian	Warm — full interglacial
Late Pleistocene	25,000	Devensian	Mainly cold; coldest in MI Stage 2 when Britain depopulated and maximum advance of Devensian ice sheets; occasional short-lived periods of relative warmth ("interstadials"), and more prolonged warmth in MI Stage 3.
	50,000		
	70,000		
	110,000		
	125,000	Ipswichian	Warm — full interglacial
Middle Pleistocene	190,000	Wolstonian complex	Alternating periods of cold and warmth; recently recognised that this period includes more than one glacial–interglacial cycle; changes in faunal evolution and assemblage associations through the period help distinguish its different stages.
	240,000		
	300,000		
	340,000		
	380,000		
	425,000	Hoxnian	Warm — full interglacial

	480,000	Anglian	Cold — maximum extent southward of glacial ice in Britain; may incorporate interstadials that have been confused with Cromerian complex interglacials
	620,000	Cromerian complex and Beestonian glaciation	Cycles of cold and warmth; still poorly understood due to obliteration of sediments by subsequent events
	780,000		
Early Pleistocene	1,800,000		Cycles of cool and warm, but generally not sufficiently cold for glaciation in Britain

5.2 Prehistoric

- 5.2.1 The Cuckmere is a post-glacial river occupying a valley carved out during the Devensian period. In order to understand fully the character and distribution of archaeological potential within the study area, it is necessary first to understand the changing nature of sediment patterns and palaeotopography within the buried valley sequence. Fluctuations in sea-level rise throughout the Holocene have created an exceptionally full and complex sequence of sedimentary units. The surface of the valley formed a “topographic template”; depressions were filled with alluvial and estuarine sediments during the onset of flooding during the Holocene and areas of higher elevations developed into floodplain islands. This sequence of floodplain evolution would have been a significant influence on the development of vegetation and hydrological patterns within the basal surface of the valley, that would have been a major influence on archaeological activity within the study area.
- 5.2.2 Prior to the formation of the English Channel and during periods of low sea-level, the Cuckmere would, have formed a tributary of the English Channel river system. As such it would have offered a natural routeway into the main body of the Wealden landscape for game herds and hunting groups of early humans.
- 5.2.3 One important site that highlights the potential survival of Pleistocene deposits with evidence for these early periods of human history within the Cuckmere Valley is the ‘Short-Cliff’ deposits, exposed in the cliff face on the western side of Cuckmere Haven. These deposits are a complex and poorly understood suite of sands, silts and gravels which relate to tertiary and Pleistocene deposition reworked through solution, peri-glacial and fluvial processes. It has been suggested, although not confirmed, that these deposits represent an exposure of a River Cuckmere terrace. These deposits have produced both Pleistocene mammal remains and a single flint handaxe. More widely Palaeolithic human activity, while witnessed by the finding of occasional flint tools from the surrounding area, may also lie deeply buried or transported from their original positions (ESCC 2010, 6).
- 5.2.4 Nine isolated discoveries of Palaeolithic axes (MES3009) have been found around Exceat Bridge (MoLAS 2008, 9) and two have been found within the Haven (OA 241) just to the east of the River, with a further hand-axe and flint implement recovered from South Hill just to the west of the Valley recorded on the NMR (NMR TV 59NW 29).
- 5.2.5 Rising sea-levels severed the land-link between southern England and Europe around 8500 years ago and Mesolithic groups in Britain developed a different culture to those in continental Europe. The climate became warmer and cool tundra-like landscapes were replaced by deciduous woodlands of hazel, lime and oak, broken by isolated patches of grassland. Finds from the surrounding valleys’ sides and Downlands demonstrate that the area was actively used from the Mesolithic through to the

Roman period and it is likely that remains of these periods lie buried within deposits of the Haven (ESCC 2010).

- 5.2.6 Palaeo-environmental studies of alluvial, colluvial (hill wash) and peat deposits in South East England are producing evidence that there was deliberate forest clearance in the Mesolithic period to create areas for pasture and increase the productivity of plant resources, although many areas were not impacted until the Neolithic or later periods. Sedimentological analyses carried out on the deposits of the upper Cuckmere Valley have recorded deep alluvial deposits, which may represent sediment that has accumulated after the removal of vegetation during the Prehistoric period, possibly starting in the Mesolithic.
- 5.2.7 The Cuckmere Valley is likely to have provided a natural corridor for movement during the Mesolithic period and would have also provided a reliable source for food from both hunting and fishing. In the 1930s a site interpreted as a 'hunting camp' was found at Seaford which produced evidence for exploitation of both the coastal and estuarine resources (MoLAS 2008, 9). Within the Valley a flint core was found in the south east of the Valley (OA 293) with flint cores of Mesolithic character found during the 1940s in arable fields south of South Hill Barn to the west of the Valley (NMR TV59NW 1).
- 5.2.8 The first major human influence on the valley is thought to have started in the Neolithic period as a result of woodland clearance further up the valley. This allowed erosion of soils from the upper valley sides into the valley. The transportation by the river of this sediment and its deposition south of the Downs began the formation of both the Haven and coastal plain, much of the latter now submerged along the East Sussex coastline. As relative sea-levels rose during the last 8,500 years the Haven became subject to fluctuating periods of marine transgression (flooding, scouring and deposition of alluvium) and regression (drying out and the formation of marshland and, from at least the 13th century onwards, meadowland).
- 5.2.9 A Neolithic 'duck-bill' flint scraper and other implements have been found in the south east of the Valley (OA 292), especially to the South of South Hill Barn where two flint sickles were discovered among an extensive flint assemblage. Bannister concludes that 'the flint finds suggest that Neolithic communities were both cultivating (sickles), clearing and managing woodland (axes) and processing animals (leather) in the locality, which in turn suggests a permanent group utilising the Valley and its immediate hinterland (Bannister 1999, 13). Evidence for Neolithic settlement has been found at Seaford (Bannister 1999, 4).
- 5.2.10 Bronze Age pottery along with seven pieces of bronze weighing a total of seven ounces (MES1721) was found c 1km to the west, just west of Chyngton Farm, possibly suggesting that smelting was taking place at this location. A perforated stone implement was found on South Hill to the west of the Valley. Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery has also been discovered with colluvial hillwash within the east bank of the Haven (OA 410).
- 5.2.11 Settlements have been found 6km to the west at Newhaven and 5km to the east at Bishopstone, and 3 barrows have been recorded further up the Cuckmere Valley itself, although not within the Study Area (MoLAS 2008, 10). A late Bronze Age/early Iron Age hillfort exists at Seaford Head, c 1.2km to the west. No remains of this date have yet been found within Cuckmere Valley itself.
- 5.2.12 It is generally accepted that settlement in the prehistoric period at least tended to concentrate in the south of the Cuckmere Valley, rather than the north, where the Weald was less populated and its resources comparatively less exploited (Garwood, 185, 65). In comparison with the Ouse River Valley c 7km to the west, The Cuckmere

Valley has little evidence dating to the prehistoric period, probably due to lack of investigations rather than lack of evidence.

5.3 Roman

- 5.3.1 Evidence for Roman settlement has been found in the vicinity of Seaford to the west, which grew up at the mouth of the estuary of the River Ouse. A cemetery has also been found here and at Sutton to the east. Roman farmsteads have been identified at Bishopstone, 4.5km to the west, and near East Dean 6km to the east. The nearest villa is at Newhaven c 6.5km to the west and the nearest road a minor route c 2.5km north-west running to Seaford (Harris 2005, 11). Seaford is not thought to have been used as a port until after the Romans left, rising in prominence from the 13th century.
- 5.3.2 A Roman flagon was been found in the Haven mouth during a cliff fall (OA 265) and a few sherds have been found at South Hill Barn. A possible salt pan (OA 277), now destroyed by the sea and unfortunately unrecorded, was also found at the same location as the flagon. However, the location reference for this feature is ambiguous. No other traces of any Roman salterns, in their usual form of 'red hills' with dumps of fired clay bricquetage and charcoal, have been found in the valley.
- 5.3.3 Bannister suggests that 'the isolated finds of this period in the Cuckmere area suggest a strong Romano-British presence in the valley, perhaps a farmstead or small village' (Bannister 1999, 13). It has also been suggested, albeit with no evidence to date, that the Haven may also have been used as a Roman port.

5.4 Early medieval period

- 5.4.1 Although not mentioned in Domesday, Chynington is probably a pre-conquest Saxon estate which evolved into a small manorial village (Bannister 1999, 5). The origin of the name Chynington is unclear. The crossing at Exceat Bridge is possibly of Saxon date (MoLAS 2008, 15). No evidence for Saxon remains has been found in the Cuckmere Valley to date and it is likely still to have been undefended and undrained during this period.

5.5 Medieval period

- 5.5.1 In the eastern half of the Valley Exceat is mentioned in Domesday with seven inhabitants living to the south-east of the Valley. (MoLAS 2008 12). There is no mention of 'Chynington' in Domesday, although as discussed above it appears to have been in existence at this date.
- 5.5.2 Jacobs Babbie (2007) states that Domesday records the lower Cuckmere Valley as saltworkings during this early period, leading Robinson and Williams (1983 quoted in Jacobs Babbie) to the conclusion that the area was still tidally inundated during this period. Domesday records 294 saltworks in Sussex, a larger number than for any other county (Brandon 114). Before the marshlands were reclaimed at the mouths of the streams the great floods of this period deposited sheets of salt water over them which was exploited for the salt.
- 5.5.3 This part of the coastline suffered constant raiding by the French during the medieval period. Seaford suffered badly from these raids and this together with the silting of its port led to the response of constructing a new town c 1350 just to the west of the Valley, on the Downs, known as Poynings Town, named after the Lord who suggested the relocation. The location of the town, abandoned shortly afterwards, can be seen on both aerial photographs and historic maps and the field name Walls Brow, which refers to the extant foundations visible until WW1. Poynings Town merged

with Chyngton to try and prevent the continued raids which eventually, along with the plague, devastated them (MoLAS 2008, 11).

- 5.5.4 Contemporary descriptions of the new town make reference to a port associated with it. This venture appears to have been short-lived and no physical evidence for the port has been found to date. It is known that the port was inhabited and had a number of landholders but it was unlikely to have been located on low ground associated with the Valley given the possibilities of flooding, nor on the coast itself due its vulnerability to the sea. It may have therefore been just a landing stage within the shelter of the Haven from which goods were taken to settlement on the higher ground. The possible location of a port is discussed further in Section 6.4.
- 5.5.5 The manor at 'Chintinges' was granted to Michelham Priory in the early 14th century, and by then the port and Cuckmere Haven was flourishing providing income from trade and allowing access from the sea to the Priory. The Haven mouth may have been used for many other activities including boat-building during this period.
- 5.5.6 It is often monasteries that are behind episodes of land reclamation. It is thought that reclamation of the Valley started in the medieval period, probably instigated by the Priory. There is no documentary evidence to prove this but they obviously had the relevant experience given that they were often appointed on to the commissions of sewers for the Pevensey Levels (Bannister 1999 21).
- 5.5.7 Documentary records suggest that the maximum inundation occurred in 1288 (Jacobs Babbie quoting Woodcock 200, quoting P Greenwood's dissertation). From documentary records it appears that by 1398 embankments had been built across the Valley to prevent flooding, as evidence suggests that these embankments were being breached at this time, therefore allowing flooding as far up the valley as Alfriston and Fletching. These parishes were forced to grant their churches to the Priory partly due to the costs incurred by the flooding and the expense of maintaining the embankments. This suggests that perhaps the Priory had not taken charge of the reclamation at this time. Whether this means that the embankments were part of a wider system of control which allowed the management and farming of part of the valley as suggested by Bannister (1999 21) is possible. A discussion based on the surviving evidence of the drainage and reclamation of the landscape can be found in Section 6.3.
- 5.5.8 A fishery is recorded at Cuckmere Haven and was vested in the St Cleres, Lords of Firlie who owned the manor and farm at Exceat. Exceat and Chyngton had the fishing and wildfowl rights in the valley throughout the medieval period (Bannister 1999, 23). Others were also under obligation for managing other aspects of the river; for instance in 1369 Roger Dalyngruge was appointed commissioner for clearing the 'Cuckmereshaven' of obstructions, to raise archers and men-at-arms in Sussex and to buy 500 quarters of wheat for munitioning of Calais (ibid). This together with his later role as sheriff could be seen as the forerunner of the later coastguards. There are references to him in 1369 having to enquire and remedy the problems of obstructions of the dykes at Cuckmere which were erected 'in ancient time for the saving of those ports' (ibid 24). This suggests that the sea defences pre-dated this period. Further problems are documented in 1356 when those who collected levies to repair the dykes failed to do so 'so that the banks for default of that timely repair, which they thereby should have had, being grown ruins, exposed the said marshes and lands to overflowing ...' (ibid).
- 5.5.9 Bannister quotes further documentary evidence which suggests that Bartholomew Bolney in 1452, who is thought to have lived in the farmstead where the Golden Galleon is now, had 10 acres of land in Les Brokes suggesting the southern part of the

Haven was protected and drained at this time. He was also a commissioner of dykes and sewers with responsibility for the levels within other valleys along the coast.

- 5.5.10 Whether predating the 14th century or later, the initial banks and dykes dug to reclaim the valley to the west of the river are shown on a map of 1618 (Map 1) and this is discussed further below (section 6.3).
- 5.5.11 Medieval landuse is reflected in a document of 1444, when Chyngton Manor is recorded as having land in several arable fields with common pasture on the Downs and on the heath (parts of the coastal margins), with grazing on Les Brokes (the innings by the river). The arable land was in several large fields divided by furlongs, which were enclosed by the time of the survey for the 1764 estate map. Documentary references suggest there may have been a farmstead near/at the present site of the Public House at Exceat Bridge, which in 1764 was marked Shepherd's Cottage, reflected in the field names here (OA 361, 362).
- 5.5.12 The decline of the port and shrinking of the manorial settlement at 'Chinting' was also helped along by the Dissolution of the Michelham Priory. By the Tudor period the medieval port and settlement had shrunk to a large farm. By the 16th century, Poynings Town was in ruins and in 1578 only one resident is recorded at 'Chinting' (Bannister 1999, 23). The landscape has therefore probably changed little since this period with grazing of the marshes being maintained with minor changes to the field boundaries.
- 5.5.13 Exceat village was also virtually extinct by 1460 when just one man, Henrius Chesman, was recorded as living there, after the plague decimated the community. The last two properties were absorbed into West Dean parish on March 3rd 1528 (RftCV 118). The remains of the village lie just to the east of the Valley (OA 242).
- 5.5.14 Landuse and the exploitation of the valley resources are discussed in detail in Section 6.4. It appears that the western half of the valley has always been used for grazing. The eastern part may have been used to make salt, as evidenced by the field names. There are references to 'open salts below Exceat Bridge' in a document of 1803 (Bannister 1999, 25). This is also discussed further in Section 6.4.
- 5.5.15 Due to the continued threat from the French the Priory, along with other landowners, had to maintain beacons on the Downs, when tenants would ride and give the alarm during raids. The necessity for defence against the French started as early as 1295 when two coastguards were stationed at the medieval port. In 1710 there are records of six men-at-arms under Lord Pelham for 'Chinting Farm', which was raided in the early 18th century (Bannister 1999, 29).
- 5.5.16 Smuggling was also a problem, and was recorded frequently in the 18th century, often leading to armed stand-offs and assaults between Customs Officers and gangs of armed men. In the 1780s the Haven was a favoured landing place for smugglers and at one stage 200-300 men were seen taking goods from the beach despite opposition from Excise, and there were as many as a dozen smuggling boats lying off-shore in broad daylight (Bannister 29). The smugglers were able to get away with much more during this period due to English troops being tied up in the wars with America. After 1817 the Great Blockade was established which made it more difficult for smugglers, although it was not stamped out totally.
- 5.5.17 The Haven obviously represented a weak point in the defence of the South Coast and was fortified accordingly. In 1804 an army barracks, with six small buildings, was built as part of the Napoleonic defences on the west side of the Haven (OA 413). The buildings were demolished in 1814. A further set of barracks was built in the east side of the valley at Foxhole Farm (OA 298). The barracks was replaced with the

Coastguard Station on 1822. The Haven was used during World War II (see Section 6.5) and at a later date became the focus for shingle extraction using a newly constructed tramway (Section 6.6).

- 5.5.18 Later documents detail attempts to remove shingle from the mouth of the haven to allow the river to escape. This is discussed in more detail in Section 6.2. The silting of the river mouth, movement of shingle and flooding of the river led to a number of actions being adopted in 1846, including the building of New Cut (OA 232) (Bannister 1999, 25). Bannister comments that it appears from map evidence that no further improvements have been made to the Lower Levels since this date apart from clearing of the shingle banks and repairs to the embankments (ibid 27). The changes in the River's alignment and coastal change are also discussed in Section 6.2.
- 5.5.19 Since 1878 development has been spreading eastward from Seaford. This has left the Haven untouched, and it became increasingly used for leisure activities (Section 6.7), although the river outfall made it unsafe for swimming. A postcard from the 1920s shows people camping (Bannister 31). In 1993 Chyngton Farm and the west side of the Haven was purchased by the National Trust. Further land was purchased by East Sussex County Council to extend the Seven Sisters Country Park and the Exceat Saltings was purchased c 1949.

5.6 Map Regression

- 5.6.1 This section discusses the main changes seen on the historic maps of the Haven showing how the Haven has changed over time. The key maps have been included as illustrations (Maps 1-13).
- 5.6.2 The earliest map of the western side of the Haven is De Ward's map of 1618 (Map 1). The map shows a large meander in the river immediately to the south of the Exceat Bridge that appears on no other map from the 17th or 18th centuries, although it may simply be an exaggeration of a smaller meander shown on 18-century plans. This view is supported by the rather inaccurate representation of the rest of the river's course. The Innings to the west of the river are shown as 'Chintinge Brooks' under the ownership of Lord Montague. They are divided up into five main areas by embankments and drains.
- 5.6.3 Exceat Bridge is labelled and Exceat Farm is shown as 'Exceate House' (OA 234), while a building is shown on the west bank of the river as it runs into the sea at the foot of Cliff End (OA 321). This building is not described but is shown as being owned by John Gage, who also appears to own Exceat House and most of the land to the west of the river. The Cuckmere River is shown as emptying into the sea at the base of Cliff End.
- 5.6.4 A similar picture is shown on Abraham Bailey's Survey of Chingting Farm, 1764. Once again the survey only covers the western side of the Cuckmere River, but it maps the Innings which appear to be largely unchanged from 1618. Some changes can be seen, such as Square Brook and Penstock Brook, which have been created from the division of an area previously shown as one plot of land. The southern third of the Innings is divided into two and named as 'Punnings Brook' and 'Oat Brook'. The area between the Brooks and the river is now called 'Upper Salts' and 'Lower Salts', divided by a small channel called 'old creek'. The map does not show the mouth of the Cuckmere River, although it is assumed that it still meets the sea at the base of Cliff End. Shepherd's Cottage at Exceat Bridge is shown for the first time.
- 5.6.5 Yeakel and Gardner's map was produced between 1778 and 1783 and shows both sides of the Valley for the first time (Map 2). It is at a large scale, with consequently

less detail annotated. This shows that the Valley is labelled 'Cockmere' at this date and the whole valley is annotated as marshland. It appears to show the same pattern of ditches within the 'Innings' as seen in 1764, although an extra channel is shown linking the northernmost brook with the third meander in the river.

- 5.6.6 The course of the Cuckmere River appears to have been largely copied from De Ward's map of 1618. The main difference here is that the mouth of the river is shown as entering the sea in the middle of the alluvial floodplain and not at the foot of Cliff End as is shown in 1618, 1792 and in the later 1st edition OS map of *c* 1878. The location of Foxhole Farm is shown (first seen on County Map of Sussex 1724 and labelled Foxhole), although the site itself is not labelled. Two distinct buildings are shown here (OA 252, 282).
- 5.6.7 The sea wall (OA 280) in the east of the valley is shown on Yeakel and Gardiner. This follows the same course it occupies today, from the east bank of the river, roughly opposite Foxhole, down to the beach where it doglegs to the south-east before running up to the foot of Cliff End. The road is shown running over the bluff leading from Foxhole to Exceat (OA 405).
- 5.6.8 Rand's Plan of Cuckmere Salts 1792 (Map 3) is a simplified plan of the Cuckmere River to the south of Exceat Bridge, drawn to show the position of a possible proposed new channel that would by-pass the large meanders at Exceat Farm and a second channel that would divert the mouth of the river to the south west. It also shows a proposed further sea wall of earth to protect the land in the east. This scheme was never implemented. The mouth of the river is again shown as being located at the foot of Cliff End.
- 5.6.9 Rand shows that the sea wall to the east of the river (OA 280), the embankment to the west (OA 347, 326), and the buildings at Shepherd's Cottage, Exceat Farm and Foxhole are also illustrated. Foxhole is named for the first time and two separate buildings are shown, as opposed to the one farmhouse that is shown in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 5.6.10 No details from the Innings are shown. To east of river the area within the sea wall, closest to the river and to the north of Foxhole are shown as marsh with Saltings labelled north of Foxhole. The area to the east of the sea wall is shown as blank, possibly indicating slightly drier land.
- 5.6.11 There are a number of large-scale maps of the area dating to the late 18th and early 19th centuries which do not show much detail but have some points of note. The William Gardiner and Thomas Gream Map of Sussex of 1795 and the OS 1inch 1st edition of 1813 both show the basic layout of the Haven, with the 1813 map labelling The Barracks on the eastern side (OA 297) of the River and that possibly to the west (OA 413), although the annotation is less clear. The Barracks on the west bank are also shown on the 1825 C and J Greenwood Map of Sussex, but not that on the east bank. The location of the western barracks is not plotted on the GIS due to its exact location being unclear.
- 5.6.12 The field names from the parish tithe maps of Seaford (1839) (Map 4) and West Dean 1840 (Map 5) have been added to the database and mapping and are discussed below. (Section 6.4 and see also figure 16). These maps are the most accurate and thorough plans of the Haven to date. The map of Seaford shows west of the river and that of West Dean covers land to the east. They are also the last maps showing the Haven before the construction of the new navigation channel in 1846 (OA 232). The West Dean map clearly shows an extension to the Sea wall (OA 404), presumably to further protect lands at Foxhole. This appears to be in a similar position to the remnant creek channel seen on the 1st edition 6 inch map, that has become two

separate elongated ponds by the time of the second edition OS map (OA 327). This extension could either be protecting the Foxhole inlet from this creek or perhaps shows the creek itself. A bank or wall no longer exists within the landscape at this point.

- 5.6.13 The West Dean tithe map also allows the plotting of two roads from Exceat to Foxholes, traces of which appear on earlier maps. These trackways are now shown as running from 'Excette Farm' to Foxhole, one across the pasture and arable fields of the first terrace (OA 405) and the other along the edge of the salt marshes and up the inlet within which the farm sits (OA 406).
- 5.6.14 The Innings shown on Baley's map of 1764 are shown on the Seaford tithe map as being largely unchanged, although a U-shaped channel (OA 325) shown in Sixteen Acre Brook in 1764 and in similar location on 1618 map, has since been removed. Extra detail around the edges of the Innings shows a number of ponds (OA 247, 264).
- 5.6.15 Two buildings are shown on the cliff top overlooking Cuckmere Haven for the first time. These are the Coastguard (OA 272) and Shiplap Cottages (OA 408) that still stand at this point. The West Dean map shows 'Excette Bridge' and 'Excette Farm' (OA 240) along with Foxhole, (OA 252, 282) although this is unlabelled. Foxhole Farm is shown with a pond for the first time (OA 294) The River is still shown as entering the sea at Cliff End.
- 5.6.16 The Estate Map of Manor Farm, Exceate alias Excette 1860 (Map 6) appears to have copied the outline of the Cuckmere River and the alluvial floodplain from the tithe map of West Dean parish. No new features are shown. The new navigation channel, although completed by this time, is also not shown. No doubt this is due to the fact that it is located outside the boundaries of the Manor. The Cuckmere River is shown as entering the sea at Cliff End.
- 5.6.17 The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map of 1878 (Map 7) is the first accurate and wholly reliable plan of the area that also contains elements noted in earlier maps from the 17th - mid 19th centuries. This map is the first to show the completed new channel that had been constructed in 1846 (OA 232). New features include an extra building and a pond (OA 322, 323), to the south-east of Exceat Farm, while the pond immediately to the north of Foxhole Farm (OA 294) appears to have grown in size from 1841. A ferry crossing is shown close to the southern end of the river that is not seen on previous maps (OA 324). A boathouse appears at the high-water mark on the beach immediately to the east of Coastguard Cottages.
- 5.6.18 Two kilns are shown close to Cliff End in the south-east corner of the study area (OA 286, 288). These kilns are not shown on any previous mapping of the area, although even if they were present they may not necessarily have been plotted on the earlier maps. The marshes to the west of the river show the Innings in slightly more detail than the tithe map.
- 5.6.19 The 2nd edition OS map dating to *c* 1890 (Map 8) is basically the same as the 1st edition but with some minor changes. The former creek associated with the possible river wall extension (OA 404) has become two separate elongated ponds (OA 327). The principal change is the appearance of a Rifle Range (OA 297) to the east of the river between Stepping Stones and Cliff End. The small 20th-century quarry at Combe Bottom (OA 238) is shown. There are also small changes within the Innings. A square enclosure is shown on the NW corner of the Innings (OA 244), possibly a sheep enclosure. The ferry crossing point shown on the first edition OS has now moved down river to a point just to the north-east of Coastguard Cottages (OA 328).

- 5.6.20 On the 3rd edition 6 inch OS map (c 1909) (Map 9) the Stepping Stones (OA 256) appear for the first time close to the junction between the river and the new channel. A small rectangular feature, either a pond or a building, has appeared on the first terrace just to the north east of the Rifle Range (OA 287). This is probably a circular and linear trough (OA 295) that is still extant on site.
- 5.6.21 The sea wall embankment on the east side of the river has been extended across the mud flats on the coast so that it now forms a narrow entranceway to the river with the sea wall on the opposite bank (OA 329). This has caused the mouth of the Cuckmere River to move from the base of Cliff End as is shown on all previous maps (with the exception of 1778-1783) up to 1890, to the newly created gap between the two sea walls (OA 329, 326).
- 5.6.22 The ferry crossing shown in 1890 has been moved slightly up river (OA 330), while two new Hards are shown, one opposite the new ferry crossing, the other a little further upstream on the east bank.
- 5.6.23 The 1911 OS map (Map 10) shows little change other than the ferry crossing and Hard opposite it that were shown on the 1909 map are shown again, although the Hard up stream is not shown. On the 1929 map the Stepping Stones (OA 256) are not shown, neither is the rifle Range (OA 287).
- 5.6.24 Two groynes (OA 208) have been constructed at the high-water mark immediately east of Coastguard Cottages and where the recently redirected Cuckmere River flows across the beach and into the sea.
- 5.6.25 A footbridge has been constructed across a channel to the north east of Coastguard Cottages, while the ferry crossing and the Hard opposite it that were shown previously, are no longer shown. The Hard upstream is still visible.
- 5.6.26 Three new ponds have appeared. One at the northern end of the marshes to the west of the river (OA 245), one within the second meander in the Cuckmere River (OA 239) and one within the third meander (OA 249).
- 5.6.27 The 1938-9 OS map (Map 12) shows a boathouse constructed within the first meander in the Cuckmere River (OA 254), just to the south-west of Exceat Farm. A tramway (OA 233) leads out from this boathouse and runs southwards along the edge of the first terrace on the east side of the Cuckmere River and up onto the sea wall that leads to the mouth of the river. The Hard upstream is no longer shown nor is the square enclosure in the north-east corner of the marshes (OA 244).

5.7 *Coastguard and Shiplap Cottages: Building Regression*

- 5.7.1 Seaford parish title map 1841 (Map 4) - Coastguard (OA 272) and Shiplap Cottages (OA 408) first appear on this map. They are shown as two rectangular buildings, each in its own plot of land and with no ancillary structures. No fine detail is shown of the buildings or the areas immediately around them.
- 5.7.2 OS map of 1878 (Map 7) - Both buildings are shown again. In this map the western cottage is labelled 'Coastguard Station' and is shown within the north-west corner of a rectangular-shaped plot. It is 48 m to the north-west of the cliff edge. The land to the south-east of the cottage is divided into thin strips, possibly vegetable beds, while the area to the north-west is divided unevenly between a number of sub-rectangular plots. The eastern cottage is labelled 'Officer's Quarters' and is located close to the centre of a polygonal plot that has been subdivided into a number of sub-rectangular areas, again, probably for horticulture. The cottage is 42 m north-west of the cliff edge. Two small outbuildings are shown some 4 m to the east and 7 m to the north-

east of the cottage. A flag pole is located around 18 m to the south-east of the cottage. Some 18 m to the south-east of this cottage plot is a thin rectangular structure aligned NW-SE. This is labelled 'Boat House'. Around 5 m to the north west of this are a series of six small square structures that are unlabelled. A single square structure is also shown some 30 m to the north-east of the boathouse.

- 5.7.3 OS map of *c*1890 (Map 8) - By the issue of the second OS map, the high-water mark has receded some 9 m and the gardens to the south-east of both buildings are noticeably smaller, particularly the south-east corner of Shiplap Cottage's garden. This cottage is now 42 m from the cliff edge, while Coastguard Cottages is now 29 m north-west of the cliff. This erosion has been so severe that the boathouse has been moved some 25 m to the north-west of the eastern cottage from TV 51456 97633 to TV 51468 97660. The two buildings appear to be unchanged from the 1st edition map. Coastguard Cottages is now clearly shown as being divided into two cottages. The strip plots shown previously in the gardens of Coastguard Cottages are not shown here, nor are divisions to the north west of the building. Three sub-rectangular plots are shown in the garden of Shiplap Cottage. These appear identical to those shown in *c* 1878. The flagpole is still present to the south of the western cottage.
- 5.7.4 OS map of *c* 1909 (Map 9) - The high-water mark has receded 12 m from the previous epoch. Coastguard Cottages are now 32 m from the cliff edge, while Shiplap Cottage is now 21 m from it. Coastguard Cottages are located a further 2.5 m to the north-west compared to epoch 2, while porches have been added to the front and rear of the building. A lean-to structure has been added to the north-west face of Shiplap Cottages and what appears to be a porch has been added to the north-west face. A new outbuilding has appeared 5 m to the north-east of the building. The garden plots around the eastern cottage appear to be unchanged, while the boathouse, although the same size as in epoch 2, appears to have moved 3.5 m to the north west. The flagpole is still shown, around 3 m to the north-west of its previous location. The Cable House is shown for the first time on this map (OA 342).
- 5.7.5 OS map of 1929 (Map 11) - The high-water mark has receded a further 14 m in the intervening 20 years. Coastguard Cottages are now 21 m from the cliff, while Shiplap Cottage is 12 m from it. The locations and sizes of the two buildings are unchanged from the previous epoch with no additions to lean-to structures or outbuildings. The garden plots of the eastern cottage and the boat house remain unchanged, although the plots are obviously a little smaller than before due to the coastal erosion.
- 5.7.6 Current OS map (Map 13) - The high-water mark has receded by a further 10 metres. Coastguard Cottages are now 6.5 metres from the cliff edge while Shiplap Cottage is within 1.5 metres of it. Gardens to the north-west of the western cottages are now shown as divided between the two properties. The flagpole has now gone as has the outbuilding to the north-east of the eastern cottage. The porches and lean-tos that were once attached to both buildings have all disappeared, as have the garden plots around Shiplap Cottage, along with the boathouse, whose former location has been washed away by coastal erosion. In 1948-49 a sea wall was built in front of Coastguard Cottages to help reduce this erosion (Jacobs Babbie, 2005).

6 THEMES AND CATEGORIES

6.1 *Creation of the Haven and palaeo-environmental potential*

Background

- 6.1.1 The present day topography of Cuckmere Haven has undergone significant modification and bears little resemblance to the landscape of the prehistoric past. Evidence of early prehistoric surfaces and sites can be deeply buried below later accumulations of alluvium and colluvium. The absence of archaeological features and remains at the surface in alluvial environments is not necessarily representative of the distribution of its buried archaeological potential. This is because the sediments within such environments have vertically accreted throughout the Holocene, containing and then burying archaeological resources, effectively disguising them to surface prospection methods, eg aerial photography, fieldwalking, and HER mapping (Brown *et al.* 2005).
- 6.1.2 There is little published information regarding the development of the sedimentary sequences within the Cuckmere Valley although Burrin (1983) describes boreholes from Cuckmere Haven where basal gravels are replaced by silty clays at 28m below ground surface. These in turn are replaced at a depth of 20m by sands and at 3m by silty clays. Previous work within the study area (Hunter and Pine, 2004) have indicated that the uppermost 3m of stratigraphy beneath the western part of the valley floor are variable and a number of discrete sedimentary units indicative of shifting channel activity were identified.
- 6.1.3 There has been much debate about the degree of stratigraphic uniformity between sites along the South-East Coast and how much these can be compared to other coastal sequences. Jennings and Smyth (1982a; 1982b) emphasis the differences between sequences and highlight the importance of local factors like the breaching of gravel bars, while Burrin (1983; 1991) considers the similarities between sequences and advocates a more uniform stratigraphic model. Waller and Long (2010) have recently reviewed all of the available river valley data for Sussex and concludes that no one model explains the development of all the sequences. This debate is further complicated by limited detailed sampling of many of these sequences and the lateral sediment variation that can exist within such fluvially active environments.
- 6.1.4 Long *et al.* (2000) has proposed a more general tri-partite model of estuarine development, based on regional sea-level changes, that is often applied to southern England. This provides at least a baseline model that a sequence can be compared with. The model suggests that the lower sequence consists of estuarine and marine sands that would have been deposited during estuarine expansion during the early Holocene. This lower sequence consists of these sand deposits overlying freshwater silty clays and peats. The middle part is characterised by silty clay alluvium and wetland peats/organic silts reflecting a phase of estuarine contraction. The upper minerogenic deposits represent a return to estuarine expansion in the late Holocene.

Results of geophysical survey and borehole sampling

- 6.1.5 Very little data is currently available for the Cuckmere Haven and previous sampling of the valley sequence has been extremely limited. In September 2010 a conductivity survey was undertaken to help map the subsurface geo-morphological features and deposit sequences (Bates 2010a). The preliminary results indicated that the sediment architecture varies significantly across the valley floor. Topographic features (now buried) have been inferred in places and potential landscape differences associated

with changing lateral and temporal sequences may well exist relatively close to the surface across the study area. This has allowed the valley floor to be divided up into a number of key sedimentary zones shown in Figure 15a and described below:

Terrain zones	Conductivity values	Interpreted sediment
A	High	Outcrops of chalk bedrock
Bi/Bii/Biii/Biv	Low	Channel and islands deposits
C	High	Fine grain sediments
D	Low	Active salt marsh deposits

- 6.1.6 The results of the conductivity survey indicated that the study area differs spatially with a range of possible buried landscape features represented within the upper alluvial. Areas of possible palaeochannel and floodplain islands are indicated within the geophysical mapping but await further confirmation through targeted fieldwork.
- 6.1.7 The follow-up resistivity survey (Bates 2010b) was designed to examine the deeper floodplain sequence and help map the buried palaeotopography. This work was able to penetrate to greater depths than the 6m that were achieved in the conductivity survey. The results clearly show the profile of the deeper subsurface features, with good contrast between the Holocene sediment sequence and Chalk bedrock. As well as identifying the basic geometry of the buried valley system, it also identified the potential position of a number of subsurface features including several buried channels and the nature of the submerged valley sides. A series of submerged valley shelves/steps were also identified along the length of the valley (Bates 2010b, Figure 11), which may indicate areas that may have been submerged at different times in the Holocene by rising sea-level.
- 6.1.8 Ground truthing of the geophysical survey results was necessary and undertaken recently by a targeted borehole survey (Bates 2010c). The borehole sampling identified the base of Holocene sequences at approximately 24.0m in depth (-23m OD) where a thin deposit of sandy gravels were identified. Chalk bedrock was encountered at a depth of 27.0m (-26.1 m OD) overlain by chalk solifluction deposits, sandy gravel and a thin sand deposit. A bluish grey silty clay with a few shells and interbedded peats were identified at the base of the Holocene sequence. These deposits potential represent dryland deposits during a period of lower sea-level, before the English Channel was cut through the Dover Straits. This sequence was overlain by a homogenous sequence of laminated sands, silts and clays with occasional shell inclusions between depths of 21.00m (-20 m OD) and 13.20m (-12.3m OD). These deposits potential represent brackish inundation in the early Holocene due to rising sea-level. At a depth of 13.20m a bluish/greenish grey clay was encountered with occasional redeposited peats and some shells were identified potentially representing lower-energy deposits. This was overlain by an upper sequence of alternating brownish-grey silty clays and medium orange sand deposits. These deposits potentially represent marine inundation and tidal storm surges. Laterally the sediments inter-digitate with colluvial slope wash deposits from the valley sides. The upper 1.10m of the sequence is represented by oxidized brownish yellow slightly organic silty clay that may represent the period of reclamation/embankment.
- 6.1.9 In the event only a single borehole was drilled at the site and consequently only a single tie point for ground truthing the geophysics currently exists. It is not clear at present how representative this borehole is of sedimentary sequence within the Cuckmere Valley. Clearly further sampling and assessment of the sequence is

required in order to confirm these initially findings. Preliminary comparisons with previously investigated sequences in Sussex, recently reviewed by Waller and Long (2010), can be made only tentatively. However more definitive correlation of the deposits must await further dating evidence and palaeoenvironmental assessment.

Significance - Coastal evolution and archaeological potential of the buried valley sequence

- 6.1.10 The Cuckmere Valley would have been formed by deeply incised Pleistocene outwash channels when most of the water was trapped in glacial ice and sea-level was much lower than the present day. The ground would have been permanently frozen and only briefly thawed out during the summer months. The valley edges would therefore have been subjected to periglacial processes, leading to the accumulation of the solifluction deposits identified at the base and edges of the valley.
- 6.1.11 With the retreat of the glacier ice and the onset of warming during the Holocene, soils would have started to form within Cuckmere Haven and its surrounding valleys. A remnant of this earlier Holocene land surface was potential identified at the base of borehole OABH1 at a depth of 23.00 (-22.10m OD). The valley bottoms may have supported a dry forest bed of pine and birch dissected by small freshwater streams. The sea would have been further south than present and Cuckmere Haven would have been a predominantly wooded environment, rich in food resources and supporting abundant animal populations. This would have provided an attractive environment for upper Palaeolithic and early Mesolithic hunter-gatherer communities to exploit.
- 6.1.12 The onset of sedimentation onto the Late Pleistocene gravel deposits will have probably been controlled by sea-level rise and the flooding of the surface by either marine/brackish waters moving up system, consequent with sea-level rise, or by fluvial systems backing up as a response. At Langney Point the transgressive contact was recorded by Jennings (1985) at a depth of -24.7m OD at c.9850 cal yr BP. This data may be applicable to the lower Cuckmere Valley where similar deeply buried organic rich silts are present in OABH1. The organic silty clay deposits identified at a depth of 22.00m (-21.10m OD) may represent one such drowned floodplain surface that was caused by the backing up of these river systems. Rising water levels within the valley would have help create a mosaic of different wetland environments that would have been attractive wetland environment for early hunter-gatherer communities to exploit.
- 6.1.13 A major phase of clayey silt/sand deposits recorded above 21.50m are potentially associated with the influx of brackish conditions. These deposits may have been deposited under low salt marsh or tidal flat conditions. Mesolithic communities would have had to adjust to the changing floodplain conditions. More permanent activity may have moved away from the base of the valley floor to the edges and islands that surrounded tidal flats. Exploitation of the tidal environment would have probably been more seasonal and temporary in nature at this time.
- 6.1.14 No evidence of any thick deposits of organic sequence was identified in OABH1 or within the previous borehole work (Hunter and Pine 2004). Burrin (1983) records the basal gravels at Cuckmere are replaced c 28m below the surface by silty clays to c 20m, then sands up to 3m overlain by an upper silty clay. A similar sand- dominated lower sequence is recorded within the Lower Ouse and Adur Valleys (Waller and Long 2010).
- 6.1.15 In contrast peat formation is extensively evident from the valley sequence to the east of Beachy Head and from the middle Ouse valley during the mid Holocene which

began at Lewes I c 7200 cal. yr BP in the Glynde valley (Waller and Hamilton 2000). Other sequences also record a phase of freshwater peat accumulation during the mid Holocene associated with a phase of estuarine contraction. These peats are consistently described as a basal woody peat and an upper detrital peat, overlain by brackish/marine silts. The upper surface of these mid Holocene peat sequences have previously produced evidence of Bronze Age activity, most notably at the site of Shinewater, in the Willingdon Levels (Greatorex 2003) and evidence of woodland clearance within Combe Haven (Jennings 1985; OA 2008). Similar dated peat surfaces within the Somerset Levels, Thames Estuary and Cambridge fens are considered to be a Nationally Important archaeological resource that requires the highest levels of protection.

- 6.1.16 The absence of any thick peat deposits within the sequence may simply reflect the current limited sampling within the Valley, highlighting the need for further deep borehole sampling. Certainly the evidence of redeposited peat lumps recorded between 13.20m (-12.3m OD) and 11.40m (-10.5m OD) within OABH1 may hint at deposits preserved around the edges of valley. However if the absence of peat or freshwater deposits is found to be a true reflection of the lower Cuckmere sequence than this may limit the potential of the sequence to preserve important early to mid prehistoric evidence compared to other valley sequences to the east like that identified within the Willingdon Levels and Combe Haven. Certainly the impact of local factors, in particular the presence of gravel bars suggested by Jennings and Smyth (1982a; 1982b) at site such as Cuckmere Haven may be one of many determining factors. Waller *et al* (2010) also attributes the absence of mid Holocene peats to more exposed marine conditions and limited gravel supply to the west of Beach Head.
- 6.1.17 The thick upper deposits of interdigitated silts and sands mark a phases of marine incursion and possible storm surges breaching a coastal bar. Previous studies of pollen and diatoms contained within the upper sequence suggest the establishment of salt marsh conditions. Similar major incursions by the sea at this time are recorded in the Combe Haven and Romney Marsh, and a number of other locations around the coast of England. It is often referred to as the ‘Romano-British Transgression’, with a number of potential causes cited for the increased sea-level. It is widely believed that large-scale deforestation and sediment availability played a significant role in the increased flooding and rising water levels of valley environments during this period.
- 6.1.18 Late prehistoric to early medieval activity associated with these tidal flats are likely to be found towards the valley edges and tidal islands, which could have acted as natural harbours. These may have been used for communications, necessary for the growth of settlement and trade in the area.
- 6.1.19 An interpretative cross-section of the valley sequence has been produced based on the geophysics and borehole results as Figure 15b. This shows the depth of deposits below ground discussed above.

Further work

- 6.1.20 Given the size and complexity of the valley sequence the adopted staged approach has provided a cost-effective method of starting to assess the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the sequence. More detail is currently needed about the potential impacts of coastal change on the valley sequence itself before more definitive mitigation options or areas can be defined. However, following the results of the current phases of work we are now in a good position to consider in a more general sense the implications of future options and provide a range of likely mitigation approaches for specific types of impacts:

Impacts on the base of valley sides

- 6.1.21 Any impacts on the base of the valley edges may require further detailed geomorphological field study that would focus on mapping the key geomorphic landscape and sedimentary features on the valley edges and exposed sections. This may include an examination of the thick colluvial exposures identified on the valley slopes, cliff sections and other valley features. This may also include more detailed assessment of the environmental and sedimentary evidence present including the land snail and artefactual material preserved within the basal valley colluvial and solifluction deposits.

Impacts on the buried valley sequence

- 6.1.22 Further sampling of the buried valley sequence may be required as part of further mitigation in order to provide a clearer understanding of the subsurface features identified in the geophysical surveys (Bates 2010a: figure 15a/a5b). Further ground truthing of the subsurface features identified like buried islands and channels are needed in order to assess their archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential should these features and sequences be affected by any future coastal change.

Impacts on the palaeoenvironmental potential

- 6.1.23 Any proposed changes to the sedimentary or hydrological conditions within the valley sequence may require a programme of palaeoenvironmental and dating assessment in order to preserve and assess changing preservation conditions. Any further sampling of the valley sequence should also include a search for preserved organic deposits around the edges of the valley and further upstream or side valleys that may also be affected.

Impacts on the historical landscape features

- 6.1.24 Further integrated 3D modelling of the valley sequence and buried palaeotopography may also help provide a more comprehensive understanding of the evolution of the Cuckmere Haven and its buried archaeological potential. If the study area is to be affected by future coastal change, then a detailed interactive record of current landscape features needs to be preserved. This may include further geophysical transects and borehole sampling to further define and map the basal template and subsurface features.

6.2 River and coastal changes

- 6.2.1 Shingle transport, as a result of wave action and longshore drift, has continued to alter the harbour mouth and exit of the river. Changes in the foreshore and changes in the exit point of the River are shown on Figure 11. Evidence shows that from the 14th century the Haven mouth was cleared of obstructions and since the post-medieval period this was carried out using harbour ploughs.
- 6.2.2 General maps dating from 1587 (Armada) and 1698 (South Coast Harbours Report, Edward Dummers and Thomas Wiltshaw) shows development of the shingle spit extending from Seaford Head across the mouth of the Haven, with the river exiting in the east close to Cliff End. Yeakall and Gardner's 1783 map (Map 2) shows that the channel had broken through the spit and now flowed out through the centre of the Haven. Jacobs Babbie (2005) suggests that this may either have been due to a storm surge through perhaps a wave attack, or through the pressure of fluvial flood waters draining seaward during a flood event. Closure of the eastern river mouth could also have occurred resulting from a build-up of fluvial flows breaching the spit to drain

seaward. The breaching of the shingle spit could therefore represent a change from offshore/onshore sediment supply to longshore drift supply (Jacobs Babbie 2005 7).

- 6.2.3 Documentary references from 1863 record that ‘...unprotected by piers, this little harbour is constantly undergoing changes, being choked up from time to time by shingle with the set of the tide, under the action of the south-east wind, shingle accumulates on the spot. In order to afford the freshwater a direct outlet to the sea, recourse is had to a contrivance called ‘harbour ploughs’ by which the shingle is removed’ (Bannister 1999, 25)
- 6.2.4 It is likely that the spit was regularly breached under storm conditions in the 18th and early 19th centuries but conditions did not allow the maintenance of this channel through the spit after breaching hence the mouth of the river changed back and forth between the centre and eastern part of the Haven a number of times in the 18th and 19th centuries (Jacobs Babbie).
- 6.2.5 In 1874 a shingle bar was thrown up across the mouth and the river mouth discharged into the sea on the extreme eastwards side of the haven, creating a salt water lagoon behind (Bannister 1999 40). This lagoon would have helped maintain the breach in the spit and its formation was possibly helped by the increased velocities as a result of the straight cut (OA 232) constructed in 1846 to help prevent flooding by the river into the valley. This Cut can be first seen on the 1878 1st edition OS map (Map 7). Bannister quotes from several documents from the Cuckmere Haven water court, describing the works and the reasons for them, and all the works preceding it (Bannister 1999, 25).
- 6.2.6 Changes in the river egress and in the lower meanders can be traced through 19th- and 20th-century maps and latterly can be related to the construction of the training walls and groynes (OA 209, 208 OA 210). The river has remained in a relatively fixed position since 1943, particularly since the training wall of 1971 was constructed. The Jacobs Babbie report discusses these changes in detail and the detailed reasons behind this sequence. They also discuss in detail the beach behaviour and shoreline change.
- 6.2.7 A detailed description of recent coastal erosion, specifically illustrated by its effects on Coastguard and Shiplap Cottages can be found above in Section 5.8.
- 6.2.8 Jacobs Babbie have summarised the later mapped modifications which have affected the Haven:
 - Yeakell and Gardner’s map 1778-83 shows man-made embankments along the east bank to Cliff End, and further embankments upstream along the east shore of the river. These were built in the mid 18th century to protect the farm at Foxhole Bottom from flooding (OA 280)
 - 1830 Construction of 150m stone groyne at Newhaven which limited the longshore sediment transport
 - 1846 – New River cut through (OA 232)
 - 1878-1890 – Construction of 800m breakwater replacing stone groyne at Newhaven continuing the interruption of the longshore drift
 - 1889 – Construction of terminal groyne at Seaford further limiting longshore supply of sediment
 - 1910-1926 – Wooden groynes constructed on west beach to trap sediment (OA 208)

- 1940-45 – Concrete anti-tank traps known as Dragons teeth were constructed between the beach and the marsh (OA 207?)
- 1943 – West training wall at mouth of estuary constructed
- 1948-49 – Sea wall built in front of Coastguard Cottages
- 1952 – Shingle extraction from the east beach ceased
- 1970s – Shallow lagoon created by wildlife authorities to encourage wildlife
- 1971 – Eastern training groyne constructed fixing the mouth of the estuary on both sides.

Significance

Stage 1 - individual features

- 6.2.9 Evidence of the shifting of the shorelines and the ways in which attempts were made to control these elements are key within the context of the development of the valley and its landuse. However, most of the individual heritage features themselves score low given their modern origins. The exception to this is the New River Cut itself which is of very high importance within the context of this category. Most of the other assets within this category are naturally occurring, albeit affected by man-made changes such as sea walls, groynes etc.

Stage 2 - feature category

- 6.2.10 The wider significance of the heritage assets making up this category is of National Value as they contribute significantly to the development of the local culture. These continual changes have shaped the landuse and management of the valley significantly on a local scale through time. However, Cuckmere Haven is a unique site, which adds to its significance.

Further work

- 6.2.11 Jacobs Babbie (2005) have already undertaken considerable work on the understanding of the historical trends in the river and coastal changes of the Haven. Similarly Bannister has already looked at many documents relating to the 19th-century changes and improvements. It is therefore not thought that this theme/category should be prioritised for further work.

6.3 *Drainage and reclamation*

- 6.3.1 These features can be found on Figure 7 with the features' relative significance plotted on Figure 12. Grazing marshes are artificial environments created by areas of salt marsh, or Innings. Portions were surrounded by embankments/sea walls which separate them from, in this case, both the river and sea to prevent the ingress of salt water, and any surface water was allowed to flow away through flap sluices, of which later examples survive at OA 346 and OA 343.
- 6.3.2 Some evidence of the original creek pattern can still be seen represented by relic creeks and ponds within the current landscape, especially within the southern part of the western Innings, in the north-east of the valley to the east of the New Cut and close to the river within the sea walls. Mostly these have dried up and infilled and can be traced as slight earthworks on aerial photographs. Potentially most significant of these silted channels later is that seen running from the river, to the west as far as a

small inlet below the area of Poynings Town (OA 377). It forms a pool just outside the Innings and can be seen to have been cut in three places by the later drains of the Innings. This is discussed further below.

- 6.3.3 There are a number of theories regarding the date of the formation of the western Innings. Bannister (1999) suggests that the Innings and the drained medieval farmland on the west side of the river, has been an important feature of the valley since at least the 15th century. These areas were protected by earth bank sea walls from the tidal surges that often flooded the valley as far upstream as Alfriston and Fletching. She suggests that it is likely that the construction of the defences and that the drainage of the marshes were constructed and initially maintained by Michelham Priory.
- 6.3.4 Castleden (pers. comm. to C. Johnson) puts forward the hypothesis that refers to the fact that documentary references to embankments in the 14th century could refer to those constructed to reduce flooding and damage upstream only, and do not necessarily mean that the marshes were embanked and drained for use at this time. He accepts Bannister's conclusion that some of the banks are medieval, but of later date than the 14th century, and that the three areas may have been drained at different times, perhaps beginning as late as the mid-15th century.
- 6.3.5 Castleden suggests that given that the central part of the Innings (Square Brook and Penstock Brook) delineated by OA 381 to the north, OA 345 to the south, OA 349 in the west and OA 326 in the east, has only the faintest traces of salt marsh creeks, this may be the earliest part which was reclaimed. He suggests that given that it has been extensively drained by the regular arrangement of ditches and the fact that it is the lowest part of the marsh it may have been ploughed in the medieval period. This may have led to soil erosion, which could have been the result of excessive drying out during hot summers and wind erosion of the light bare soils. (However, borehole evidence discussed in Section 6.3. appears to suggest that this part of the Innings was never ploughed). He also suggests that the two or three remnants of salt creek existing in the northern area (Sixteen Acre Brook) may suggest that it was drained later and was not subject to the same management as the central part. Finally he suggests that the southern area (Punnings Brook and Oat Brook) has many saltmarsh creeks and was probably drained relatively late.
- 6.3.6 James (2004) suggests a two phase process of drainage with the area to the north drained earlier and the southern part at a later stage due to morphological differences between the north and south Innings (James 2004 8).
- 6.3.7 Williamson (2005) writes of coastal marshes in Suffolk that:
In terms of landscape character, the differences between the coastal marshes reclaimed before 1700, and areas only drained in the 18th and 19th centuries, are still apparent. Wetlands of the latter type usually have a highly rectilinear pattern of dykes: the former in contrast, usually include a high proportion of irregular or serpentine channels, adapted from the natural pattern of salt marsh when the areas in question were first inned. The distinction is not absolute, it is true, and the line between the two categories is sometimes hard to draw, in part because the salt marshes are seldom entirely drained by serpentine and irregular dykes, Most also feature some straight drains, evidently added at a subsequent date in order to improve drainage (40).
- 6.3.8 On this basis, given the fairly regular nature of the drains at Cuckmere the Innings may have been drained at a later medieval rather than an earlier medieval date. All that is certain from work carried out here is that the main Innings boundaries were

present on De Wards map of 1618 and include OA 349, 326, 381, 379, 345 and two ditches within the middle part of the Innings, OA 403 and 384. OA 385 may be medieval but the map is unclear at this point. The south-western boundary formed by a drain and earthwork (OA 236), while seen on the 1618 map, is mostly medieval but it is thought that the southern end has been truncated by the sea after 1839 and possibly rebuilt. A further line of an embankment (OA 380) is shown on De Ward's map of 1618, forming an outer boundary of a double boundary with OA 379 with an area of land in between. There is now a gap of around 325m between the northern end of the embankment (OA 236) and the southern end of the north-west embankment (OA 349). All the boundaries seen on the 1618 map have been grouped as medieval for the purposes of this study.

- 6.3.9 The 1618 map shows that the Innings originally extended further south and was lost to the sea sometime between 1764 and 1839. The southernmost embankment (OA 348) seen today is therefore much later than the others and may have originated as a field boundary. It is flanked to the north by anti-tank ditch (OA 204). The embankment is first shown on the Tithe Map of 1839 but not on earlier maps. It appears to have been remodelled between 1939 and 1945.
- 6.3.10 Field names of the drained areas do not give much in the way of clues regarding the dates of enclosure, most of the names are descriptive eg 16 Acre Brook, Oat Brook etc. However, the name Ponnings Brook in the south (OA 354) may suggest that this was enclosed while Ponnings Town was still in existence, suggesting that it was created by at least the 15th century, confirming a medieval date for the whole Innings.
- 6.3.11 A suggestion made here from scrutiny of the evidence available is that perhaps the now dried-up creek (OA 377) leading from the river to a small inlet just below Ponnings Town, could have allowed small boats to travel from the river to the town. This would place the port of the Town at the point where the river meets the inlet. Given that the Town and port were a short-lived creation from c 1350 to maybe the 15th century this would fit with the late medieval creation of the Innings (as opposed to the main flood embankments) as discussed above, as the ditches and embankment pool the Innings cross this meander and would therefore have had to have been created after the port went out of use. This is speculation only and only further work would prove this theory.
- 6.3.12 Within the middle Innings a system of regular, and therefore presumably later, water channels can be seen on the ground overlying the former creek system (OA 320). Castelden (pers. comm. to C. Johnson) suggests that they are for drainage created so that the land could be ploughed. However, this does not seem to be a common occurrence in the medieval period, when the marshes were predominately used for grazing. The divisions also appear very small for arable purposes.
- 6.3.13 James (2004) has attributed these features as being part of a floating water meadow system which would have helped drain and enhance this part of the Innings for perhaps early grazing (OA 350). However, no contemporary evidence suggesting use of these meadows as floating meadows in the form of sluices etc. has been identified. Neither do they exhibit the slightly raised land with sloping sides expected for this type of water meadow. It may be that they were just a series of drainage channels dug to keep this part of the marsh dryer for grazing during wetter parts of the year, when other areas would have been too wet. Whatever the function of these features they are not plotted on any maps but appear aligned on the boundaries seen on the 1764 map and may therefore be post-medieval.
- 6.3.14 A further distinct small field system within the Innings (OA 257) can be seen on aerial photographs as soil marks. It seems unlikely that these were used for anything

more than corrals for the livestock that grazed the land. Their irregularity and size may mean that they are earlier than the larger gridded ditch system within the rest of this part of the Innings (OA 350).

- 6.3.15 A distinctive bulge in the embankment (OA 326) is shown on the 1764 estate map but not on the map of 1618, indicating a possible breach of the embankment and subsequent repair between these dates and providing an insight into the constant struggle to keep the sea water out of the Innings.
- 6.3.16 The eastern half of the Valley has been studied less intensively and the first map in which it appears is that of Yeakel and Gardner in 1778-83 (Map 2). This shows that already the sea wall protecting the south-eastern part of the valley and Foxholes had been built (OA 280). It is thought that the bank was built to protect Foxhole and that it may have been constructed by militia stationed in the Haven (G. Chuter pers. comm.). This suggests that the militia were present within the valley at an earlier date than the barracks built on the east and west banks of the river (OA 295 and OA 413), which appear to date to the early 19th century. Foxhole itself was constructed in the 17th century, just above a natural inlet of the Innings.
- 6.3.17 The Yeakel and Gardner's map shows the area east of the river as all marsh. Rand's map of 1792 (Map 3), although not detailed, shows the area within the sea wall, closest to the river and to the north of Foxhole as marsh with Saltings labelled north of Foxhole. The area to the east of the sea wall is shown as blank, possibly indicating slightly drier land.
- 6.3.18 The tithe map of 1840 map (Map 5) shows a possible east-west extension to the embankment extending into the Foxhole inlet (OA 404). A further extension to this post-medieval sea wall was constructed at the mouth of Cuckmere River in the first decade of the 20th century (OA 329). This changed the course of the river, moving it away from its silty mouth at Cliff End to a point in front of Coastguard Cottages.
- 6.3.19 To the east of the river the land in the north lay unprotected by the sea wall; even after the construction of the New Cut in 1846 (OA 232) it remained prone to flooding from the natural river as evidenced by saltings still seen on the later OS maps. The New Cut was, and still is, lined by wooden features of two types; vertical posts and posts with interwoven rails. These are known as 'pole-moorings' and were used to help slow water movement adjacent to the embankments and in Sussex are usually made of elm, as this is resistant to water-rotting.

Significance

Stage 1 - individual features

- 6.3.20 West of the river all evidence of the medieval reclamation of the marsh has been scored as Very High in terms of its potential to contribute to research objectives. The associated post-medieval features constructed to enhance the drainage and use of these meadows have been scored High for the same reason. Both these medieval and post-medieval heritage assets all contribute to the creation of the historic landscape to the west of the river. The breach (OA 344) in the Innings has also been scored High as it illustrates a post-medieval example of the continuation of the battle the inhabitants would have had since the medieval period with keeping the sea out. The former creeks have been scored Medium as they reflect the landscape that pre-dated the Innings and may retain the ability to contribute to our knowledge of early landuse. The exception to this is the creek running from the River to the inlet in the west, as it may have once linked the river with a port at Poyning's Town. This has therefore

been graded as Very High for its potential contribution to research objectives for the Valley.

- 6.3.21 Other later elements of drainage and reclamation, in particular to the east of the River, are also significant. The eastern sea wall is of Very High significance given its influence on the eastern side of the valley. The line of wooden posts (OA 340) alongside the New River, given their origin in local traditions have a High value in terms of the development of culture.

Stage 2 - feature category

- 6.3.22 In terms of the overall significance of the drainage and reclamation features cartographic evidence suggests that the elements related to the drainage of the Innings and reclamation of the marsh have survived since the medieval period with some modifications seen dating from the post-medieval period. These features, although currently without official designation, should be considered as significant heritage assets of Local or perhaps Regional importance, given their survival.

Further work

- 6.3.23 Further documentary research and archaeological evaluation could be undertaken to clarify the date of the Innings and the relationship between its elements, that is, was it all built in one phase? Also it would be important to explore the possibility of the former creek being the link between the port and river. This could be linked to research into the extent of Michelham's Priory's involvement in the initial drainage and subsequent influence.
- 6.3.24 Documentary research could be undertaken to find out exactly when the sea wall to the east of the river was built and the circumstances behind its construction, that is its relationship with the Napoleonic troops.
- 6.3.25 One query that Bannister raised was: 'What is not clear is where the large amount of earth required for the embankments came from'. A closer examination of the archives for the Commission of Levels may provide further information (Bannister 1999). This could also be carried out.

6.4 *Settlement, farming and landuse*

- 6.4.1 To clarify the narrative this category has been divided into seven sub-categories and reported on in five sections. The sub-categories are:
- Farming and landuse
 - Historic building
 - Former settlement
 - Industrial
 - Ponds and troughs
 - Find spots
 - Routeways
- 6.4.2 Routeways, while part of this category, are covered under Communications Section 6.6. All settlement, farming and landuse features can be found on Figure 8. The

relative significances of each feature are shown on Figure 12. A summary of the overall significance of the whole category can be found at the end of this section.

Farming and landuse

- 6.4.3 The Marshes on the west side of the river are likely to have been used for grazing since the development of the first sea defences and drainage in the medieval period. Prior to this the downland on either side of the valley appears to have been used for sheep grazing from the prehistoric period onwards. Iron Age field systems survive on the downland to the east of the study area, just to the north of the Seven Sisters.
- 6.4.4 The rich soils of the reclaimed marsh made excellent grazing and in theory once the salt had been washed out could be used as arable. This however, depended on maintaining the embankments so preventing either seepage or catastrophic flooding which, from documentary evidence, appeared to occur in the Haven regularly in the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 6.4.5 Most marshes were grazed by sheep till the Second World War, during and after which many were once more ploughed. The western side of Cuckmere Marsh is one of the few areas of marshland of which the majority has always been retained as grazing. Evidence from the boreholes seems to confirm this longevity of landuse. They show that the upper layers in the western part of the marsh are very homogenous suggesting that the land had consistently been used for pasture or grazing with no real evidence for tillage. Work for this project suggests an area in the north may be an exception to this and this is discussed below.
- 6.4.6 The stocking densities on the marshes could be very high. Traditional management of the marshes involved keeping the water levels in the dykes relatively high during the summer, for they not only drained the land but also served as watery fences which defined different properties and kept livestock from wandering. In most cases the dykes also provided the animals with drinking water, although nearest the sea this could be quite brackish. An interesting feature identified by James (2004) is what has been interpreted as an access ramp which links the top of the embankment just to the west of the river (OA 326) with the Innings surface. This has been interpreted as a possible loading ramp allowing stock to be moved from the Innings into a holding pen then into boat on the river (OA 261).
- 6.4.7 To the east of the river the landuse appears to have been more varied. Evidence suggests that all the land was used as saltings, which is discussed below (Industrial section). However, evidence also suggests that in the post-medieval and modern periods the land was used for arable purposes.
- 6.4.8 Evidence for this is in the form of a series of parallel, narrow earthworks seen on aerial photographs dating to 1947 (Plate 1) and less distinctly in 1951 and 1958 (Plates 2 and 4). They are seen throughout the Foxhole inlet as slight, parallel, east west banks (OA 333, 339) and on a different alignment in a separate field to the south west of this (OA 386). Similar indistinct earthworks also seen in north of Innings to the west of River (OA 389). These low earthwork banks are thought to be evidence of post-medieval/modern ploughing utilising deep furrows for drainage, possibly reflecting the use of a steam plough (D Grady, NMR, pers. comm.). Any ploughing could only have occurred after the building of the Sea Wall along the eastern bank of the River, which appears to have occurred in the late 18th century at least (OA 280).
- 6.4.9 Marshes were often ploughed in the 17th and 18th century and maps of this date often show them named 'ploughed marsh' or 'rye' marsh (Williamson, 2005, 44). The pressure increased to convert marsh to arable in the late 18th century coincided with the Napoleonic blockade as grain prices rose. However, once prices fell back after

the war by the time of the Tithe Maps few of the marshes were still arable. This is the case here, where there is no suggestion that the fields were arable on the tithe maps. It is also possible that the fields were ploughed during and just after the Second World War when much uncultivated land was brought into productive use. While during the walkover hints of earthworks were seen in this area, no obvious evidence survives, either on the ground or from recent aerial photographs.

- 6.4.10 Field names of the drained areas do not give much in the way of clues regarding landuse as most of the names are descriptive eg 16 Acre Brook, Oat Brook etc. However, the fields to the east are mainly referred to as saltings and this is discussed below. All field names have been plotted on Figure 16.

Significance

Stage 1 - individual features

- 6.4.11 The cultivation earthworks have been scored high as they add an interesting dimension to the knowledge of landuse in the area and may link back to an important event in our history in the form of the Napoleonic blockade or if later, the Dig for Victory campaign.

Further work

- 6.4.12 It would be very useful to know when the eastern and northern parts of the marsh were ploughed, by what means and why? If they were ploughed as part of the Second World War effort then it should be possible to trace members of the public who remember this. More generally further work on land ownership would be useful, to include manors, estates and farms.

Historic buildings and historic settlement

- 6.4.13 Two sub-categories have been combined here: historic buildings and settlement.
- 6.4.14 The only known building, apart from Coastguard and Shiplap Cottages and cable house known to have been built within or close to the Haven is that shown on the DeWard's map (Map 1) on the west bank of the river as it runs into the sea at the foot of Cliff End (OA 321). This building is not described but is shown as being owned by John Gage. This may have been to control access to the river for trade, from pirates and smuggling or may have been a residence on the cliff with a sea view. The development of Coastguard and Shiplap Cottages are discussed in the map regression in Section 5.8 above and 6.5 below and the Cable House in Section 6.6 below.
- 6.4.15 While not strictly within the valley there are two main areas of historic settlement and two manors which would have had the most influence on how the valley was used. Poynings Town to the west (OA 401) and the deserted village of Exceat just to the east of the Valley formed the two key settlements. The position of Exceat is marked by a stone on the site of the former medieval church (OA 242). In 1460 only two houses remained and the church was in ruins. It may have been a Plague casualty but local tradition (supported in part by the Nonarum Inquisitiones) favours devastation by marauding Frenchmen. It is likely to have been a combination of these factors and/or a retreat of settlement from marginal lands.
- 6.4.16 Poynings was a new town created in c 1350 and was abandoned not long after, although the only reference to its abandonment found as part of this study comes from a document referred to by Bannister (1999) which says of it 'While this new town was in course of construction or soon after its completion. French raids utterly destroyed the new venture, or possibly a fire started by accident, and the venture was

abandoned. that the site was short-lived would account for the paucity of documentary evidence' (Bannister 1999, quoting Burleigh 1973).

- 6.4.17 The location of the town can be seen on aerial photographs (Plate 6) and the field name Walls Brow, which refers to the extant foundations visible until WW1. It lay on the first terrace just to the west of the Haven. Poynings Town merged with Chyngton to try and prevent the continued raids that eventually, along with the plague, devastated them. By the Tudor period the medieval port and settlement had shrunk to a large farm (Bannister, 1999).
- 6.4.18 The location of the port has not been identified to date. A tentative location has been suggested in the west of the Haven, discussed above in Section 6.3. It was unlikely to have been located on low ground associated with the Valley given the possibilities of flooding or on the coast itself due to its vulnerabilities. Alternatively ships simply anchored in the Haven and then brought cargo ashore onto the high single beach via smaller boats that could then either unload and transfer their goods, or navigate their way up the river to Exceat and Chyngton, then head directly into the Sussex Weald.
- 6.4.19 The manorial centre at West Dean, dating to the 12th century, would have had important associations with the Haven, particularly the eastern side. This is now ruinous (OA 303, 304), demolished in the 19th century, although a number of buildings still exist in the area (OA 299-308). The oldest surviving buildings at West Dean are the early medieval Church (OA 306) and the medieval Old Rectory (OA 307). None of these buildings are visible from the Valley.
- 6.4.20 The manor at 'Chintinges' was granted to Michelham Priory by Gilbert De Aquila in the reign of Henry III in the early 14th century and from then on its fate was tied up in the development of Poynings Town. It became a grange when a small chapel was built. The manor house partially survives, known as Chyngton House (OA 311). None of the buildings at Chyngton are visible from the Valley.
- 6.4.21 Foxhole Farm (OA 252) dates to the 17th century and is an example of a courtyard farmhouse. It has been protected from the river since at the least the late 18th century by the sea wall and lies in an inlet just upon the higher ground overlooking the valley. It is screened from the valley in the west by thick vegetation.

Significance

Stage 1 - individual features

- 6.4.22 Both the DMVs are significant but Poynings Town perhaps more so given its close relationship to the Haven itself and potential port. The site of Poynings Town is also important because it provides evidence of snapshot in time of a late medieval town which presumably was only of one short-lived phase. This DMV has a Very High value for both its potential contribution to research objectives and the development of culture. The DMV at Exceat is of High value for the same reasons. While the two manorial centres would have influenced the Haven during the medieval period, their potential contribution to our knowledge of the Haven is limited. The current buildings are a distance away from the haven and are not visible from the Haven itself. The historic and listed buildings therefore are given values of between Low and Medium for these reasons.
- 6.4.23 The site of the building seen on the 1618 map (OA 321) has a Very High value in terms of research objectives, ie what it could potentially tell us of its function and how it related to the Haven and its use. Coastguard and Shiplap Cottages are totally integral to the Haven and are of Very High and High value in terms of their

contribution to the development of culture within the valley. Coastguard Cottages scores slightly higher given its direct associations with the long traditions of protecting the coast from smuggling activities.

Further work

- 6.4.24 Archaeological fieldwork, perhaps including geophysics and excavation at Poynings Town would reveal its form and extent. It would be also interesting to discover when exactly the town was abandoned and whether there was a port in the inlet as very tentatively suggested here.
- 6.4.25 Bannister recommends further research into the manorial development of Chyngton and medieval settlement from detailed study of the manorial documents.
- 6.4.26 Further research, in comparable detail with the western side of the river, also needs to be carried out for the eastern side. This would include looking at estate and parish records for West Dean and Exceat in the Willingdon Hundred within the Rape of Pevensey.

Industrial

- 6.4.27 The marshes at Cuckmere have a tradition of salt making, seen through both documentary and field name evidence. There is tentative evidence that a Roman saltern has been discovered in the valley (OA 277). Jacobs Babbie states that the Domesday Book records the lower Cuckmere Valley as being used for saltworking in the early medieval period, leading Robinson and Williams (1983 quoted in Jacobs Babbie) to the conclusion that the area was still tidally inundated during this time. Domesday records 294 saltworks in Sussex, a larger number than for any other county (Brandon 114). More understanding of the salt industry could be obtained from field names studies. Before the marshlands were reclaimed at the mouths of the streams the great floods of this period deposited sheets of salt water over them which was exploited for the salt. There are references to 'open salts below Exceat Bridge' in a document of 1803 (Bannister 1999, 25).
- 6.4.28 There are a number of different ways to reclaim salt from the sea. Earlier forms of salterns, such as the Roman example supposedly found in the Haven (OA 277) were often evidenced by red hills – irregular mounds of salt production debris. No tell-tale salt debris mounds appear to exist within the Haven which would be a classic confirmation that saltings did exist in the post-medieval period (Bewley 1998, 85). Nor are there any obvious evaporation ponds, usually circular, which helped form the concentrated brine solution before being taken away to be boiled (although see OA 262 below).
- 6.4.29 Salting here is likely to have taken place on a more informal basis such as that described by Brandon (1974) in his book on the Sussex Landscape. 'A medieval activity which has left its own impressions on the Levels and other Sussex marshes is salt-making. Every summer the salt boilers moved on to the rapidly retreating marsh edges and retained salt-water trenches or temporary dykes, from whence it was led off into shallow clay-floored pans to await evaporation. The brine was then leached out and boiled in salt-houses. This process would have led to low mounds of residues, although not all survive' (1974, 114).
- 6.4.30 Once the western marshes of the Haven were protected from the sea by embankments it is unlikely that salting occurred here after this date. In the eastern part of the Valley the sea wall protecting the southern part of the marsh was only constructed in the late 18th century leading to the possibility of Salting occurring throughout this part of the Haven up until this date. The widespread nature of this activity here is reflected in

the field names seen on the later tithe map (Figure 16), as they all make reference to Saltings, reflecting this pre-sea wall landuse. Two of these fields, formerly Sheep Salts (OA 372) and Haven salts (OA 373), were totally protected from further flooding by the construction of the sea wall and were subsequently ploughed. Any above ground evidence for salterns in these fields would have been removed by ploughing.

- 6.4.31 However, not all the fields were protected by the sea wall and from map evidence salting appears to have continued in the north of the Haven and between the sea wall and river just to the east of the river. For example, the tithe map records Upper Salts (OA 358) and Lower Salts (OA 359) to the east of New Cut but to the west of the original river and were still labelled Salts in 1878. It is likely that West Salts (OA 369) and Salts (OA 375) in the same area also continued as Salts till at least this period. Interestingly, while not evident on any historic aerial photographs, analysis of Google Maps in the area of Upper Salts shows what may be a more intensive evidence of salt production in the form of widely spaced parallel ditches, now filled in, linked to more substantial channels (Plate 8) which appear to feed into a large pond and bare area. The pond could perhaps be the remnant of an evaporation pond (OA 262) and the patch of bare earth to its south-west could also have been used for evaporation purposes, hence its bare nature.
- 6.4.32 The 2nd edition OS map (Map 8) does not show any salts labelled. However, the 1911 map labels the thin strip between the river and the sea wall in the south of the Haven as Saltings for the first time (OA 387 and 386). This is seen on all subsequent maps to 1939. An area of Saltings is also labelled for the first time at the mouth of the river in 1938/9 (OA 407).
- 6.4.33 A further area where evidence of salting survives is just to the north of the medieval Innings, still unprotected from flooding. (OA 267). This can be seen today as a large pond immediately to the north of the Innings on the west side of the Cuckmere River. It is shown as 'saltern' on all OS maps from c 1878 up to 1961, although it is not shown thus on the Seaford tithe map of 1841. When visited it was full of water therefore its form could not be determined. Early aerial photographs show it as a pond although, recent aerial photographs (Google Maps) show it dried out as a former dendritic creek system feeding off the New cut (Plate 9).
- 6.4.34 An additional area may also exist within the apex of field formerly known as Sheep Salts where an area of prominent earthworks can be seen on the ground (OA 412). They take the form of relatively widely-spaced parallel banks with water-filled ditches (when visited). They are of a different form to the other saltings in the area but may have formed a similar function. Alternatively they could be surviving elements of the recent ploughing in this area (see Section 6.4).
- 6.4.35 Other industrial activity represented within the Haven is lime production. One has been identified in the Esher as being of medieval date (OA 285). Two have been identified from the 1st edition OS map (OA 286 and OA 288). None were seen during the walkover survey. Given the position of the first so close to the sea it may have been eroded away through coastal erosion. The other (OA 288) is set further back and a small quarry exists in approximately the same location, which could represent the remains of this feature.
- 6.4.36 The beach was utilised for gravel/pebble extraction briefly in the mid 20th century by the East Sussex Transport and Trading Company. The gravel was taken up to Exceat to the boathouse (OA 254) by a specially constructed tramway (OA 233), this is discussed in more detail in the 'Communications' section.

Significance

Stage 1 - individual features

- 6.4.37 Saltings were common along this part of the coast. However, the salt produced from the Haven would have had an important contribution to the local economy from at least the medieval period up until the 19th century and from map evidence into the early 20th century. Evidence from historic maps show that Saltings occupied a considerable part of the Haven, therefore are of High to Very High value in terms of both research objectives and the development of culture in the valley. Those features where there is physical evidence surviving for the creation of salt have been scored Very High and those where the evidence is mainly map based are High.
- 6.4.38 Other evidence of industry with the valley is represented by the limekilns and gravel quarrying. Both are of interest as they add an additional dimension to understanding how the Haven has been exploited over time. The limekilns (assuming they are extant) have been judged as of High and Medium significance with the potential medieval one scored High.

Further work

- 6.4.39 Further research into the saltings, their date and form would help understand the development and significance of this industry in the valley. Further work on the ground should be undertaken to try and identify areas where evidence still survives and how it all fits together. The survival of the two limekilns OA 285 and OA 286 should be confirmed or otherwise.

Ponds and Troughs

- 6.4.40 Seventeen ponds or troughs exist within the Haven. Ten are first seen on 19th-century maps (OA 243, 246, 247, 248, 260, 264, 268, 294, 322, 327), although some of these could be older. Seven are first seen on 20th-century maps (OA 338, 239, 245, 249, 259, 262, 263). The majority, especially in the west of the Valley, were probably used as waterholes for grazing stock, perhaps to prevent stock damaging either themselves or the drainage channels, which may also have been fenced. Many have spoil around them suggesting regular maintenance.
- 6.4.41 In the east of the Haven some may have been used as evaporation ponds, as suggested for OA 262, within the area of possible salting OA 358. This could apply to OA 268, 262, 239 and 249. No ponds survive in the area of ploughed marsh except the relic stream channel (OA 327).

Significance

Stage 1 - individual features

- 6.4.42 To the west of the river it is likely that the ponds were used for stock which makes them an integral part of the grazing management regime. To the east of the river the earlier ponds are less likely to be for stock given that the main historic landuse here appears to be salting from at least the 19th century. All the ponds, with the exception of two more modern ones (OA 259 and the trough at OA 295) have been scored Low with the exception of OA 262 and 327, which have a higher potential to contribute to research objectives, and have therefore been scored High and Medium respectively.

Further work

- 6.4.43 Further work could be done on the ponds to look at typological differences between the ponds to the east and west of the river, to try and identify if each were created to fulfil different purposes. Sampling could also be carried out on those ponds to the east to discover evidence of salting and on both sets to ascertain dates. Dependent on the results of the sampling some of these ponds may rise in value.

Find spot

- 6.4.44 Find spots are discussed in the introductory section. While the value of the find is often significant, its removal makes the site of the find spot less important. However, the location of known find spots may increase the likelihood of further discoveries in these areas and therefore all find spots have been scored High (OA 265 – Roman urn) or Very High (OA 241 – Palaeolithic axes, OA 292 – Neolithic flints, OA 293 – Mesolithic cores) for the potential of these sites to inform research objectives.
- 6.4.45 Further work would be advantageous at all these sites to further define the archaeological potential in these areas for the periods represented.

Overall significance of Settlement, Farming and Landuse category

Stage 2 - feature category

- 6.4.46 The significance of the Settlement, Farming and Landuse category lies within its range of inter-related components, providing coherence and diversity. Within the valley is surviving and often visible evidence within the landscape for medieval and post-medieval grazing management, a number of post-medieval industrial process and associated settlements. Further work is needed to define the pre-medieval potential, but finds discovered to date suggest that the Haven may also have been utilised during these earlier periods. Given the diversity of activities and periods represented the significance/overall value for the valley is of Regional Importance.

Further research potential in the Settlement, Farming and Landuse category

- 6.4.47 In addition to the work suggested above for each sub-category the use of the Haven within living memory would also make a very valuable oral historic project. This would enable some of the queries raised in this study to be answered including if anyone remembers cultivation and or saltings or ploughing in the valley. It would also allow the collation of local photographs and general memories of the Haven.

6.5 *Military and Defence*

- 6.5.1 These features can be found on Figure 10. The relative significances of each feature are summarised on Figure 13.

Pre-19th century

- 6.5.2 The Cuckmere Valley, a gap in the coast otherwise dominated by high chalk cliffs, has traditionally been seen as a weak point in the coastal defences of southern England and as a result, has been a focus for attention at times of national threat. The site's geographical location also meant that it was a focus for smuggling activity throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods as a convenient and relatively isolated location in which to deposit and pick up illicit cargoes that could then be moved rapidly inland along the river.

- 6.5.3 Smuggling activity probably followed this *modus operandi* if sufficient numbers were available, although such activities appear to have taken place under the cover of darkness. In other cases the cargo was floated off from a ship and left to beach itself at high tide from where it was recovered from the high-water mark, again at night, to be taken up river.
- 6.5.4 Cuckmere Haven had been referred to as a port from the medieval period, although it was never clear as to what facilities, if any, existed at the original mouth of the river at the base of Cliff End. De Ward's map of 1618 shows a single building (OA 321) at the mouth of the river, although this is only symbolically shown and could represent anything from a substantial structure to a fisherman's hut. No evidence for any such structure exists at this point today.
- 6.5.5 This section of coast had often been subject to raids by French pirates throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods with the settlements at Seaford and Chyngton suffering in particular. It is also possible that coastal communities were also preyed on by 'corsair' pirates of the 16th and early 17th centuries, although no records of this were noted during the course of this study. Attempts to police the coast date back to as early as 1295, although the heyday for smuggling was the 18th century. Efforts through this period were often hampered by a lack of manpower, with Excise men finding themselves outnumbered by smugglers. This situation was made worse in the 1770s by the absence of much of the army that was then fighting in the American War of Independence. At this time there are reports of smugglers openly landing cargo during the day in the knowledge that they could fight off any attacks by the small garrison of Excise men stationed at Cuckmere.

The 19th century

- 6.5.6 The early 19th-century threat of invasion from Napoleonic France led to the construction of barrack blocks in 1804 (OA 296, 298) on the first terrace above the eastern bank of the Cuckmere, a few hundred metres north of the beach. A further barrack block was constructed on the west side of the river (OA 413), south of Outbrook Bank. This is labelled on Greenwood Map of Sussex in 1825 and possibly on the OS 1 inch map of 1813. This rise in local troop numbers put an end to much of the smuggling activity, although it did continue into the mid 19th century. The bases of the eastern barracks still survive and are now a scheduled monument. Comparison of the features visible on the ground and the mapped constraint area of the scheduled monument strongly suggests that the mapped constraint area (and the GIS shp file supplied by the NMR) are located too far to the north and that many extant features are actually outside of this mapped constraint area.
- 6.5.7 Coastguard Cottages (OA 272) were built shortly after the barracks in 1822, replacing the Blockade Watch House which had been used by the small force of Excise and marines engaged in anti-smuggling activity at the beginning of the 19th century. Shiplap Cottage (OA 408) was labelled as Officers Quarters on the OS map of 1898.

The 20th century

- 6.5.8 The former and extant military and defensive features can be broken down into three broad groups:
- Defensive sites and installations
 - Decoy features
 - Training features

- 6.5.9 During the First World War a camp were established at West Brow (OA 402, MES1719) which was used by the 36th (Ulster) Division, the BWIR and finally Canadian troops, who returned to the area in the Second World War. The Cuckmere Valley was much used for training (Butler 2010, 14; Commonwealth War Graves Commission website).
- 6.5.10 The Second World War brought the threat of an imminent invasion. The Cuckmere Valley had been identified by the Germans as a potential landing point as early as 1939 and the area had been extensively mapped by them from the air in early 1940 as part of preparations for Operation Sealion. The valley was the intended target of the German 6th Mountain Division.
- 6.5.11 Aware of the obvious threat, the British prepared a series of defences, including anti-tank ditches (OA 204) and obstacles including concrete cubes (OA 225, 275, 279) and 'Dragon's Teeth' triangular concrete barricades (OA 270) that barred access to the beach and the mouth of the river (which was now located at the foot of Coastguard Cottages following the creation of the 'New Cut' (OA 232) in 1846). A number of inscriptions dating to the 1940s have been etched into the concrete of some of these features, especially those in the anti-tank obstacles.
- 6.5.12 A series of pillboxes (OA 200-203, 206, 212, 215, 217, 220-1, 223, 227-8, 274, 276), was also constructed in association with the ditches and tank traps along the length of the Valley. The beaches and valley floor itself were extensively mined (OA 204, 218, 222, 226, 291). The aim of these defences was to prevent the invasion troops from forcing their way up the Cuckmere Valley where they would link up with parachute troops who would be dropped near Brighton. Many of the defensive features still survive, including some of the 'Dragon's Teeth' and cube defence lines, some sections of the anti-tank ditches and most of the pillboxes.
- 6.5.13 The construction of these facilities and the units involved are noted in detail in Section 2.1 of the *Defence of Britain Project Assessment*. The units involved included:
- 45 Division to 1941
 - 55 Division from 1941
 - 7th Devonshires
 - 10th Royal Sussex
 - 6th Cheshires
 - 9th King's
 - various Royal Artillery units
 - 16th Bn, Sussex Home Guard
- 6.5.14 Coastguard Cottages were the battle headquarters at differing times of a company of 10th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment and of 'B' Coy 6th Battalion Cheshire Regiment, and a defensive loophole can be seen in the south-west wall of brick outhouse.
- 6.5.15 There is a possibility that the 1940s defences can be phased. The cylindrical pillboxes OA 201 and 221 appear to be examples of early types of pillbox in locations that do

not appear to be integrated components of the defensive structure evident elsewhere in the Haven.

- 6.5.16 More detailed analysis of the defensive scheme can also undertaken by analysing the location, arcs of fire and weapon types likely to be used in each location, taking into account areas of dead ground and obstacles such as minefields and anti-tank ditches. It is possible that there was an element of careful vertical location to some of the pillboxes, in particular OA 215 and 217, which may have been carefully sited so as not to be visible from the beach and to have been able to dominate by fire the ground in the lee of the anti-tank wall OA 269.
- 6.5.17 A series of lights was placed along the valley in an attempt to divert night bombers away from Newhaven Harbour, known as a 'QL' decoy site. None of these survive although contemporary plans of their locations survive in the historic record (Longstaff-Tyrrell, 2000). This was introduced in 1941 using basic reed harbour lights laid out in the Haven. The pattern of decoy lights was modified in 1942 to reflect changes in the installations at Newhaven Harbour prior to Operation Jubilee (the Dieppe raid; Dobinson 2000, 179, 199) and again in February 1944 as part of the huge deception effort known as Operation Fortitude. The latter was a scheme to divert Axis resources away from the assault landings of Operation Overlord. There is thought to be only one recorded instance of an air-raid on the decoy site, late in June of 1944 (*ibid* 203).

New features

- 6.5.18 Four new military features or groups of features were identified during the course of the project:
- A possible communications trench between pill-boxes OA 220 and 221
 - Various craters evident on an AP of 1951 (OA 390-393) - possibly resulting from artillery or mortar fire during the use of the Haven as a training area
 - The possible weapon pits OA 338
 - The memorial cairn (OA 336)
- 6.5.19 Cuckmere Haven was used by Canadian troops training for the Dieppe landings in 1942. Large numbers of Canadians were stationed in East Sussex during the war and Cuckmere appears to have been used both for training and for the temporary billeting of troops. The recently constructed monument (OA 336) refers to a bombing incident in 1942, in which a number of Canadians were said to have been killed. This monument has also been adopted as a memorial to those killed in the Dieppe raid.
- 6.5.20 The memorial was based on an unsubstantiated account from a late Home Guard farm worker who stated that a German fighter swept into the coast and fired at Canadians camped near the estuary. He claimed a number of casualties were sustained, yet no official records have been satisfactorily linked to confirm this attack.

Significance of military features

Stage 1 - individual features

- 6.5.21 The surviving World War II defences are important heritage assets in that they document one of the most significant periods in recent British history (with a strong Canadian emphasis). As a group they are very significant assets to future tourism in

the area, particularly in relation to educational visits. The threat posed to the surviving features from any future plans to return the valley to being a 'normally functioning estuary' should be closely monitored as they form such a significant part of Cuckmere's heritage.

6.5.22 The particular value of this group of heritage assets is that despite the removal of some individual elements, the defensive landscape still retains a high degree of *coherency* (it can be understood as a collective whole and as a series of individual features) and *visibility* (it can be easily seen without specialist understanding or interpretative assistance).

6.5.23 The Defence of Britain Project assessment of Defence Area 1 describes the Haven resources thus:

'The Cuckmere Haven defences provide a very good example of coastal anti-invasion defence in a location that has excellent public access. It is documented that this would have been a key point in the German invasion. The surviving combination of differing types of coastal defence works - pillboxes, anti-tank ditches, and anti-tank blocks - coupled with a ready appreciation of the defence components that have now been removed, make the area one of particular importance. The symbolism of this location, flanked by the iconic white cliffs, spells out well the message of Britain's defiance in 1940.'

6.5.24 Those features of High value for both research objectives and in particular cultural developments are the two anti-tank ditches (OA 221 290 and 269), the two pill boxes (OA220 and 221), the anti-tank wall (OA 270), the anti-tank blocks (OA 271), the stone memorial (OA 336) and the site of the 1914 barracks (OA 402). Those of Very High value are the Napoleonic Barracks sites on both the east and west banks of the Haven (OA 296, 298, OA 413). The High sensitivity accorded to the apparently mundane features such as the anti-tank ditches reflects the comparative rarity of such features and their physical prominence in the surviving defence landscape of the 1940s.

6.5.25 The more modest scores given to the pillboxes, for example, reflect that these are relatively common features. However, these features have the potential to assume a greater sensitivity when forming part of a coherent group of diverse forms, for example the complex identified here as OA 200/221. The Low sensitivity scores given to non-extant features underline their invisibility as historic landscape and discernible archaeological features but does not necessarily equate to a low collective value.

Stage 2 - feature class

6.5.26 This landscape was described by Foot (2006, 628) thus:

'Perhaps the best illustration of a coastal defensive area where a range of differing defence features components can be seen...'

6.5.27 It may be reasonable, therefore, to assess the overall sensitivity or significance of this landscape as of National Significance. This assessment is supported by:

- Rarity - probably the best example of a group of c 20 such landscapes noted in Foot (2006, 41-48)
- Diversity - diverse range of forms present, from small concrete blocks to very substantial earthworks

- Visibility - key features are obvious to the untrained eye and can be perceived as part of a greater whole
- Coherency - most of the key defence features are present in a state that permits an understanding of their function and inter-relationships
- Sense of place - the Sussex coast of the 1940s, a vulnerable point in geographical and military terms, flanked by the iconic white cliffs
- Access - a high degree of existing public access and facilities supporting such access (eg car-parks, established paths, tea-shop, visitor centre)
- Heritage Asset Potential - a relatively modest programme of further work could very significantly improve the visibility and accessible interpretative value of individual elements and the collective whole

Opportunities for further work

- Ensure that the Scheduled Monument constraint area for the eastern barracks is revised
- Reconstruction of the 1940s defensive landscape through contacts with veterans (Local branch of Royal British Legion; Canadian equivalent) and locals, close analysis of AP and any surviving documents, consultation with experts, analysis of weapon capabilities, arcs and ranges, areas of ‘dead ground’ and obstacles such as minefields and anti-tank ditches
- Recording the inscriptions in the 1940s concrete and especially those in the anti-tank obstacles (eg <http://www.pillbox.org.uk/pillblogs/detail.asp?ID=108>)
- A closer look at the complex of buildings in the area of Coastguard and Shiplap Cottages for defence features now obscured by outbuildings or repairs eg loopholes, ‘mouseholes’ or similar
- Bannister suggests that further documentary research using archives in the Public Record Office belonging to the various ward departments into the coastal defences and the training that was carried out at the Haven

6.6 Communications

- 6.6.1 These features can be found on Figure 9. The relative significances of each feature are summarised on Figure 13.
- 6.6.2 The river itself is an important communication route from the sea into the interior of the county. This meant easy export and import of goods. There may also have been a direct link from the river to Poyning's Town discussed in Section 6.4. A number of medieval routeways lie close to the Haven. An east-west road linking Lewes and Eastbourne crosses the Valley at The Golden Galleon (OA 397), over a bridge which may have Saxon origins, therefore suggesting the same date for the road itself. The route would have also given access from Seaford to the manors in the east. A farm track now marks the line of an old Drove way that originally linked the Haven to Chyngton (OA 398). This can be seen as a hollow way on aerial photographs dating to the 1960s and is also likely to date to the medieval period. Chyngton Lane is also an historic routeway from the Lewes - Eastbourne Road to the farm and coastguard station (OA 399) (Bannister 32). A road is shown running down from the main road east of Exceat bridge to Foxhole (OA 406) on the map of 1778-1783 (Map 2). This road is followed along much of its length by the later tramway. It is shown in detail

on Rand's map of 1782 (OA 329). A further road linking Foxhole to the bridge runs over the top of the bluff (OA 405) first seen on the title map and which is still a path. Foxhole itself was constructed in the 17th century just above a natural inlet of the Innings.

- 6.6.3 The sites of three ferry crossings have been identified from historic maps from 1878-1909 (OA 328, 300, 324). The site of the earliest (OA 324) lies *c* 355 metres to the north-east of Coastguard Cottages. Its location is marked today by a low mound of rubble. It is not shown on the second edition map of *c* 1890 but reappears at this position in *c* 1909 and 1929. Stepping stones are recorded across the channel behind sea wall on eastern side of Cuckmere River (OA 256) and appear for the first time on OS map dating from 1911 but have disappeared by the time of the 1929 OS issue. There is nothing visible on the ground here.
- 6.6.4 The beach was utilised in the mid 20th century by the East Sussex Transport and Trading Company. They extracted gravel that was taken up to Exceat to the boathouse (OA 254), a distance of just over a mile, on a 2-foot-gauge tramway (OA 233) that was constructed in the early 1930s and which was finally closed in 1964. A sidings with a number of carriages can be seen on an aerial photograph of 1951 (OA 395, Plate 4), which also shows a carriage actually on the trackway itself.
- 6.6.5 The northern half of this tramway follows a road first seen on the 1778-1783 map linking Foxhole and the main road (OA 406). The southern part ran along the sea defence embankment (OA 280). The route of this former tramway has become a footpath along the eastern side of the river. A few fragments of track have survived both *in situ* (OA 331) and as loose rails. These remaining fragments are significant in that they represent the final remains of Cuckmere's short-lived industrial past.
- 6.6.6 The Anglo-American Cable Company laid its first cross-channel cable from Cuckmere to Le Harve in 1900, linking London with Paris and (via the transatlantic cable from Cornwall to St. Johns) with New York. The Post Office laid two further cross-channel cables in 1917 and 1918, both of which reached land at Cap d'Antifer, about ten miles up the coast from Le Havre. Subsequent lines were laid from Cuckmere prior to the Second World War. A former cable station (OA 342), built in 1917, still exists immediately to the north east of Coastguard Cottages. It was later used as a machine gun emplacement (OA 230). Photographs taken during or shortly after the war (Longstaff-Tyrrell 2004, 22) show extensive damage thought to have been caused by mortar and artillery fire during use of the Haven as a training area in the later stages of the war. The same photograph appears to show that the structure had been reinforced with a poured concrete roof in the 1940s and may have formed part of the local defences. After the war it was restored and used as a fisherman's cottage and a holiday home. It is uncertain if the 'restored' condition of the house closely resembled the earlier form.
- 6.6.7 It is possible that the linear earthwork recorded during the walkover survey on the west side of the Haven (OA 335) may indicate the line of the cable inland from the cable house (OA 342), as suggested by the map shown on page 25 of Longstaff-Tyrrell 2004. The cable was also accessed in the 1940s in a hut near to the Golden Galleon public house (*ibid.*, 15), just outside of the Study Area.

Significance

Stage 1 - individual features

- 6.6.8 There is a growing sense of interest among the general public for Cable Stations which must now be recognised as heritage assets. Although no longer in use, the history of cable laying can be a tourist attraction, especially when presented as a part of 20th-century social history.
- 6.6.9 The Tramway and cable house are both unusual features to be found in this context but of High value in their role in the later use of the valley and for their roles in the cultural development of the valley.

Stage 2 - feature class

- 6.6.10 Overall the significance for evidence for communications in the valley is dominated by the Cable House and associated elements. The overall value of these features could be seen as having a International value, given the links to the Continent and America. There are better examples in better condition around the coast but it has an interesting history, being converted to a military bunker and then to a holiday home.

Further work

- 6.6.11 Further examination of the Cable House and tracing the route of the cables would add to the understanding of this feature.

6.7 Recreation

- 6.7.1 While there is no individual illustration to map these particular activities Cuckmere Haven and the stretch of the Cuckmere River to the south of Exceat Bridge have become a centre for tourism in the later 20th and early 21st centuries.
- 6.7.2 The creation of the New Cut in 1846 (OA 232) has unintentionally created both an ideal facility for boating and for geographical study, in the meanders of the former river course. The former river has become increasingly an attraction through the 20th century due to its fine examples of senile fluvial meanders and the surrounding marshes, which are a haven for birds. The flat waters of the former river became an ideal location for boating, particularly kayaking and a canoeing school has been established here.
- 6.7.3 The surrounding downland, with its spectacular coastal views, in particular the first terrace above the east bank of the river, has become a prime location for camping and caravanning in the 20th century, although the caravan park, located close to the site of the former Napoleonic barracks (OA 296), was removed following the creation of the Seven Sisters Country Park in the late 1960s. Camping is still a popular activity in the area. There is possible evidence for a possible encampment, predating the caravan site, seen on an aerial photograph of 1951 on the first terrace to the east of, and above the Cuckmere River (OA 396).
- 6.7.4 The Valley and the beach has become increasingly popular with walkers through the 20th century with its famous views across to the Seven Sisters cliffs to the east and Coastguard Cottages to the west, both of which have featured as locations in television programs and recent films such as *Robin Hood*; *Prince of Thieves* and *Atonement*.
- 6.7.5 The Seven Sisters are one of the most photographed and painted scenes in the country. Bannister summarises a few key examples, correctly suggesting that a whole study could be made of this aspect of the valley and its surroundings:
- The Breeze on Beach Head – essay by Philip Jefferies
 - Rudyard Kipling’s famous ‘A Smugglers Song’

- Paintings by Andrew Dandridge, Micheal Cruickshank and Adrian Berg – used on greetings cards and postcards

6.7.6 The description by Bannister is very evocative:

Whilst on the other hand there is the remote, wild and atmospheric Cuckmere Valley which in winter is haunted by the calls of over-wintering wildfowl and the crashing of waves on the shingle. It is easy standing at the Haven mouth to imagine ships in distress trying to find a safe anchorage, or on a moonlit night smugglers running contraband up to the farmhouse on ponies. Although much of the salt marsh has been enclosed and drained, and the river canalised, it remains a very special place.

The absence of any major development in the lower reaches of the Cuckmere enables visitors to obtain a view of what many of the south-coast river mouths would have looked like before post-medieval and latterly 20th century estuary sprawl destroyed their naturalness. In fact the visitor has to imagine a far busier river mouth in the 12th and 13th centuries when Cuckmere Haven was a small port. (Bannister 1999, 36)

- 6.7.7 Cuckmere's value as a tourist location is well acknowledged. While it may not be possible to preserve the Valley in its current form, any future policies must take into account the impact that changes may have on this significant asset for the local economy.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The Haven contains a plethora of heritage assets in many forms and from many periods. It contains evidence of a remarkable variety of activities ranging from medieval engineering, medieval and post-medieval farming, industrial exploitation and defence. Some of the evidence exists as prominent historic landscape features such as the medieval embankments and military defence features and others have less of an immediate impact, but by undertaking a modest amount of research are no less interesting, such as the potential evidence for salting. There is enough evidence both visible and below ground to be able to suggest a reconstruction of the landuse and exploitation of the valley for nearly a thousand years. From the artefacts discovered within the Valley and from the enormous potential palaeo-archaeological resource lying below the ground surface it may also, with further work, be possible to reconstruct the landuse and landscape from even further back.
- 7.1.2 The Valley therefore has a high potential to inform our understanding of its environment and exploitation from all periods. However, its significance also lies in its coherence and the survival of evidence from all periods. While a range of activities has taken place here, more recent ones have not had a serious impact on those which have gone before. Even the medieval settlements of Exceat and Poynings Town have survived below ground without more modern buildings affecting their survival. This will have led not only to good survival of features but allows the palimpsest of individual upstanding features to be appreciated as a whole, allowing the appreciation of a landscape with considerable time-depth.
- 7.1.3 The stage 2 assessment process outlined in Section 3.7 has been applied to each category of type of site. In overall terms using these criteria and based on the coherence and time-depth qualities of the historic landscape the overall historic landscape is considered to be of National Importance. The historic building resource, including the upstanding military structures which dominate this group is considered to be of National Importance. While the true archaeological potential is unknown and always will be unless considerable below-ground investigation is undertaken, based on current knowledge and including the palaeo-archaeological resource, the archaeological resource is considered of National Importance.
- 7.1.4 By assessing the relative value of each heritage asset within the context of its category, assessing the categories of features themselves and the three elements making up the cultural heritage resource, it will allow decisions to be made on the future of the resource based on an informed assessment of both its relative and overall value. Suggestions for further work to enhance knowledge on key elements within each category also ensures that any uncertainties regarding the significance of a feature or group of features can be addressed prior to the decision-making process.

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Appendix 1 Sources

On addition to those listed in the bibliography sources consulted include:

Historic Maps

Historic maps were consulted at the East Sussex record Office.

Map by John de Ward of the Cuckmere Levels between Longbridge above Alfriston and the sea at Cuckmere Haven 1618

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Ordnance Survey 6 inch map 1929

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Current OS map 1:10,000

Digital data from the ESHER and the National Monuments Record (NMR)

LIDAR data held by ESHER

Aerial Photographs held by the National Monuments Record and the East Sussex HER