

Tunbridge Wells Common Bryophyte Survey

Introduction

The Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons Conservators commissioned a bryophyte survey of two areas of Tunbridge Wells Common in the winter of 2024. These were Mount Edgecombe rocks and Cabbage Stalk Pond. This survey was carried out by Pete Howarth, a freelance ecologist.



Fig 1 - Survey locations



Fig 2 - Mt Edgecombe Rocks

Methodology

The survey consisted of one site visit to both sites where a list of bryophytes found were recorded. Any species that required further determination were collected and examined microscopically.

Results

The Mt Edgecombe area is an area of sandstone rocks. In some places in the local area these rocks can support an assemblage of specialist bryophytes. The rocks in this location however do not and only support a range of common and generalist bryophytes.

The other area supports a range of typical bryophytes for the area and the available substrates including ground floor species and epiphytic species.

For both locations see the species list below.

Mt Edgecombe

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Hypnum cupressiforme | |
| Kindbergia praelonga | |
| Bryum cappilare | |
| Ceratodon purpureus | |
| Polytichastrum formosum | |
| Campylopus introflexus | |
| Aulacomnium androgynum | |
| Cirriphyllum crassinervium | |
| Othodontium lineare | |
| Tetraphis pellucida | |
| Pellia epiphylla | |
| Cephalozia bicuspidata | |
| Isothecium alopecuroides | |
| Brachythecium rutabulum | |
| Mnium hornum | |
| Tortula marginata | |
| Tortula muralis | |
| Calypogeia fissa | |
| Didymodon tophaceus | |

Cabbage Stalk Pond

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Calliergonella cuspidata | Bare ground/ grass |
| Mnium hornum | Bare ground |
| Atrichium undulatum | Bare ground |
| Zygodon conoideus | Epiphyte |
| Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans | Bare ground |
| Kindbergia praelonga | Bare ground/grass |
| Brachythecium rutabulum | Bare ground |
| Cryphea heteromalla | Epiphyte |
| Bryum cappilare | Epiphyte |
| Metzgeria furcata | Epiphyte |
| Metzgeria fruticulosa | Epiphyte |
| Orthotrichum affine | Epiphyte |
| Orthotrichum pulchellum | Epiphyte |
| Cololejeunea minutissima | Epiphyte |
| Lophocolea heterophylla | Epiphyte |
| Cirriphyllum piliferum | Bare ground |
| Plagiomnium undulatum | Bare ground |