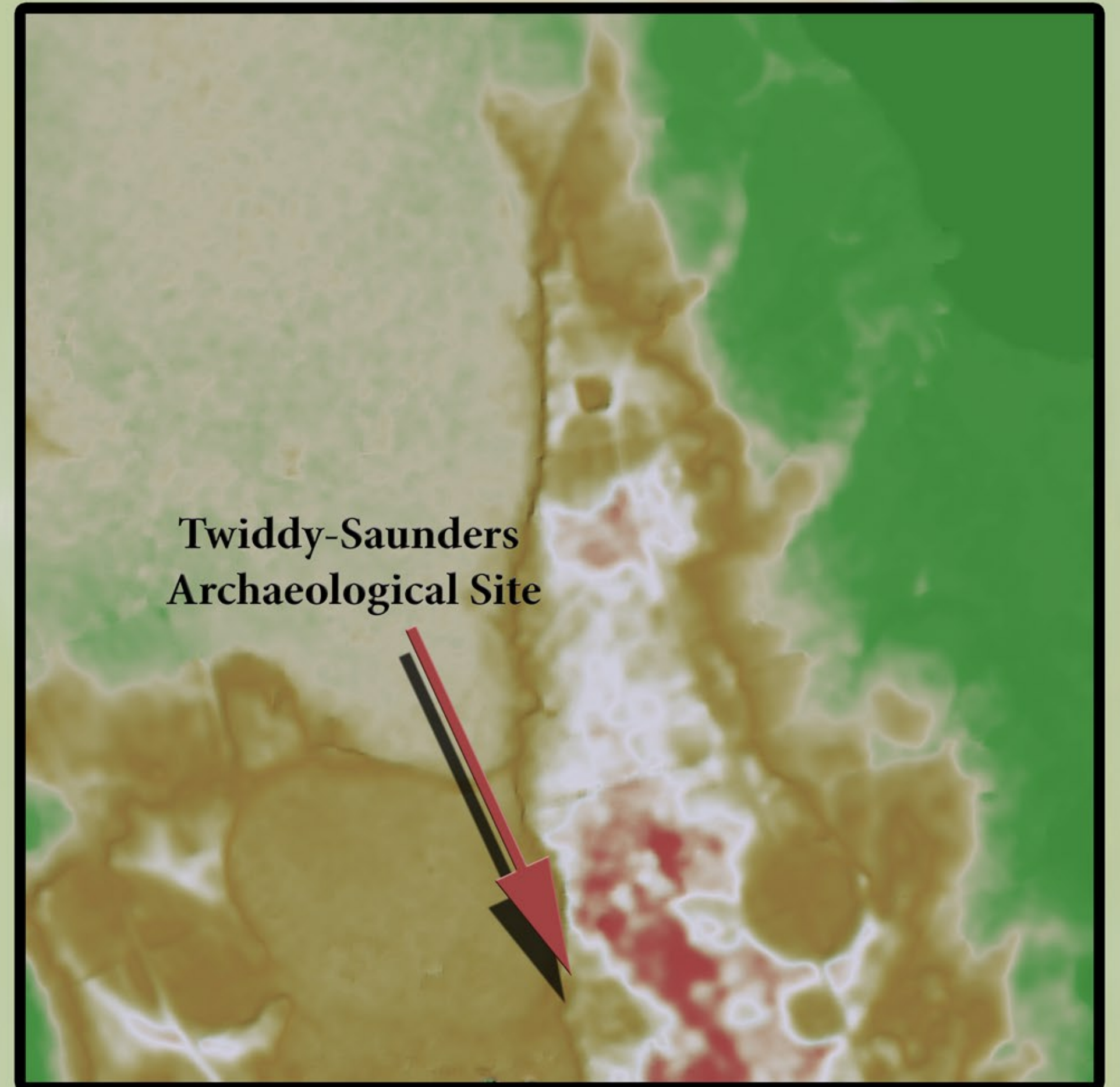


CURRITUCK BAYS

Twiddy-Saunders Site

The site is located on the western side of the Currituck peninsula against a broad wetland bordering the North River. It is found on a long, narrow sand dune that formed thousands of years ago on the rim of a very large Carolina Bay. The swamp adjacent to the site is actually the interior portion of the bay and was an attractive location for wetland plants and animals in the past. These resources would have attracted American Indians to the area. Since the site was found on a Carolina Bay, archaeologists felt it could answer questions about climate change.



LIDAR map showing the location of the Twiddy-Saunders site on the ridge of a Carolina Bay. Different colors represent different heights. (created from data provided by www.NCFloodmaps.com)

Threat From Development



Archaeologists were made aware of the site by Susan and Clayton Twiddy. A drainage ditch for a new subdivision had been dug directly through it, bringing artifacts to the surface.

This project demonstrates that it is possible for volunteer archaeological organizations such as the NCAS to obtain important information when development threatens archaeological sites. Engaging the land owners and local community instills the importance of protecting local cultural resources. This engagement may prove to be beneficial to the creation of protective policies, at local and county levels, in regions where unprecedented development is occurring.