

# **PORTRAIT OF THE SUSSEX WEALD**

Iain McGowan

The Sussex Weald spans the northern half of the county of Sussex, a region once rich in ancient woodland and coppice interrupted by areas of open heathland and small fields. Divided geologically into the hilly High Weald, with its series of parallel ridges separated by often narrow and steep-sided valleys, and the comparatively flat Low Weald stretching almost to the South Downs, the Sussex Weald has been described as one of the most distinctive and beautiful small-scale landscapes in Britain.

Despite the appearance of a countryside in places seemingly still dominated by unbroken woodland, the Sussex Weald has had a remarkably industrial past with its timber being continuously sought from Tudor times and its emergence from the early sixteenth century as the leading cast-iron producing area in the country until more efficient means were found elsewhere. Now as a highly desirable location to live with easy access to both London and the coast, the Sussex Weald still exhibits an incredibly diverse environment where its rich history of ancient towns and villages, secluded manor houses, archaeological remains, world famous gardens, remaining woodlands and often glorious views form one of the great secrets of Southern England.

Featuring over 200 superlative images and text reflecting this extraordinary diversity, renowned photographer Iain McGowan's latest collection captures the essence of the Sussex Weald and its historic woodland legacy.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Iain McGowan is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and a professional photographer specialising in landscape and environmental photography. *Portrait of the Sussex Weald* is his ninth book to be published by Halsgrove. Over the years he has had photographs reproduced not only in other books but also in magazines, postcards, brochures, tourism literature and exhibitions and he now spends a considerable amount of his time conducting Landscape Photographic Workshops around the UK. Having lived in Sussex since the age of five, many of those years being within 'The Wonderful Weald', his roots run deep in the clays and woodland of this fascinating region.



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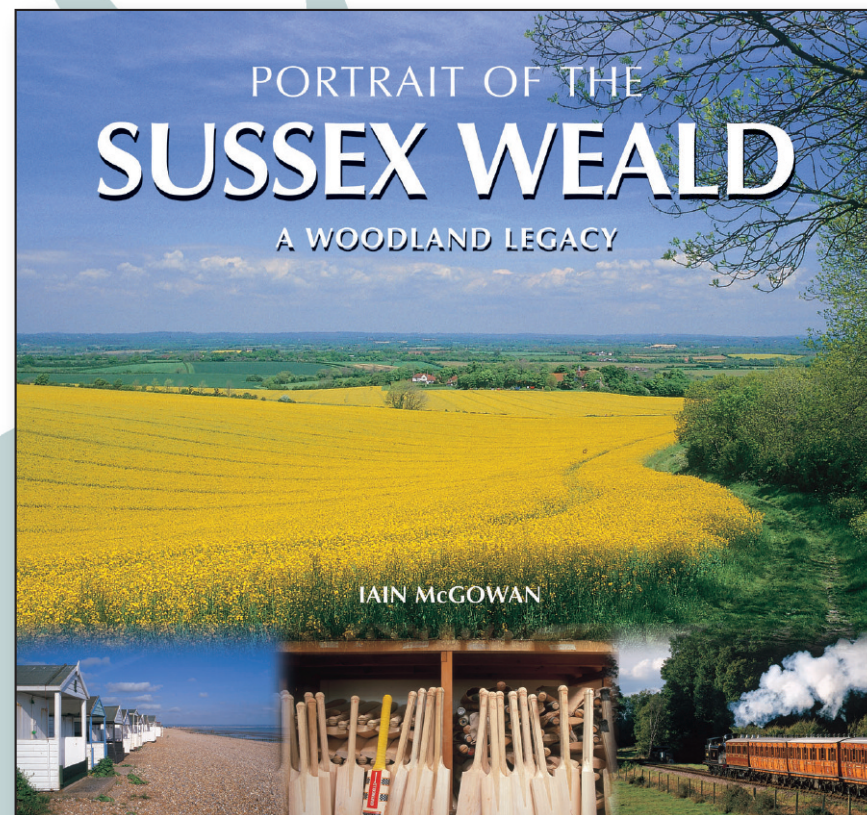
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## **HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION**



**Format:** Hardback, 144 pages, 214x230mm,  
profusely illustrated in colour throughout  
**Price:** £14.99  
**ISBN:** 978 1 84114 897 7  
**Imprint:** Halsgrove  
**Published:** July 2009



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A sylvan scene on the restored section of the Wey & Arun Canal near Loxwood.



The Causeway, Horsham.



Winter reflections, Bodiam Castle.



Almost at the heart of Sussex, Kings Mill at Shipley, built in 1879, is the largest 'smock' mill in the county.



The stuccoed Victorian seaside terraces around Warrior Square just to the west of the modern centre of Hastings.

Example of a double-page spread.



The view looking towards the upper reaches of the River Arun from near Harwoods Green above Stopham.