

Birch polypores hanging about in Campton

Fomitopsis betulina

These large polypores firmly fastened to this stand of decaying trees are both ubiquitous and reciprocal to the Birches on which they grow. These particular examples have likely been here for more than a year.



While *Fomitopsis betulina* is edible, it is far from palatable and not particularly nutritious. These conks fill their niche well, with little additional fanfare or (verifiable) use; they recycle pioneering birches to make way for a new chapter of succession.

In the name of foraging though, it is worth mentioning another glorious basidiocarp- *Inonotus obliquus*, Chaga- also frequents Birches, though with a completely different role as a species.

Lycopodium species in Thornton

most likely *Huperzia lucidula* (Club moss)



Lycophytes are fascinating, primitive vascular plants. Yes, most are more or less edible, though members of Lycophyta are neither palatable nor nutritious / verifiably beneficial to consume.

Without geeking out too far here, some neat facets of Lycophytes include:

- Oldest group of vascular plants- Club mosses have been active members of the Planet Earth Club for over 400 million years.
- The spores of most Lycophytes are extremely explosive. Early press photographers actually developed a short-lived market for spores for use in open tray flash lamps as a substitute for magnesium powder.

