

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS & RUSTHALL COMMONS MYCOLOGICAL SURVEYS YEAR TWO SUMMARY SHEET 2025



Scarletina Bolete *Neoboletus luridus* at Tunbridge Wells Common. August 2025 © Martin Allison

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### INTRODUCTION

A mycological survey of The Tunbridge Wells & Rusthall Commons was commissioned by the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators. The overall purpose of the survey was to record fungal species presence and distribution, and to provide advice on management for any important fungal communities across the commons in the final report.

It is recommended that a mycological survey covers at least three consecutive seasons to allow for fluctuations in fruiting caused by varying weather conditions. This was the second year of the commissioned work, which will continue into a final year in 2026 (to be confirmed), after which a full report of the three survey years will be submitted.

Four visits were made to each of the Commons between early August and mid-November. Two public walks were held, one on each common. Sites known to have mycological potential, based on the 2024 survey, were prioritized, but outlying areas also produced one or two interesting species.

In contrast to 2024, when grassland fungi fruited well whilst woodland fungi were relatively scarce, 2025 saw the opposite scenario, with few grassland species appearing, and most new records coming from wooded areas. Summer 2025 saw extremely hot and dry weather for long periods, interspersed with a few light showers. This provided ideal fruiting conditions for warmth loving (thermophilus) fungi in August and early September. Of particular note were good records of local or rare early fruiting Boletes and Russulas (Brittlelegills).

### YEAR TWO RESULTS

75 new species were added to the total during the second-year survey, bringing the two-year total to 190 (Table 1). In 2025, 144 species were recorded from Tunbridge Wells Common, and 102 from Rusthall Common.

The most productive woodland areas were similar to 2024, but mention should be made of Victoria Grove on Tunbridge Wells Common. This area supports some fine mature **Lime** *Tilia* sp. trees, mixed with **Pedunculate Oak** *Quercus robur*. It is here that several boletes and brittlelegills were found, including the rare *Russula laeta*, with just eleven English records and 3 from Northern Ireland, it is a new county species. The large and showy *Cortinarius balteatocumulatis* is another scarce fungus found with the limes and is another new Kent record. A second rare species, **Pallid Brittlelegill** *Russula raoultii*, was found with oaks in the Mount Edgecombe area. There are around thirty UK records for this fungus, including three from West Kent.

More surprising was a collection of a **Pinkgill** *Entoloma* species from a rather uninspiring mixed scrubby woodland close by Molyneux House. It was initially thought to be a widespread species and consequentially little detail was noted in the field. On checking further at home, it didn't fit any obvious descriptions so was sequenced. The result was a 99.9% match to several recent European collections of *Entoloma bryorum*. More work will be needed on this cryptic fungus if it reappears in 2026, including a detailed description, but meanwhile it is considered a new UK record.

As mentioned, grassland fungi were shy to appear this season. Visits to the Lower Cricket Ground produced relatively few fungi compared to 2024. However, following last year's sward management advice, the habitat looked in good condition for supporting the waxcap community. One or two waxcaps were found at The Bumps, Rusthall Common this season, including **Blackening Waxcap** *Hygrocybe conica*. Also on Rusthall Common, on large logs on the edge of the cricket ground, we found what I believe to be Woolly **Oyster** *Hohenbuehelia mastrucata*. Material was in rather poor condition but has been sent for sequencing. There are 14 UK records for the species, and this would be the second for West Kent.

**Scarlet Waxcap** *Hygrocybe coccinea* and **Yellow Club** *Clavulinopsis helvola* appeared in a wooded setting in the southwest section of Tunbridge Wells Common. Their presence suggests the area was once open grassland that has since reverted to woodland. Also found in the south-west of the common was the small unassuming *Hydropus subalpinus*. I am more familiar with this species from West Sussex, so this find was a surprise and a first record for West Kent.

**Table 1 Systematic List of all fungi recorded on the Commons in 2024 & 2025**

Species	English Name	Tunbridge Wells Common	Rusthall Common
<b>Boletes</b>			
<i>Boletus edulis</i>	Cep, Penny Bun, Porcini	*	*
<i>Butyriboletus appendiculatus</i>	Oak Bolete		*
<i>Gyroporus castaneus</i>	Chestnut Bolete		*
<i>Hortiboletus engelii</i>	Orangefoot Bolete	*	
<i>Imleria badia</i>	Bay Bolete	*	
<i>Leccinum scabrum</i>	Brown Birch Bolete	*	
<i>Neoboletus luridus</i>	Scarletina Bolete	*	
<i>Pseudoboletus parasiticus</i>	Parasitic Bolete	*	
<i>Xerocomellus cisalpinus</i>	Bluefoot Bolete	*	*
<i>Xerocomellus pruinatus</i>	Matt Bolete	*	
<i>Xerocomus subtomentosus</i>	Suede Bolete		*
<b>Agarics (Gilled Fungi)</b>			
<i>Amanita citrina</i>	False Deathcap		*
<i>Amanita excelsa</i>	Grey-spotted Amanita	*	
<i>Amanita excelsa var. spissa</i>	Grey-spotted Amanita	*	*
<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette	*	
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	*	*
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	Blusher	*	*
<i>Amanita vaginata</i>	Grisette		*
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus	*	*
<i>Bolbitius titubans</i>	Yellow Fieldcap	*	
<i>Britzelmayria multipedata</i>	Clustered Brittlestem		*

<i>Candolleomyces candolleanus</i>	Pale Brittlestem	*	*
<i>Chlorophyllum rhacodes</i>	Shaggy Parasol	*	
<i>Clitocybe nebularis</i>	Clouded Funnel	*	*
<i>Clitopilus prunulus</i>	The Miller	*	
<i>Coprinellus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	*	*
<i>Coprinopsis acuminata</i>	Humpback Inkcap	*	
<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Shaggy Inkcap, Lawyer's Wig		*
<i>Cortinarius balteatocumulatis</i>	A webcap	*	
<i>Cortinarius hemitrichus</i>	Frosty Webcap	*	
<i>Cortinarius leucoluteolus</i>	Jaundiced Webcap	*	
<i>Cortinarius lacustris</i>	Lakeside Webcap		*
<i>Cortinarius pilatii</i>	Lemonbalm Webcap	*	
<i>Crepidotus cesatii</i>	Roundspored Oysterling	*	*
<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	Peeling Oysterling		*
<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>	Variable Oysterling	*	
<i>Cuphophyllum pratensis</i>	Meadow Waxcap	*	*
<i>Dermoloma cuneifolium</i>	Crazed Cap	*	
<i>Entoloma bryorum</i>	A pinkgill	*	
<i>Entoloma minutum</i>	Minute Pinkgill		*
<i>Entoloma rhodopolium</i>	Wood Pinkgill	*	
<i>Entoloma sericeum</i>	Silky Pinkgill	*	
<i>Flammula alnicola</i>	Alder Scalycap	*	
<i>Gliophorus irrigatus</i>	Slimy Waxcap		*churchyard only
<i>Gliophorus laetus</i>	Heath Waxcap	*	
<i>Gliophorus psittacinus</i>	Parrot Waxcap	*	*
<i>Gymnopilus dilepis</i>	Magenta Rustgill	*	
<i>Gymnopilus penetrans</i>	Common Rustgill	*	
<i>Gymnopus dryophilus</i>	Russet Toughshank	*	*
<i>Gymnopus erythropus</i>	Redleg Toughshank	*	
<i>Gymnopus fusipes</i>	Spindle Toughshank		*
<i>Gymnopus obscuroides</i>	A toughshank	*	*
<i>Gymnopus peronatus</i>	Wood Woollyfoot	*	
<i>Hebeloma aestivale</i>	A poisonpie		*
<i>Hebeloma anthracophilum</i>	A poisonpie	*	
<i>Hebeloma sacchariolens</i>	Sweet Poisonpie	*	
<i>Hebeloma sinapizans</i>	Bitter Poisonpie		*
<i>Hohenbuehelia mastrucata</i>	Woolly Oyster		*
<i>Hydropus subalpinus</i>			
<i>Hygrocybe ceracea</i>	Butter Waxcap	*	
<i>Hygrocybe chlorophana</i>	Golden Waxcap	*	*
<i>Hygrocybe coccinea</i>	Scarlet Waxcap	*	
<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>	Blackening Waxcap		*
<i>Hygrocybe glutinipes</i> var. <i>glutinipes</i>	Glutinous Waxcap	*	
<i>Hygrocybe reidii</i>	Honey Waxcap		*
<i>Hymenopellis radicata</i>	Rooting Shank	*	*
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	*	*

<i>Inocybe cf flocculosa</i>	Fleecy Fibrecap		*
<i>Inocybe geophylla</i>	White Fibrecap		*
<i>Inocybe lilacina</i>	Lilac Fibrecap		*
<i>Inocybe xanthomelus</i>	A fibrecap		*
<i>Inosperma cookei</i>	Straw Fibrecap	*	
<i>Kuehneromyces mutabilis</i>	Sheathed Woodtuft	*	
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	Amethyst Deceiver	*	*
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	Deceiver	*	*
<i>Lacrymaria lacrymabunda</i>	Weeping Widow	*	*
<i>Lactarius quietus</i>	Oakbug Milkcap	*	*
<i>Lactarius serifluus</i>	Watery Milkcap	*	
<i>Lactarius tabidus</i>	Birch Milkcap	*	*
<i>Lepista nuda</i>	Wood Blewit	*	*
<i>Lyophyllum decastes</i>	Clustered Domecap		*
<i>Lyophyllum ellisii</i>		*	
<i>Macrolepiota procera</i>	Parasol	*	
<i>Marasmius hudsonii</i>	Holly Parachute	*	*
<i>Marasmius rotula</i>	Collared Parachute	*	
<i>Marasmiellus ramealis</i>	Twig Parachute		*
<i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>	Whitelaced Shank	*	
<i>Mycena aetites</i>	Drab Bonnet	*	*
<i>Mycena arcangeliana</i>	Angel's Bonnet	*	
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet	*	*
<i>Mycena hiemalis</i>	Winter Bonnet	*	
<i>Mycena inclinata</i>	Clustered Bonnet	*	*
<i>Mycena olivaceomarginata</i>	Brown-edged Bonnet	*	
<i>Mycena polyadelpha</i>	White Oakleaf Bonnet	*	
<i>Mycena rosea</i>	Rosy Bonnet	*	*
<i>Mycena stylobates</i>	Bulbous Bonnet	*	
<i>Mycena vitilis</i>	Snapping Bonnet	*	*
<i>Panaeolus acuminatus</i>	Dewdrop Mottlegill	*	
<i>Panellus stipticus</i>	Bitter Oysterling	*	*
<i>Paralepista flaccida</i>	Tawny Funnel	*	
<i>Parasola leiocephala</i>	Bald Inkcap		*
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Rollrim	*	*
<i>Phloeomana olida</i>	Rancid Bonnet		*
<i>Phloeomana speirea</i>	Bark Bonnet		*
<i>Pholiota gummosa</i>	Sticky Scalycap		*
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield		*
<i>Pluteus chrysophaeus</i>	Yellow Shield		*
<i>Pluteus podospilus</i> var, <i>minutissimus</i>	A shield		*
<i>Pluteus salicinus</i>	Willow Shield	*	
<i>Porpolomopsis calyptriformis</i>	Pink Waxcap, Ballerina		*churchyard only
<i>Psathyrella corrugis</i>	Rededge Brittlestem	*	
<i>Psathyrella microrrhiza</i>	Rootlet Brittlestem	*	*
<i>Psathyrella piluliformis</i>	Common Stump Brittlestem	*	*
<i>Pseudolyophyllum metachroum</i>	Twotone Funnel	*	



<i>Psilocybe cyanescens</i>	Bluefoot Brownie		*
<i>Psilocybe semilanceata</i>	Liberty Cap	*	
<i>Rhodocollybia butryacea</i>	Buttercap	*	*
<i>Rickenella fibula</i>	Orange mosscap	*	
<i>Roridomyces roridus</i>	Dripping Bonnet	*	*
<i>Russula amoenolens</i>	Camembert Brittlegill	*	*
<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	Purple Brittlegill	*	*
<i>Russula cicatricata</i>	Ochrecrab Brittlegill	*	
<i>Russula delica</i>	Milk White Brittlegill	*	
<i>Russula densifolia</i>	Crowded Brittlegill	*	
<i>Russula fragilis</i>	Fragile Brittlegill	*	*
<i>Russula graveolens</i>	Oldcrab Brittlegill	*	
<i>Russula grisea</i>	False Charcoal Burner	*	*
<i>Russula laeta</i>	A brittlegill	*	
<i>Russula nigricans</i>	Blackening Brittlegill	*	
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittlegill	*	*
<i>Russula parazurea</i>	Powdery Brittlegill	*	*
<i>Russula raoultii</i>	Pallid Brittlegill	*	
<i>Russula risigallina</i>	Golden Brittlegill	*	
<i>Russula sororia</i>	Sepia Brittlegill	*	
<i>Russula vesca</i>	The Flirt	*	
<i>Stropharia pseudocyanea</i>	Peppery Roundhead	*	
<i>Thaxterogaster collocandoides</i>	Opalescent Webcap	*	
<i>Tricholoma lascivum</i>	Aromatic Knight		*
<i>Tricholoma scalpturatum</i>	Yellowing Knight		*
<i>Tricholoma sulphureum</i>	Sulphur Knight	*	
<i>Tricholoma ustale</i>	Burnt Knight		*
<i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>	Scurfy Twiglet	*	*
<b>Bracket Fungi &amp; Allies</b>			
<i>Abortiporus biennis</i>	Blushing Rosette	*	
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Bracket	*	*
<i>Cantharellus cibarius</i>	Chanterelle		*
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket	*	
<i>Fistulina hepatica</i>	Beefsteak Fungus	*	
<i>Fomitopsis betulina</i>	Birch Polypore, Razor Strop Fungus	*	*
<i>Fuscoporia ferrea/ferruginosa</i>	Cinnamon/Rusty Porecrust	*	*
<i>Ganoderma australe</i>	Southern Artist's Bracket	*	
<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>	Chicken of the Woods	*	
<i>Phlebia rufa</i>			*
<i>Plicatura crispa</i>	Crimped Gill	*	
<i>Schizopora paradoxa</i>	Split Porecrust	*	*
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	*	*
<i>Stereum rameale</i>		*	
<i>Stereum rugosum</i>	Bleeding Broadleaf Crust	*	
<i>Stereum subtomentosum</i>	Yellowing Curtain Crust	*	*
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail	*	*

<b>Corals &amp; Clubs</b>			
<i>Clavulina coralloides</i>	Crested Coral		*
<i>Clavulinopsis helvola</i>	Yellow Club	*	
<i>Clavulinopsis luteoalba</i>	Apricot Club	*	
<i>Ramariopsis subtilis</i>	Slender Coral		*
<b>Puffballs &amp; Allies</b>			
<i>Clathrus archeri</i>	Devil's Fingers	*	*
<i>Lycoperdon excipuliforme</i>	Pestle Puffball		*
<i>Lycoperdon nigrescens</i>	Dusky Puffball	*	
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball	*	
<i>Phallus impudicus</i>	Stinkhorn	*	
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball	*	*
<i>Scleroderma verrucosum</i>	Scaly Earthball		*
<b>Jelly Fungi</b>			
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly Ear	*	
<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn	*	*
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	Common Jelly Spot		*
<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	Witch's Butter	*	
<i>Exidia nucleata</i>	Crystal Brain	*	*
<i>Exidia repanda</i>	Birch Jelly	*	
<b>Cup &amp; Flask Fungi (Ascomycetes)</b>			
<i>Aleuria aurantia</i>	Orange Peel Fungus	*	*
<i>Apiocrea chrysosperma</i>			*
<i>Claviceps purpurea</i>	Ergot	*	
<i>Cordyceps militaris</i>	Scarlet Caterpillarclub	*	
<i>Helvella crispa</i>	White Saddle		*
<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodward	*	
<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral spot	*	
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Sycamore Tarspot	*	
<i>Trochila ilicina</i>	Holly Speckle	*	*
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff Fungus	*	*
<b>Phycomycetes (Algal Fungi)</b>			
<i>Syngites megalocarpus</i>	Mould on earthballs	*	*
<b>Slime Moulds</b>			
<i>Arcyria denudata</i>	Carnival Candy Slime Mould	*	
<i>Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa</i>	Coral Slime	*	
<i>Fuligo septica var flava</i>	Scrambled Egg		*