

WINDSOR AND THE GREAT PARK

A COMPANION GUIDE

Mike Cope

This companion guide to Windsor and the Great Park weaves together the historical, cultural and literary highlights of this iconic Berkshire town. The scope of the book is intentionally broad and covers not only Windsor Castle, but the relationship between the urban community of Windsor and the Royal one. Chapters on the Great Park, Windsor Town, Windsor Events, Literary Windsor and the River Thames explore this theme further. Over 190 illustrations evoke unmissable moments in the life of the Castle, town and its environs. The surrounding Great Park — once a Royal hunting forest — now offers a variety of visitor experiences to discover and enjoy, including award-winning gardens, sweeping parkland and prestigious polo events. Windsor town also plays host to a variety of sporting and cultural events throughout the year, including The Royal Windsor Horse Show, The Windsor Festival and Royal Ascot. A few steps away from the Castle, the silvery Thames makes liquid history as it links the Royal town with the British Parliament in London. Overlooking one of the river's great sweeping bends, the most famous public school in the world, Eton College, adds further charm to that already engendered by Windsor Castle. For those who wish to explore the area on foot, four walks (between 1 and 8 miles) are also included.

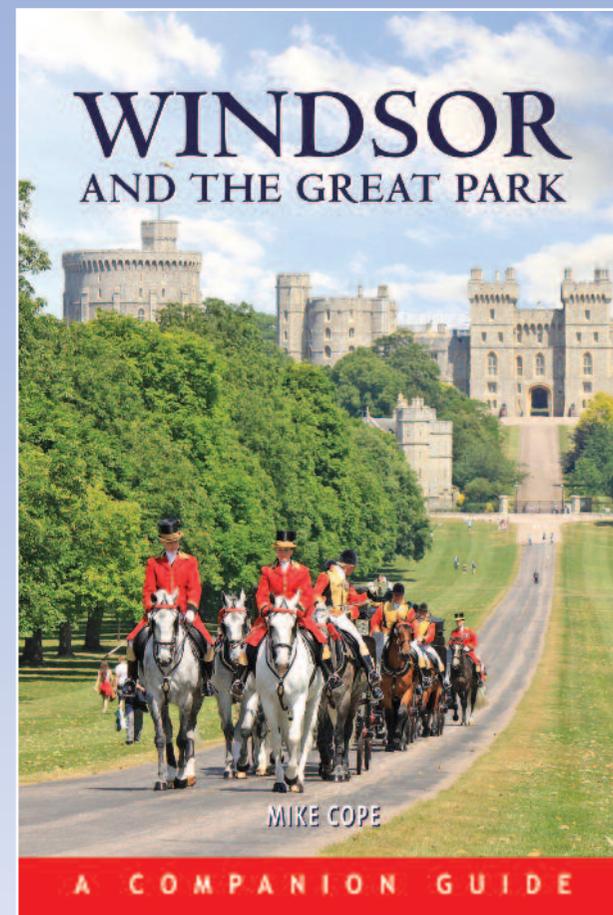
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Mike Cope lives in Woking, Surrey and has been walking the Berkshire countryside with local and national walking groups for over twenty years. He is a freelance writer for *Country Walking* magazine, and has published over 75 walking routes for Surrey, Hampshire, Berkshire and Staffordshire. He has a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry, and when he isn't walking or writing, works as a consultant to the pharmaceutical industry. One of his ancestors (Richard Cope) was once the Chapter Clerk of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

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The Copper Horse – an equestrian statue of King George III on Snow Hill – marks the end of the Long Walk from Windsor Castle.



Above: Aerial panorama of the State Apartments and the Quadrangle in the Upper Ward, Windsor Castle.



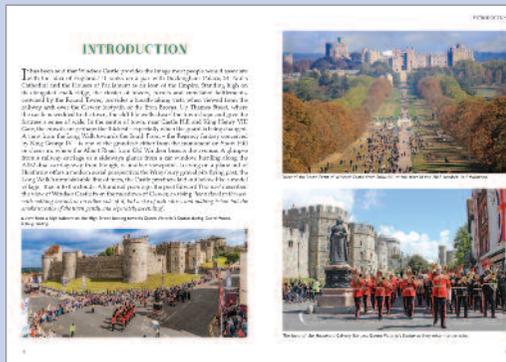
Left: The millstone statue, which celebrates the replanting of 1000 oaks on Queen Anne's Ride, has a circular hole in the centre, through which Windsor Castle can be seen, 3 miles away.

Below: Stunning display of spring azaleas in the Valley Gardens, Windsor Great Park.

Left: Two outriders on Windsor Greys lead the procession of landaus as they pass the end of the Long Walk near Snow Hill.



The Crooked House, one of the most photographed buildings in Windsor, with a bevy of pink flowers in the foreground.



Example of a double-page spread.

