

PORTRAIT OF THE WYE VALLEY

Van Greaves

The River Wye is one of Britain's most scenic rivers. From its source, in the wild uplands of Plynlimon, to its mouth at Chepstow, the river and its environs lock into photogenic landscapes. These landscapes are rich sources of wildlife and plant species and the river supports Atlantic Salmon. The lower 52 miles (83km) are designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

A long distance walk, 'The Wye Valley Walk' covers the entire length of the river (136m/218km) but does not always hug it. There are numerous forays into surrounding hills, both in Wales and inside England, and indeed these are featured in this book. In fact the only flat lands of any note around the Wye are from Hereford down to Ross on Wye.

A plethora of ancient and historical settlements, castles and churches, blend in with open and wooded landscapes. They all unite to provide a feast for the eyes, recorded in sweeping images by the discerning photography of the renowned Van Greaves.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Van Greaves is a photographer based in the Midlands. His work appears in numerous mediums including calendars, cards, brochures, but principally in books. This is his sixth book for Halsgrove, following the success of *Portrait of Birmingham*, *Moods of Shropshire* and *the Marches*, *Moods of Worcestershire* and *Elgar Country*, *Moods of Warwickshire* and *Shakespeare Country* and *Moods of Staffordshire*.

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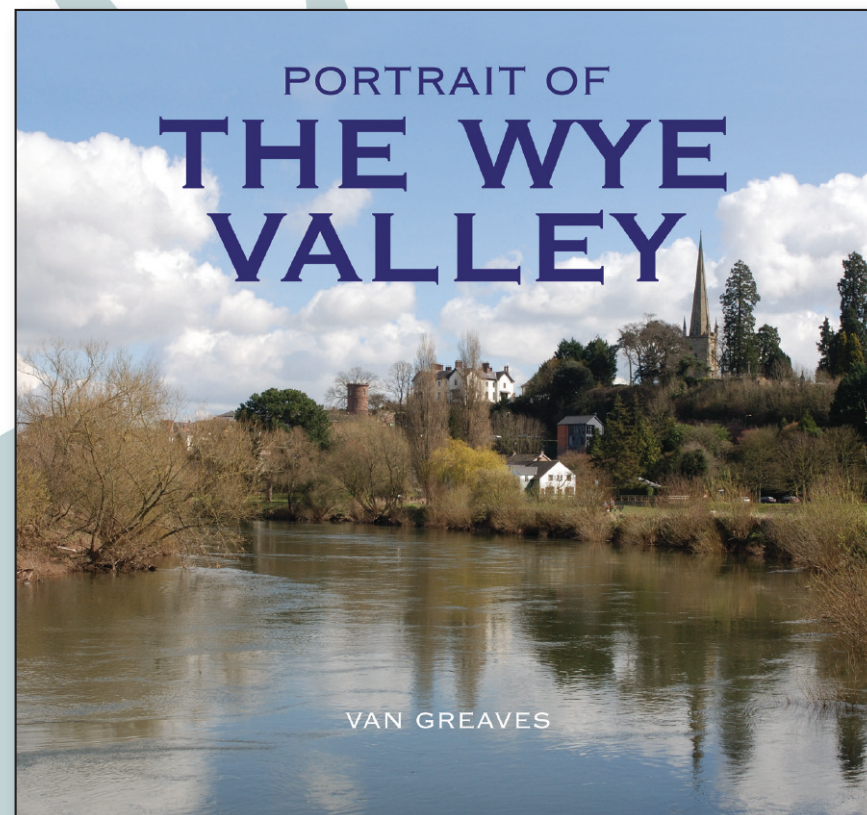
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River Wye at Builth Wells



River Wye at Rhayader



River Elan from Cargafallt
The River Elan meets its rendezvous with the River Wye below this lofty perch.

Left: Wye and Rhayader overlook from Cargafallt
One might question the slog up this hill if doing the Wye Valley Walk, when it is easier to continue to Rhayader on a lane beneath. However, the view from this BNPB nature reserve is commanding.

Example of a double-page spread.