5.10 Landscape Setting of Chalvington

5.10.1 Settlement Profile

Chalvington is situated approximately fifteen miles to the northwest of Eastbourne. It has developed between the A27 Eastbourne to Lewes road and the A22 Hailsham to Uckfield road. Chalvington is situated just to the north of the South Downs National Park in the valleys of the River Cuckmere and the River Ouse.

Chalvington is a small hamlet with no services but has a church and is built around a crossroads of the old Roman Road to Ripe (which is situated one mile to the west). The hamlet is predominantly residential, with several equestrian centres and Stud Farms. Further local services, including shops and pubs are located in the nearby village of Ripe.

Landscape Character

5.10.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see Section 5.3 for details

5.10.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

- E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe – see Section 5.6 for details

5.10.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Chalvington are illustrated on Figure 5.3 and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The predominant field type surrounding Chalvington is ancient co-axial fields, with small areas of regular piecemeal enclosure near to Eckington Corner. To the south east of the settlement is an extensive tract of historic planned private enclosure.

- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The tiny church in Chalvington is unusual, being constructed of local flint from the South Downs. It has a wooden tower which has leant slightly since the Great Storm of October 1987.

- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** There are several lakes in the hamlet and a series of large ponds parallel to the Roman road to the south of the settlement.

- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** There are long views to the South Downs to the west and south.

- **Landscape Detractors:** There are two rows of pylons travelling left to right to the south of the settlement.

- **Urban Edges:** All sensitive edges as a result of mature vegetation.

- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The Weald way passes the east end of the hamlet and several footpaths connect it to Ripe and the surrounding landscape.

5.10.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on Figure 5.3 as ‘Landscape Setting Areas’. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape Setting Area</th>
<th>Distinctive Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A patchwork of arable and pastoral fields which are lined with a network of mature hedgerows; Network of rural lanes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Numerous small ponds and waterbodies; Views to the South Downs ridges contribute to recognizable sense of place; Mature landscape structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Straight, historic road pattern; Views to the South Downs scarp contribute to a distinctive sense of place; Mature landscape structure; Isolated farmsteads and numerous stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Large-scale, modern fields with a network of mature hedgerows at field boundaries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):
- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:
- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/
Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

FIGURE 5.3
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF CHALVINGTON
Landscape Sensitivity

5.10.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within Section 2.4, is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Landscape Setting Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinctiveness</td>
<td>Rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuity</td>
<td>Ancient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td>Very Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Cover</td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Sensitivity</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Landscape Value

5.10.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within Section 2.4, is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Landscape Setting Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Value</td>
<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.10.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Chalvington.

5.10.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within Section 2.4, is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Landscape Setting Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Landscape Setting</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.10.11 Landscape Setting Area 1 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village and very strong strength of place resulting from views to the South Downs and a mature landscape structure. This landscape structure of mature hedgerows is visible within views northwards from the northern edge of the village.

5.10.12 Landscape Setting Area 2 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. The mature landscape structure of hedgerows limits long distance views eastwards from the settlement. The church is visible within short-distance views from the western edge of this area.

5.10.13 Landscape Setting Area 3 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village and very strong strength of place resulting from views to the South Downs. The distinctive landscape pattern of stream corridors and ancient fields lined with mature hedgerows provides a strong landscape edge to the south of the village. Long distance views are often limited by hedgerows lining field boundaries.

5.10.14 Landscape Setting Area 4 is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area does not abut the settlement edge and there is no inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village. There is also less historic continuity within this area than within adjacent Landscape Setting Areas as a result of the patchwork of modern fields, rather than ancient fields.