

SUSSEX COAST FROM THE AIR

Photography by Jason Hawkes

The Sussex coast stretches eastwards from Hampshire some 90 miles (145km) from Thorney Island within Chichester Harbour to the Kent boundary near Camber Sands. The coast faces the English Channel and is largely built-up with a variety of resort towns and ports. It has two main sections, between Selsey Bill and Beachy Head, and then from Beachy Head to Dungeness (over the border in Kent). The conurbation of Brighton, Hove, Worthing and Littlehampton has a population of over 450,000, and stretches for some 30 miles (50km) from Littlehampton in the west to Seaford in the east. Other major settlements on the coastline are Chichester, Bognor Regis, Eastbourne and Hastings.

Despite this urban development, the Sussex coast in fact contains some of the finest scenery in Southern England, including the magnificent white chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters. It was on these shores that the Romans landed to be followed by the Saxons, the Viking raiders and the Norman invasion of 1066; only since the eighteenth century has the coastline's reputation as a fashionable resort for tourism and leisure been developed.

The superb aerial photographs in this book provided a fascinating overview 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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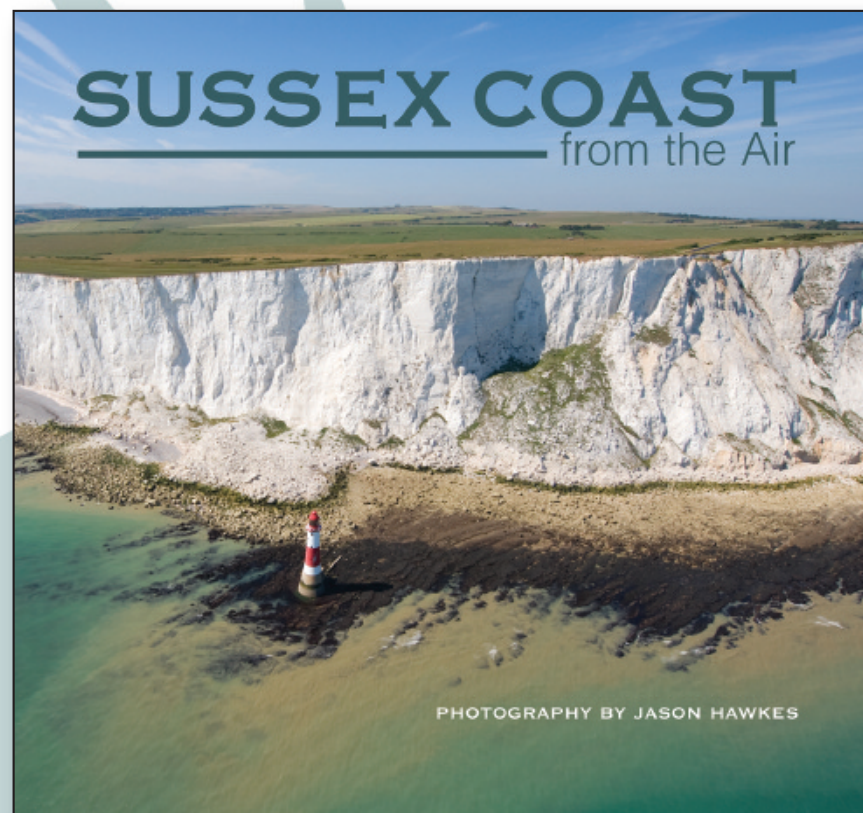
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The famous Seven Sisters chalk cliffs, looking towards Cuckmere Haven. The cliffs have featured in numerous films, including the Harry Potter series.



Lying a few miles south of Chichester, Selsey sits at the southernmost tip of the Manhood Peninsula. The settlement's name derives from 'Seal Island.'



As a resort, Bognor is firmly linked with royalty, and especially with King George V who convalesced here. A pier was first opened here in 1865.

Marine Parade, Worthing



Example of a double page spread



White Haven, at the Chichester Channel

Following major flooding and erosion, the remains of the old West Pier are now a popular spot for picnics and sunbathing.



Low water in Chichester Harbour.

Where Hove meets Brighton. One of the most famous seafronts in the world remains a popular summer destination. The old West Pier has suffered many indignities. Severely damaged by storms in 2002 and 2003, fires finally put paid to the remaining structure, although all hope of a rebuild is not yet lost.

