

What's a "Living Shoreline"?

Living shoreline is a broad term that encompasses a range of shoreline stabilization techniques along estuarine coasts, bays, sheltered coastlines, and tributaries. A living shoreline:

- has a footprint that is made up **mostly of native material**.
- **incorporates vegetation** or other living, natural "soft" elements **alone or in combination with** some type of harder shoreline structure (e.g. oyster reefs or rock sills) for added stability.
- **maintains continuity of the natural land–water interface** and reduce **erosion** while providing **habitat value** and enhancing **coastal resilience**.

Most of Maine's experience with "living shorelines" has been related to **dune restoration, construction and beach nourishment** along the open coast sand dune system. This comprises only about 2% of Maine's coastline.

Ferry Beach, Saco



P. Slovinsky, MGS

Western Beach, Scarborough



P. Slovinsky, MGS

About 48% of our coastline is comprised of unconsolidated bluff. Eroding bluffs have traditionally been “stabilized” using rip-rap placed above the highest annual tide.



Coleman Cove, Chebeague Island

R.Harbison, GPCOG

Mackworth Island, Falmouth Field Trip



Site 4

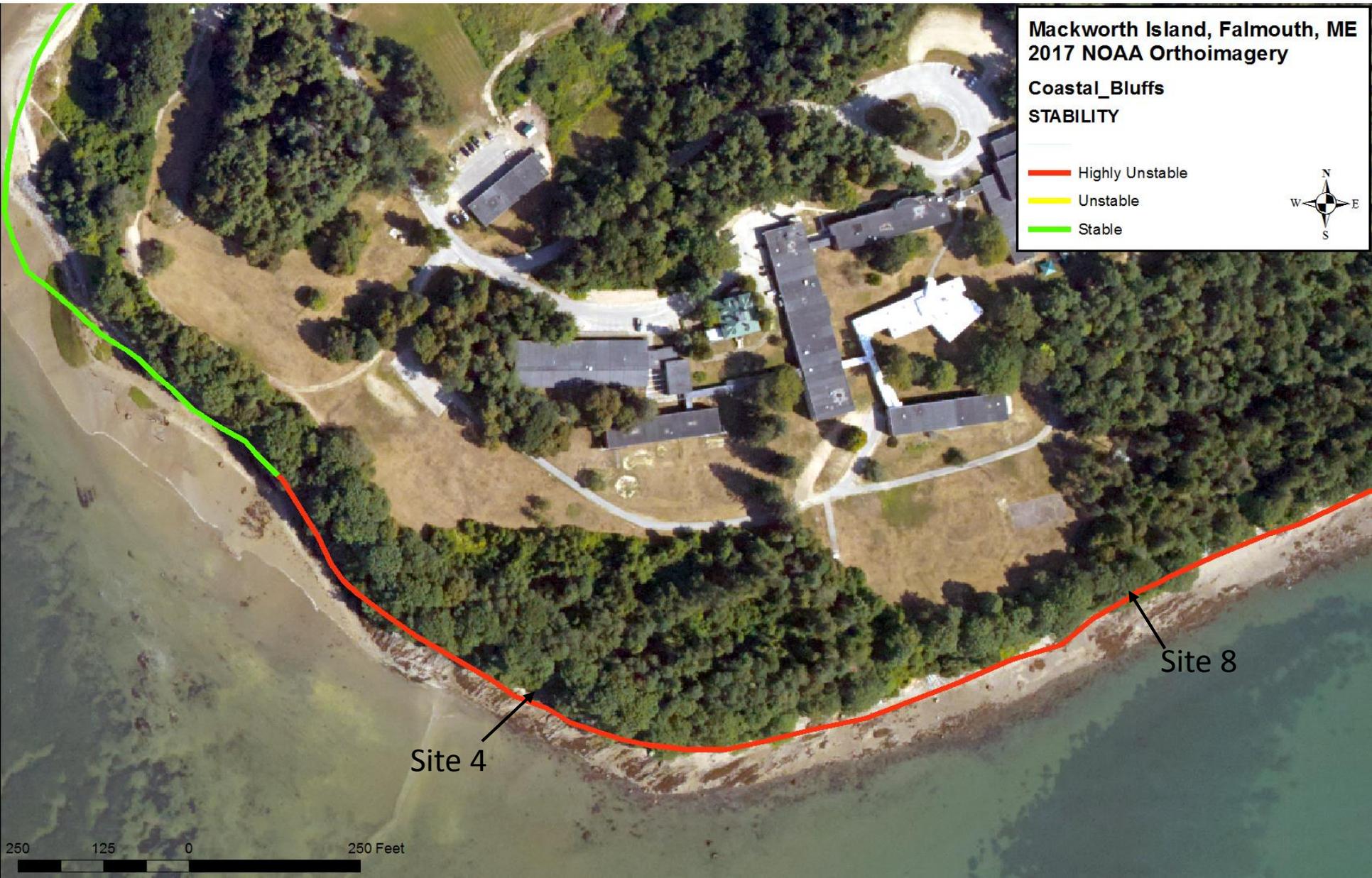
Site 8

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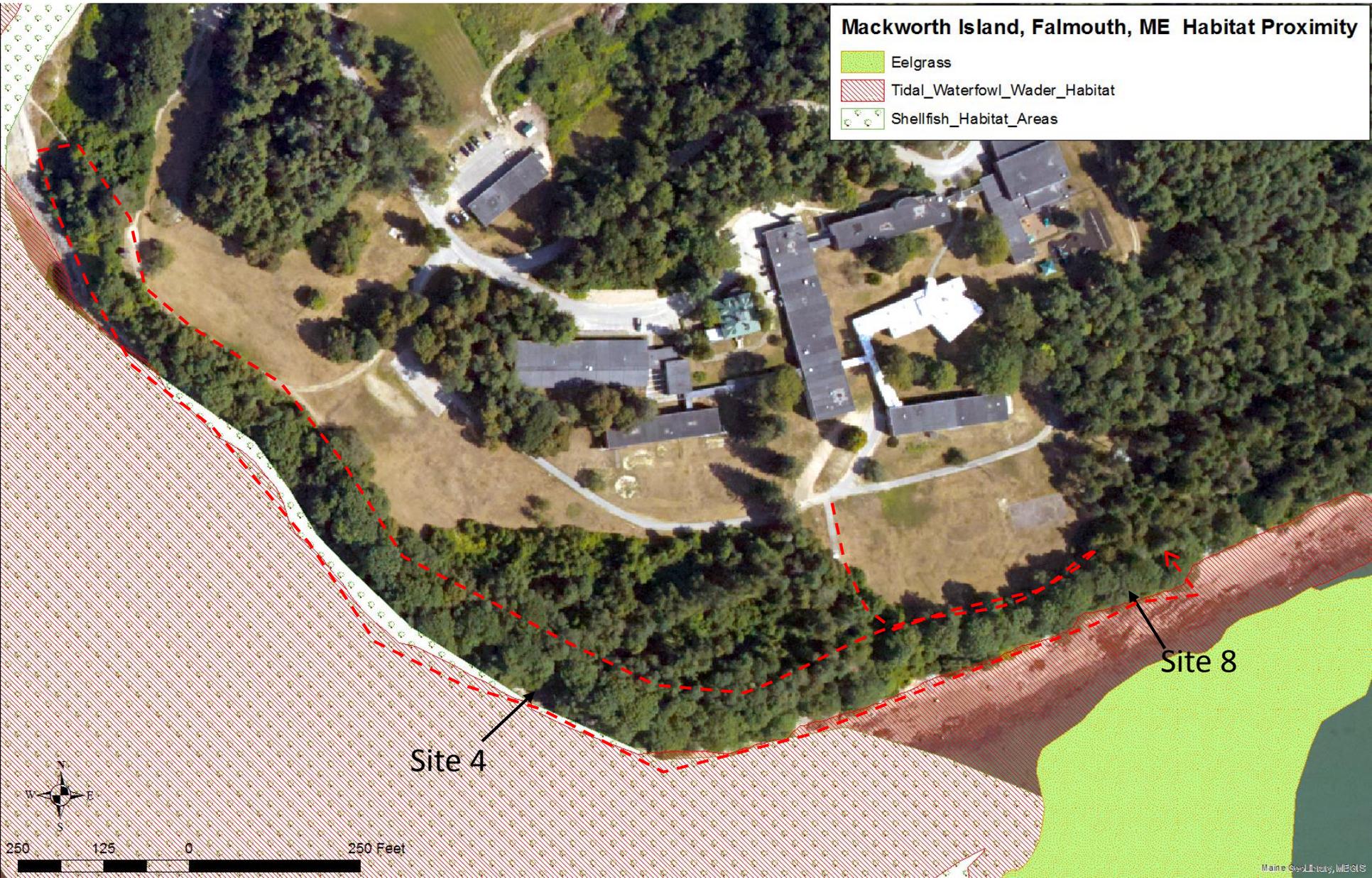
Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME
2017 NOAA Orthoimagery

250 125 0 250 Feet

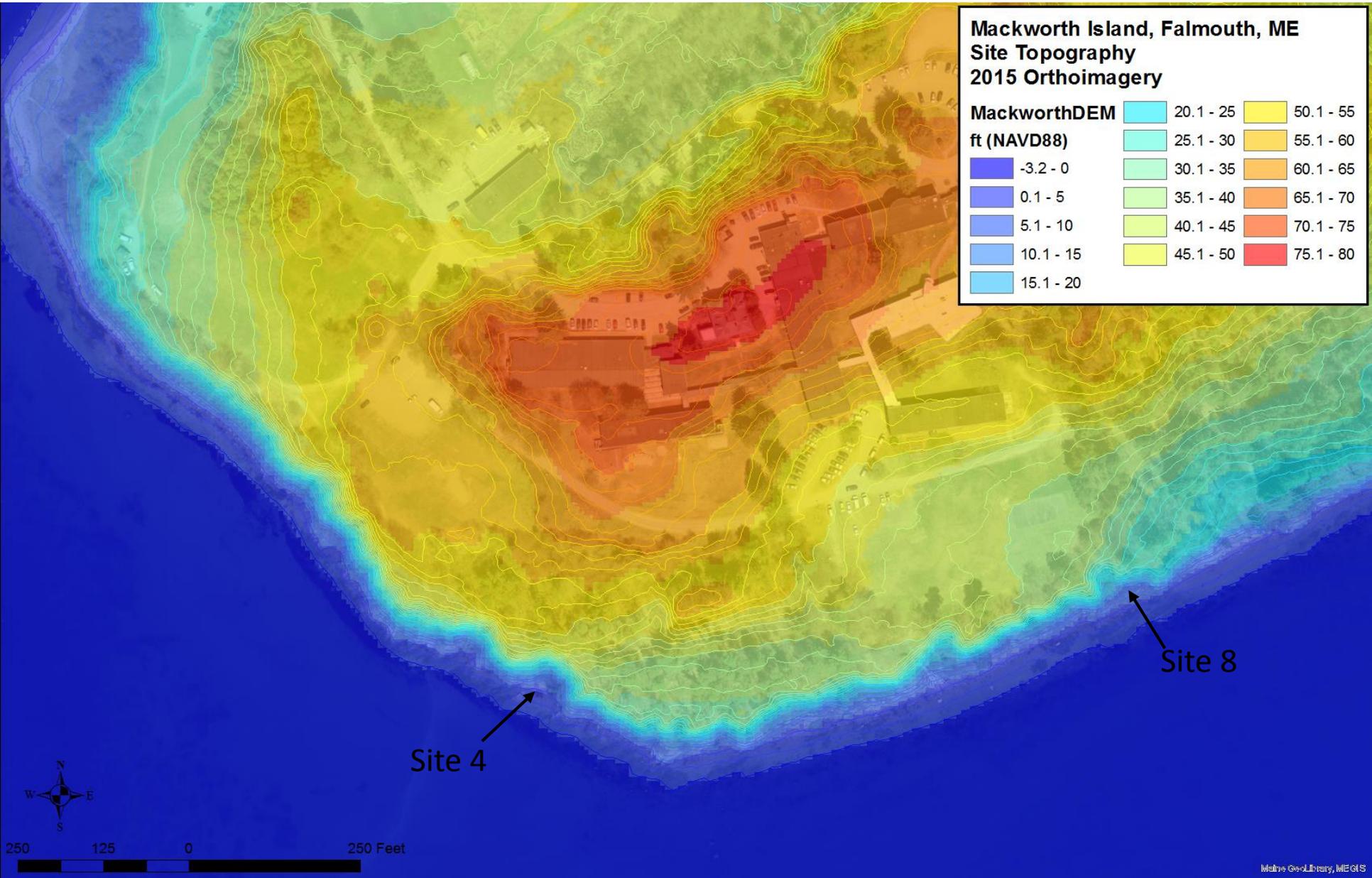
Coastal Bluff Stability



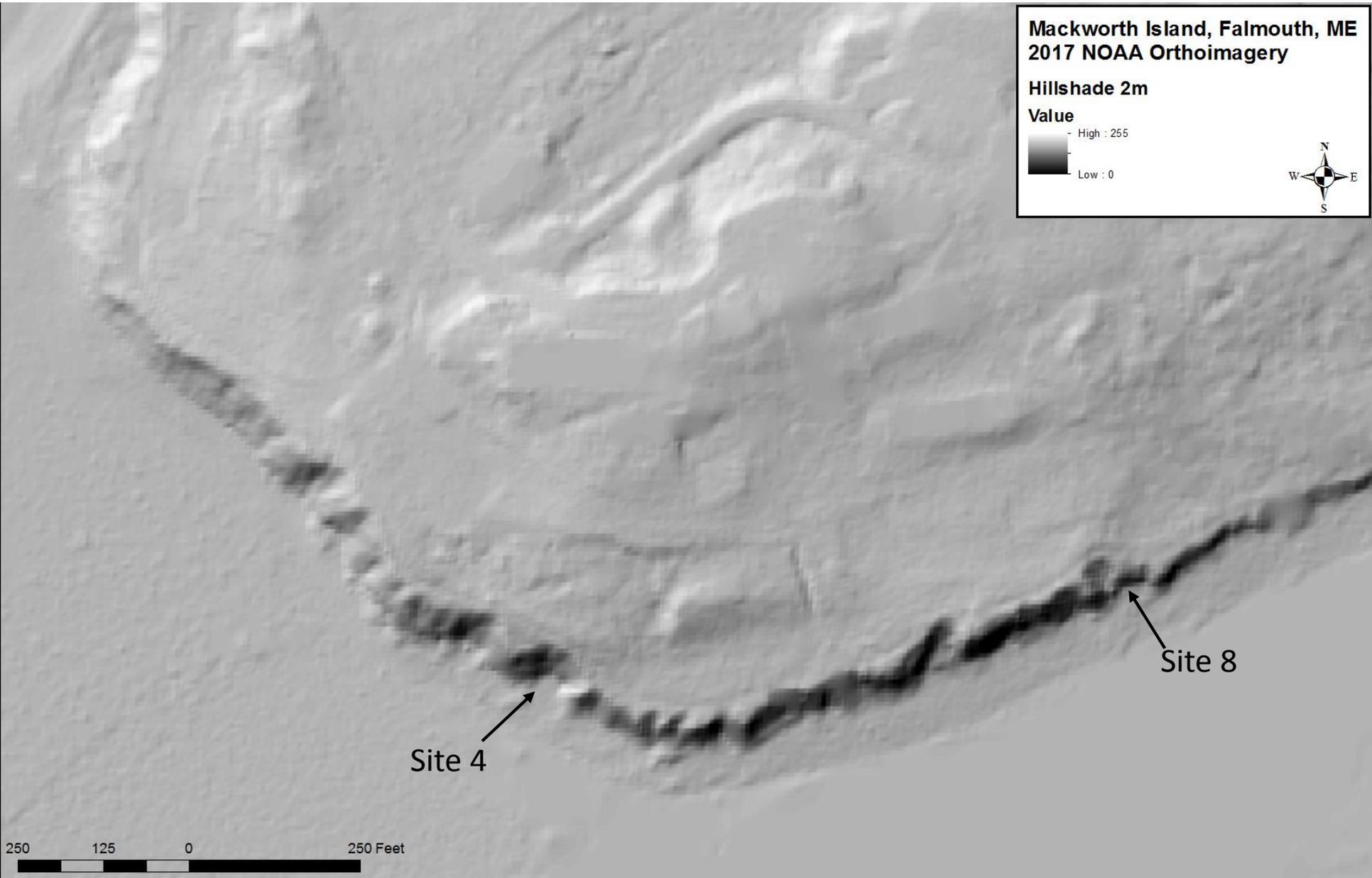
Habitat Proximity



Site Topography (2006 DEM)



Hillshade (2006 DEM)



Site 4 Topography (2006 DEM)

