

## 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.

