

# 10 Leisure Walks of Discovery

## A Boot Up

### THE SURREY HEATHS

Mike Cope

Surrey supports a significant area of lowland heath – around 3000 hectares (or 13% of the UK total), and about 60% is owned by the military. The Surrey Heaths are largely confined to two main National Character Areas: the Wealden Greensand in the south west and centre of the county and the Thames Basin Heaths in the north west.

The Wealden Greensand heaths are predominantly dry sites, lying on the Folkestone, Sandgate and Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand. The notable exception being Thursley National Nature Reserve, which supports an internationally important mire. The bulk of the surviving Wealden Greensand heaths are centred on or close to Hindhead, Thursley and Frensham Commons, with Blackheath an important outlier to the north east.

The Thames Basin Heaths are generally low-lying land, supporting humid and wet heathland. Three quarters of the heathland in the Thames Basin is to be found on Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Commons. The first two are on MOD land, and access restrictions apply when red flags are flying.

Of the ten selected walks in this book, five of the routes are on the Wealden Greensand heaths, in the south-west of the county, and the remaining five are largely confined to the Thames Basin Heaths in the north-west. They range from 4¾ - 9¾ miles and suit the needs of families, groups of friends or individuals looking for a gentle stroll or a longer walk, and reflect the many varied facets of the area – its people, its history, and its landscape and will help first time visitors to experience some of the great scenery the area has to offer. Many of the walks feature a pub along the route.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to the Surrey Heaths.

#### Walks include:

**Chobham Common • Lightwater and Windlesham**  
**Woking and Horsell Common • Brookwood and Pirbright**  
**Wisley and Ockham Common • Puttenham Common**  
**Blackheath • Frensham Common**  
**Thursley and Ockley Common • Hindhead Common**



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Cope lives in Woking, Surrey and has been walking the Surrey countryside on a regular basis with local and national walking groups for over 20 years. He is a freelance writer for *Country Walking* magazine, and has published over 30 walking routes for Surrey, Hampshire and Staffordshire. He has a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry, and when he isn't walking or writing, works as a lab manager for a multi-national pharmaceutical company.

#### HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

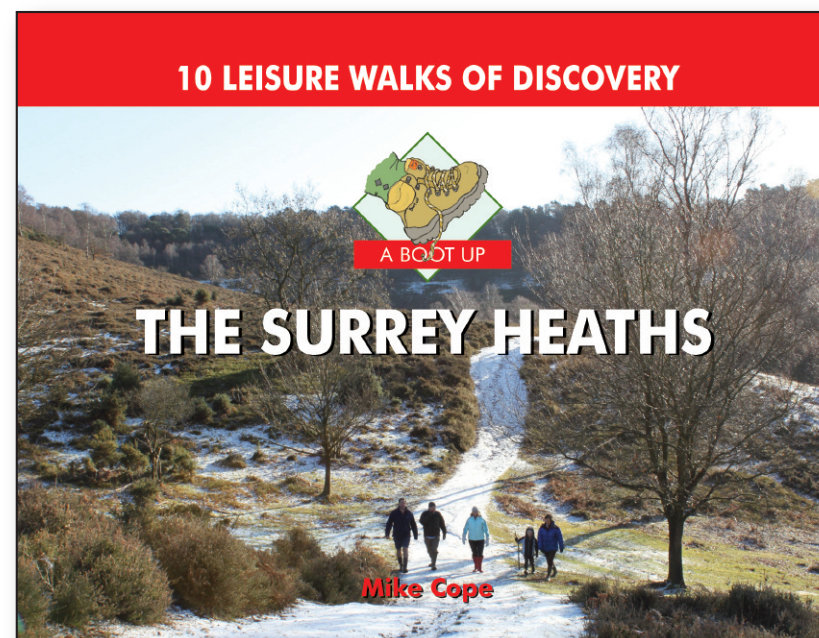
The full Halsgrove catalogue is available free or visit [www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com) for regional and category listings of available titles.

#### Trade sales:

Helen Deakin – DDI 01823 653772  
[helend@halsgrove.com](mailto:helend@halsgrove.com)

Halsgrove Publishing  
 Halsgrove House,  
 Ryelands Industrial Estate,  
 Bagley Road, Wellington,  
 Somerset TA21 9PZ  
 Tel: 01823 653777  
 Fax: 01823 216796  
[www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com)  
 e-mail: [sales@halsgrove.com](mailto:sales@halsgrove.com)

## HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



**Format:** Hardback with full colour cover, 64pp, 110x155mm, illustrated with colour photographs and sketch maps.  
**Price:** £4.99  
**ISBN:** 978 0 85710 006 1  
**Imprint:** PiXZ Books  
**Published:** June 2010



## Great Books from your Local Bookseller



# A BOOT UP THE SURREY HEATHS



Thursley village sign



Section of the North Downs Way near Puttenham



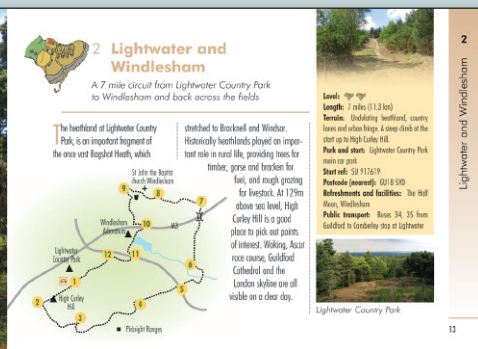
Looking out across 'The Flashes'



Right: St Edward's Orthodox church



Example of a double-page spread.



Celtic cross on Gibbett Hill