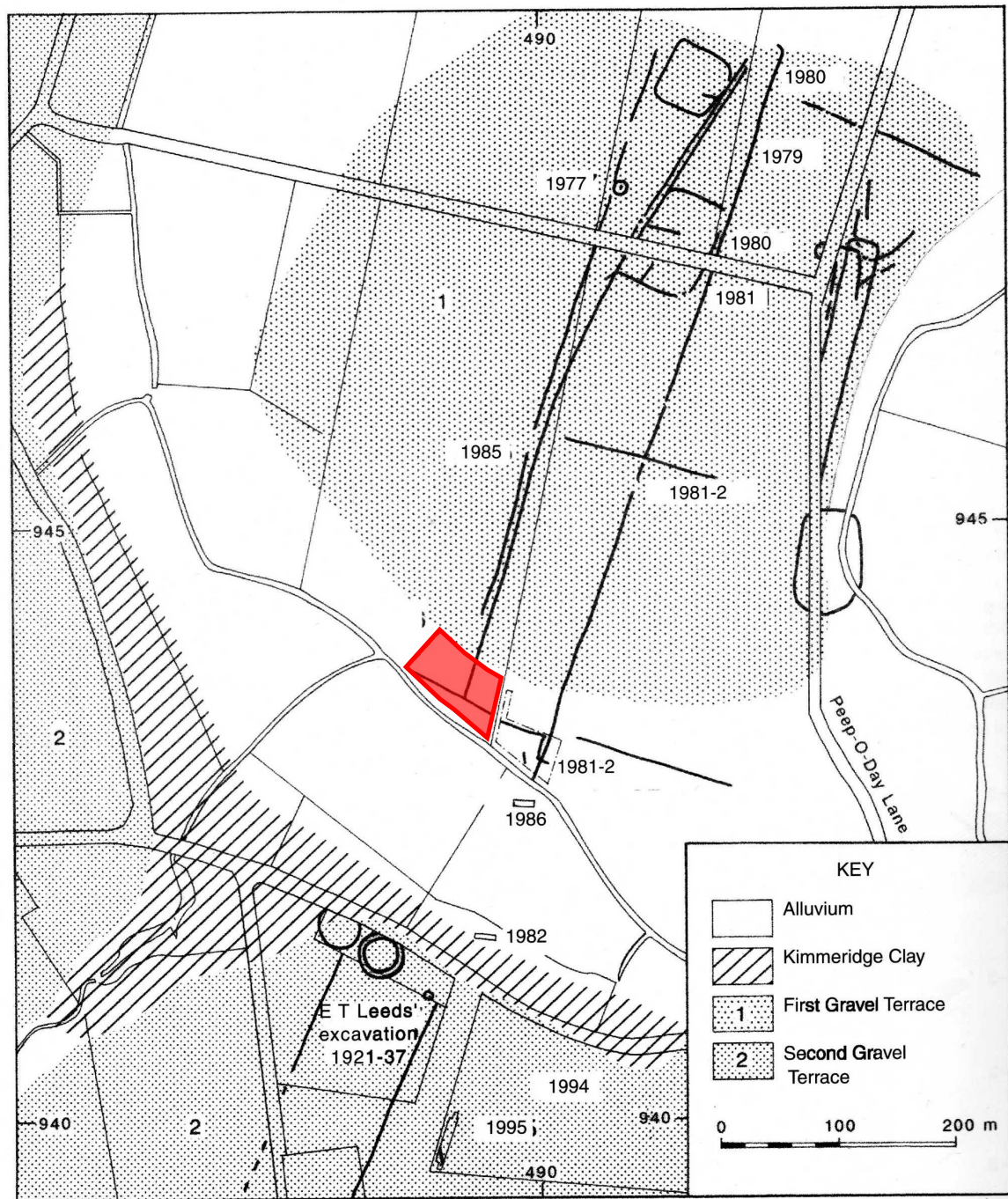
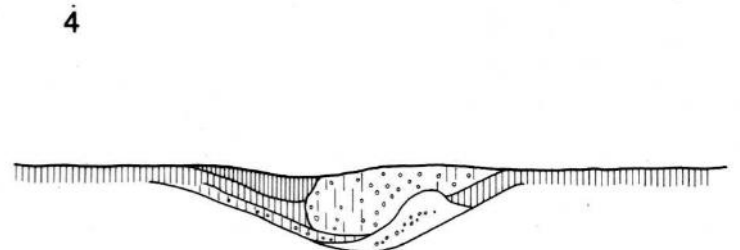
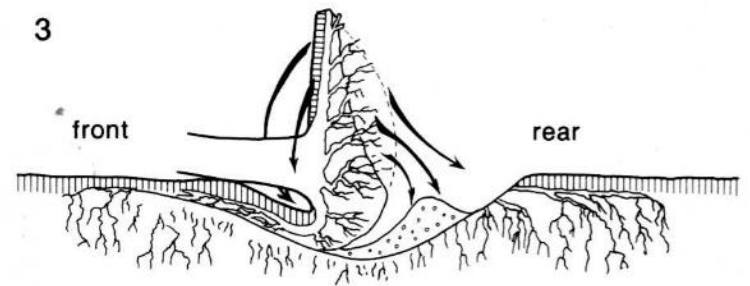
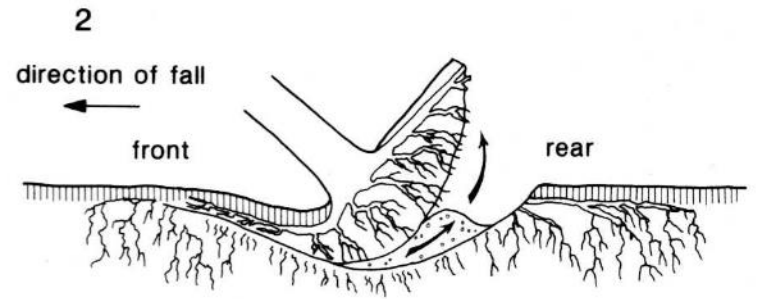
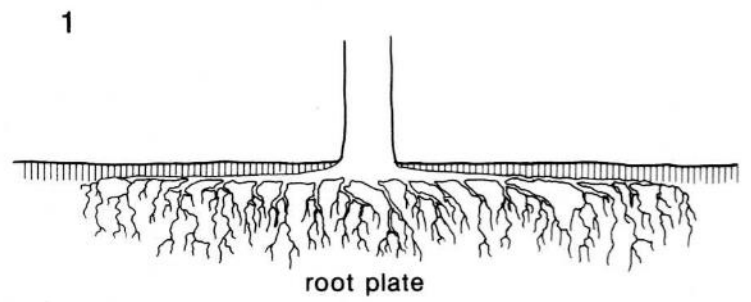


The archaeology of tree holes in relation to old ground surfaces, pits and the ploughzone



The Drayton Cursus (north)

(excavation cited by Highways England's paper, *Archaeological Evaluations. Review of Ploughzone Lithics and Tree Hollow Distributions*)





Tree throw holes

C14 Dates

(oak charcoal incl. root)

3960-3530 cal BC

3790-3360 cal BC

3030-2595 cal BC

2580-2140 cal BC

Pottery

Peterborough Ware

Ebbsfleet Ware

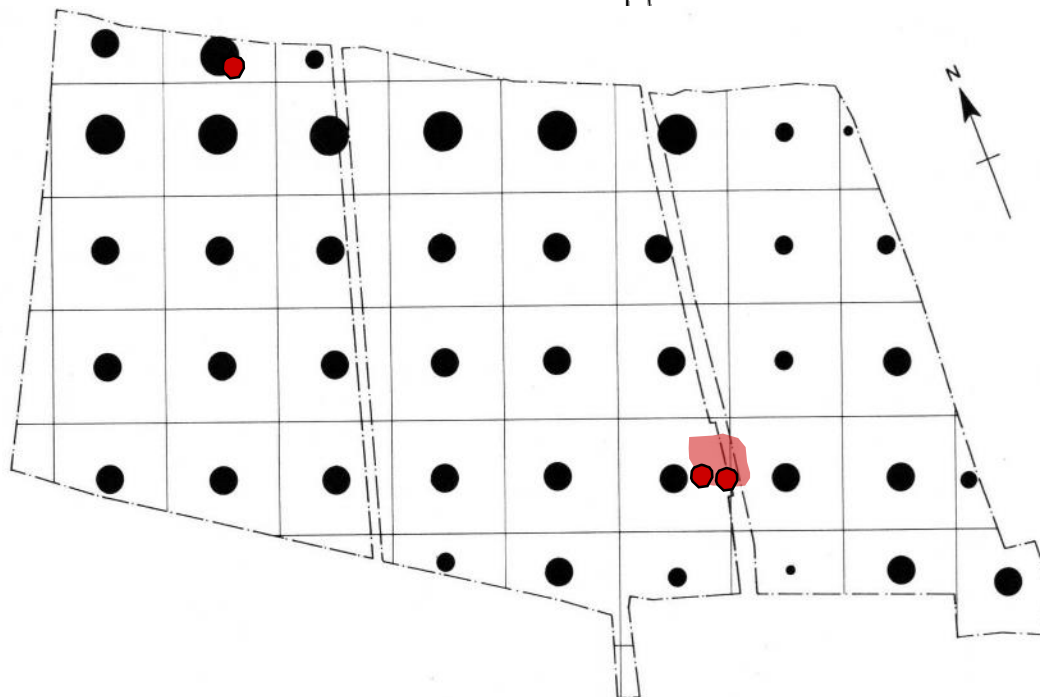
Grooved Ware

Beaker



Pottery

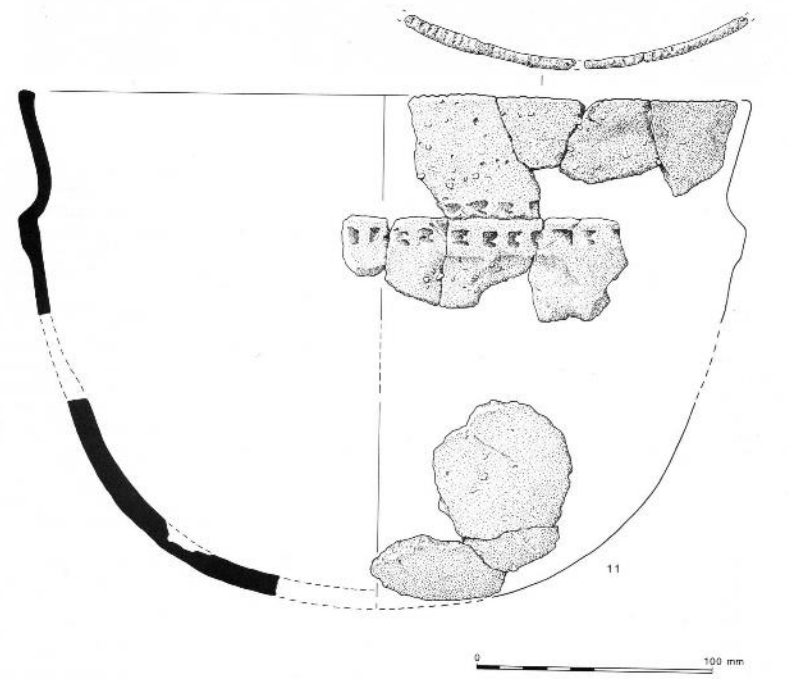
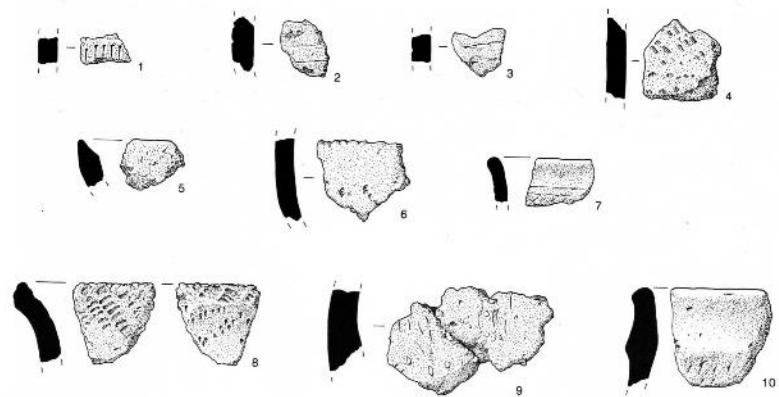
- Peterborough Ware
- ▼ Grooved Ware
- Beaker
- ★ Bronze Age
- Nil recovery

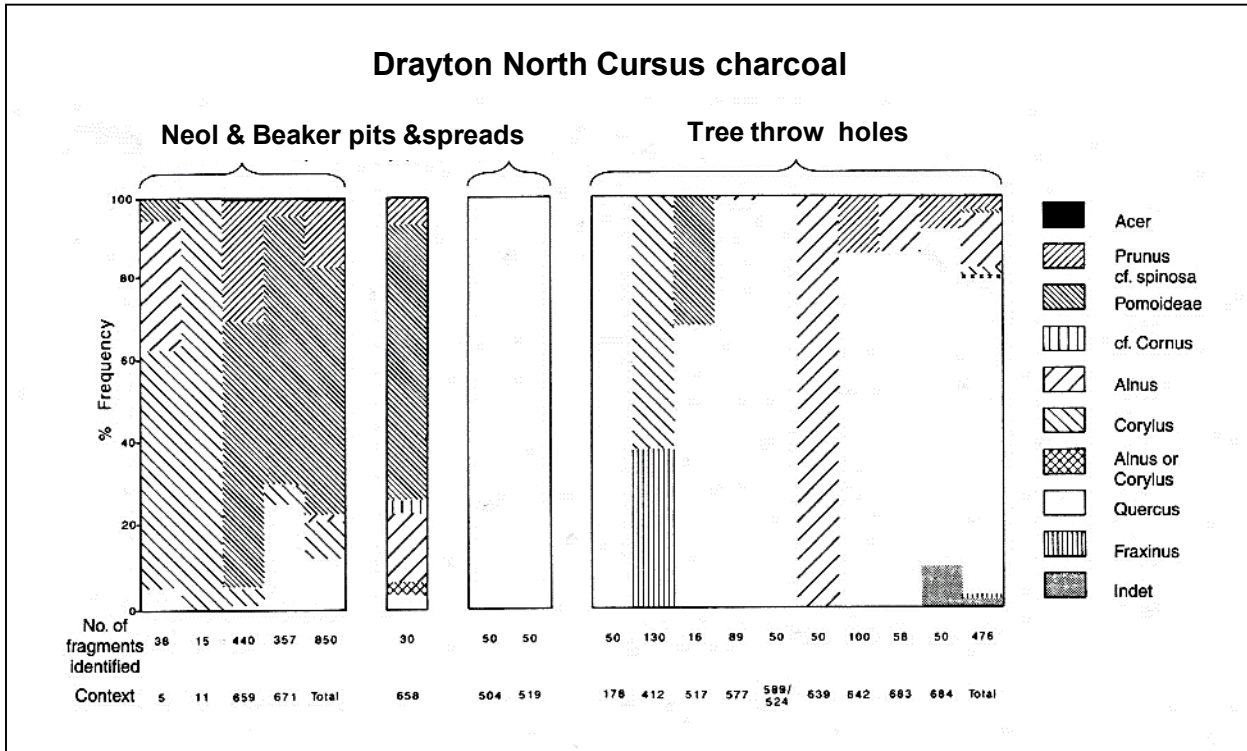
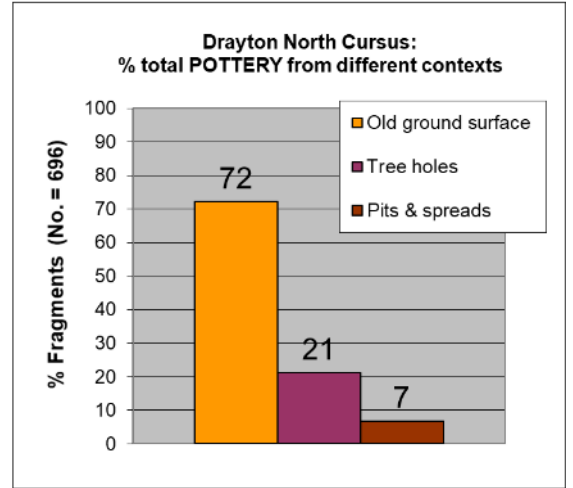
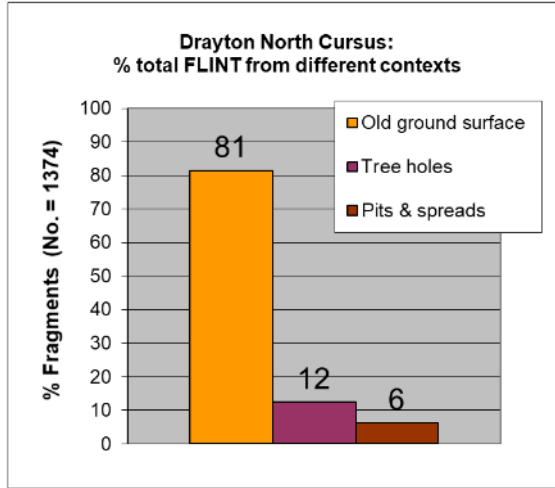
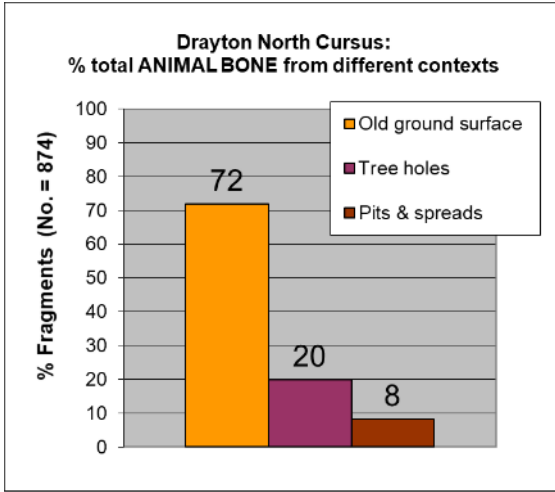


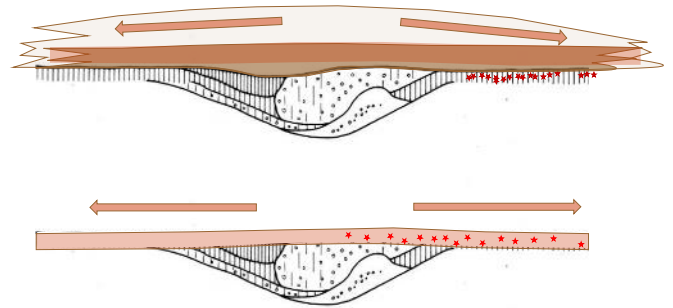
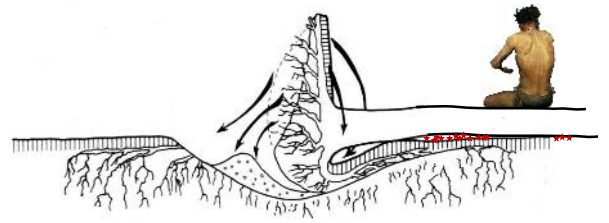
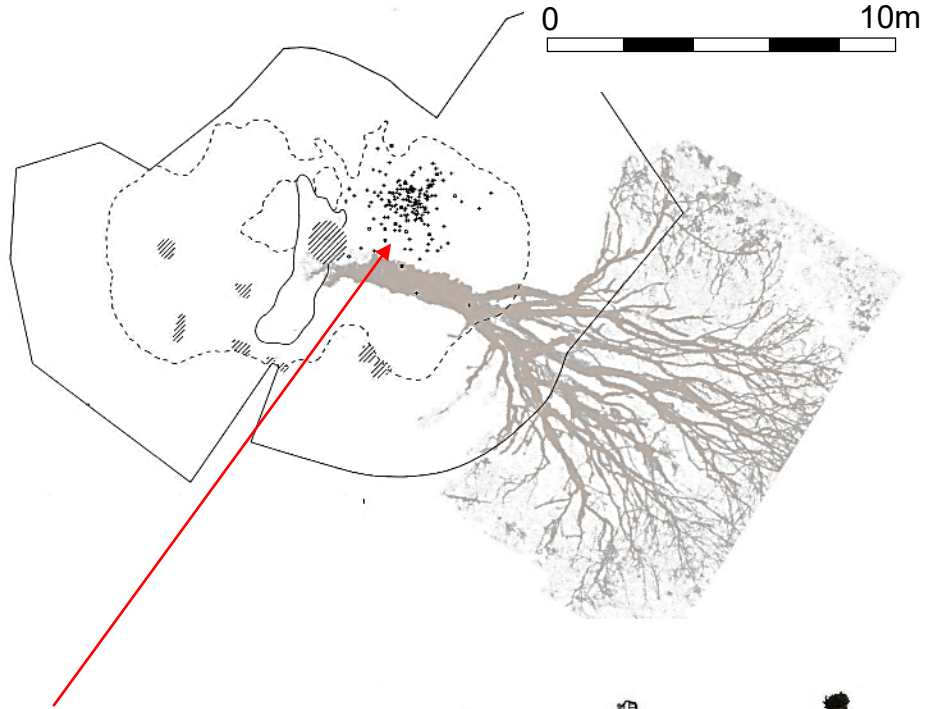
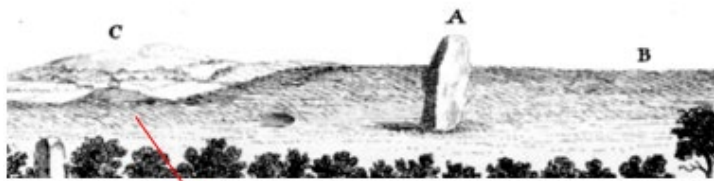
Worked flint

- <4
- <16
- <64
- <256









Tree holes in relation to old ground surfaces, pits and the ploughzone as complementary repositories of archaeological remains

- Tree Holes are a repository of former ground surfaces (albeit in locally disturbed form)
 - Like old ground surfaces they reflect multi-period activity (otherwise dispersed by ploughing)
 - Can also provide key indicators of tree clearance and environment through time
- Compared with deliberately dug pits and other features:
 - Usually less productive of artefacts and environmental evidence – but not necessarily so
 - Overall much greater capacity to capture evidence due to much greater volume and frequency
 - Presence AND absence of archaeological remains can better reveal spatial patterning over time
 - Evidence reflective of general activity less likely to be affected by deliberate ‘special’ deposition
 - Less likely to reflect specific activity at a particular time – but can do so...
 - May reflect deliberate use/ deposition (albeit less commonly than pits etc)
 - Overall more complex taphonomy is a challenge for interpretation
- Compared with ploughzone archaeology:
 - Reflects general pattern of activity at different periods in similar ways...
 - Much more patchy occurrence, but material less dispersed from origin by millennia of cultivation
 - Evidence less diluted by later activity
 - Better able to preserve relatively fragile elements (pottery, charcoal, snails sediment etc)
- Need to be considered not in isolation but related to deliberate deposits and ploughzone