Mushroom IDs for common species seen on Highfield Country Park fungi walk with Raddon and Kell, 29th October 2022

Photo	Name/description
	**Blushing Bracket** (Daedaleopsis confragosa) - Red 'blush' on top and lighter outside edge - Yellowy pores clearly visible underneath (it's part of the polypore family) - Found on fallen trees, often on Willow
	**White Saddle** (Helvella crispa) - White throughout, stem hollow with many chambers and cavities - Crumpled saddle shape on top - Found in leaf litter with deciduous trees - No gills/pores; spores released from tiny spore sacs (called asci)
	**Fly Agaric** (Amanita muscaria) - White stem and gills - Notable ring (skirt) on stem, white spots on top are the remains of a veil covering the mushroom as it emerges from an egg-like sac - Spots wash off in the rain - White spore print - Usually found with birch, pine or spruce





Birch Polypore (Fomotiopsis betulina)

- Pure white underside of tiny pores (polypore family), smooth texture when young
- Light brown skin on top, forming cracks and rings
- Found nearly exclusively on Birch, each fruitbody lasting one to two years



Candlesnuff Fungus (Xylaria hypoxylon)

- Black stem with grey/white spore-bearing tips in mid-Autumn
- Can be single sticks or branch into fingers, looking like horns (hence other common name of Stagshorn)
- Found on dead tree stumps and rotting logs



Jelly Ears (Auricularia auricula-judae**)**

- Brown, floppy, gelatinous
- Ear shaped, with folds on underside
- Usually found on elder trees, often in large numbers







Shaggy Inkcap or **Lawyers Wig** (Coprinus comatus)

- White shaggy cap, beginning as a narrow oval shape then widening from the rim
- White, hollow stem
- Part of the inkcap family, all turning to a dark inky substance within days (known as ‘deliquescing’)
- Found in soil rich with organic matter including lawns, compost and leaf litter
- If found at stage of the lower left image, makes an excellent spore/ink print! Lower right image shows the same cap printed twice.

For more ID info, use firstnature.com + wildfood.co.uk along with ID books. Roger Phillips ‘Mushrooms’ (2006) recommended.