

ISLE OF WIGHT FROM THE AIR

Jason Hawkes

The Isle of Wight was once an independent kingdom and, while it no longer enjoys this status, it does still retain an atmosphere of separateness – an island unto itself. Situated south of the county of Hampshire and separated from mainland Britain by the Solent, the island has been popular since Victorian times as a holiday resort, known for its outstanding natural beauty and for its world-famous sailing based in Cowes.

The superb aerial photographs in this book provided a fascinating overview of this historic island community, which these days provides a distinctive place to live for thousands, and for many more a place to enjoy leisure pursuits including watersports of all kinds, birdwatching, or simply walking the many island footpaths.

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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A close up view of St Catherine's lighthouse.



Osborne House was built c. 1850 as Queen Victoria's and Prince Albert's summer residence in East Cowes.



Spectacular views of The Needles and the Needles lighthouse.



Right: The lifeboat station and slipway, Bembridge.



Example of a double-page spread.



Left and above: The lighthouse was added to The Needles lighthouse in 1867. As well as steering ships passing up Channel, the light warns vessels of the narrow entrance past Alum Bay (seen right above) leading to The Haven, towards which the boat vessel in the photograph is heading.



View over Shanklin looking towards Sandown and Foreland point.