

Cape Espenberg 2011



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Owen K. Mason

Nancy H. Bigelow

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Claire M. Alix

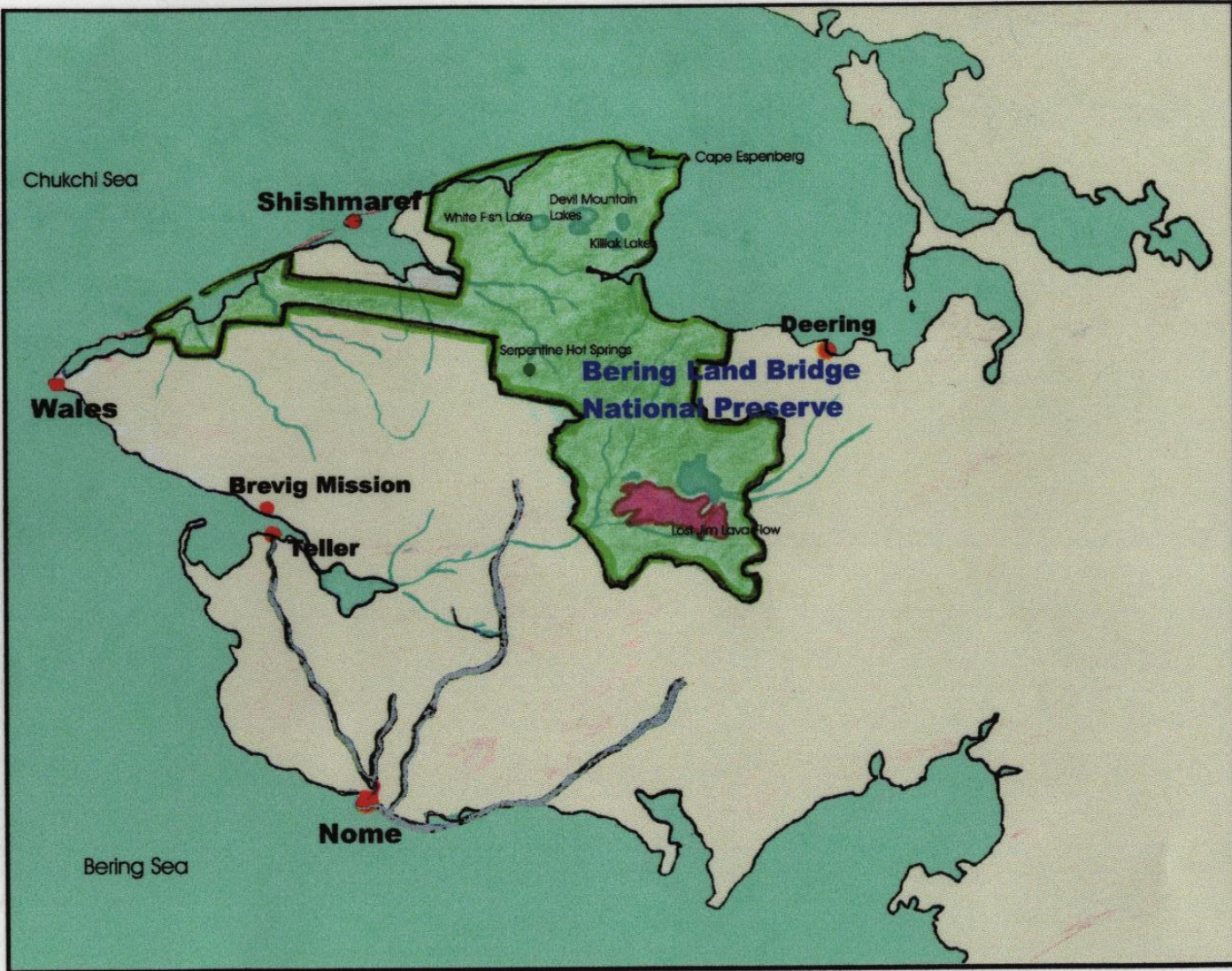
John Darwent

Shelby Anderson

Alaska Anthropological Association

Seattle, Washington

1 March 2012



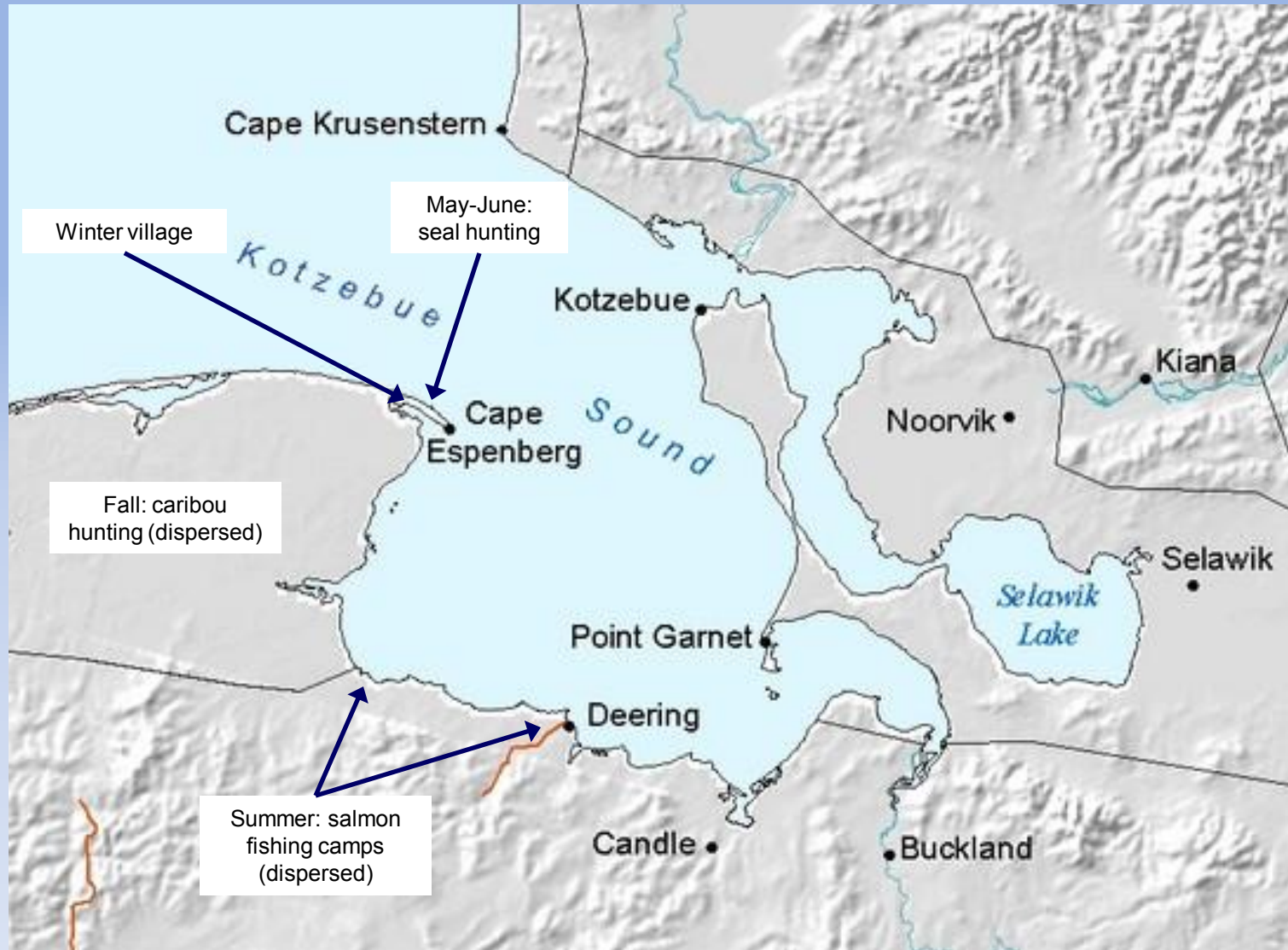
— Preserve Boundary

● Town or Village

— Road

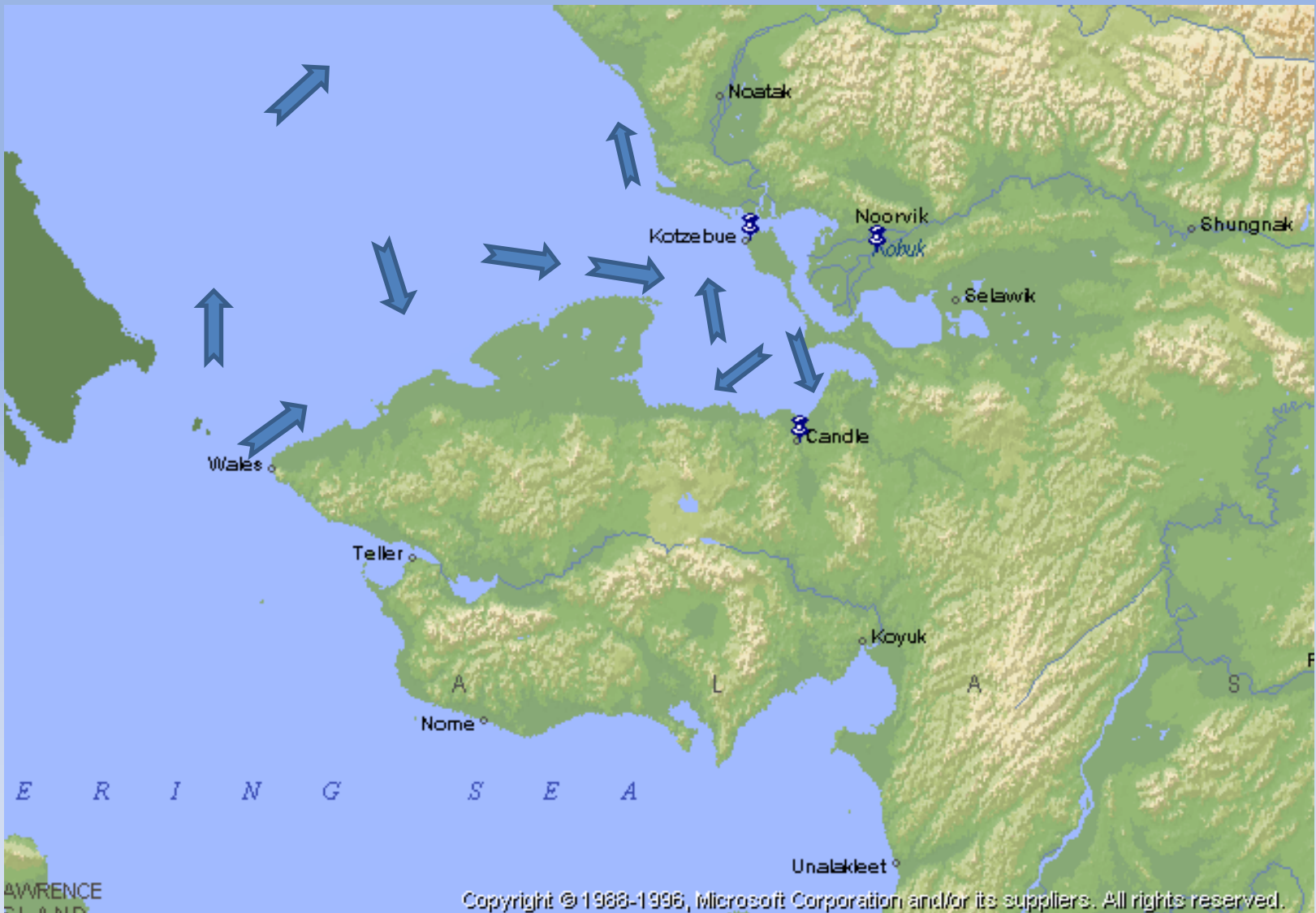
— Rivers

Pittagmiut yearly cycle (Burch 1998: 297–301)





formation of beach ridges after ~3,500 years ago

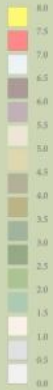




sand dune complexes accumulated on some of the beach ridges



METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond

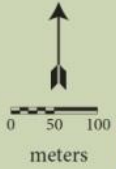
Artifact scatter

Cache pit

Cultural depression

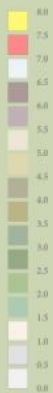
Large whale element

House depression



meters

METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond

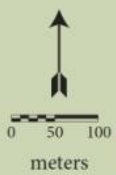
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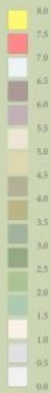
Cultural depression

Large whale element

House depression



METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond

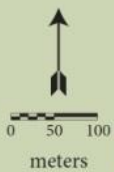
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Cache pit

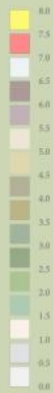
Cultural depression

Large whale element

House depression



METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond



Artifact scatter



Cache pit



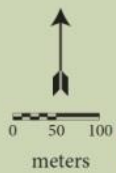
Cultural depression



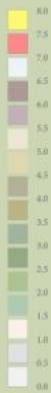
Large whale element



House depression



METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond

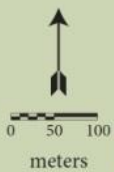
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Cache pit

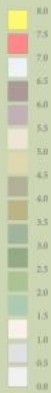
Cultural depression

Large whale element

House depression



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MEAN HIGH TIDE



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Artifact scatter



Cache pit



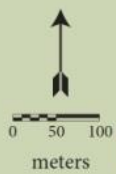
Cultural depression



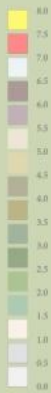
Large whale element



House depression



METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond



Artifact scatter



Cache pit



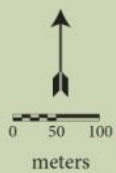
Cultural depression



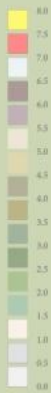
Large whale element



House depression



METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond



Artifact scatter



Cache pit



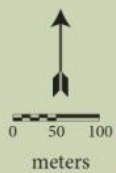
Cultural depression



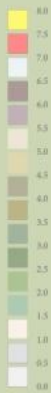
Large whale element



House depression



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MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond



Artifact scatter



Cache pit



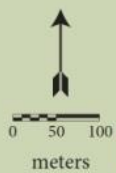
Cultural depression



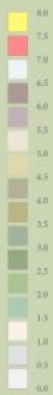
Large whale element



House depression



METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond

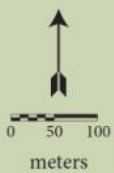
Artifact scatter

Cache pit

Cultural depression

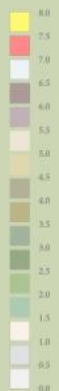
Large whale element

House depression

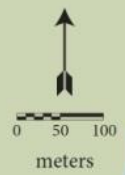




METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



-  Pond
-  Artifact scatter
-  Cache pit
-  Cultural depression
-  Large whale element
-  House depression

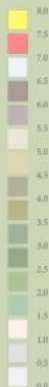


RIDGE E-4
AD 1430-1640

RIDGE E-5
AD 750-1100

RIDGE E-6
AD 1160-1290

METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond

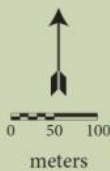
Artifact scatter

Cache pit

Cultural depression

Large whale element

House depression



2011 trench

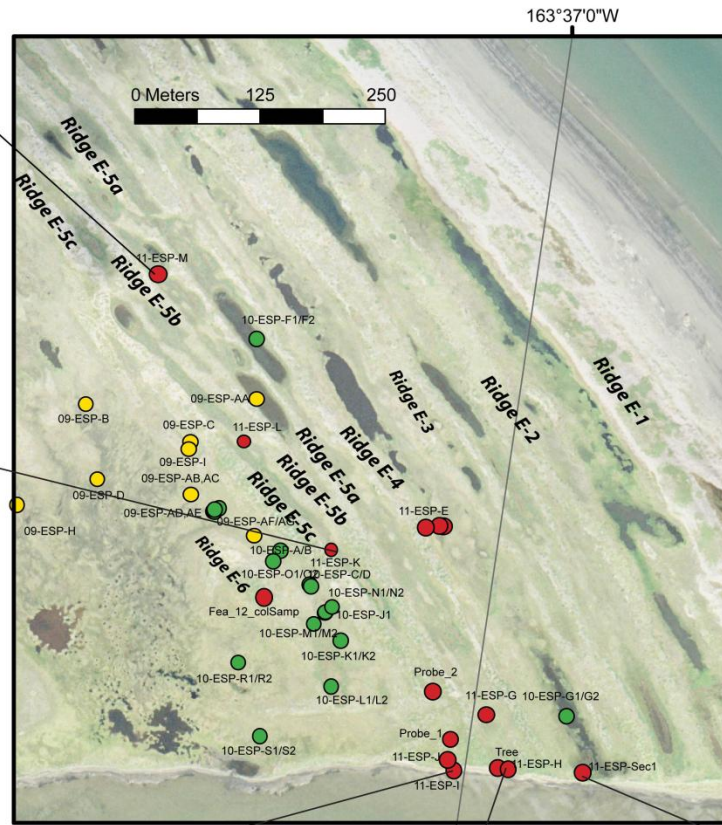
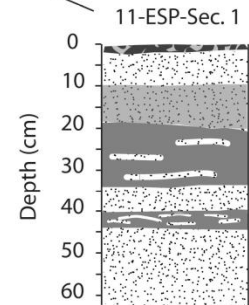
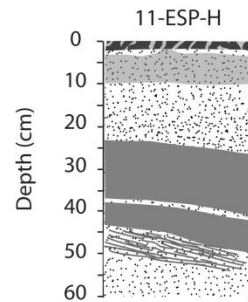
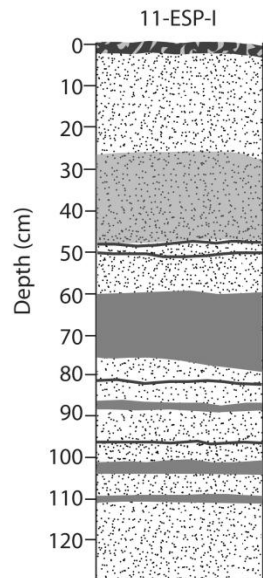
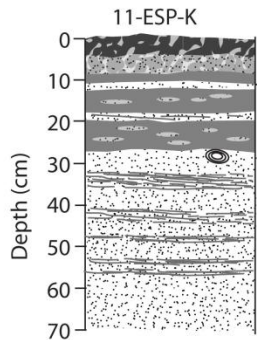
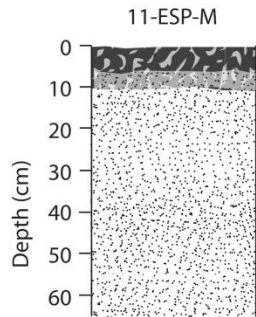
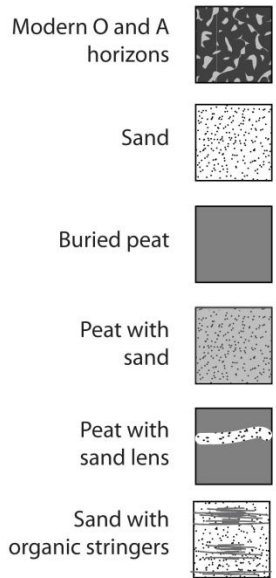


cottonwood tree

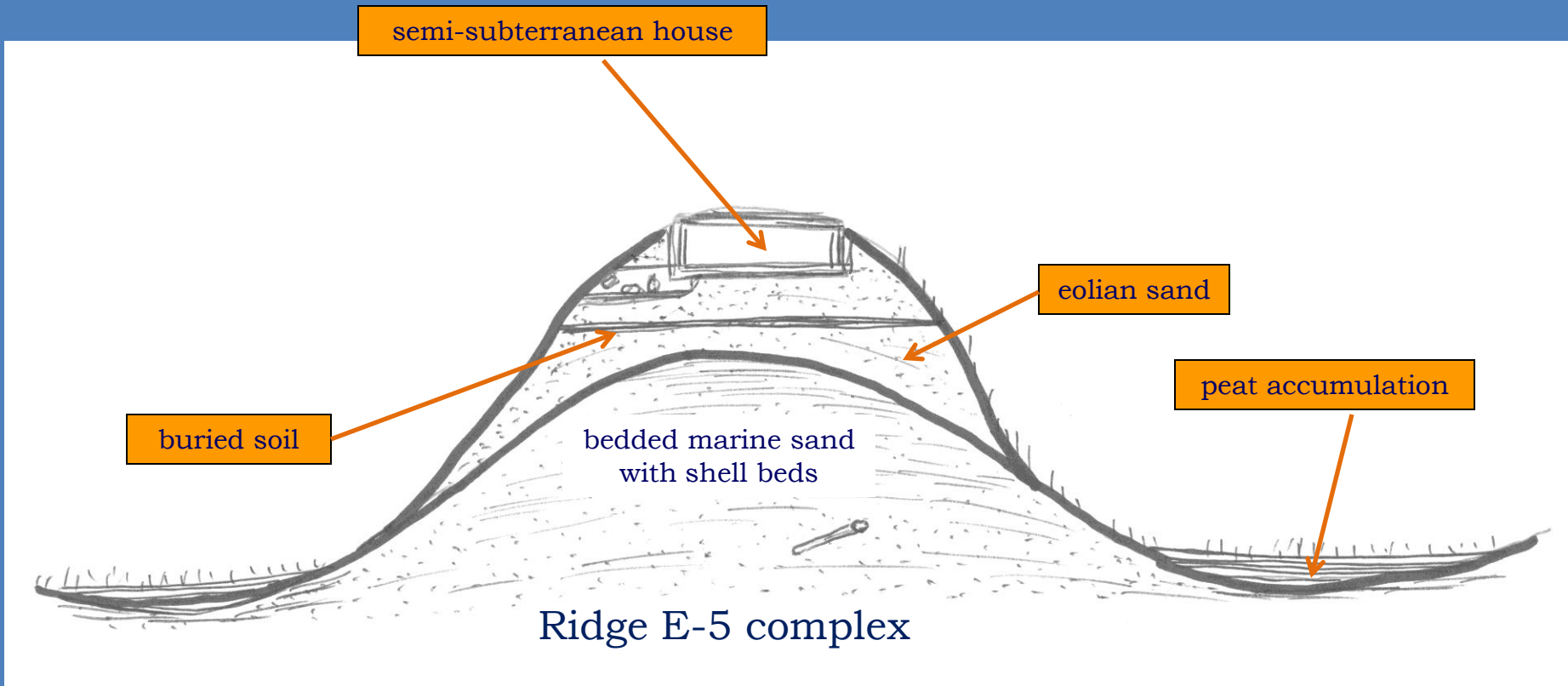
shell
fragments

**Ridge E-5
complex**

marine sand

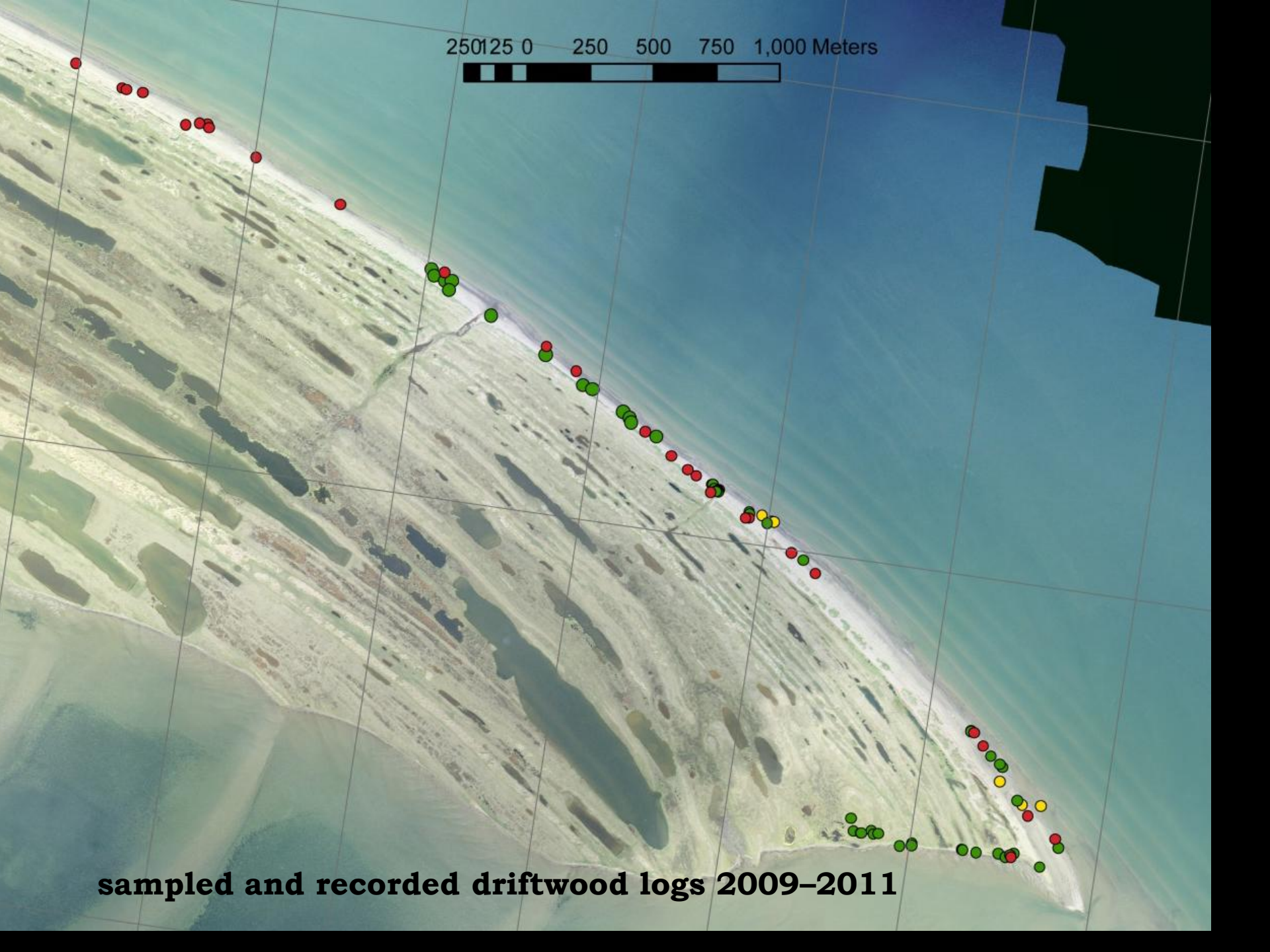


coring localities and stratigraphic profiles



Cape Espenberg: beach ridges, dune complexes, and swales

250 125 0 250 500 750 1,000 Meters

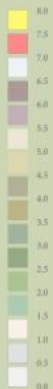


sampled and recorded driftwood logs 2009-2011

Iñupiat settlement: Ridges 6 – 2



METERS ABOVE
MEAN HIGH TIDE



Pond

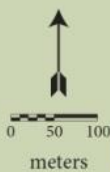
Artifact scatter

Cache pit

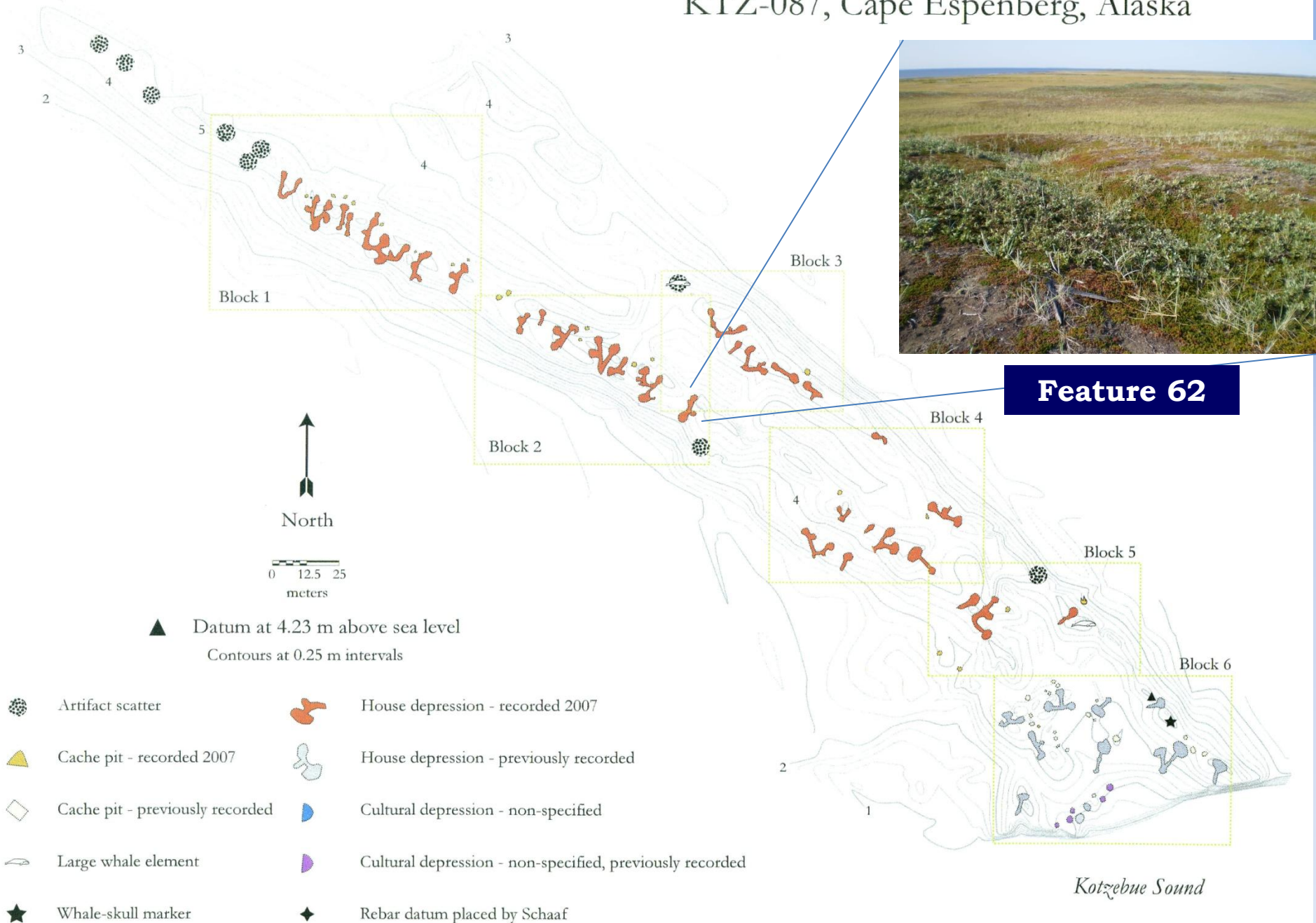
Cultural depression

Large whale element

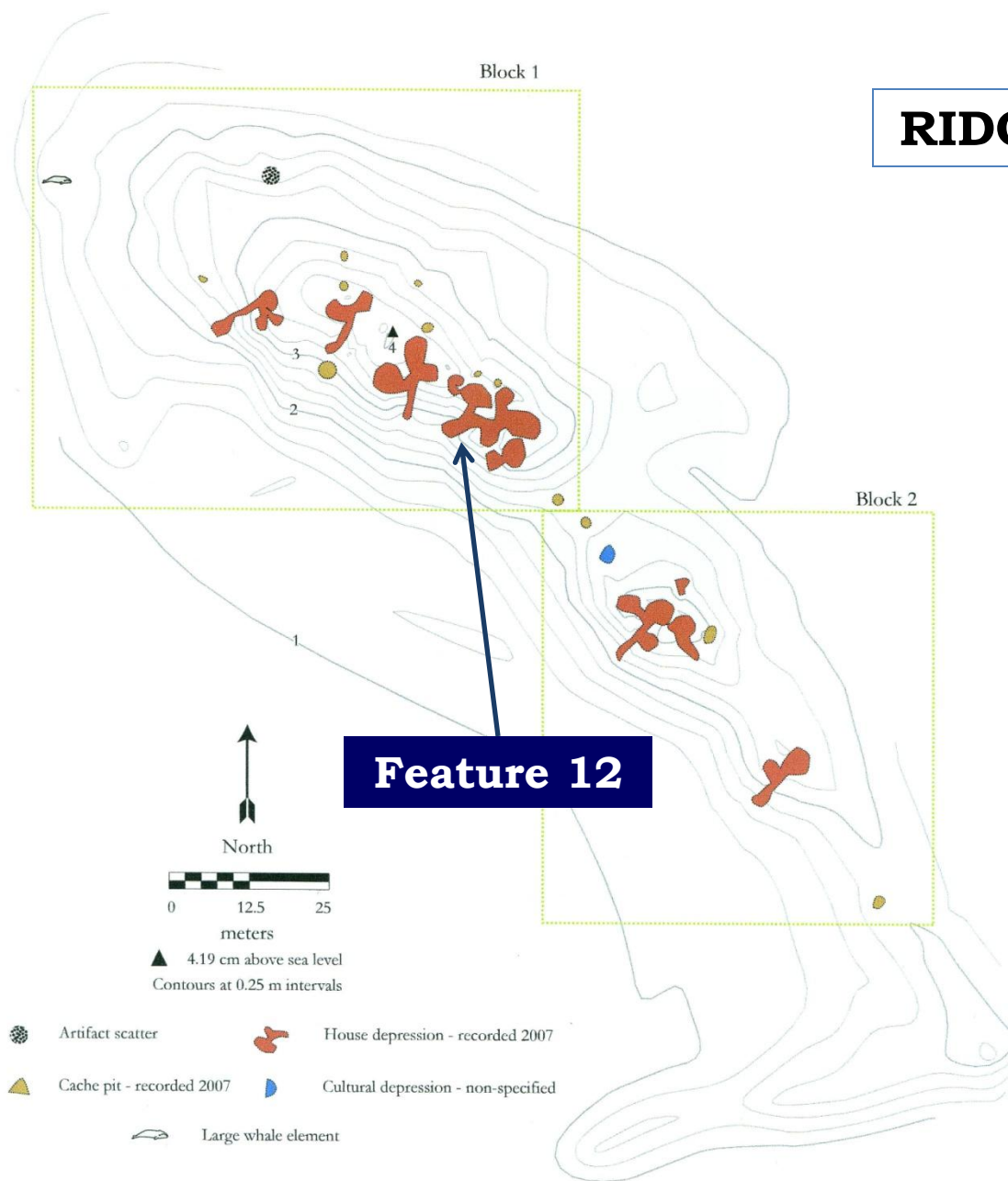
House depression



KTZ-087, Cape Espenberg, Alaska



RIDGE E-6





Feature 12



similar to Tuquok with
single side-blade



close-socketed with end
blade
Okvik and Uelen
affinities

Ridge E-6: Feature 12 harpoon heads

AD 540 – 620 (Beta-305282)

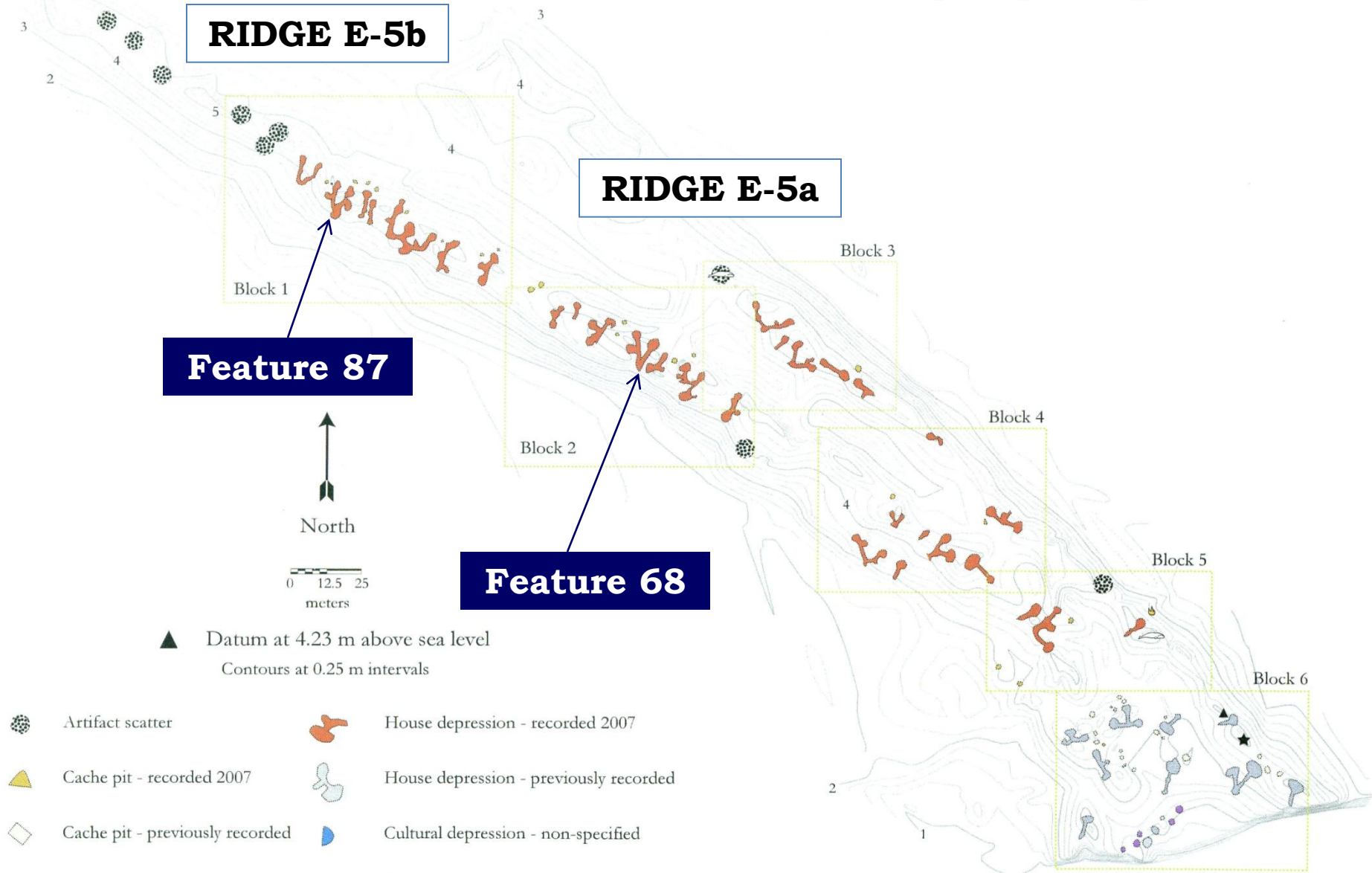


cast bronze artifacts recovered from Feature 12 in 2011

Student Mentorship Program 2011



KTZ-087, Cape Espenberg, Alaska



RIDGE E-5b

RIDGE E-5a

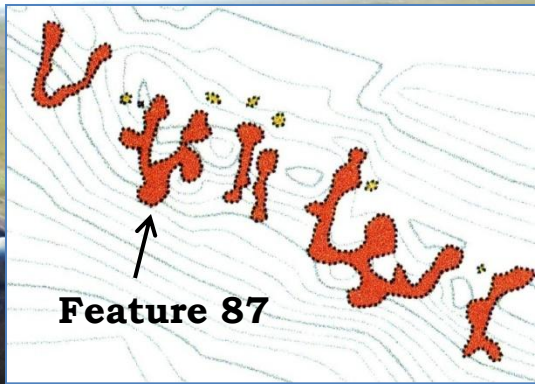
Feature 87

Feature 68

▲ Datum at 4.23 m above sea level
Contours at 0.25 m intervals

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | Artifact scatter | | House depression - recorded 2007 |
| | Cache pit - recorded 2007 | | House depression - previously recorded |
| | Cache pit - previously recorded | | Cultural depression - non-specified |
| | Large whale element | | Cultural depression - non-specified, previously recorded |
| | Whale-skull marker | | Rebar datum placed by Schaaf |

Kotzebue Sound



Feature 87



representation of skeletal parts

- crania
- mandibles
- vertebrae
- scapulae

The problem of whaling at Cape Espenberg



mandible in Feature 33 (Ridge E-4)



Ceramic Study: Sourcing and Tech Analysis

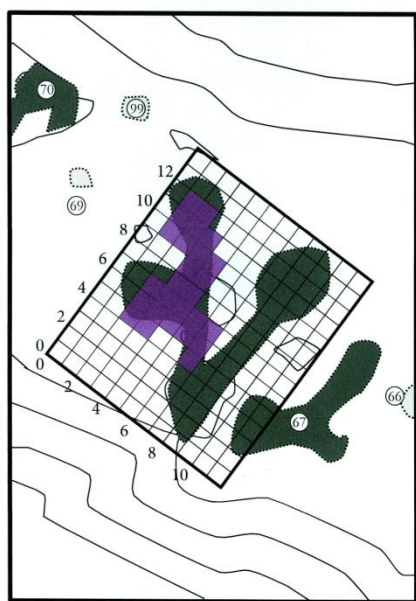
- Connections - Espenberg and NW AK?
- Differential source access w/in sites?
- Unique Espenberg/S.P. sources and types



**Rim treatment
most common
on Kobuk
River**

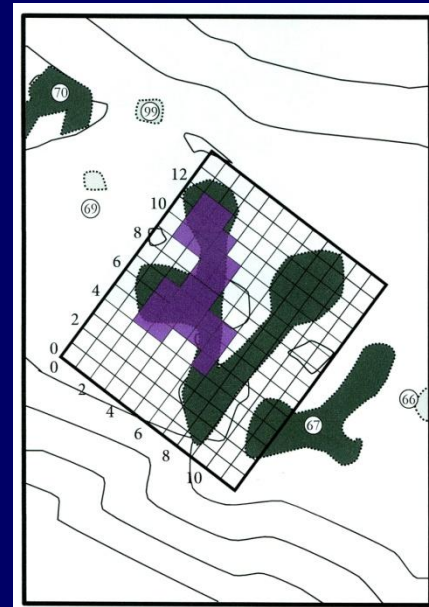
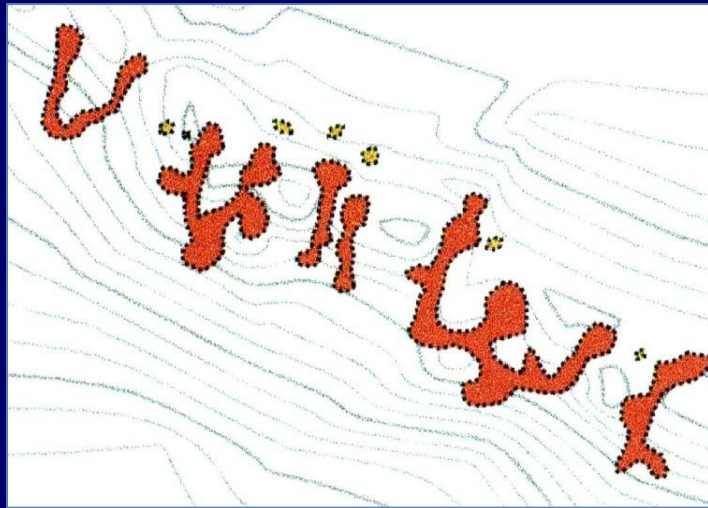


**Textile impressions,
Most abundant on S.P.**



**Feature 68:
2010 excavations**

**The problem of complex surface features:
large multi-room house vs. composite feature
(i.e., two or more small houses)?**





**Feature 68:
2011 excavations**

Cape Espenberg 2011: Acknowledgments

**Anne Jensen
Karlene Leeper
Dale Slaughter**

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**Ken Atkinson (Nome)
Robert Gal (Anchorage)
Eileen DeVinney (Anchorage)
Gina Hernandez (Kotzebue)
Mike Holt (Kotzebue)
Jeanette Pomrenke (Nome)
Becky Saleeby (Anchorage)
Fred Tocktoo (Nome)**

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**Shishmaref
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Clifford Weyiouanna**

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