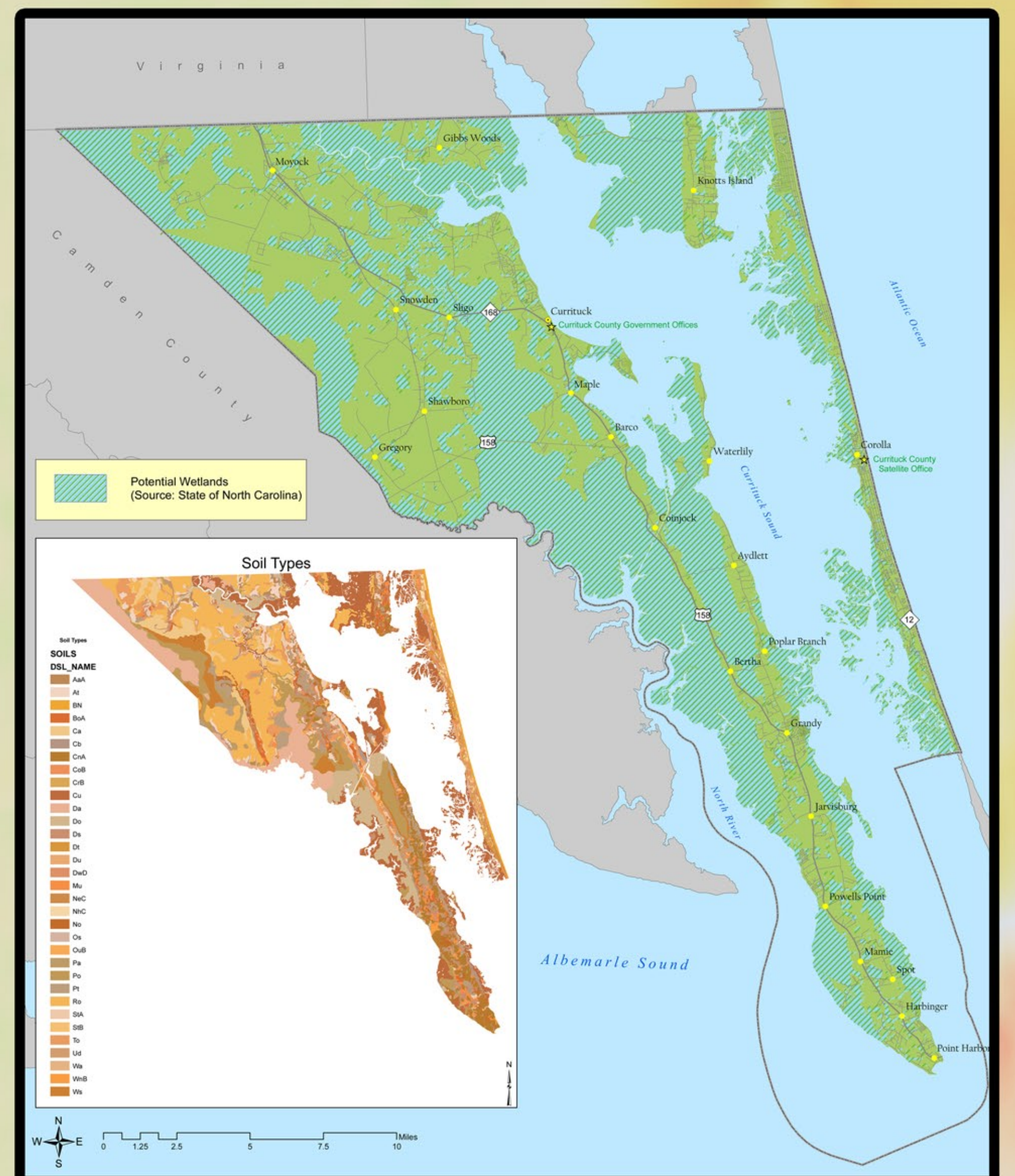


CAROLINA BAYS

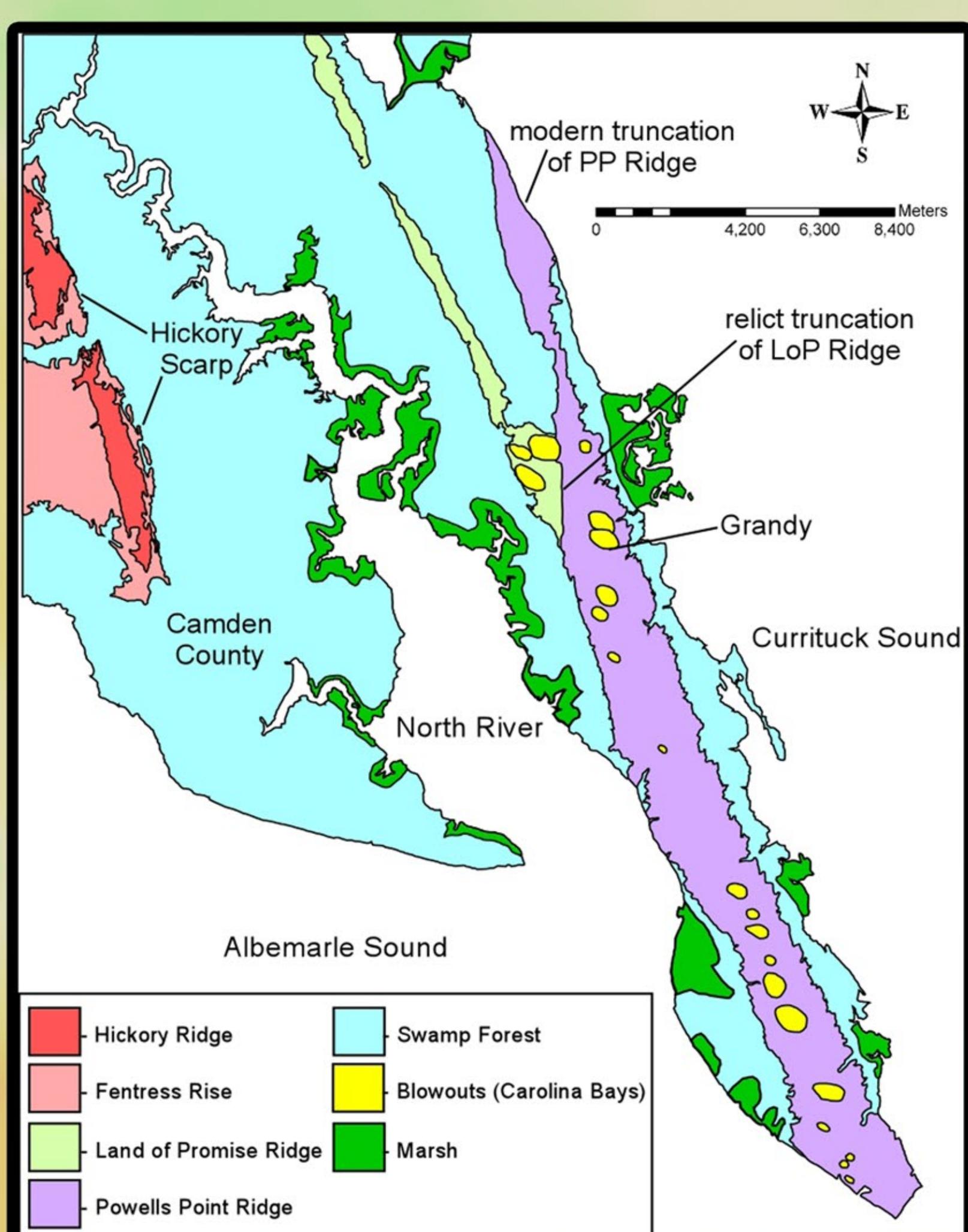
Currituck Time Capsules

In October 2005, the North Carolina Archaeological Society (NCAS) sponsored a very successful public archaeology dig at the newly discovered Twiddy-Saunders site in Currituck County, North Carolina. The site is located on private property scheduled for residential development. Found on the dune rim of a Carolina Bay formed during the Pleistocene epoch, it holds important archaeological and geological information about climate changes over the last 126,000 years.



Environmental Maps of Currituck County
(Source: Currituck County GIS - www.co.currituck.nc.us)

Currituck Bays



Geomorphic Map of Southern Currituck and Camden Counties
(From Burdette 2005, Chronostratigraphy and Geologic Framework of the Currituck Sand Ridges, Currituck County, NC : Figure 13)

Carolina Bays are shallow, oval depressions found throughout the east coast of the United States, from Florida to Delaware. The smallest can be less than 1 acre and the largest over 5,000 acres. Their origin has been a topic of great debate, with explanations ranging from craters of a meteor shower to giant fish nests. Today geologists and archaeologists feel they formed in late Wisconsinian glacial time as wind deflation hollows, or 'blowouts'. Several of these bays are found along the southern part of the Currituck Peninsula. They have white sand rims and are thicker on the southeast edge. Over the centuries humans have visited and camped on these rims to exploit the bay's resources.