

LANDSCAPE BASELINE NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

relating to

OPTIONS for FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

in the

CUCKMERE ESTUARY, EAST SUSSEX

for

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

on behalf of the

CUCKMERE COASTAL CHANGE PATHFINDER PROJECT

February 2011

Date of Issue: 2nd February 2011
Status/Revision:

File ref: 625/reports/625 Landscape Baseline Non
Technical Summary

FINAL

Checked: Approved: /DL /DH

No part of this statement may be copied or reproduced by any means without the prior written permission of David Huskisson Associates Limited. This statement has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by David Huskisson Associates Limited, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of this statement. No liability is accepted by David Huskisson Associates Limited for any use of this statement, other than for the purpose for which it was originally prepared and provided.

David Huskisson Associates Ltd. Registered in England No. 2797095 Registered Office 46-48 Nelson Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5AN
Registered Practice of the Landscape Institute and Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
BS EN ISO 9001:2008 – Certificate No. 01670-2000-AQ-LDN-UKAS

Landscape Baseline Non Technical Summary relating to
Options for Flood Risk Management in the Cuckmere Estuary, East Sussex.

LANDSCAPE BASELINE NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1 The landscape baseline statement extends and updates the baseline landscape information in the 2006 Jacobs Babbie assessment (BR) prepared for the Environment Agency which considered the landscape and visual effects of options relating to the future of Cuckmere Haven.
- 2 The statement updates the landscape planning context, noting in particular the establishment of the South Downs National Park. An important change resulting from this is the additional purpose of National Park designation in terms of recreation, an aspect not relevant to the former Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation.
- 3 The South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment postdates the BR and defines four local landscape character areas relevant to Cuckmere Haven, as opposed to the three character areas adopted in the BR. However it is not considered that the more recent assessment would alter the detailed descriptions contained in the BR to any significant degree.
- 4 The statement considers the Coastguard Cottages and the Cable House. Had these features been dealt with in the earlier report, both features would probably have been ranked as low or medium sensitivity as a result of the underlying thrust of the BR assessment methodology which ranked sensitivity most highly for natural as opposed to manmade features. The statement suggests that the Coastguard Cottages and possibly the Cable House should probably be considered to be landscape features of high sensitivity.
- 5 The statement notes that the visual envelope adopted for the BR report was truncated as it adopted the line of the A259 at Exceat as the northern visual cut off. An extended visual envelope has been indicated, based on the options considered likely to be assessed subsequently. This should be reviewed in the light of the actual options considered.
- 6 The BR did not consider visual receptor sensitivity or magnitude of effect in accordance with current best practice. It is considered that all recreational receptors within the country park and on the public rights of way and Open Access land in the study area should be regarded as having high sensitivity. Vehicle travellers on the A259 can possibly be regarded as having somewhat less sensitivity but this lower sensitivity is likely to be offset by the larger numbers of viewers.