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

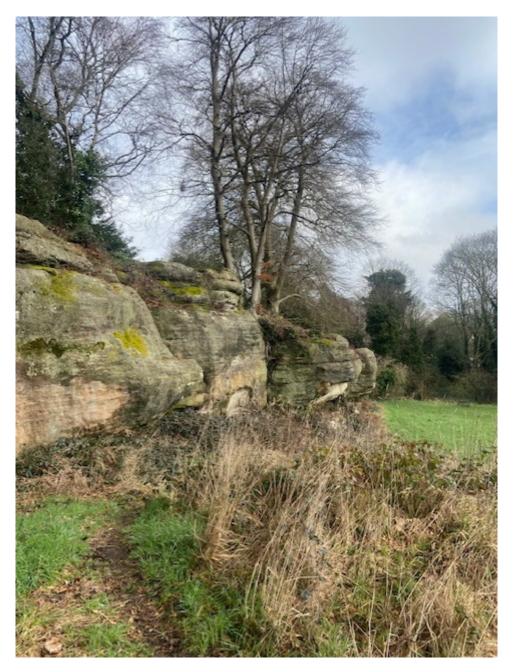


Fig 2 - Mt Edgecombe Rocks

Methodology

The survey consisted of one site visit to both sites were a list of bryophytes found were recorded. Any species that required further determined 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	
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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
Metzegeria fruticulosa	Epiphyte
Orthotrichum affine	Epiphyte
Orthotrichum pulchellum	Epiphyte
Cololejeunea minutissima	Epiphyte
Lophocolea heterophylla	Epiphyte
Cirriphyllum piliferum	Bare ground
Plagiomnium undulatum	Bare ground