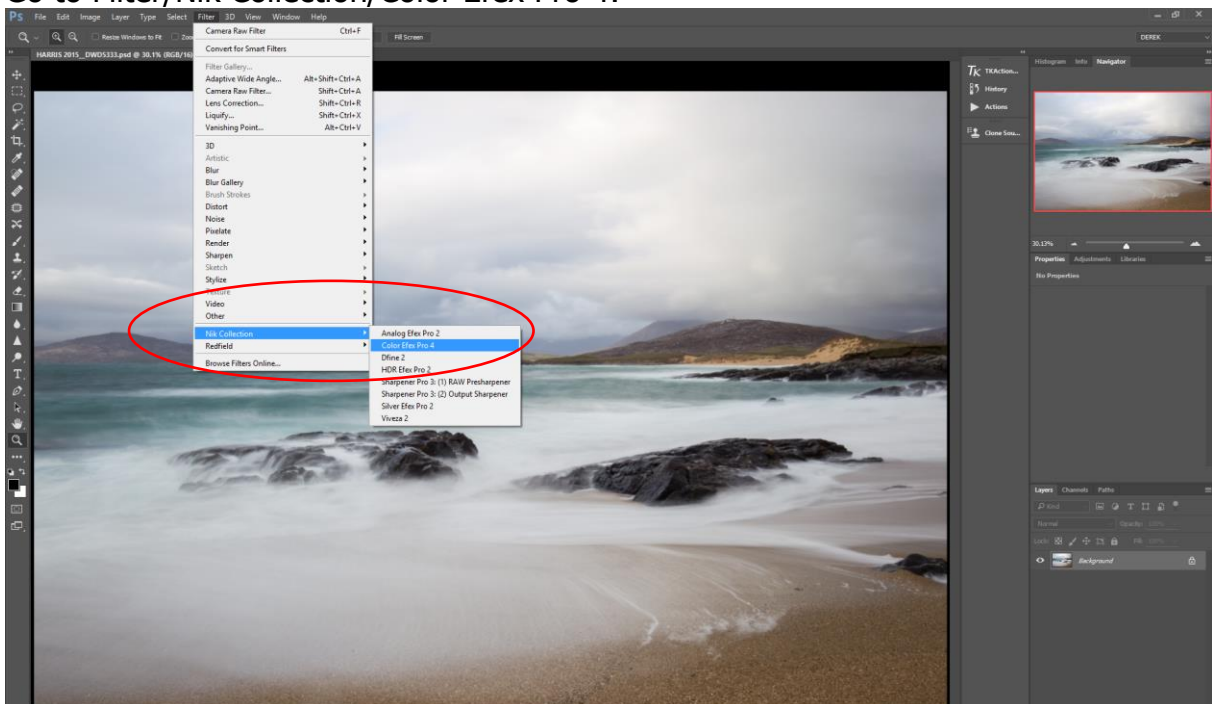PHOTOSHOP TUTORIAL 20

How to use Google Nik Collection Filter **Detail Extractor** in Photoshop CC

Please note: To complete this tutorial, you must have Photoshop CC and the Plug-In Google-Nik Collection.

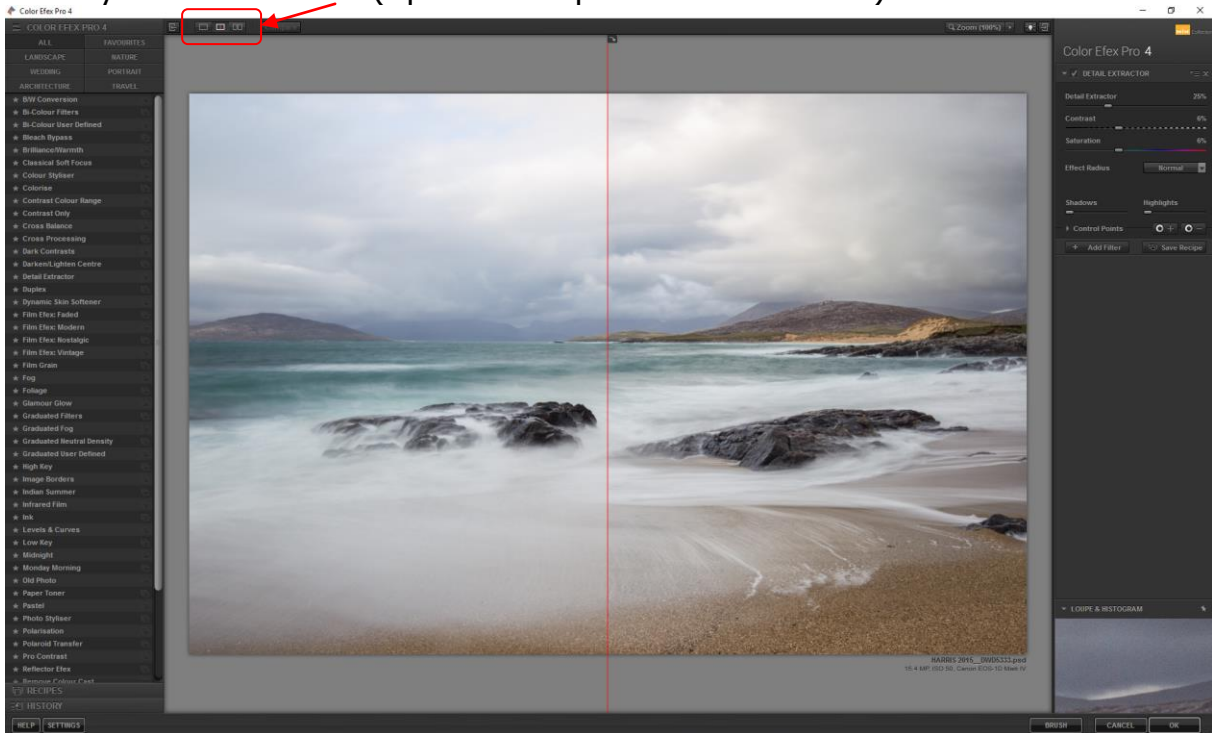1. Load your original image into Photoshop CC.

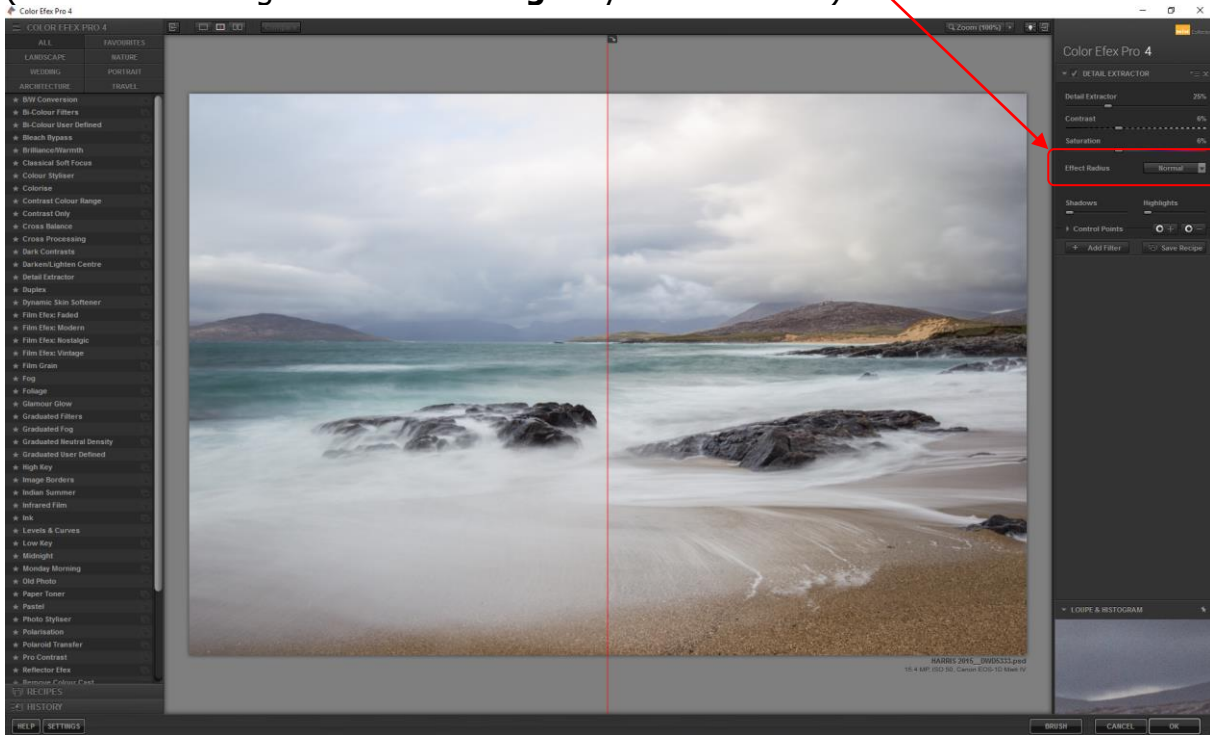2. Go to Filter/Nik Collection/Color Efex Pro 4.

3. You should now see the Color Efex Pro 4 screen.
   Select Detail Extractor from the list on the left.
   The Default settings are: Detail Extractor 25%   Contrast 6%   Saturation 6%
   Once you have used this filter, these settings revert to the last used settings and I reset mine to the defaults each time that I use it by clicking on each slider.
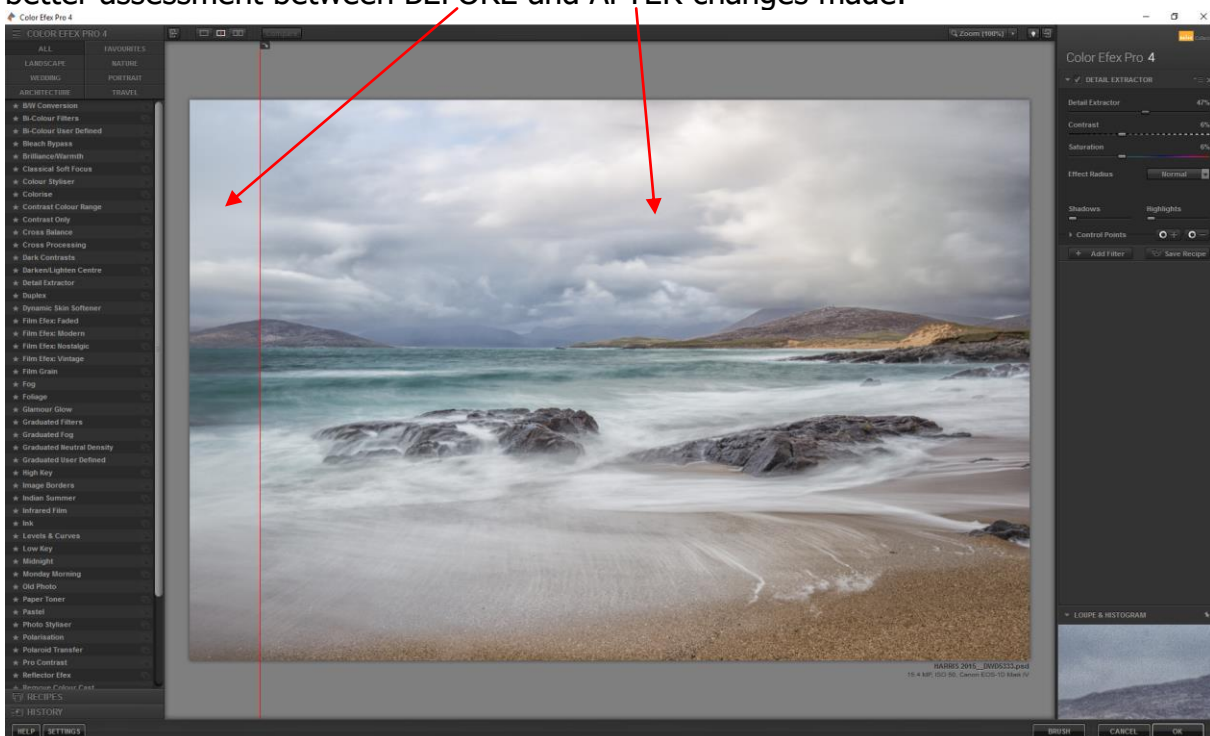

4. Select your Preview Pane (I prefer the Split Preview as below)

5. For now, make sure that the Effect Radius is set to Normal.
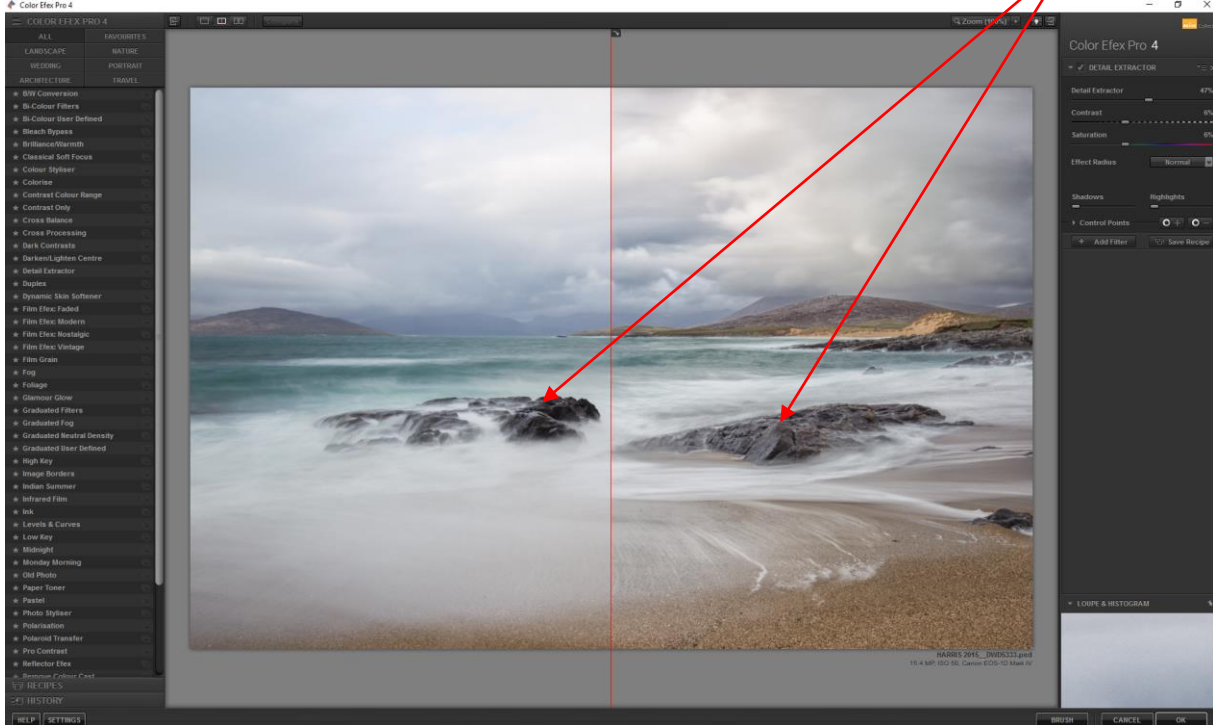   (This can be changed to **Fine** or **Large** if you should wish)

6. Move the Detail Extractor Slider to the required amount (In this case 47%)
   (I have applied more Detail Extractor than normal, so it can be easily seen in this tutorial)
   (The default of 25% is a good starting point)
   The Centre red line of the Split Preview Pane can be moved left and right to allow for better assessment between BEFORE and AFTER changes made.
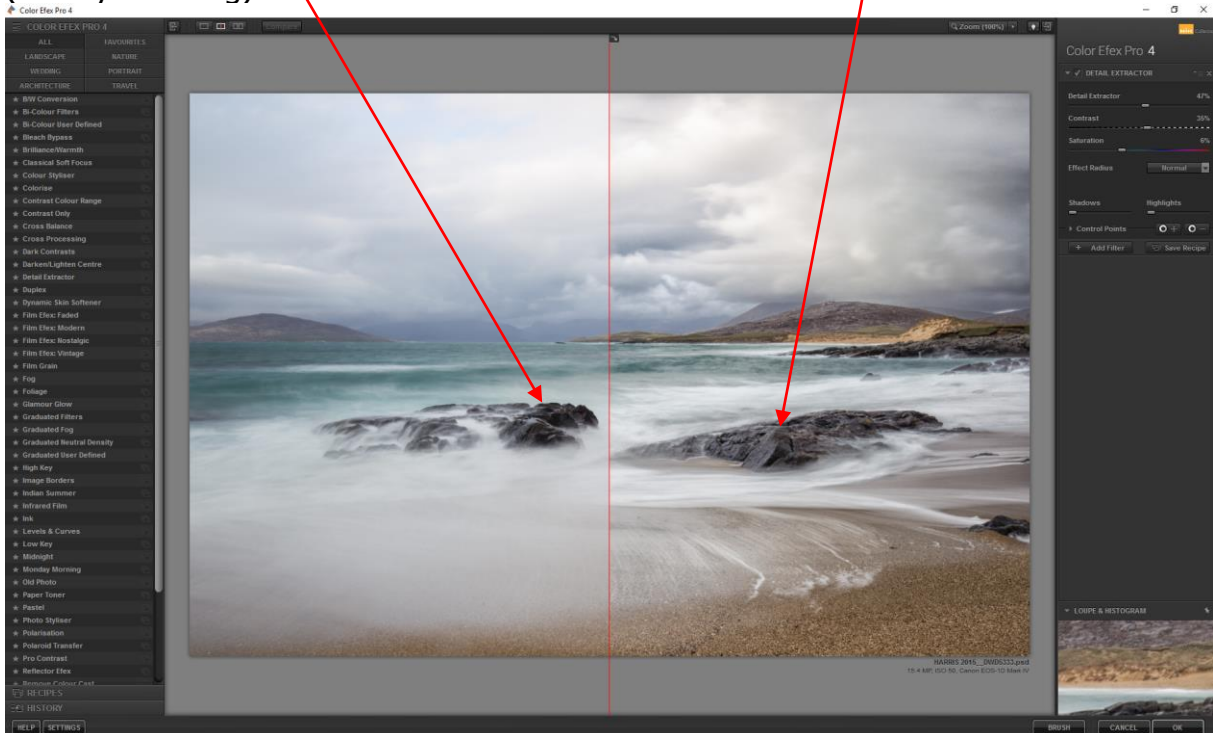
7. Notice, that as the Detail extractor slider is increased, the contrast of the image drops.
(Because we are using the Split Preview we can access this easier)
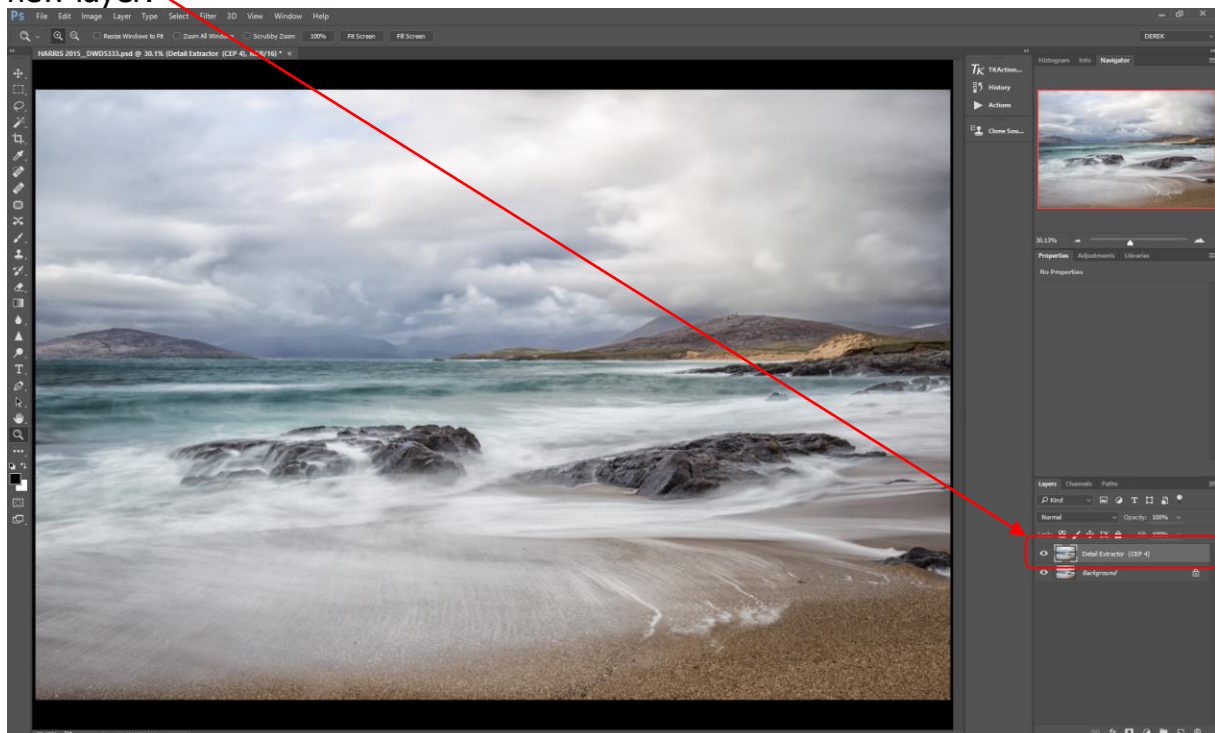

8. I have now corrected the contrast loss, by increasing the contrast slider until the contrast of the Left Hand BEFORE pane is matched in the Right Hand AFTER pane.
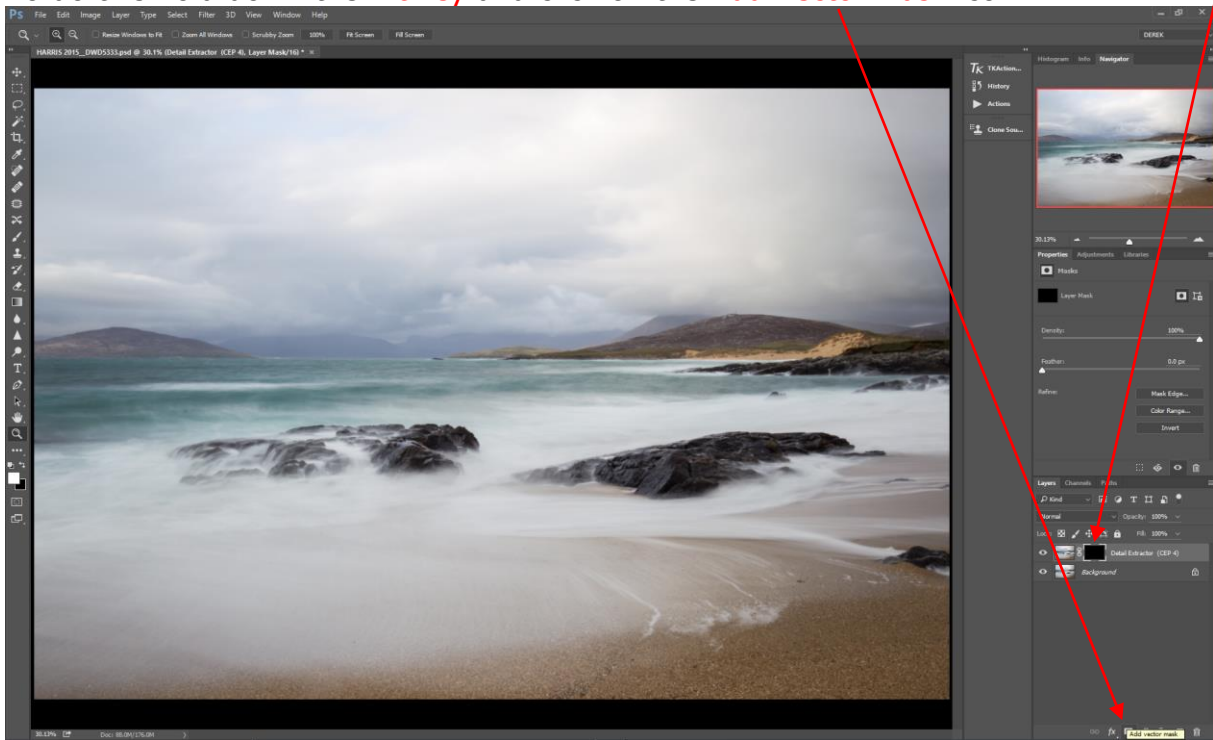(or to your liking)

9. On most of the images that I produce, I only need Detail Extractor applied in selected areas or at different amounts in different areas and here are two ways of doing this.
   Method one: Using Detail Extractors own + or − Control Point System.
   Method two: Use of a Layer Mask in Photoshop (My preferred method.)
   Here is method one: Using Detail Extractors own + or − Control Point System.
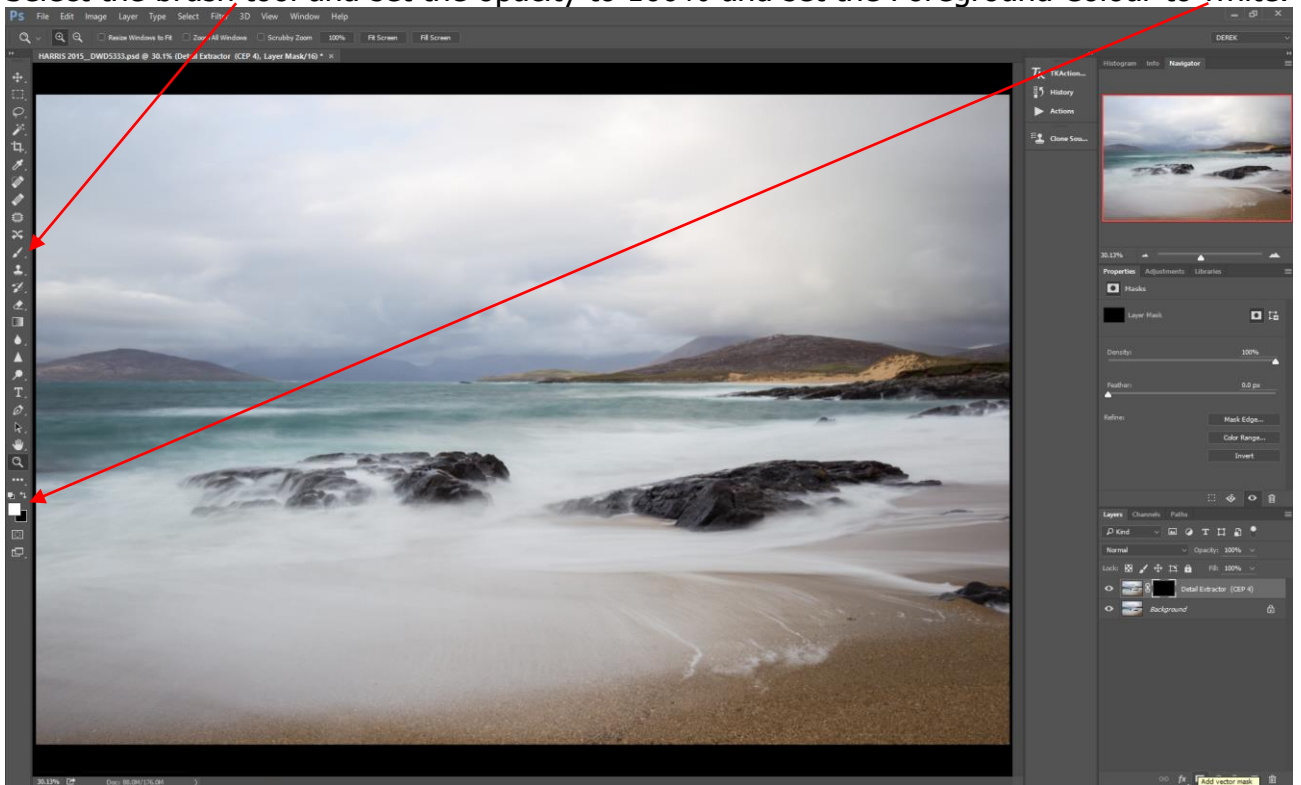

10. Here is method two:
    With the Detail Extractor control points having not been used, here is the image in Photoshop with the Detail Extractor changes applied equally all over the image as a new layer.

11. The first thing that I now do is to apply a BLACK Layer mask to the Detail Extractor Layer which effectively returns the image to the state before Detail Extractor was used. To do this hold down the Alt key and click on the Add Vector Mask icon.
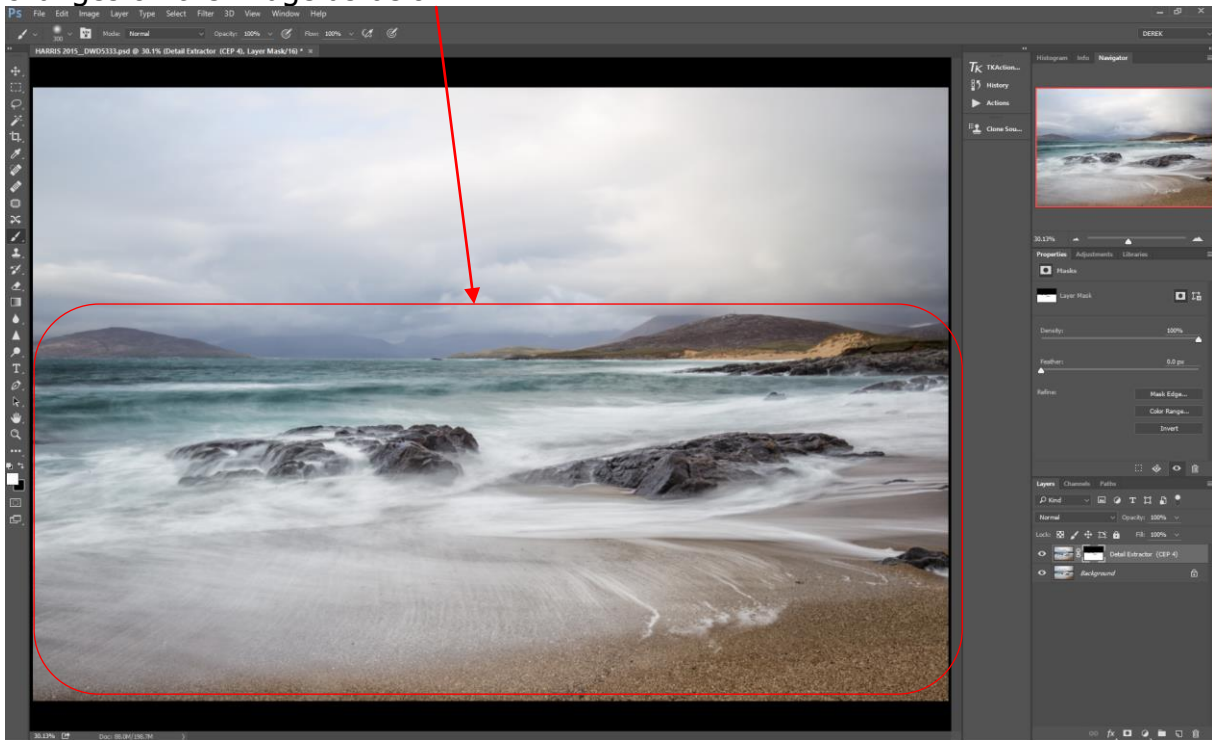

12. Select the brush tool and set the opacity to 100% and set the Foreground Colour to white.
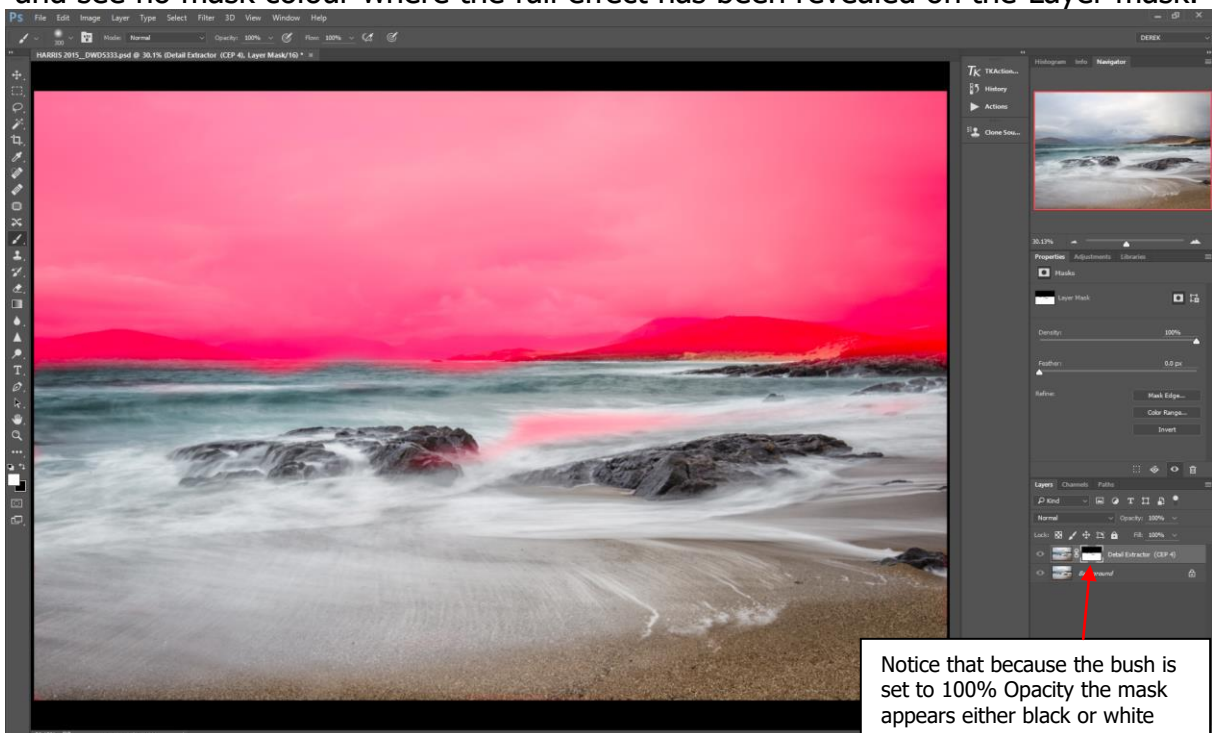
13. Select the Black Layer Mask by clicking on it.
    Now with the brush set to 100% Opacity and white, wherever you paint on the image
    (in this case, the bottom half of the image) will reveal the full effect of the Detail Extractor
    changes on the image as below

14. One tip to enable you to see exactly where the changes have been made is to click the
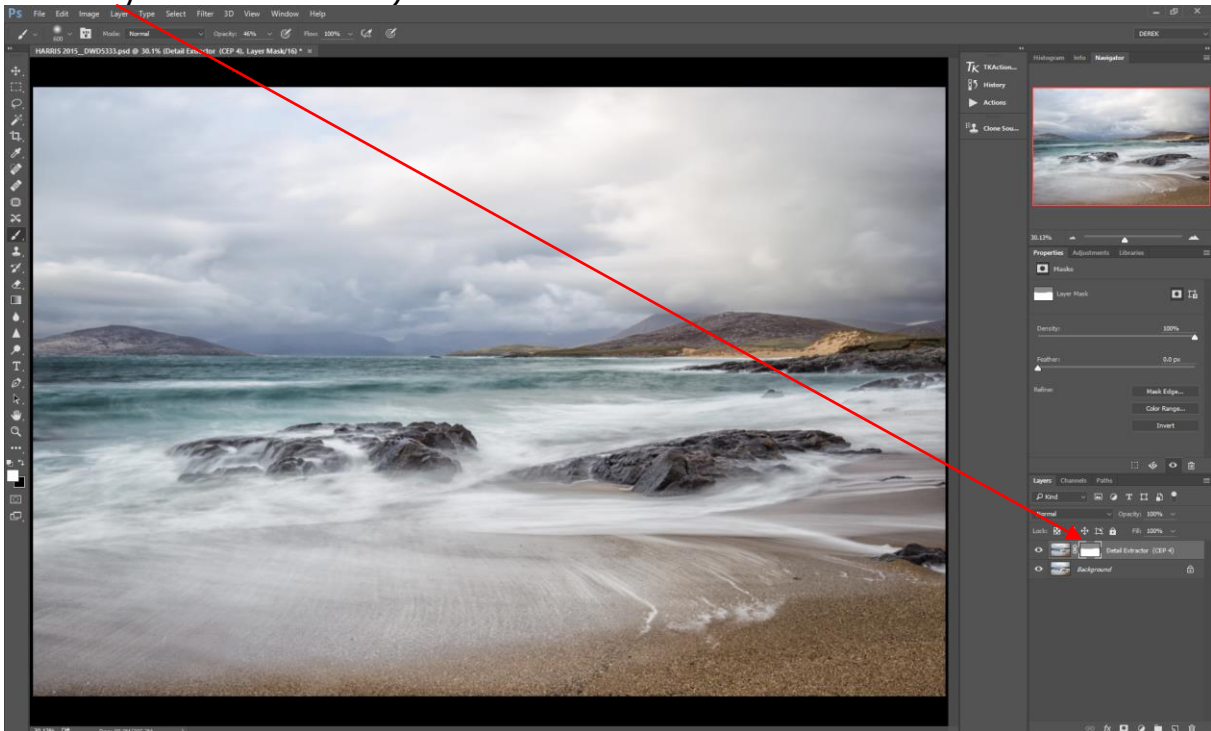   backslash key \ on your keyboard.
    You should now see the deep red mask where no changes have been made (or missed)
    and see no mask colour where the full effect has been revealed on the Layer mask.

Notice that because the bush is
set to 100% Opacity the mask
appears either black or white

15. The brush opacity can be changed to a lower setting to bring back a % of the effect. I have changed the brush opacity to 50% and only brought part of the detail Extractor effect into the sky area.(notice that the red mask appears lighter indicating that it is now not fully masked)

16. Here is the final effect applied to the image. (Now that because the sky is only partially masked, the sky part of the Layer mask is now Grey rather than Black)

17. IMPORTANT.
    Because the application of the Detail Extractor Filter is only one of many changes that you may make to an image, you will need to appreciate the effect that it will have on further processing such as sharpening.

    Over applying Detail Extractor may cause unwanted halos or artefacts in the image when applying sharpening.

    Detail Extractor will almost certainly highlight dust spots on the camera sensor which had previously gone unnoticed.

I do hope that you found this tutorial useful.

Derek Doar
www.ddimages.co.uk