



Mt Edgcombe Rocks

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON

Walking Trails

The Common is a wonderful green space in the centre of town. People use it for many different purposes – walking, playing, learning, exercise, scrambling over rocks, horse riding or just sitting on a bench to take in the wonders of nature – so please make sure that everyone can enjoy their surroundings equally. Look after yourselves, each other, and the Common.

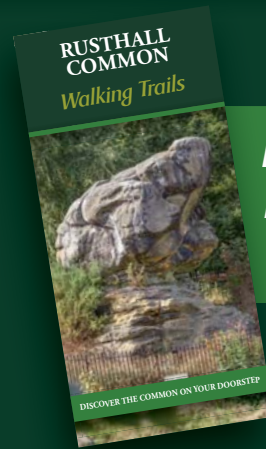
There are two pay and display car parks on the Common, and four hour parking is available in Castle Road and Mount Edgcombe Road (once known as Donkey Drive, but sadly you can no longer hire a donkey there!).

Please note that the whole Common is surrounded by busy main roads, so please cross with care.

There are a number of tarmac paths, but most of the paths on the Common are simply trails, often steep, and can get very muddy in wet weather.



Wellington Rocks



Look out for the other leaflet in this series – RUSTHALL COMMON WALKING TRAILS

You can find more information on both Commons on the following websites:

Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators - www.twcommons.org

Friends of the Commons - www.friendsofthecommons.co.uk

Kent High Weald Partnership - www.khwp.org.uk

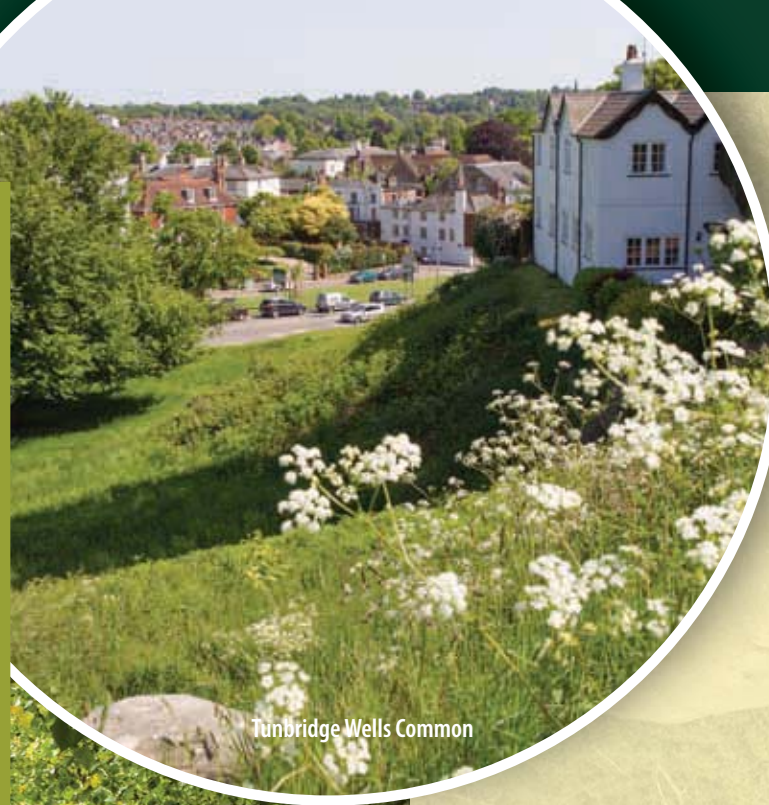
Cover photo: Wellington Rocks



DISCOVER THE COMMON ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Rocks and history

The Commons are famous for their sandstone outcrops, laid down as deposits from a vast freshwater lake around 136 million years ago, and sculpted by wind and water erosion during the Ice Age. Wellington Rocks and Mount Edgcumbe Rocks are the best known examples on Tunbridge Wells Common, but you can see many smaller outcrops across the Common.



Tunbridge Wells Common

The earliest known inhabitants, hunter-gatherers of the Middle Stone Age, began the process of clearing the primeval forest to attract deer, and the Common was used as swine pasture in Saxon times.

This created open heathland but, since grazing died out around a hundred years ago, scrub and woodland have grown up, pushing out heathland plants and animals and obscuring many of the familiar views and landmarks. We are now restoring much of the heathland; some of the outcrops you see today have recently been uncovered.

Flora & fauna



The Common is carefully managed to provide a habitat for a wide range of wildlife and plants, supporting many rare species.

It attracts dozens of bird species, and is home to a range of butterflies. You can also find voles and mice, lizards, slow worms and grass snakes, crickets and grasshoppers, and solitary bees. You may see strange, grass-covered mounds which are home to the Yellow Meadow Ant, a sign of high quality ancient grassland. At night, owls and bats abound.

There are several ponds on the Common which act as breeding grounds for frogs, toads, newts and dragonflies. And, if you are especially quiet, you may see one of the Roe Deer that live here.



Royal Victoria Grove



Brighton Lake

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON

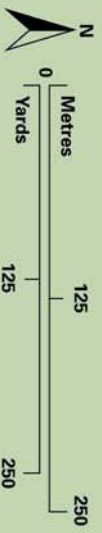
The highlighted trails cover the key features, but they are only suggestions – all the main paths are marked on the map, so it is easy to alter or combine the routes, pick your own starting point, or choose your own walk.

The trails use a variety of paths, including some unsurfaced ones.

Please cross the roads with great care.

FEATURES KEY

- 1 Panorama Panel
- 2 Mt Edgcumbe Rocks
- 3 Wellington Rocks
- 4 Royal Victoria Grove
- 5 Princess Anne's Oak
- 6 Cold Bath
- 7 Chalysbeate Spring
- 8 Brighton Lake
- 9 Molyneux Memorial



- Please note: this map is not a legal record of the alignment or existence of a public path. It is a guide to the location of paths and is taken from a © Crown Copyright and Ordnance Survey database, first 2014, Ordnance Survey 100013238
- ⋯ Wellington Rocks Trail
 - ⋯ Brighton Lake Trail
 - ⋯ Racecourse Trail
 - - - Cycle route
 - Path (surfaced)
 - Path (unsurfaced)
 - Rock formation
 - Bench
 - Steps
 - Pub/Bar/Eatery
 - Public toilets
 - Parking (pay and display)

