

An unintentional fungus foray

How do you have an unintentional fungus foray? Simple, set off to do something else and then unexpectedly find fungi. A warm, dry, day towards the end of August is not when we were expecting to find large clusters of fungi. If it were October, yes certainly, but not August.

It was mid-morning of Wednesday 26th August. We had arrived at Langley Country Park (<https://countryparks.buckscc.gov.uk/langley-park/>) to find some geocaches. If you do not know about geocaches or geocaching read on. Geocaching is a hi-tech form of treasure hunting. You use an App on your phone and a GPS receiver to find the location of a cache. You then log the find on a paper log and also via an on-line post.

After parking at the main car park on the east of the park, we started walking east towards the first cache. This part of the park has a lot of coniferous trees with a dense canopy. Within 100m of the overflow car park, this fungus was spotted in the undergrowth within a couple of metres of the footpath.



A bracket on a fallen birch tree

We then headed pass The Temple Garden which was mainly mature rhododendron bushes and through deciduous woodland towards the northern edge of the park to find another geocache. Getting to 50 metres from the exit onto the A412 Uxbridge-Slough road, this fungus was clearly visible on a fallen and rotting tree.



An unknown fungus on an unidentified hard-wood tree; and yes we should have photographed the underside of the fungus and made a note of the general environment

The next cache was to the west, as we headed towards Avenue Gate. The path running parallel to the A412. There was a low earthen bank topped by a fence between us and the road. The vegetation was low bushes and youngish trees. Just near Avenue Gate, this fungus was growing out of the soil on the bank.



A bracket on a birch tree

Finally, having found more geocaches we headed back towards the carpark. In the open grassland to the east of Kings Wood, we nearly stepped a cluster of this fungus pushing its way through the lank grass.



Genus Russula

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