

## PILLOWS AND CRADLES

The land around you is very bumpy and not at all like the ground in what was once the North Grantham Fairground. This topography, known as “pillows and cradles” or “pits and mounds”, is typical of New England forests that have never been levelled and plowed for agriculture. When a massive tree is blown down, its roots are ripped from the ground, leaving behind a hole (known as a cradle). As the years pass, the tree trunk and roots disappear from decay, but the dirt and stones that were clinging to the roots remain in a pile (known as a pillow). If you stand on one of the pillows and look across the cradle, you will be looking in the direction from which the wind was blowing. Look around you. Most of the pillows and cradles are oriented in the same direction, having been blown over by a strong wind from the south. It is likely that many were felled by the hurricane of 1938. That hurricane was the most damaging hurricane to have struck New England in the last 200 years, felling an estimated 2.7 billion board feet of timber and destroying 57,000 homes.