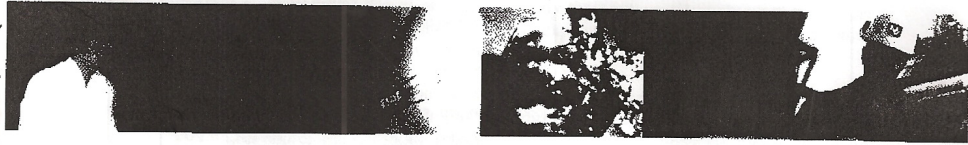


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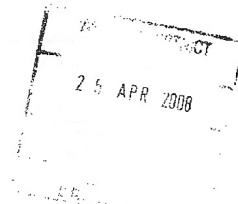


ENVIRONMENT
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Uckfield Flood Alleviation Scheme Design and Access Statement

April 2008



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UCKFIELD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME – DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT**1. INTRODUCTION**

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared to accompany the application for planning permission for the Uckfield Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Uckfield has experienced flooding throughout its history, although this has been worsened in recent years with the development of its floodplains. The most severe flooding occurred on 12th October 2000 when 18 residential and 115 commercial, retail and public premises were flooded, some to depths of 2m. Currently there are no flood defences within the town and property damage from flooding is experienced during a flood with a return period of 1 in 10 years.

Uckfield was covered within the 'Sussex Ouse Flood Management Strategy', which was approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in May 2005. Subsequently, a physical model was used to develop flood alleviation options to reduce flood risk within Uckfield.

The selected scheme comprises the construction of a defence around a supermarket car-park close to the river. It will provide a standard of protection of 4% AEP (1 in 25 years) to properties in the town centre.

2. STATEMENT

The proposed scheme is to construct a flood defence around the edge of the Somerfield Store car park. The defence will run between high ground to the east of Kennet House and the disused public conveniences just upstream of the High Street Bridge.

Approximately 140m of the defence length will be formed by a brick-clad concrete wall. The wall will vary in height between 0.2m and just under 1m. The brick colour will be chosen to compliment the adjacent buildings.

The remaining 45m of the defence length will be a reinforced earth embankment. The maximum embankment height will be 0.9m. The embankment will be seeded so that it becomes vegetated over time.

A floodgate will be incorporated into the defence. This will be situated adjacent to the current pedestrian crossing point between the car park and the Store entrance. The clear width will be 2.5m to allow adequate space for trolley and disabled access. The floodgate will generally remain open and will only be closed when a flood event is expected.

Vehicular access to the car park will remain in its present location. However, a ramp will be constructed so that the access forms part of the flood defence. The new ramp will also include a separate 1.8m wide pedestrian access into the car park.

An existing closeboard timber fence along the eastern edge of the car park will be replaced with a timber post and rail fence to aid the conveyance of flow across the floodplain. A post and rail fence will also be erected adjacent to the new embankment.