

# KENT FROM THE AIR

Jason Hawkes

The traditional description of Kent as the 'Garden of England' may no longer hold quite true, but it nevertheless remains one of the prettiest counties in England, with much to attract the visitor. With an area of over 1400 square miles (c.3700sq km), it is the tenth largest county, with a population of 1.6 million. As its former title suggests, it is largely a region of farmland interspersed with what might be described as typical English villages, with thatched cottages abounding. Nevertheless large parts of Kent are within the London commuter belt. There is also a great deal of new development.

Almost one-third of the people of Kent live in its coastal districts and along the 178 miles (286 kilometres) of the Kent coastline are to be found some of the finest heritage sites in the country, together with exceptional habitat of international importance for wildlife. The landscapes include the famous White Cliffs, lonely marshlands, popular holiday towns, international ports and tiny harbours. Kent also has the busiest passenger ferry port in Northern Europe and the largest installed offshore wind farm in the UK.

The fascinating aerial photographs in this book by internationally-renowned photographer Jason Hawkes are selected to provide the reader with an overview of a variety of landscapes and settlements, with historic sites included. There can be no better way of appreciating the many glories of Kent than to view the county from above.

## 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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Top left: The acoustic mirrors at Denge, near Dungeness, were built in the 1920s as an early warning system of enemy aircraft.

Top right: The Brands Hatch circuit is one of the premier motor racing tracks in Britain.

Left: St Nicholas's church, Sevenoaks.

Canterbury Cathedral is Europe's longest medieval church.



Above: Rochester bridge was for centuries the lowest fixed crossing of the River Medway in Kent. There have been several generations of bridge at this spot, and the current 'batter' is a last three-arched bridge. The bridge carries the A2 road, the railway, and the bridge links the towns of Strood and Rochester.



Opposite: Sailing boats on the River Medway.



Conyer Creek in the village of Conyer, a characteristic North Kent marshland village, in the borough of Swale.

Example of a double-page spread.