



Bull's Hollow

# RUSTHALL COMMON

## Walking Trails

The Common is a wonderful green space close to the centre of the village. People use it for many different purposes – walking, playing, learning, exercise, 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.

Parking is available on most of the roads in and around the Common but it is very restricted, and can sometimes be a problem.

Please note that the A264 (Langton Road) is a very busy main road, 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.



Look out for the other leaflet in this series – **TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON WALKING TRAILS**

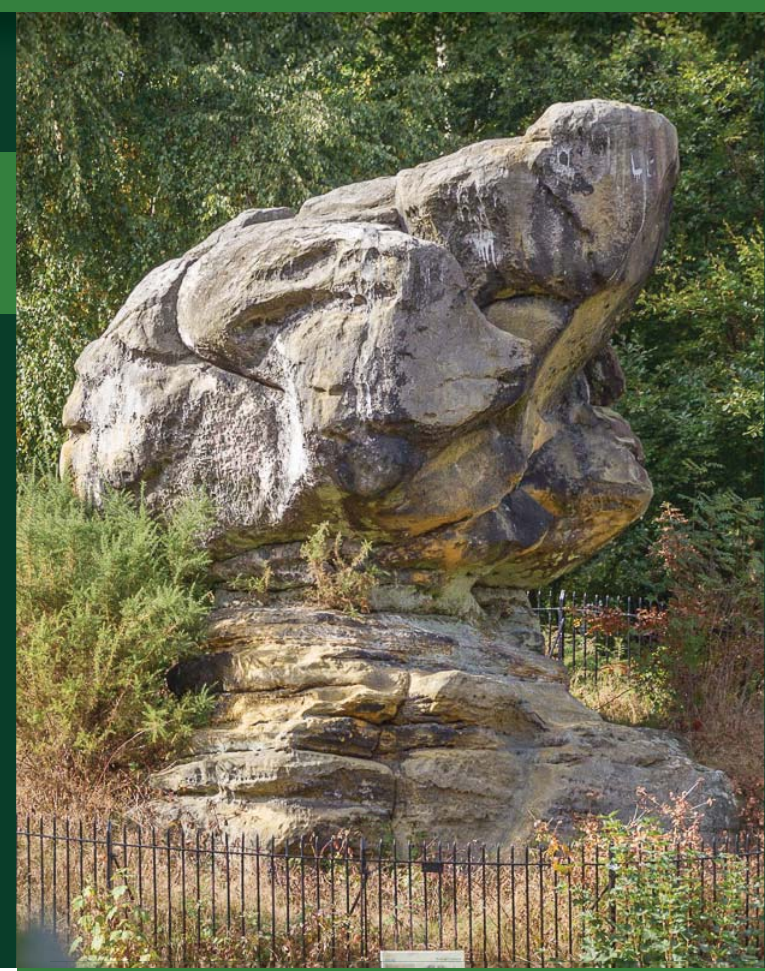
You can find more information on both Commons on the following websites:

Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators - [www.twcommons.org](http://www.twcommons.org)

Friends of the Commons - [www.friendsofthecommons.co.uk](http://www.friendsofthecommons.co.uk)

Kent High Weald Partnership - [www.khwp.org.uk](http://www.khwp.org.uk)

Cover photo: Toad Rock



Sweep's Cave



DISCOVER THE COMMON ON YOUR DOORSTEP

All photographs taken by Christopher Cassidy. Follow his blog at [www.anke.tw](http://www.anke.tw)

## Rocks and history

The Commons are famous for their sandstone outcrops, produced by wind and water erosion during the Ice Age. This has created many strange shapes on Rusthall Common, which is a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Victorians named some of them, perhaps fancifully, like the famous Toad Rock.



Happy Valley

The overhanging rock outcrops at Happy Valley were first used thousands of years ago as camp sites by our earliest known inhabitants, hunter-gatherers of the Middle Stone Age.

In Saxon times, the Common was used for grazing. 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, shrews and mice, lizards, slow worms and grass snakes, crickets, grasshoppers and solitary bees. The Common Dormouse is also known to be a resident, although rarely seen. At night, owls and bats abound.

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



Cheesewring Rock



101 Steps



Loaf Rock

# RUSTHALL 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, and in places they are steep, with steps.

Please cross the roads with great care.

- ### ROCKS KEY
- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Footsteps     | 6 Toad Rock         |
| 2 Loaf Rock     | 7 Table             |
| 3 Ship          | 8 Fireman's Ladder  |
| 4 Little Toad   | 9 Elephant          |
| 5 Bishop's Head | 10 Parson's Nose    |
| 6 Dog's Head    | 11 Lion             |
| 7 Fox's Hole    | 12 Bull's Hollow    |
| 8 Water Rock    | 13 Cheesewring Rock |



- ### FEATURE KEY
- 17 The 101 Steps
  - 18 Sweep's Cave
  - 19 Cunliffe Memorial

- - - Toad Rock Trail
- - - Happy Valley Trail
- Path (surfaced)
- Path (unsurfaced)
- Rock formation
- Bench
- Steps
- Pub/Bar/Eatery

Please note this map is not a legal record of the alignment or existence of a public right of way. No measurements should be taken from it. © Crown Copyright and Database right 2014. Ordnance Survey 100019236

