

ESSEX COAST FROM THE AIR

Photography by Jason Hawkes

The coastline of Essex runs for an astonishing 400 miles along the southern shores of England. It claims to be the longest of any county in England, a distance riven by tidal inlets and the major estuaries of the Rivers Stour, Orwell and, most significantly the Thames. This coast is of international and national importance for nature conservation, whilst providing a tranquil rural landscape for those seeking quiet recreation.

Contrary to the picture often painted of Essex as an industrialised landscape, heavily populated and with excessive urban development, the Essex coast has many areas as unspoiled as any in Britain. The photography in this book reveals these less trodden paths and the havens for wildlife that abound, particularly in the desolate Essex Marshes. The photographs also show the famous resorts, such as Clacton and Frinton, that continue to attract holiday makers in search of traditional pleasures of the seaside as they have done for well over a century.

This book takes the reader on a fascinating journey along the length of this historic coastline.

The principal attraction of aerial photographs is that they are literally a bird's-eye view, allowing us to look down on the landscape from a perspective that we never normally see. Such pictures reveal to us things that are normally hidden from view, and often surprise us when we find that what we had imagined the layout of the land to be is in reality quite different. The best practitioners of this genre of photography also strive to capture an aesthetic in the images they take, and these pictures, sometimes quite abstract in appearance, are often strikingly beautiful in their own right.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jason Hawkes is one of the country's best-known photographers specialising in aerial photography. From his base near London he travels worldwide to produce images for books, advertising and design. Since 1991 he has provided photographs for major international companies including Nike, HSBC, Ford, Rolex, Toyota and BP. The images in this book and the sister publications in the series were specially commissioned by Halsgrove.

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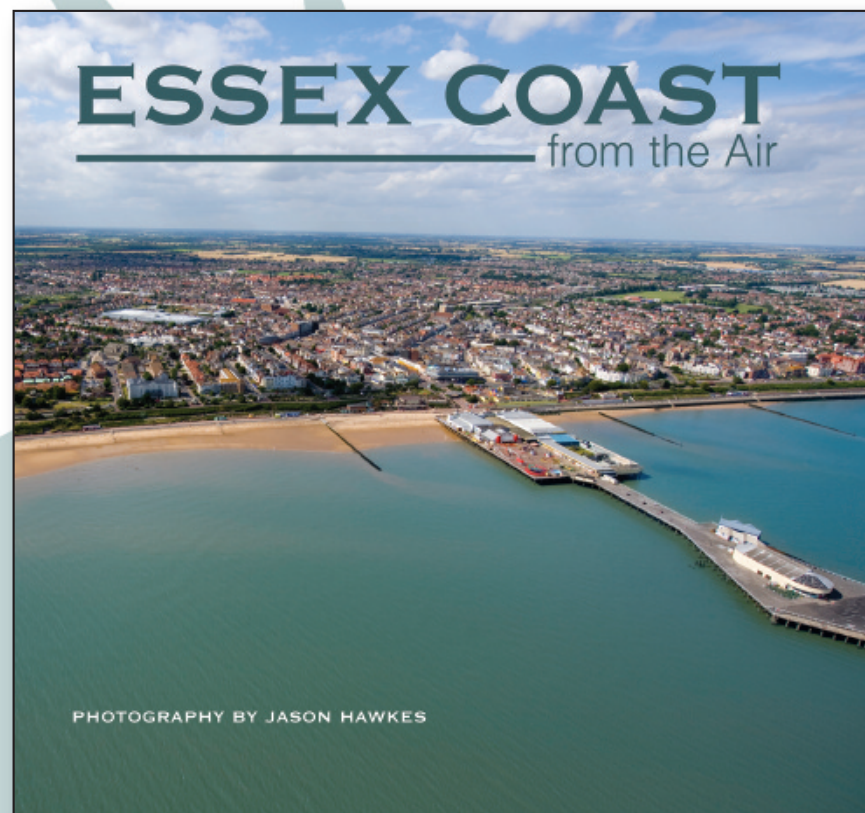
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Halsgrove Sales Contacts:

Sue Rhodes-Thompson – DDI 01823 653770 suet@halsgrove.com

Roger Start – DDI 01823 653773 rogers@halsgrove.com

Marie Lewis – DDI 01823 653771 mariel@halsgrove.com

Andrew Stirling – Mobile 07971 572468 andrews@halsgrove.com

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The marshes at Lee Beck are an important site for wildfowl and provide popular moorings for sailors.



Westcliff-on-Sea, looking northwards into the heart of Essex.



Early morning Southend, and the beaches have yet to come to life.



Shoeburyness looking west along the Thames Estuary towards Southend-on-Sea.



Beach huts, West Mersea.

Example of a double page spread



Small text caption at the bottom of the left page of the double-page spread.



Looking across Canvey Island over the Thames Estuary towards Kent.

