Remembering Tocobaga: Interim Report on Archaeological Testing of the Safety Harbor Site (8PI2), Pinellas County, Florida



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Prepared for:

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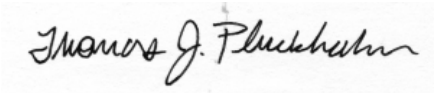

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Introduction and Background

The Department of Anthropology at the University of South Florida completed archaeological testing of the Safety Harbor site (8PI2) in Pinellas County, Florida. The site is located in Philippe Park, on a high (ca. 7-m) natural bluff above the western point of the entrance to a small embayment at the northern end of Old Tampa Bay, the latter consisting of a larger embayment in the northwest of greater Tampa Bay.

The Safety Harbor site is among the most famous sites in the Tampa Bay region, and is currently Pinellas County's only National Historic Landmark. The site was briefly described by Brinton (1859:118, 171) and Walker (1880:410-411) in the late 1800s, and by Moore (1903:356) in the early 1900s. Walker and Moore were both unable to secure permission to excavate, although the former provided a description of the stratigraphy of the site's large platform mound (referred to herein as Mound A). Brinton (1859:118, 171) appears to have been the first to associate the Safety Harbor site with the Native town of Tocobaga, described in Spanish accounts of 1560s through early 1700s (Fontaneda 1944; Solís de Merás 2017).

Matthew Stirling, Chief of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology, visited the "ancient village site at Safety Harbor" in 1929 (Stirling 1930:184) and returned the following year to excavate the burial mound at the site (Stirling 1931:1681-172). He and his small crew worked quickly to uncover the remains of over a hundred people and their associated burial goods—mainly pottery. Unfortunately, the methods were coarse and the results were minimally reported (Stirling 1931; see also Stojanowski and Johnson 2011; Willey 1949). Gordon Willey (1949) later drew on the collections generated by Stirling's excavations in his development of a chronology for the Florida Gulf Coast. Willey (1949) made Safety Harbor the type site for a pottery complex of the same name and for the local manifestation of the broader spatial, temporal, and cultural category known as "Mississippian," running from around AD 1050 to 1600.

John Griffin and Ripley Bullen (1950) conducted work at the Safety Harbor site in 1948, the year the property was acquired by Pinellas County for the purposes of creating Phillipe Park. The park—the first established in Pinellas County—was named for legendary settler Odet Philippe, who established his small citrus plantation of St. Helena on the location of the former Native town in 1842 (DeFoor 1997). Over the course of two weeks, Griffin and Bullen (1950:Figure 1) conducted excavations in three areas of the site: on top of the large platform mound, on an elevated area in the northern arm of the L-shaped village, and in the western extension of the village midden. Excavations of the platform mound revealed a complicated construction sequence, beginning with a dome-shaped burial mound of clay and sand that was later expanded northward with the addition of sand and shell (Griffin and Bullen 1950:15-19). This initial platform mound was next expanded upward, first with a layer of oyster shell and later with a series of sand and clay floors. Several of these floors were intensively occupied, as indicated by the presence of posts, pits, and higher densities of artifacts (Griffin and Bullen 1950:19).

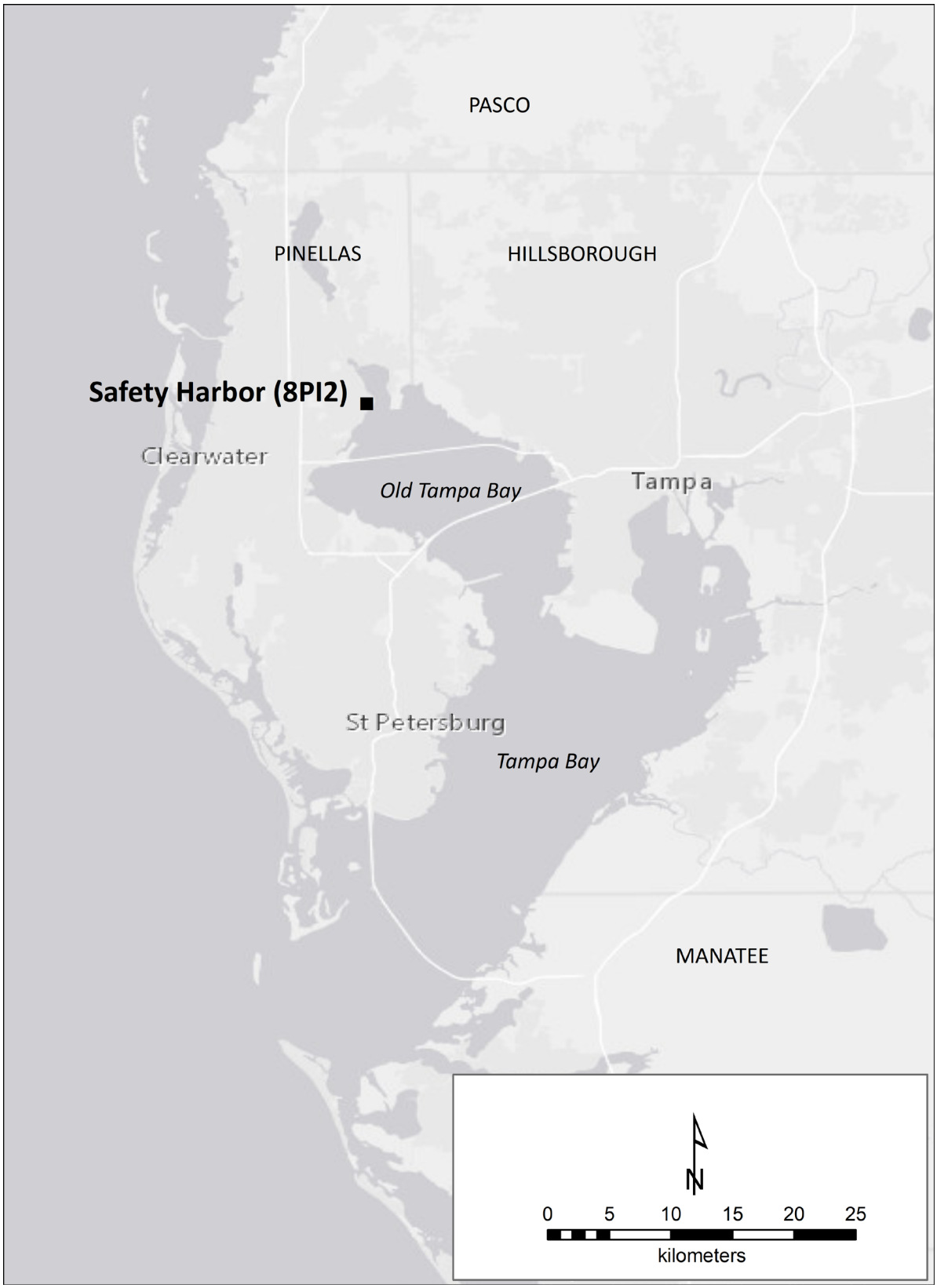

Figure 1. Location of the Safety Harbor site (8PI2).

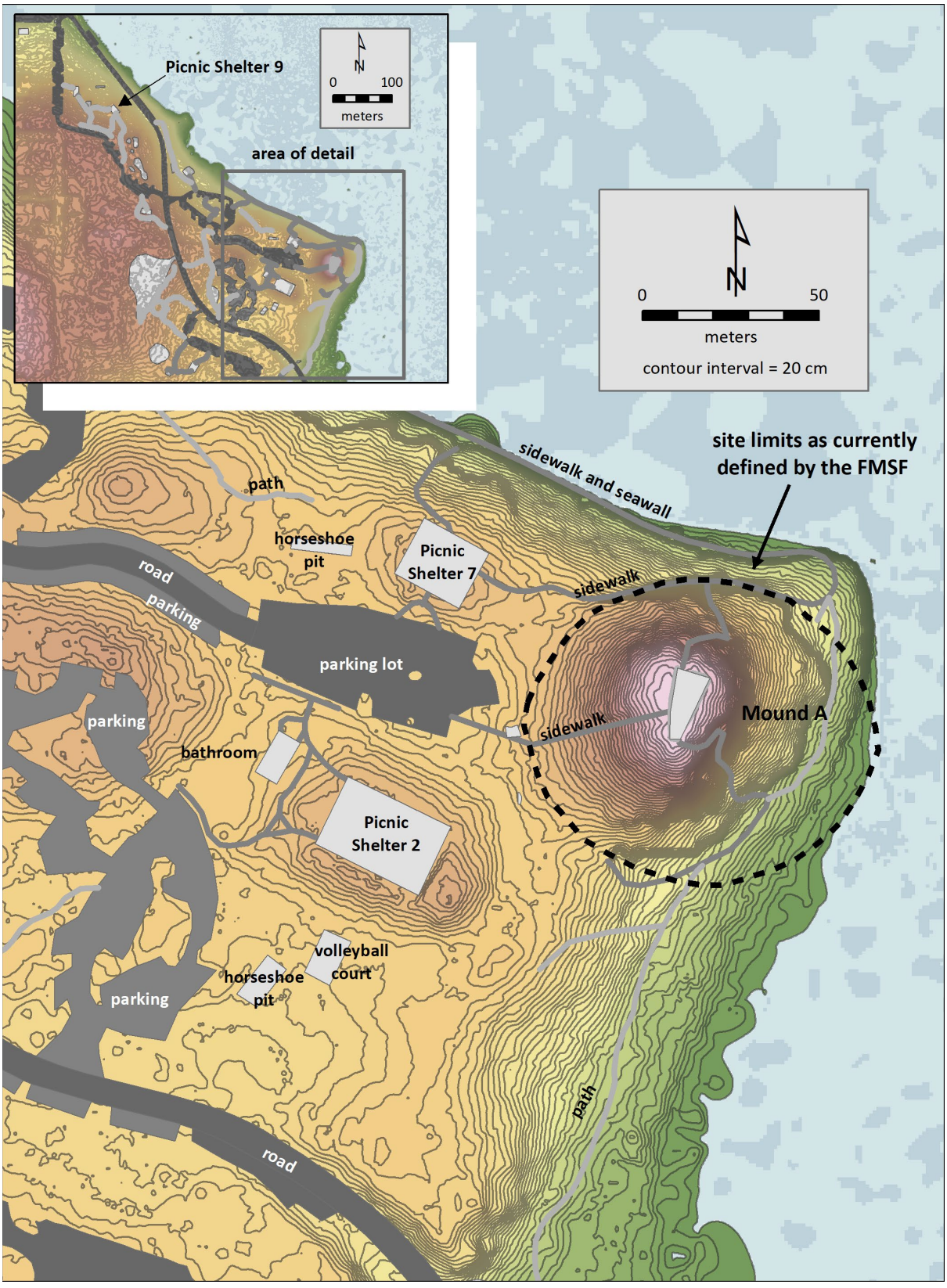

Figure 2. Map of the Safety Harbor site and park features.

Griffin and Bullen (1950:8) focused their excavations in the northern arm of the village on a "hillock" they suspected as a possible mound (Griffin and Bullen 1950:8). However, their excavation convinced them that it was natural feature (Griffin and Bullen 1950:20) and they were unimpressed with the archaeological deposits in this portion of the site, describing their work here as "not too productive" (Griffin and Bullen 1950:8). Their trench west of the mound in Area C was far more productive, identifying an area of intensive occupation as evidenced by dense artifact deposits and numerous features (Griffin and Bullen 1950:20-22).

In 1967, advocational archaeologists associated with the Safety Harbor Area Historical Society and an affiliated group known as "The Searchers, Inc." excavated in three areas of Philippe Park (St. Petersburg Times 1967). However, most of the work centered on the area of Picnic Shelter 7, to the northwest of Mound A, where they reportedly dug "a 100-square foot area…and went as deep as 6 feet to hit sterile sand" (The Tampa Tribune 1972). The excavations reportedly produced large quantities of Spanish pottery and features (Helm 1968). Unfortunately, the results of these excavations have never been reported (Mitchem 1989:52-53).

Little archaeological work has been conducted at the Safety Harbor site since the 1960s. In 1970, Ray Robinson of the Suncoast Archaeological Society recorded a site that was named the "Odet Philippi Estate" and assigned number 8PI131. However, it is not clear that any field investigations were conducted, and the FMSF places this site on the lowlands below the bluff where Philippe's house and fields were reportedly located. Safety Harbor was included in an inventory of sites in portions of Pinellas County completed by Williams (1974); however, it does not appear that the site was revisited for this project. More recently, archaeologists with the Alliance for Weeden Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE 2012) conducted salvage excavations in an area of ground disturbance resulting from a fallen tree on the slope of the platform mound. This work demonstrates that one of the final mound layers was constructed of densely packed shell.

The legacy of previous work at the Safety Harbor site is mixed. The excavations by Stirling and Griffin and Bullen clearly established the importance of the site, contributing to its designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1964 (McKithan 1981; National Park Service 1992). With the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, the Safety Harbor site was placed on the newly created National Register of Historic Places under the categories of prehistoric and historic archaeology and with the periods of significance identified as "prehistoric," "1500-1599," and "1600-1699."

However, the intensity of previous excavations (particularly those of Stirling and avocational archaeologists), coupled with the development of the site as a recreational facility, have also created the impression that little of the Safety Harbor site remains. This is reflected in the NHL boundaries (corresponding with the site boundaries maintained by the Florida Master Site File), which are limited only to the area of Mound A (see Figure 1). Mark Barnes (personal communication, 2019), the former NHL Coordinator for the Southeast region of the National Park Service, recalls that these boundaries were established by a NHL study completed in 1981 to

address the fact that this and other historic properties had been listed without any specific boundaries. The report justified the limitation of the area of significance on the basis of perceived damage to other portions of the site:

> The boundary was drawn in this manner because there was no apparent indication of national historic significance with the exception of the one large mound. The village area and other mounds have been excavated to extinction and developed upon. The mound is the only thing left with integrity (McKithan 1981).

Thus, the currently defined site and NHL boundaries exclude the two arms of the L-shaped village area, as defined by Griffin and Bullen (1950), as well as the intervening plaza and the burial mound.

The fact that the Safety Harbor site has suffered some loss of integrity is obvious. The eastern and southern slopes of Mound A have been extensively terraced and landscaped, and a paved ramp has been added to the mound's western slope. The northern arm of the village, already eroded away "at least twenty, and possibly, fifty feet" by the time of Griffin and Bullen's (1950:23-25) work, has been further impacted by the later avocational excavations, as well as the construction of a picnic shelter. The plaza area has been paved for parking. A restroom, picnic shelter, and a large earthen berm—the latter built for an amphitheater that was later removed—have been added to the west of the presumed plaza area. Another picnic shelter occupies the area where the burial mound formerly stood. Nevertheless, the severity of this loss of integrity has been assumed, rather than demonstrated. Despite the historical importance of the Native town of Tocobaga and the later Philippe plantation, the Safety Harbor site has been infrequently investigated, and rarely using modern archaeological methods.

In 2019, the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Florida (USF) began the first intensive and professional archaeological investigation of the Safety Harbor site in more than 70 years. Our goals were: to better define the structure and chronology of the Native village; to better define the structure and chronology of the platform mound; to verify the commonly held assumption of the site as the location of the Native town of Tocobaga and the Spanish mission-fort established there in the 1560s; and, finally, to evaluate the integrity of the site. Recognizing the importance of the site our investigations were minimally invasive.

Methods and Results

Geophysical survey of the presumed village areas included ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and gradiometry. Gradiometer survey was conducted across 11 20-x-20-m blocks for a total of 4,400 m^2 using a Bartington 601-2 Gradiometer with a single antennae array. The sampling density was 0.5 × 0.125 m. The data were processed using TerraSurveyor. Data processing included destriping (to remove stripes or breaks caused by signal wobble) using mean values with a horizontal orientation, and despiking (to locate spurious data points and replace them with a mean value within the sample frame) using a 3 x 3 pixel window. Grids 10 and 11 were also

clipped at 2 standard deviations to reduce extreme values introduced by concrete sidewalk (i.e., the metal rebar) and parking stops.

The gradiometer results are somewhat difficult to interpret owing to anomalies associated with sidewalks and utility lines (Figure 3). This is especially true of Grids 8 and 9, near the artificial berm in the eastern arm of the village where there is a line of strong dipolar anomalies that likely reflects a buried utility line. Likewise, there are strong dipolar anomalies in Grids 10 and 11 northwest of Mound A that are clearly associated with the sidewalks and parking lot, although there are also some negative anomalies that could represent archaeological features. Similar negative anomalies potentially representative of archaeological features are relatively

abundant in Grids 5-7 and Grids 1-4, in the northern and southern arms of the village (respectively). However, there are also dipolar anomalies in these areas that probably represent buried metal, either of modern origin or possibly associated with Philippe's plantation. A line of negative anomalies in Grids 1-4 may represent a modern utility, but could also conceivably represent a line of post features associated with a structure associated with the Native American occupation or, perhaps more likely, the Philippe plantation.

GPR survey of the village area was conducted using a SIR-3000 GPR, manufactured by Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc. We employed a 400 MHz antennae on transects spaced at 50 cm intervals. The data were processed using GPR Slice. The survey of the village area included 12 grids of varying size, together totaling 6,560 m^2 (Grid 8 was located on Mound A and is discussed below).

Figure 4 displays a horizontal "slice" interpolated from the GPR data; this is the second slice, probably representing a depth roughly equivalent to the lower portion of the A horizon at around 30-40 cmbs. As with the gradiometer data, there are several strongly reflective anomalies (shown red to yellow in color) that seem to obviously relate to modern disturbances. Examples of this include the arcing line of strong reflections in Grids 13 and 11, a second arcing line in Grid 1, and several shorter linear arrangements of stronglyly reflective anomalies in Grids 6 and 7. In addition, we believe that a NE-SW trending line of strong reflections exteding from the NE corner of Grid 1 into the adjacent Grid 4 represents one of Griffin and Bullen's excavation trenches.

However, more generally, the GPR data reveals the distribution of more reflective shell midden deposits as later confirmed by subsurface sampling. As the GPR data demonstrate, dense shell deposits are strong in portions of the two arms of the village to the northwest and southwest of Mound A. Areas of lesser reflection within these areas may represent the locations of Native American houses. Grffin and Bullen (1950) noted that the western portion of their excavation trench contained dense features (postmolds and pits) but relatively little midden, a pattern they related to the tendency to keep houses clean of debris. Our GPR data suggests an area of lesser shell concentration towards the western end of their trench area, as well as several more to the southwest.

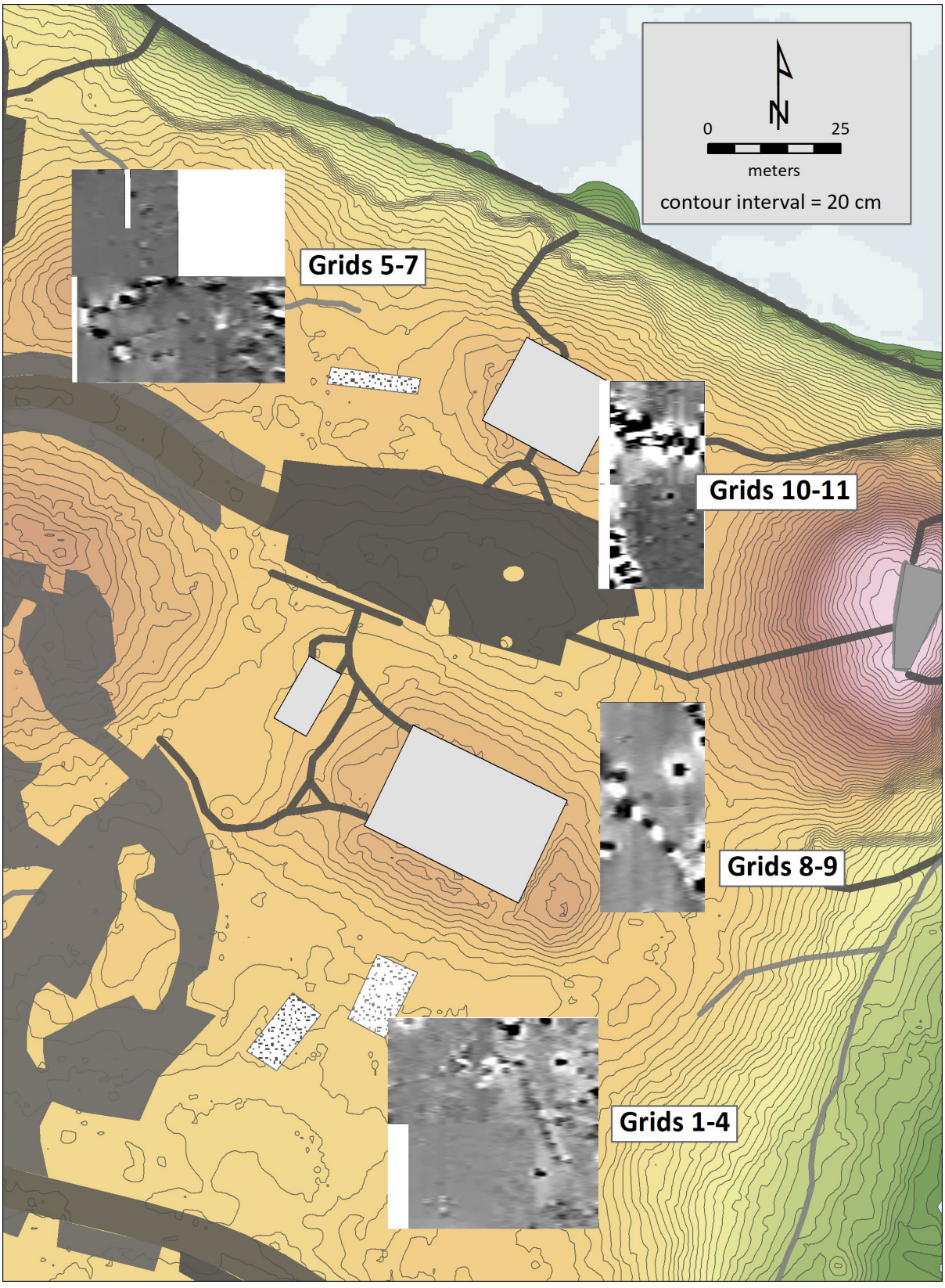

Figure 3. Gradiometry survey results.

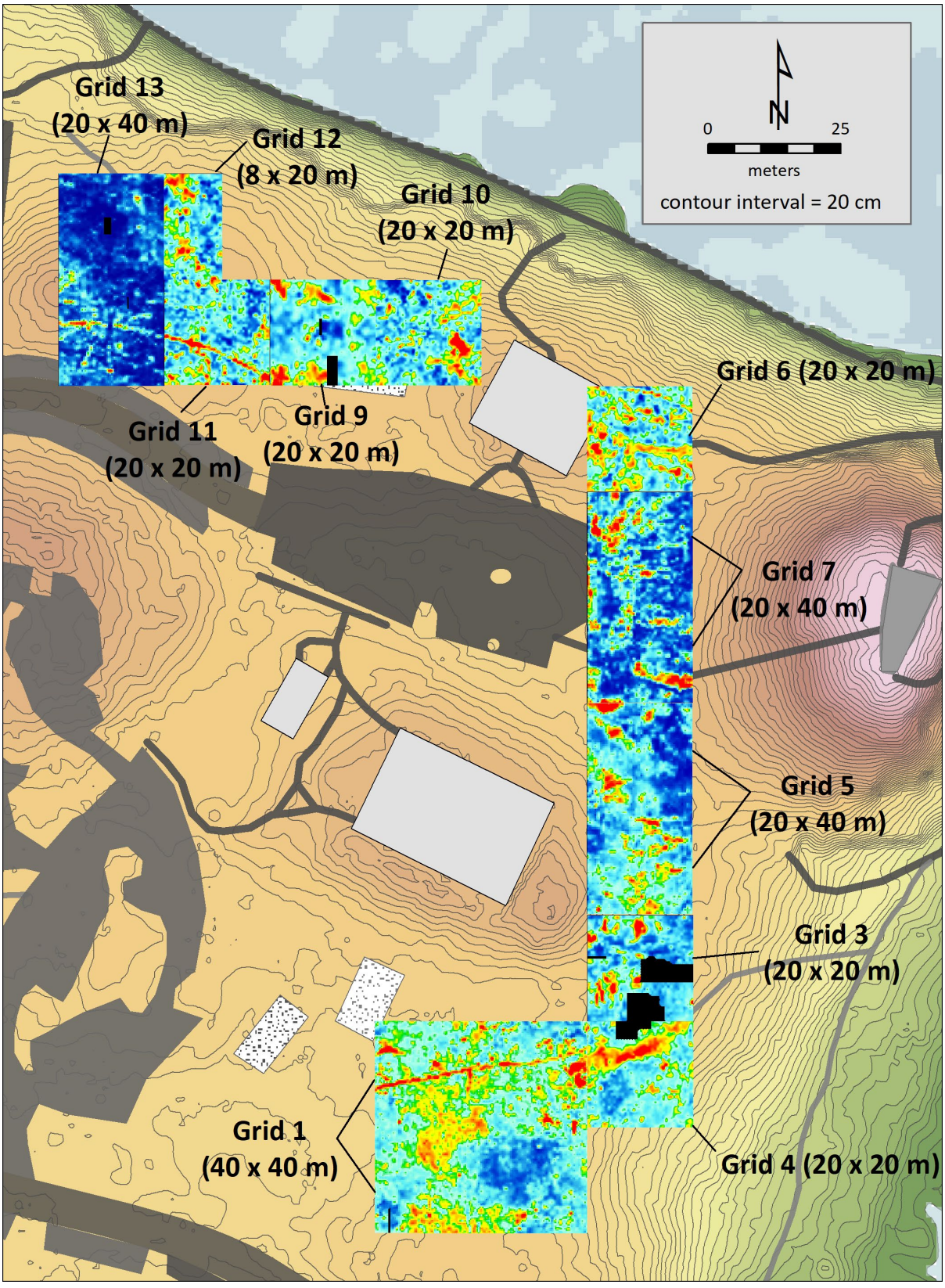

Figure 4. A slice of the GPR data, with higher reflections shown in red, orange and yellow.

Systematic sampling of the village included the excavation of 66 50-cm square shovel tests (Figure 6). The shovel tests were excavated on a 20-m grid, with the exception of four placed judgmentally: Shovel Tests 63 and 64 were placed downslope of the bluff, and Shovel Tests 65 and 66 were placed near Picnic Shelter 7 where previous excavations by avocational archaeologists suggested Spanish artifacts were concentrated. All of the shovel tests were positive, although in some cases the only artifacts were of the modern era.

Roughly one-third of the shovel tests revealed relatively intact Native American midden deposits, although the density of shell and other artifacts varied. Intact midden deposits were common in shovel tests in the southwest arm of the village (Shovel Tests 2-6, 9, 11, 13) and more spottily distributed in samples taken from the northwest portion of the village (Shovel Tests 20-22, 24, 26, 27-28, 65). Figure 5 shows the west profile of Shovel Test 5, which exhibited two strata with dense shell midden. Generally, the soil profile in undisturbed areas included 30-40 cm of dark loamy sand A horizon, over a 20-30-cm thick layer of mottled sand, over a pale brown sand (the upper portion of a paleodune) extending beyond 100 cmbs. Historic artifacts and Native American midden were typically restricted mainly to the upper soil layer, becoming sparser in the transitional zone. However, flaked stone artifacts often continued much deeper, consistent with Griffin and Bullen's (1950) identification of earlier (Archaic) components on the site.



Figure 5. The west profile of Shovel Test 5.

Areas of more pronounced disturbance were noted in several shovel tests in the village area, including Shovel Tests 12, 16, 17, 18, 25, 27, 32, and 33. In some cases, these disturbances relate to modern park development; for example, Shovel Tests 32 and 33 were located within a horseshoe pit and sand volleyball court, respectively. More commonly, shovel tests intercepted layers of construction fill. In some cases, relatively intact midden deposits remain despite these disturbances. Shovel Test 18 adjacent to the parking lot in the plaza area, exhibited a thin midden layer buried deep below extensive fill. Shovel Test 27, on the edge of the bluff in the northern arm of the village, had midden preserved below a layer of concrete.

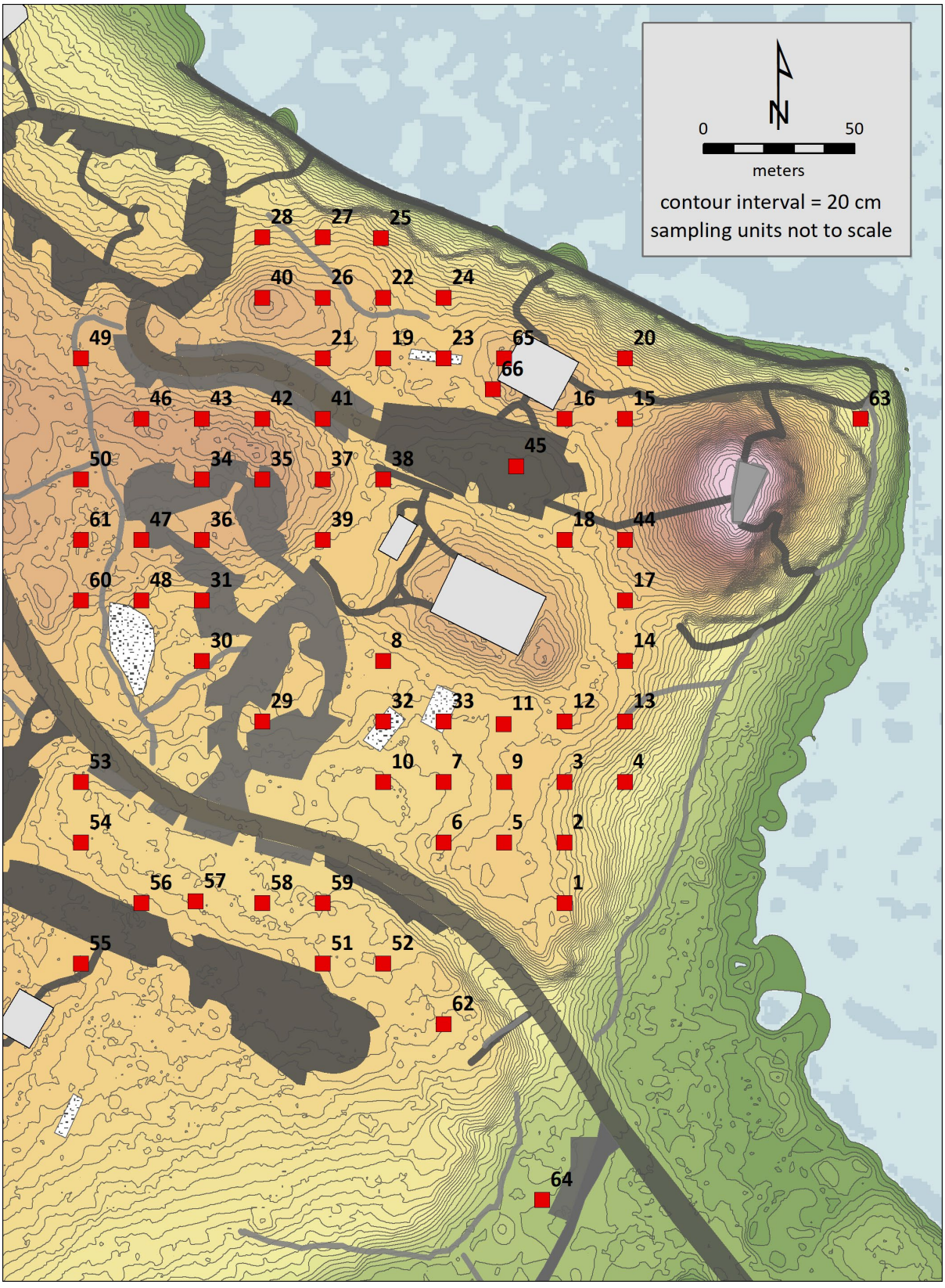

Figure 6. Locations of shovel tests excavated at the Safety Harbor site.

For the most part, shovel tests in the higher elevations to the northwest (in the wooded area with gravel parking) and southwest (beyond the road cut) demonstrated intact relatively stratigraphy but few artifacts, with these consisting mainly of chert debitage. Slight exceptions include Shovel Tests 29, 31, and 35-36 in the northwest area, where thin layers of midden were noted (often buried below fill).

Remnants of the former town of Tocobaga included shell, pottery, and stone tools, as well as occasional features such as postmolds and pits. We have thus far identified only a single artifact of sixteenth-century Spanish origin in the material generated by our excavations, consisting of a piece of olive jar found in Shovel Test 65 (adjacent to Picnic Shelter No. 7). Kaolin pipe fragments, European ceramics, nails, and bricks attest to the later settlement by Philippe and the enslaved people that worked the plantation. Finally, coins, beer cans, and other debris, as well as occasional utility lines, mark the development of the site as a recreational facility in the modern era.

Although artifact analysis is ongoing, rough sorting allows us to map the distribution of major classes of material remains in shovel tests (Figure 7). Native American ceramics and shell (the vast majority of which is also associated with the Native settlement of the site) conform closely to Griffin and Bullen's (1950) description of an L-shaped village, as well as to the GPR data. Historic brick and glass fragments follow the same pattern, although the greatest density is on the bluff to the northwest of the mound (see Fredrickson 2019 for more detail).

We excavated two 1-x-1-m test units in the village area (Figure 8). Test Unit 1 was positioned in the northern arm of the village, between two shovel tests that revealed intact midden. Unfortunately this turned out to be only partially true for the test unit; while the test pit revealed dense shell midden, here it had been partially disturbed for a PVC water line trench (Figure 9). This contrast illustrates the mixed integrity of the archaeological remains of the village at Safety Harbor, with some areas of very good preservation but also many localized areas of extensive disturbance. However, it is worth noting that even with the extensive modern disturbance in this test unit, there was still undisturbed midden, as well as preserved features below the water line trench.

Test Unit 2, located in the southern arm of the village, revealed better preserved midden deposits (Figure 10). Consistent with the profile of nearby Shovel Test 5, the midden here was stratified into two distinct layers. The upper midden layer included a number of large pottery fragments oriented horizontally, suggesting the possibility that this unit intersected an intact house floor or activity surface. Features were noted in association with both midden layers.

We have thus far retrieved a total of 28 radiocarbon dates from the Safety Harbor site, including 17 from shovel tests and test units in the village area. These radiocarbon dates suggest that the Native American village at the Safety Harbor site formed sometime around 1250 CE, and was occupied more or less continuously until the 1500s or early 1600s.

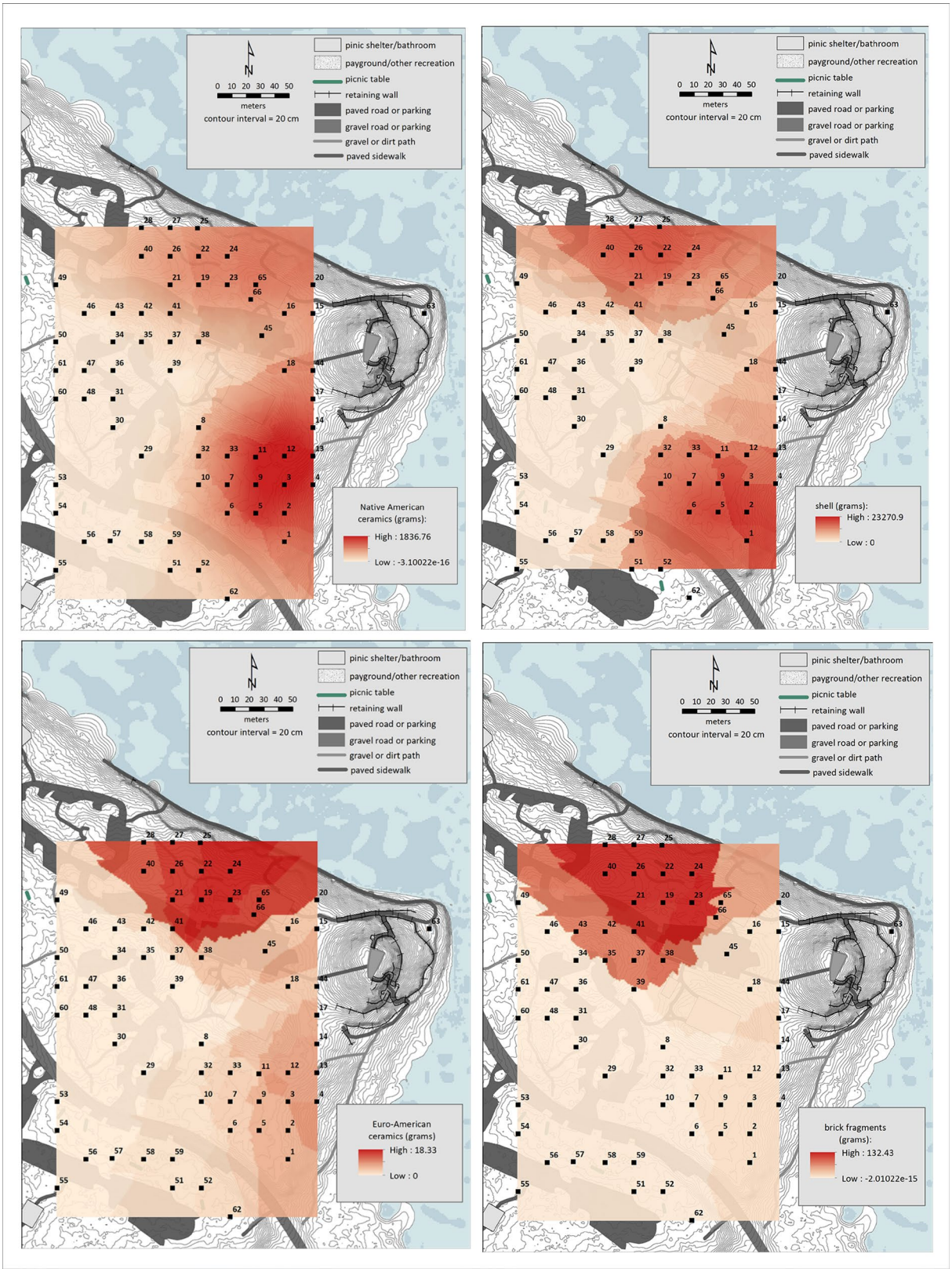

Figure 7. Kriging interpolations of artifact counts for major categories of material remains. Clockwise from top left: Native America ceramics, shell, historic ceramics, brick and fragments.

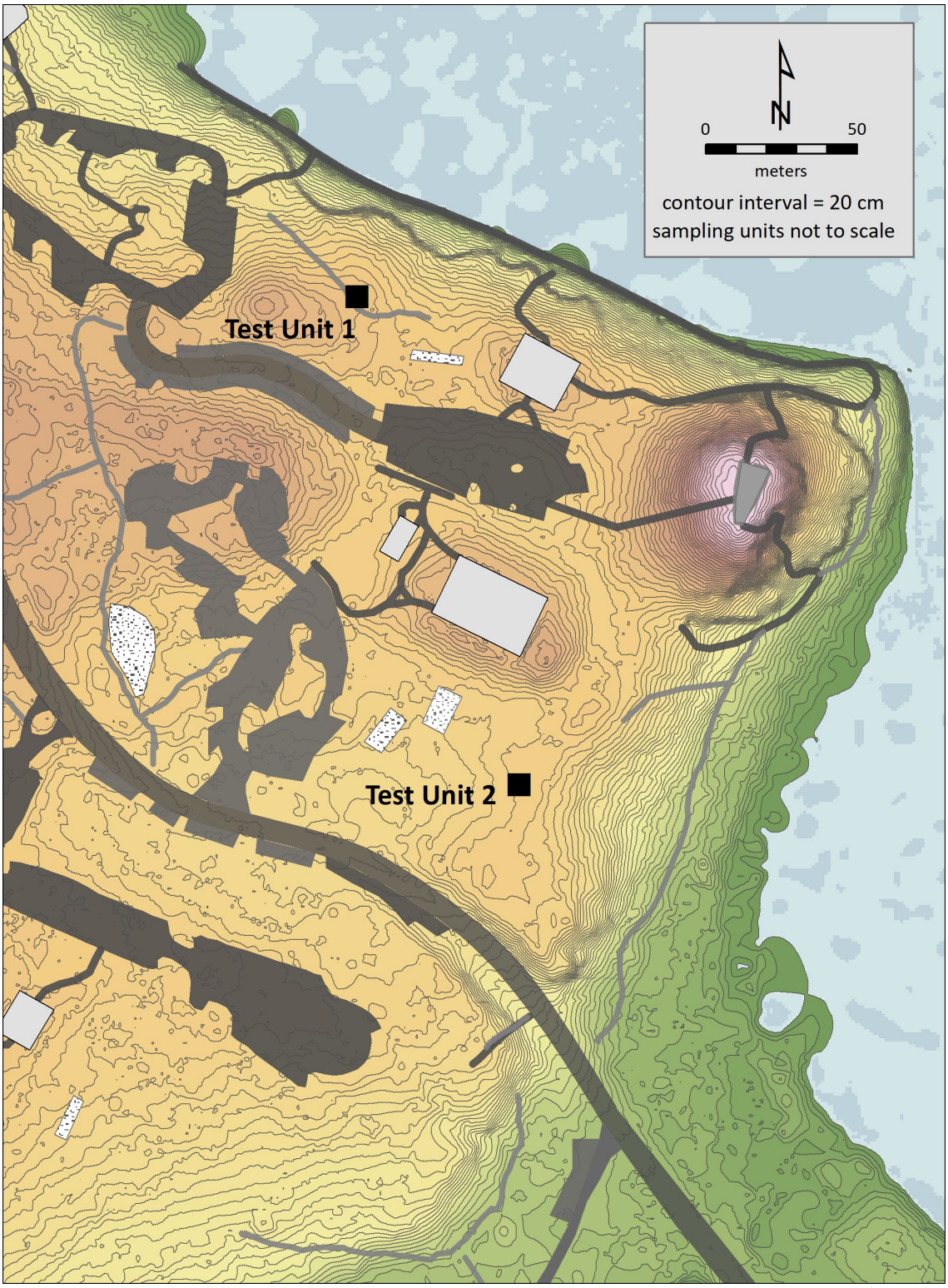

Figure 8. Locations of Test Units 1 and 2.



Figure 9. Two views of Test Unit 1. Top: Plan view showing modern trench cutting through preserved midden, before excavation. Bottom: East profile showing preserved midden and intrusive PVC water line; note also preserved features in the floor of the unit before the midden and water line.



Figure 10. Two views of Test Unit 2. Top: plan view of possible house floor in upper midden layer (note sherds lying horizontally). Bottom: South profile (note stratified midden layers and features in the floor of the unit).

Radiocarbon dates from Test Unit 2 demonstrate the full range of this occupation, suggesting that at least on this part of the site the occupations were superimposed over time.

Our investigations of Mound A at the Safety Harbor site included a GPR survey grid and the excavation of two small-diameter sediment cores (Figure 11). For the coring, we employed a JMC Environmentalist's Sub-Soil Probe, which uses a sliding drop hammer to drive clear plastic sampling tubes measuring 3.05 cm in diameter and roughly 90 cm long. Employing five extensions, for a total of six sections per core, we were able to penetrate to a depth of around 5.4 m. In the lab, the core sections were split open, the stratigraphy was documented, and samples were taken for soil particle size, loss on ignition, radiocarbon dating, and artifact density analyses.

Core 2 was located on the western edge of the summit of the mound, while Core 3 was located about halfway down the northwestern slope. Figure 12 provides a summary of the two cores, also showing some of the major stratigraphic breaks we have interpolated for the mound based on observations of the sediment in our samples. In general, the stratigraphy we observed in the cores is consistent with that described by Griffin and Bullen (1950:15-19). Core 2 intercepted a greenish-grey marine clay layer that corresponds well with the horizon they describe as the primary mound layer; the absence of this soil layer from Core 3 suggests the mound was expanded to the north, as they surmised. Above this clay layer, the cores document alternating layers of dense shell, lighter colored sand, and darker loamy sands (some of the latter possibly representing occupational surfaces or re-purposed midden).

The GPR survey grid measured 5 x 34 m and was positioned along the northwestern slope of Mound A. Survey procedures followed those used for the village areas with the exception that we employed both the 400 and 200 MHz antennae, and used a 1-m interval between transects using the latter. Figure 13 is a three-dimensional interpolation of the data from the 200 MHz antennae. Broadly speaking, these data are consistent with the cores, with alternating higher and lower reflections (especially toward the summit of the mound) likely representing shell-dense and soil-rich layers (respectively). The pronounced reflection at the left (northwest) end of the grid mark the location of a water line.

Radiocarbon dates retrieved thus far, including four from materials recovered from Griffin and Bullen's excavations in Mound A and seven obtained on materials recovered from our cores, suggest that mound construction overlapped temporally with the village occupation. With the exception of one sample from the lower levels of Core 3, which returned a date calibrated to the terminal Late Woodland, all of the dates fall in the middle and later Safety Harbor phase of the Mississippian period. In several cases, the chronological ordering of the dates does not match their stratigraphic superposition, suggesting the probability that midden was used for mound fill. However, the probability ranges of the dates from Mound A overlap considerably in the interval from the around the 1200s to 1300s CE. The lack of dates from the era associated with the historically documented town of Tocobaga and the Spanish mission of the 1560s likely

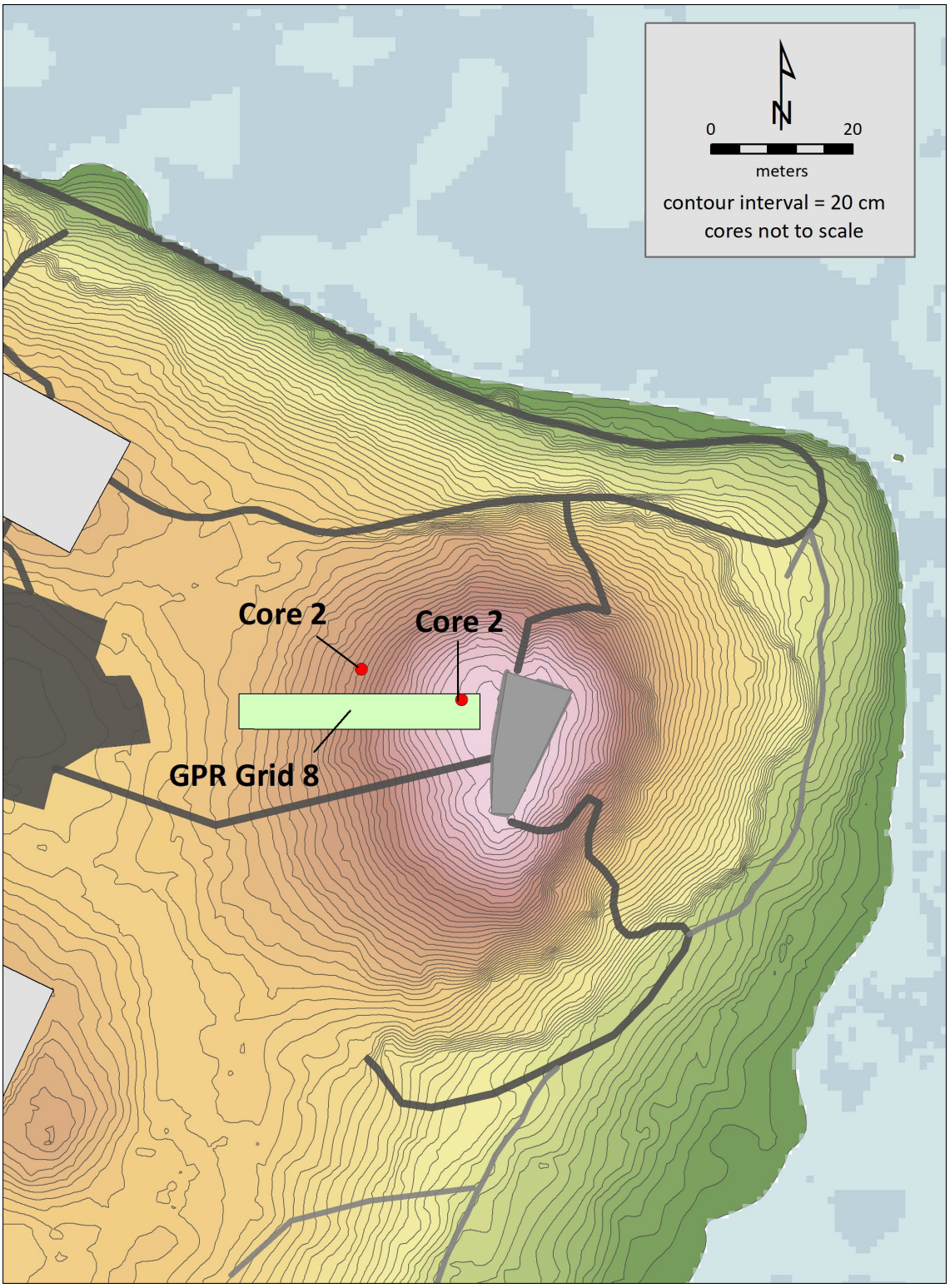

Figure 11. Locations of the two cores and GPR grid in the Mound A area.

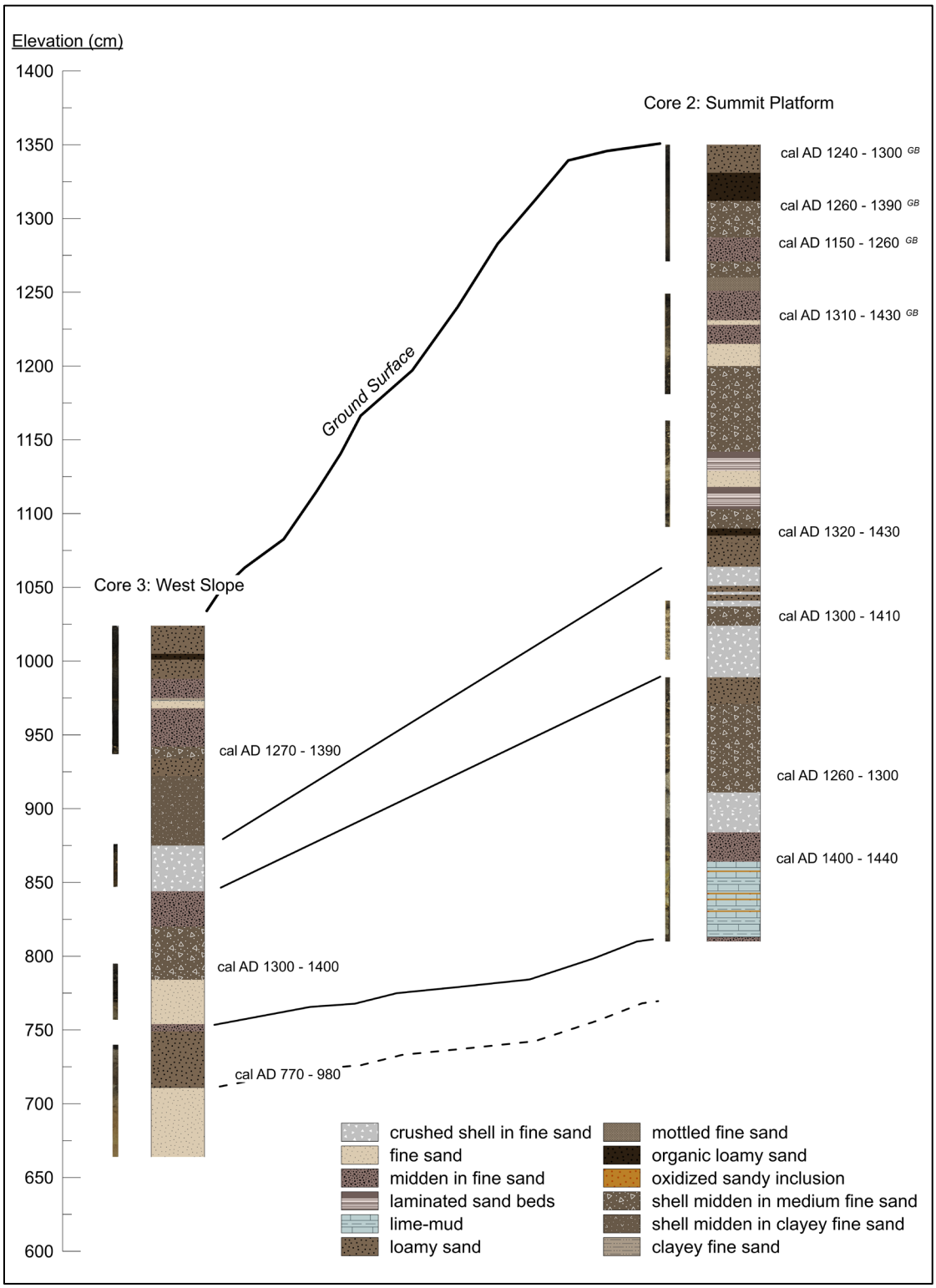

Figure 12. Summary of the stratigraphy observed in cores in Mound A.

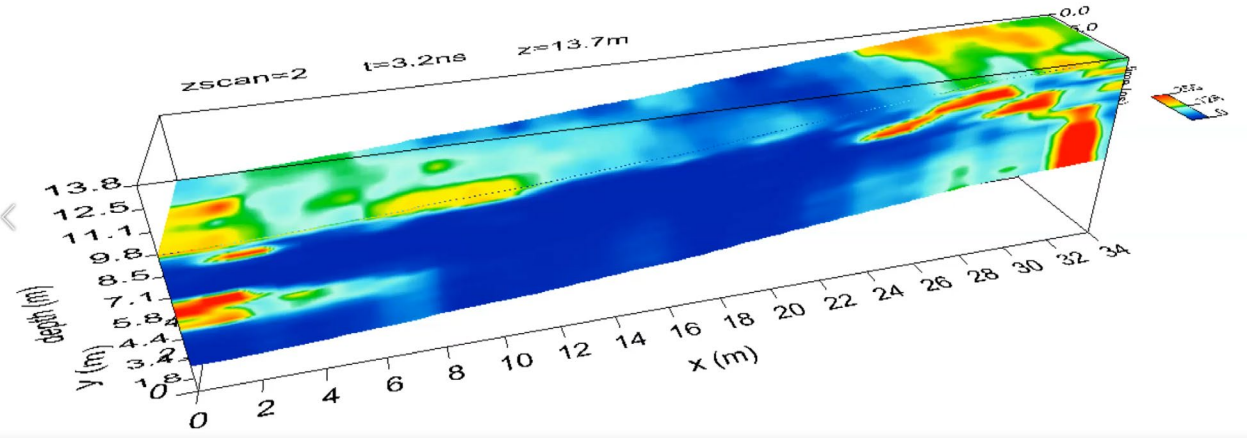

Figure 13. Three-dimensional interpolation of GPR survey datta from Mound A (200 MHz antennae).

reflects our avoidance of samples from the uppermost layers of the mound, owing to the modern disturbances.

Summary and Recommendations

With regard to the first of the three aforementioned goals of this testing, the results of shovel testing, geophysical survey, and test unit excavation provide better resolution of the structure and chronology of the Native village at the Safety Harbor site. The core area of the village conforms to the description provided by Griffin and Bullen (1950: Figure 1), consisting of an L-shaped area anchored by Mound A and extending approximately 150 m to the northwest and west-southwest of the mound.

Within the core village area, we observed areas of intact midden with relatively heavy artifact density, as well as preserved features and—in one area—a possible living floor. Artifacts and radiocarbon dates indicate occupation beginning in the 1200s and extending into the 1500s CE, corresponding with much of the Safety Harbor period. With additional research, we hope to identify temporally and spatially discrete components within this broader range.

However, the scatter of Native American artifacts continues well beyond this core village area, extending at least 220 m to the southwest (across the park road and adjacent paved parking lot, to the vicinity of Picnic Shelter No. 6), at least 225 m to the west of the mound (across the gravel parking areas to the park road), and at least 170 m to the northwest (to the circular, paved parking area surrounded the restrooms). We did not attempt to bound the site with negative shovel tests, so these are conservative estimates of the total site area. We

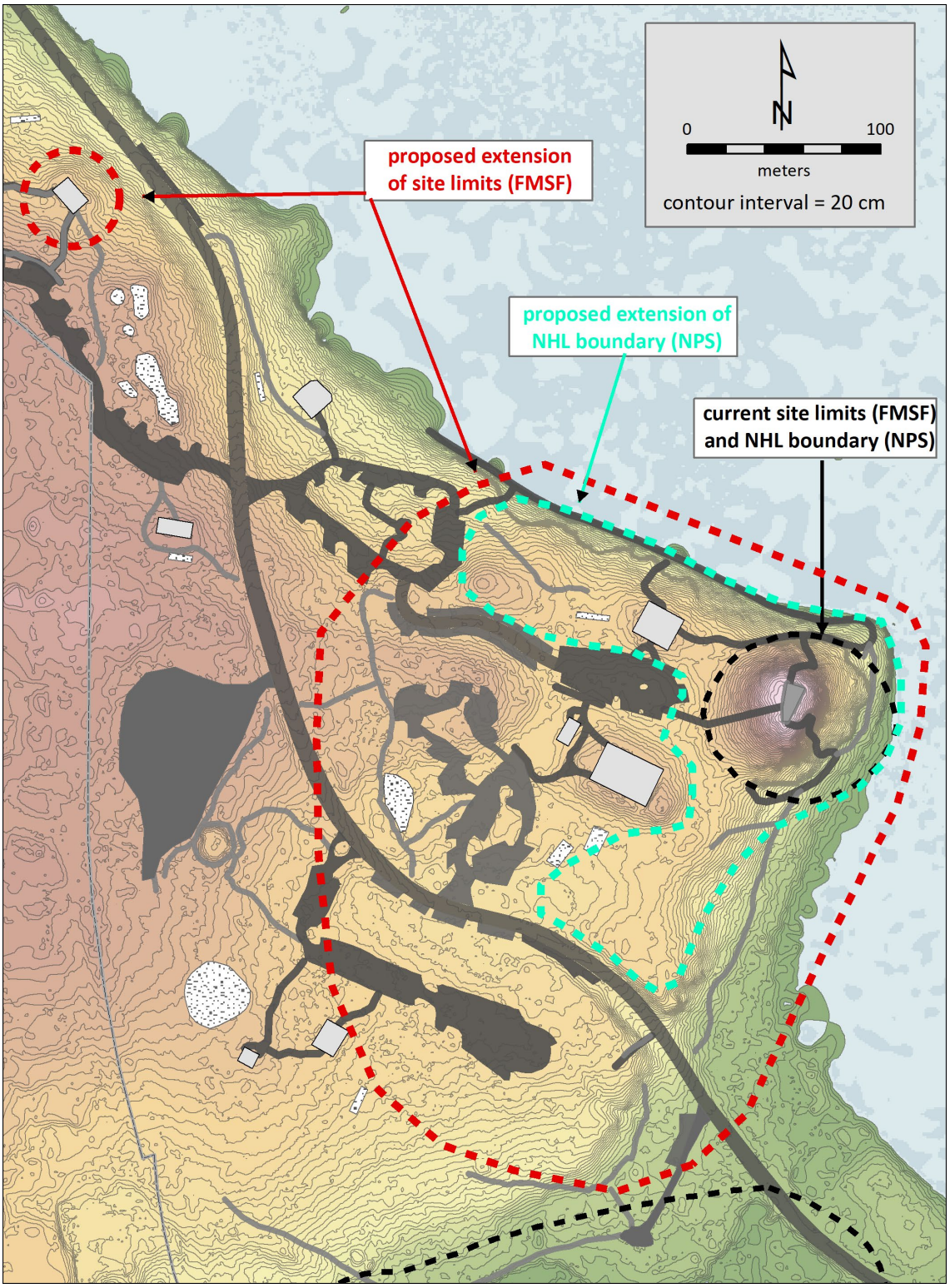

Figure 14. Current and proposed site and NHL boundaries.

recommend that the site limits should be extended to incorporate this area, as well as a 20-m buffer, especially downslope of the bluff (given erosion of the bluff edge) (Figure 14).

Turning to the second of the three stated goals of the testing, geophysical survey and coring of Mound A—intentionally minimal in scope—provided at least a preliminary view of the structure and chronology of this monument. As described above, the mound seems to have begun with the construction of a primary mound of marine clay, later expanded both horizontally and vertically by the addition of layers of shell and sand. There are also superimposed layers of midden, some possibly redeposited and others likely in situ. Radiocarbon dates indicate that mound construction mainly took place from the 1200s to 1400s CE.

Our testing accomplished less with regard to the third aim of confirming the Safety Harbor site as the location of the Native town of Tocobaga. Our excavations appear to have produced only a single Spanish artifact, from Shovel Test 65. At least one of the radiocarbon dates we obtained (from Level 4 in Test Unit 2) is consistent with the era of the historically documented town of Tocobaga. As noted above, the lack of other dates from the early colonial era is likely a result of our avoidance of submitting samples from the uppermost soil layers, where Native American material remains are mixed with those of the recent past.

Nineteenth-century historic artifacts probably associated with the Philippe family and their enslaved workers overlap spatially with the core area of the Native village, extending to the northwest and southwest of Mound A. One of the radiocarbon dates we obtained, from a stratum heavily laden with charcoal in Shovel Test 16, produced calibrated ranges consistent with this settlement of the site.

With regard to the final goal of assessing the integrity of the Safety Harbor site, we note again that the fact that the site has suffered some loss of integrity is obvious. The burial mound was ostensibly completely excavated and later built over by a picnic shelter (and perhaps also a portion of a playground). Mound A has been terraced and landscaped. The village area has been eroded and built over with picnic shelters and other structures, parking lots, utility lines, sidewalks, a volleyball court, and several horseshoe pits. Still our testing demonstrates unequivocally that sizable portion of the site remain intact—including large portions of the village beyond the small area of Mound A that constitutes the currently defined limits of the site and the National Historic Landmark.

Our investigations did not extend to the area of the burial mound, which we believe was located in the area of Picnic Shelter No. 9. Still, based on our observations elsewhere on the site, we suspect that portions of the burial mound may remain in situ. Almost certainly—given the coarseness of Stirling's excavations—human remains are present in this area, which is currently not included in the site limits as defined by the FMSF. The burial mound area should be recorded with the FMSF, by way of one of three options: 1) the boundaries for site 8PI2 could be extended beyond the limits of the platform mound and village remains to include the former location of the burial mound; 2) the burial mound area could be recorded as a separate

site; or 3) the burial area could be recorded as part of a resource group together with 8PI2 (and potentially other, related resources in the area as they are discovered). The latter is perhaps the better option for management purposes, given the distance from Mound A and the village area. We do not recommend incorporating the burial mound area into an expanded National Historic Landmark boundary (as described below) owing to the loss of integrity. However, as an unmarked cemetery, the area is protected legally by Chapter 872 of the Florida State Statutes. Ground disturbances should be avoided unless preceded by archaeological survey.The county should consider closing Picnic Shelter No. 9 and the adjacent playground, both out of respect for descendant communities and to reduce the possibility of displacing human remains or disturbing human burials.

Our coring and geophysical survey confirm that Mound A remains mainly intact. The method of mound construction evidenced by our cores, with a primary mound of marine clay superimposed by shell and midden layers, may be unique to the Tampa Bay region. Additionally, the upper levels of the mound include apparent occupational surfaces with the potential to provide important information regarding Safety Harbor culture from an archaeological perspective. The mound is also no doubt of considerable religious and spiritual importance to descendant communities. As with the burial mound area, ground disturbances should be avoided unless preceded by archaeological survey. Documents on file at the FMSF indicate that the stone walls and steps and pebbled sidewalk paths on and around Mound A were added ca. 1978 to control erosion. These landscape features are approaching the minimum of 50 years of age that is generally required for eligibility to the National Register. Assuming the terraces and walls are not considered eligible for the National Register, they could be removed to restore the natural appearance of the mound. On the other hand, if these features are deemed eligible for the National Register, they may need to be preserved along with the mound itself. The paved path up the western slope of the mound appears to have been recently resurfaced. Removal of this paved pathway would restore some of the integrity of design, setting, and material to the mound; if a walkway to the summit of is considered essential, the pavement could perhaps be replaced with shell.

Although the village area has been more heavily impacted by park development than the platform mound, the L-shaped configuration described by Griffin and Bullen remains evident in the results of both our shovel testing and geophysical survey, as we noted above. As we also noted above, within this core area of the village our shovel tests and test units identified areas with preserved midden and features. As Mitchem (1989:583) has noted, “very little” is known about Safety Harbor domestic life (see also Bullen 1978:51); indeed, Mitchem’s (1989:603) litany of what we do not know about Safety Harbor covers almost every aspect of the daily lives of the eponymous Mississippian people of the Tampa Bay area.

Regrettably, there are areas within this core area of the village that have also suffered considerable loss of integrity, as evidenced most obviously by the paved parking lot at the base of Mound A and Picnic Shelter No. 7 to the mound’s north. However, there may be preserved

deposits even in these obviously-disturbed areas, as indicated by our documentation of a deeply buried midden layer or feature in Shovel Test 18 (on the edge of parking lot) and an extensive midden and features in Shovel Test 65 (immediately north of Picnic Shelter No. 7). Less obvious and more localized loss of integrity is exemplified by the water line cutting through the well-preserved midden in Test Unit 1.

The site boundaries should be expanded to incorporate the village area as we have defined it, and this enlarged boundary should also be applied to the NHL property designation. CFR 36.1.65.8 states that "Two justifications exist for enlarging the boundary of a National Historic Landmark: Documentation of previously unrecognized significance or professional error in the original designation." Either justification could be applied In this case: the significance of the village area was recognized by Griffin and Bullen (1950) but subsequent archaeologists have either overlooked the significance of this area or erred in their assessment that it has been "excavated to extinction." A proposal for enlargement or reduction of a National Historic Landmark boundary may be submitted to or can originate with the History Division, NPS.

To prevent any further loss of integrity, any ground disturbances in the village area beyond a superficial depth (perhaps >20 cm) should be preceded by an archaeological survey. At a minimum, the area around Picnic Shelter No. 7 should be stabilized to prevent any further erosion or disturbances. The county should consider closing this picnic facility and perhaps converting it to an interpretive center.

Our survey did not extend to the area downslope of the bluff, in the vicinity of the sea wall. As described above, historical accounts suggest that archaeological materials were recovered from the shoreline area, some possibly in situ and other likely displaced from erosion of the bluff edge. The proposed replacement of the sea wall should be preceded by an archaeological survey. Archaeological monitoring may be necessary during the construction.

Our survey and testing focused only on the Safety Harbor site (8PI2). Site 8HI131, the only other recorded site in the park, seems to have been reported in the erroneous understanding that Philippe's estate was located downslope to the south of the bluff (contrary to maps and historical accounts). Still, it is possible that materials related to Philippe or the Native occupation of the area are located in this vicinity. The remained of the park, beyond the limits of the Safety Harbor site, should be systematically surveyed to identify other cultural resources.

The Safety Harbor site is one of the most famous archaeological sites in Florida. It is to Pinellas County's great credit that the site has been preserved as a park and listed as a National Historic Landmark. However, these designations have not done enough to protect the site from park developments. This testing has clearly demonstrated that the site extends beyond the current FMSF and NHL boundaries. The former should be expanded to better reflect the full extent of the site, and the NHL boundaries should be expanded to incorporate the better preserved portions of the site that contribute to the site's eligibility as a National Historic Landmark.

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