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A Most Rare Vision

SHROPSHIRE FROM THE AIR

Photographs and commentary by

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MERLIN UNWIN BOOKS



CLUN

The small town of Clun in the extreme south-west corner of Shropshire sits in an idyllic setting. Its castle ruin to the left of the town in the above photo was built in Norman times and was an important base for the Lords of the Marches as they sought to keep the region safe from Welsh attack. AE Housman in his series of poems *A Shropshire lad*, called Clun 'the quietest place under the sun' and its peaceful setting viewed from the skies affirms this sentiment.



RIVER SEVERN, BUILDWAS

This was one of our most dramatic flying evenings in the entire duration of the project, with low light falling on vibrant autumn colours and intermittent rain showers all around the county for us to both avoid and seek out the drama of rainbows. The combination of light and shadow on the River Severn at Buildwas and the hint of a rainbow over the Wrekin, and the more distant Ercall, were a fleeting combination in the first image (*left photo*) and as we turned the plane and the angle of light changed on the river, it took on a more silvery hue and the Ironbridge Power Station on its banks came into view as well.

STOKESAY CASTLE

Stokesay Castle is Britain's finest and best-preserved fortified medieval manor house. Rebuilt in 1281 and virtually unchanged since then, it is today managed by English Heritage. Its fortified nature can be seen clearly from the air, as well as its moat and surrounding farm buildings and chapel.



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NORDY BANK (*below*)

Nordy Bank is the only intact survivor of three Iron Age hill forts on Brown Clee hill. With ramps up to three metres high, it was built sometime during the first millennium.

Left: Late evening sun has created shadows from this line of Leylandii that seem even longer than the trees themselves are tall!



Right: This brook running through the fields creates a lovely pattern as it twists and turns.

