

# THE SURREY HILLS

HALSGROVE DISCOVER SERIES

Beata Moore

The Surrey Hills is a nationally important Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covering a quarter of the county of Surrey. Its boundary stretches from Farnham in the west to Oxted in the east and extends all the way to Haslemere in the south.

The area has inspired many artists and writers and is very popular with visitors; an extensive network of foot paths, bridleways and cycle routes takes walkers and cyclists to remote villages, isolated hamlets and beauty spots like Leith Hill, Box Hill, Holmbury Hill and the Devil's Punch Bowl. The bustling market towns of Dorking, Farnham, Guildford, Reigate, Haslemere and Cranleigh offer cobbled streets, twisting lanes, centuries-old buildings and castles as well as a variety of shops and restaurants. There are also plenty of tiny hamlets and villages with Norman and medieval churches, extensive village greens, characteristic old inns, pubs and blacksmiths. Many houses in the area are in a characteristic "Surrey style" introduced here by the Arts and Crafts movement. Winding country lanes with high banks as well as old signs and milestones reinforce the rural character of a bygone era. The Surrey Hills is also a place where many historic houses and extensive parklands are open for visitors.

The stunning scenery of the Surrey Hills AONB boasts a traditional landscape of rolling hills, wooded hillsides and waterways that combine with vibrant market towns, picturesque villages and historic country houses to make it an ideal place to live in, work in and to visit. With more than 200 striking images and a detailed and informed text, *The Surrey Hills* is the ideal companion guide to this magical place, that will be prized by resident and visitor alike.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Beata Moore has been passionate about photography since the age of twelve when she received her first camera. Initially interested in recording nature – she has a postgraduate degree in botany – as

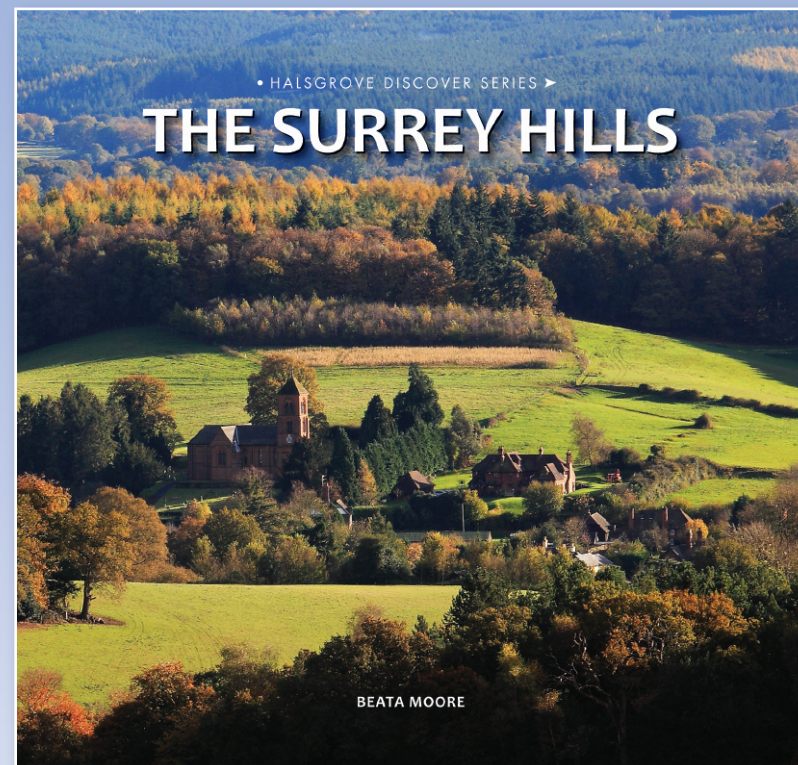


time progressed, she widened her interests and now equally enjoys taking pictures of landscapes and architecture. Beata's previous books are: *Cracow – city of treasures*, *A year in the life of the New Forest*, *The Square Mile*, *A year in the life of the Cotswolds*, *The Channel Islands* and *Portrait of Wimbledon*. Her photographs have been published in magazines and books and her work has been exhibited at galleries in London and across the UK. She lives in New Malden, Surrey.

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# HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



**Format:** *Hardback, 144 pages, 214x230mm,  
profusely illustrated in colour throughout*

**Price:** *£16.99*

**ISBN:** *978 0 85704 224 8*

**Imprint:** *Halsgrove*

**Published:** *June 2014*



Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, 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)



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Left: Leith Hill Tower on Leith Hill.



Right: The Salomons Memorial at the top of Box Hill.

Below: Lingfield Cage.



Right: Tudor cottages, Mill Lane, Godalming.



Below: Leatherhead Bridge over the River Mole.



Example of a double-page spread.



Guildford Castle

## Chapter 2 Around Guildford

### Guildford

GUILDFORD IS LOCATED in the North Downs, where the River Wey breaks through the hills. The exact origins of Guildford are not known but most probably it began as a small Saxon settlement by a ford after the Romans had removed from Britain it was referred to as the "Golden Ford" due to the golden sands on the banks of the river just south of the town. The village turned into a town in the 10th century and by the year 978 was a location of the Royal Mint, which was very important for the town's development. The oldest building in town is St Mary's church, its tower dates from 1336. Built on the slope, the middle of the church is on three different levels. The church is a mixture of Saxon, Norman and some later styles. In Guildford there are traces of six medieval undercrofts. One of them, at 50-52 High Street built about 1180 is one of the finest examples in the country. Another one is beneath the Angel Hotel on the High Street. These sorts of undercrofts were used as shops possibly selling wine or silk and only rich merchants could afford



River Wey, Guildford.