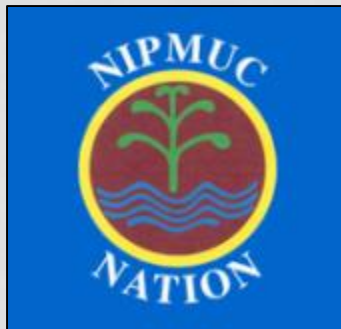
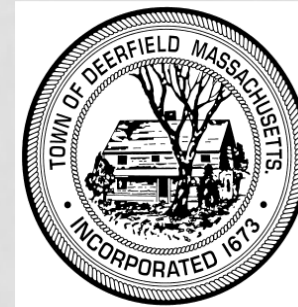
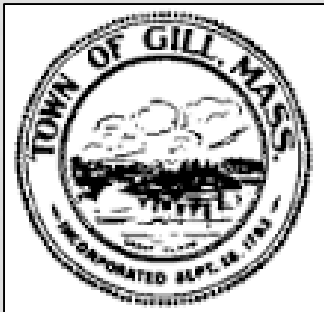


# Battle of Great Falls (Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut) May 19, 1676



# Battle of Great Falls / (Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut)

## *Partners & Advisors*



# AVENUES OF RESEARCH

- Structure and Organization of Native Alliance
- Overall Native Strategy
- Native and English Command Structure
- Native Military Organization
- Role of Ritual and Torture
- Tactics
- Technology
- Experience of Combatants
- Impacts of Disease and Illness on Native Combatants and Communities
- Colonial and generational trauma
- Disposition and Locations of Native communities after the battle and after King Philip's War

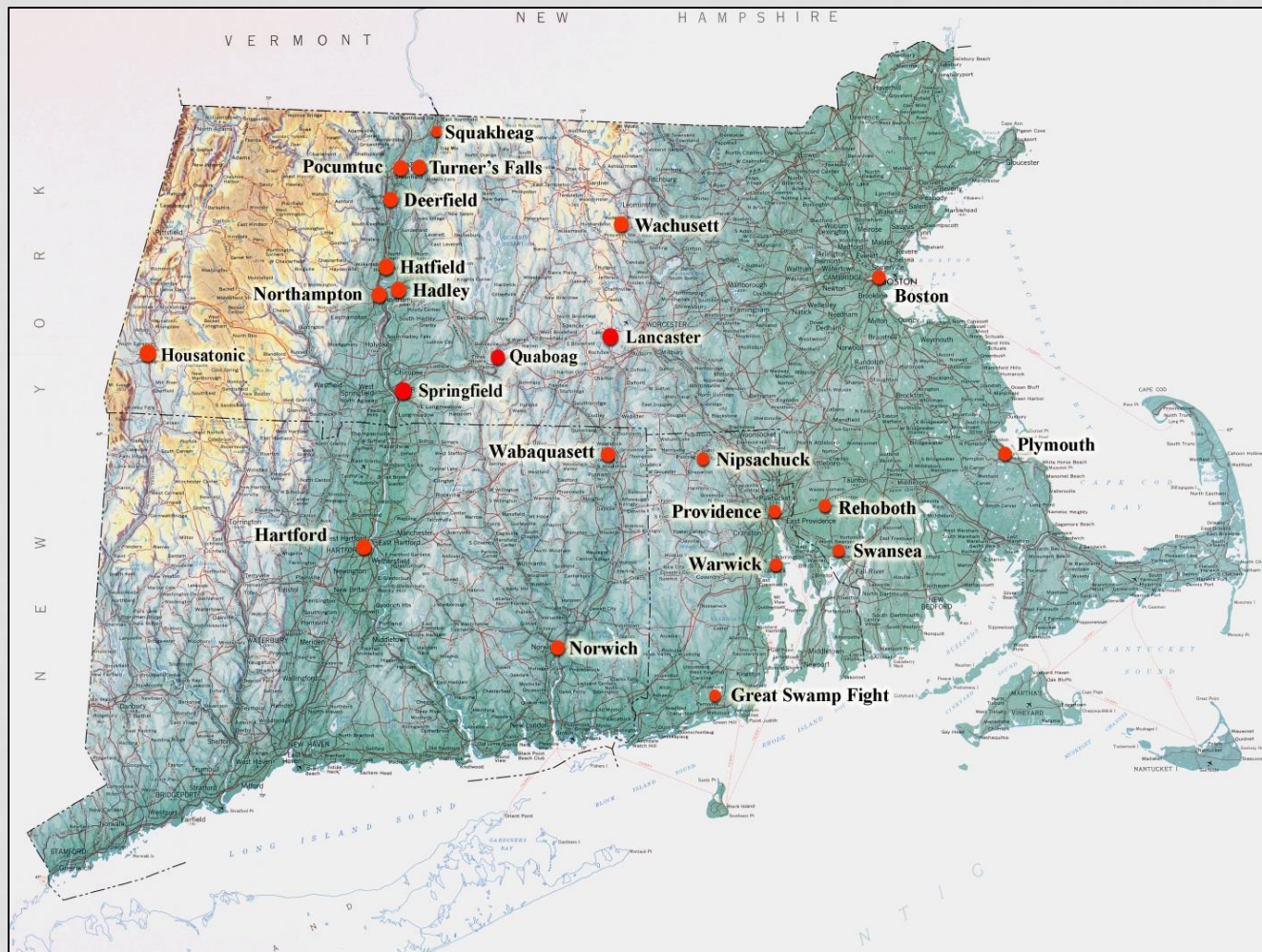
# KING PHILIP'S WAR (1675-!676)

King Philip's War (June 1675 – August 1676) was an armed conflict between dozens of Native American tribes and bands who inhabited (and still do) present-day southern New England who fought against the United Colonies of Connecticut, Massachusetts Bay, and Plymouth.

Dozens of frontier towns in Rhode Island, eastern and central Massachusetts and the Connecticut Valley were attacked and burned during the war.

The conflict is often referred to as the deadliest in American history based on English and Native civilian and military casualties per capita relative to the population.





“Know by this paper, that the Indians that thou hast provoked to wrath and anger will war this 21 years if you will. There are many Indians yet. We come 300 at this time. You must consider the Indians lose nothing but their life. You must lose your fair houses and cattle.”

~ James the Printer, Battle of Medfield, February  
21, 1676

# NATIVE PERSPECTIVES

So are we all Indeans as ye English are, and Say brother to one another, So must we be one as they are, Otherwise we will all be gone shortly, for you know our fathers had plentie of deare, & Skins, our plaines weare full of dear as also our woods and of Turkies, and our Coves full of fish and foule, but these English having gotten our land, they with Sythes cut downe ye grass, and with axes fell the trees their Cowes & horses eat ye grass and their hoggs spoyle our Clambanks, and we Shall all be starved: therefore it is best for you to do as wee for wee are all the Sachems from East to west both Moquakues & Mowhauks Joyning with us, and we are all resolved to fall upon them all at one appointed day.

Narragansett Sachem Miantonomo 1643

They said they had been the first in doing good to the English, and the English the first in doing wrong;

And another grievance was if 20 of their honest Indians testified that a Englishman had done them wrong, it was as nothing;

Another grievance was some of their kings had done wrong to sell so much that he left his people none, and some being given to drunkenness, the English made them drunk and then cheated them in bargains...

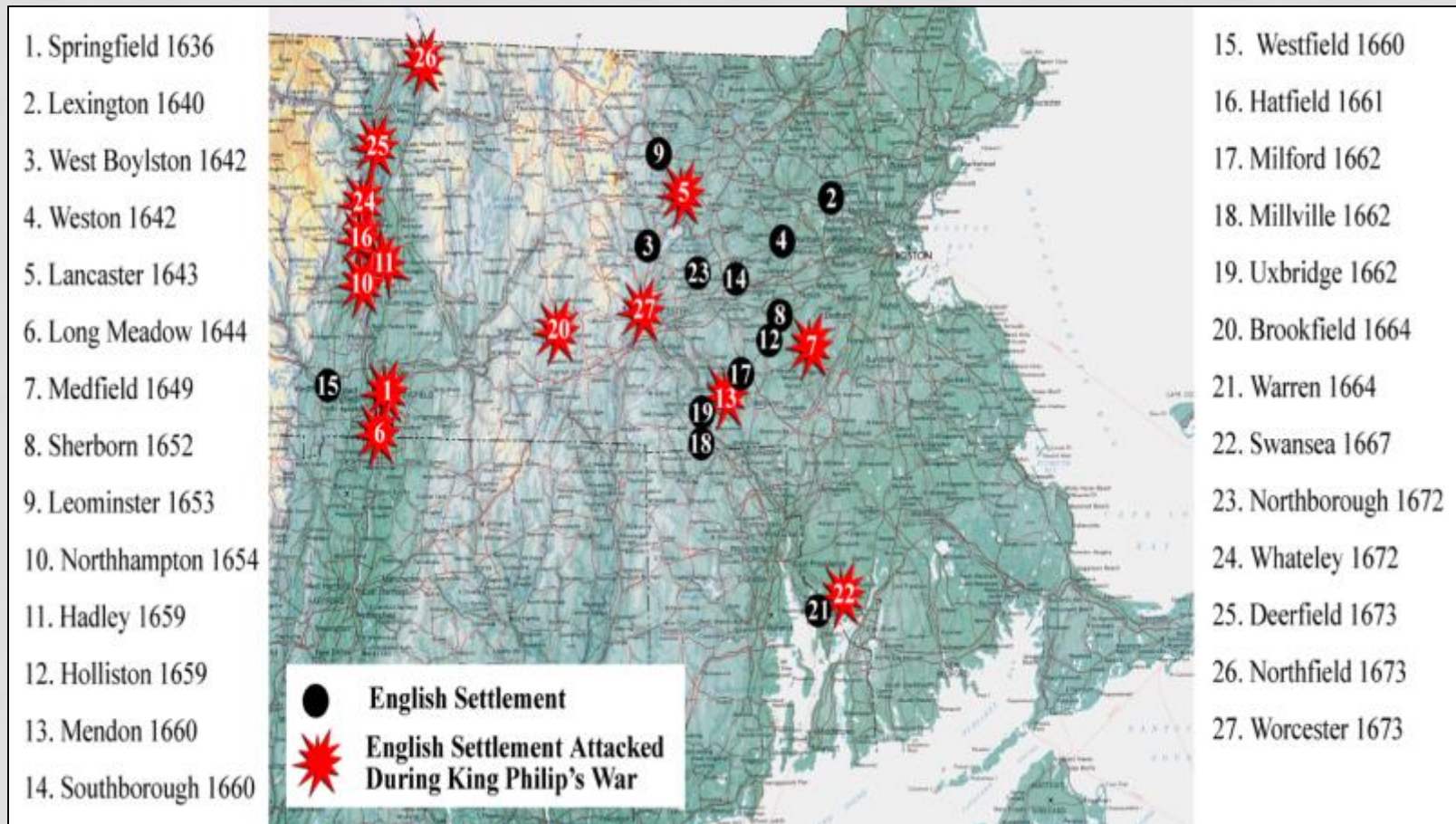
Another grievance was that the English cattle and horses still increased so that when they removed 30 miles from where the English had anything to do, they could not keep their corn from being spoiled,

Another grievance was that the English were so eager to sell the Indians liquors that most of the Indians spent all in drunkenness

Metacom, King Philip 1675



THIRTY-FOUR ENGLISH SETTLEMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED IN PLYMOUTH AND MASSACHUSETTS BAY BETWEEN 1636 AND 1673 AND THE RATE CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN THE DECADE BEFORE KING PHILIP'S WAR.





# PEQUOT ENTREATY TO THE NARRAGANSETT, 1636

- That the English were strangers, and began to overspread the country...it would not be long ere the Narragansetts themselves, would in the next place be rooted out likewise; whereas if they would but join together against the English they could demonstrate how the English might easily either be destroyed or forced to leave the country, and that without any danger to themselves: Telling them also that they never need come to any open battles, they might destroy them only by firing their houses, and killing their cattle, and lying in wait for them as they went on their ordinary occasions; which course, if it were pursued, they said their new and unwelcome neighbors could not long subsist; but would either be starved with hunger and cold, or forced to leave the country

# NARRAGANSETT SACHEM TO SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

So are we all Indeans as ye English are, and Say brother to one another, So must we be one as they are, Otherwise we will all be gone shortly, for you know our fathers had plentie of deare, & Skins, our plaines weare full of deare as also our woods and of Turkies, and our Coves full of fish and foule, but these English having gotten our land, they with Sythes cut downe ye grass, and with axes fell the trees their Cowes & horses eat ye grass and their hoggs spoyle our Clambanks, and we Shall all be starved: therefore it is best for you to do as wee for wee are all the Sachems from East to west both Moquakues & Mowhawks Joyning with us, and we are all resolved to fall upon them all at one appointed day.

# KING PHILIP

They said they had been the first in doing good to the English, and the English the first in doing wrong; they said when the English first came, their king's father was as a great man and the English as a little child. He constrained other Indians from wronging the English and gave them corn and showed them how to plant and was free to do them any good and had let them have a 100 times more land than now the king had for his own people. The English made them drunk and then cheated them in bargains...that now they had no hopes left to keep any land. Another grievance was that the English cattle and horses still increased so that when they removed 30 miles from where the English had anything to do, they could not keep their corn from being spoiled, they never being used to fence, and thought that when the English bought land of them that they would have kept their cattle upon their own land.



# FACTORS THAT AFFECTED THE COURSE OF THE WAR

- Epidemics
- Flying armies and disease transmission
- Surge of English orphans and dislocated Native civilian groups
- Weather
- Zoonotic disease, diseased cattle, sheep and pigs reported in Rhode Island and Long Island
- Lack of Food – malnutrition
- Sickness and Disease



# DISEASE ON THE BATTLEFIELD

- ❑ Disease took the lives of more people than those killed in battle
- ❑ Disease and starvation affected war strategies
- ❑ Hindered ability to gather supplies
- ❑ War and weather destroyed storage systems and played a role in starvation, poor nutrition and disease susceptibility

## Documented Diseases During the War

- Small pox
- Influenza
- Dysentery/Bloody Flux
- Unspecified fevers, fluxes, illness and diseases

By the winter of 1675, **Philip had lost 40 warriors, and had 300+ civilians with him, many diseased**

**“More Indians had died since this war began, of disease** (such as at other times they used not to be acquainted with) **than by the sword of the English,”**

~ Hubbard 1677, 205

November 11, 1676 related by Native Captain Mug: **“many Indians to the Eastward starved to Death & particularly that there were 3 Sachems starved to death”**

~ Mather 1900, 47

By 1676, **at least one person sick in each English home in Massachusetts Bay, and endemic rates 8+ dead per week**

# NATIVE COMMUNITIES SUFFERED SEVERE MALNUTRITION

- It was thought, if their corn were cut down, they would starve and die with hunger; and all that could be found was destroyed, and they driven from that little they had in store, into the woods, in the midst of winter...Though many times they would eat that that a hog would hardly touch; yet by that God strengthened them to be a scourge to his people. Their chief and commonest food was ground nuts, they eat also nuts and acorns, artichokes, lilly roots, ground beans, and several other weeds and roots that I know not. They would pick up old bones, and cut them in pieces at the joints, and if they were full of worms and maggots, they would scald them over the fire, to make the vermine come out, and then boil them, and drink up the liquor, and then beat the great ends of them in a mortar, and so eat them. They would eat horses guts, and ears, and all sorts of wild birds which they could catch.
- Mary Rowlandson's Captivity Narrative



# IMPACTS ON NATIVE COMMUNITIES

many of the Indians are dead since this War began; and that more have dyed by the hand of God, in respect of Diseases, Fluxes, and Fevers, which have been amongst them, then have been killed with the Sword – James the Printer winter, 1676

Increase Mather reported “In these two months of May & April [1676], besides the Sword of War, in respect to the Heathen, the Sword of the Lord hath been drawn against this Land, in respect of Epidemical Disease, which sin hath brought upon us; Sore and (doubtless) Malignant Colds prevailing everywhere

# NATIVE STRATEGIES & TACTICS

☐ Native forces strategically target English:

- Communications
- Transportation
- Storage & food supplies
- On Sunday's when occupied during church activities and at rest

☐ Psychological Warfare

☐ Torture & war trophies

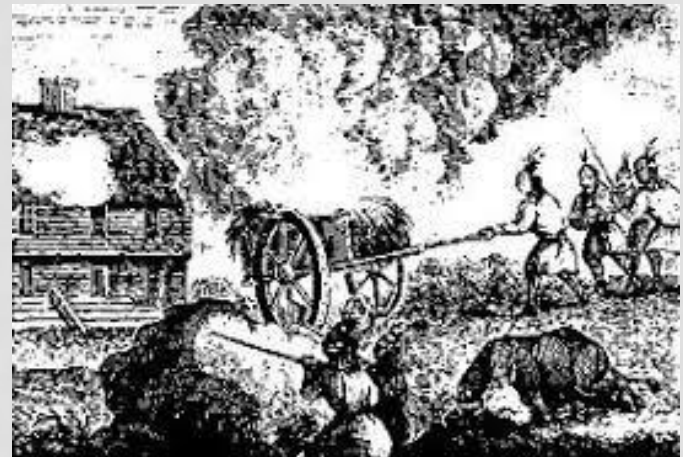
☐ Continued trade with French and Dutch for arms and ammunition

☐ Powwow and pnieses accompany Native forces into battle



# NATIVE STRATEGY

- Broader Strategy
  - destroy the English livelihood and infrastructure.
- CT Valley
  - find refuge and recover from the long winter, plan future strategy, rearm and refit, plant corn, and gather food supplies, particularly fish, for immediate and future consumption.



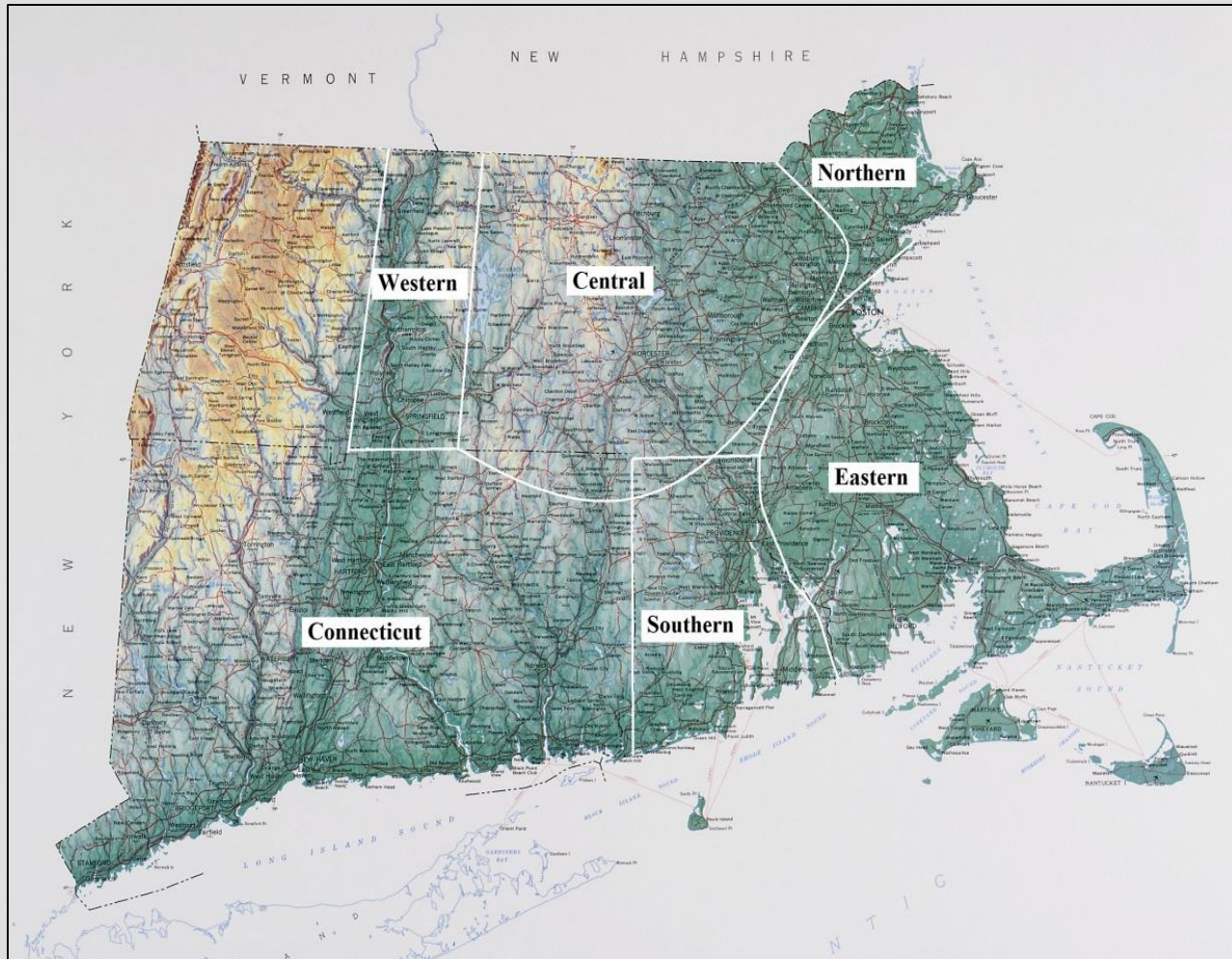


# ENGLISH STRATEGY

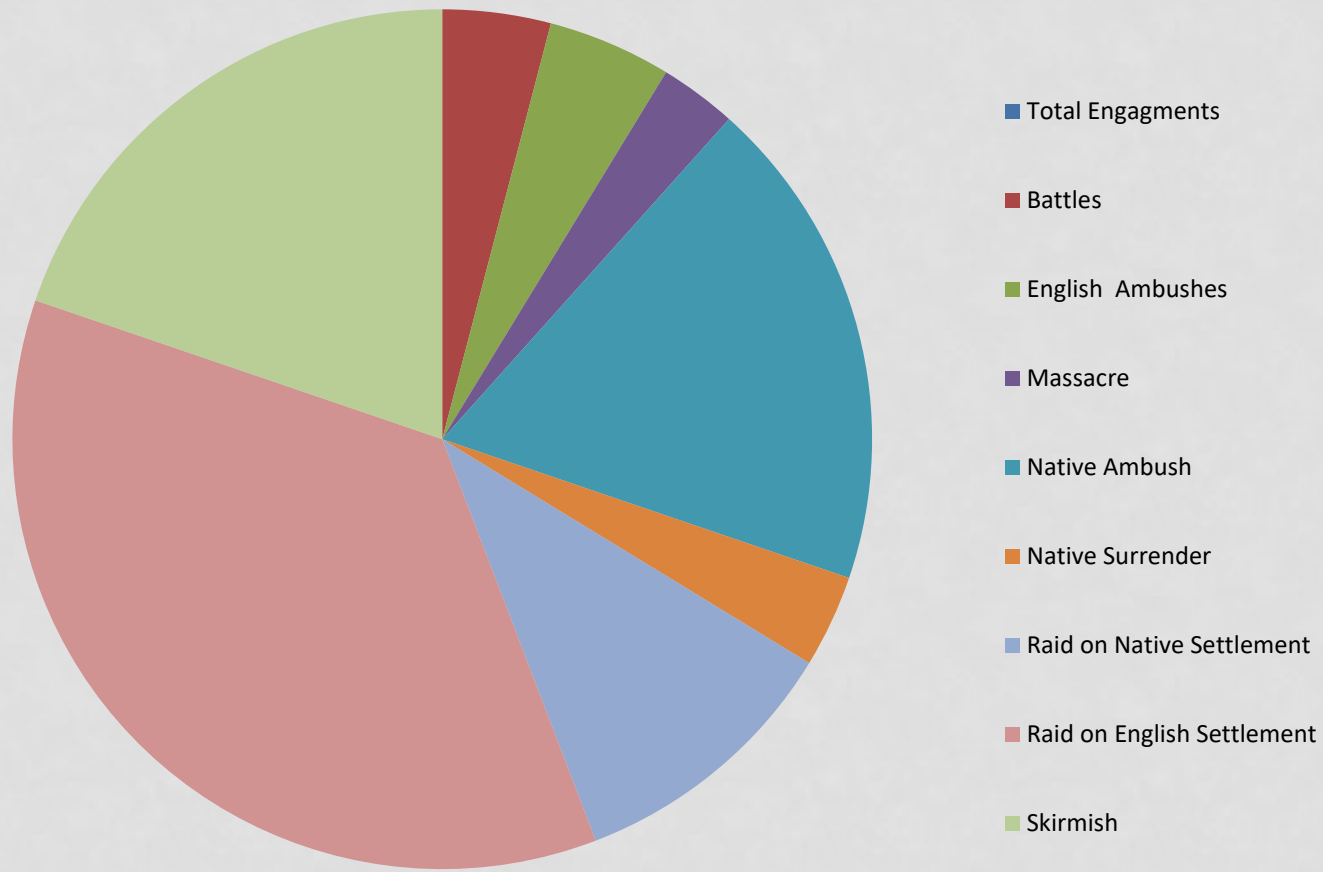
- to: “put the greatest dread upon the enemy...so also the prudently to embrace and improve all opportunities for obtaining a peace, so that the enemy with thorough hopelessness of having a case of submission be made desperate in their designs.”



# THEATERS OF WAR

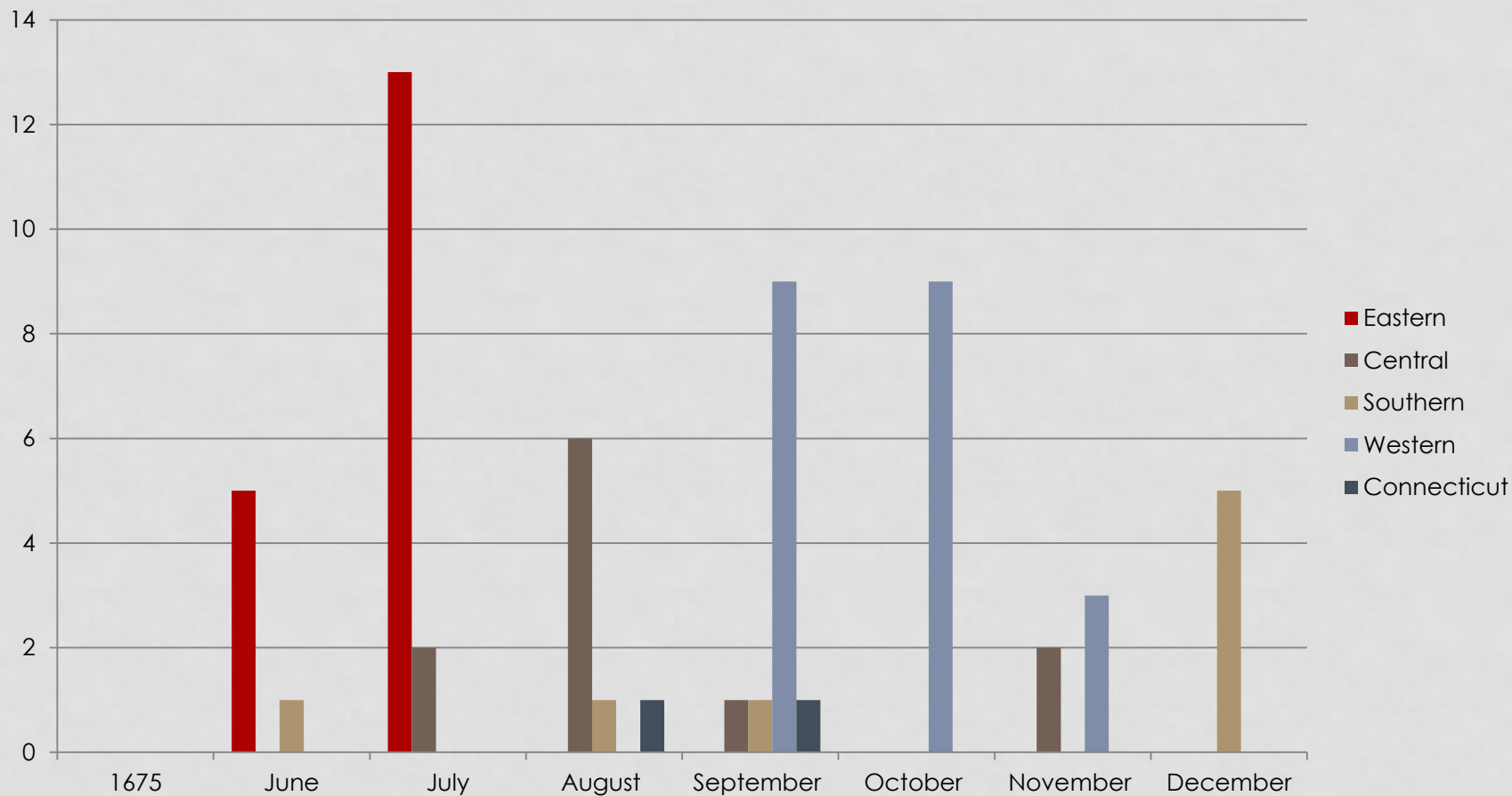


# ALL ENGAGEMENTS KING PHILIPS WAR

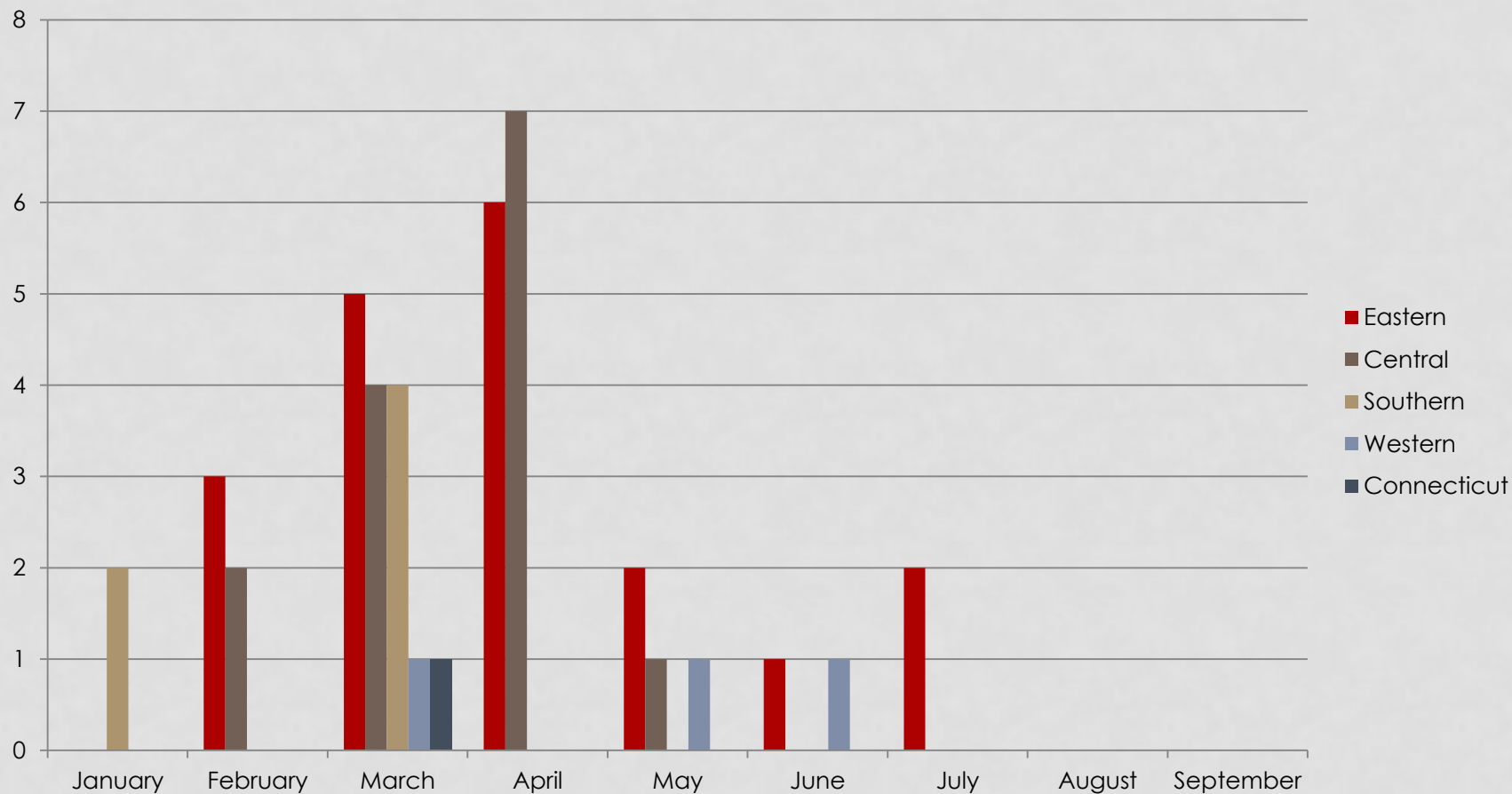




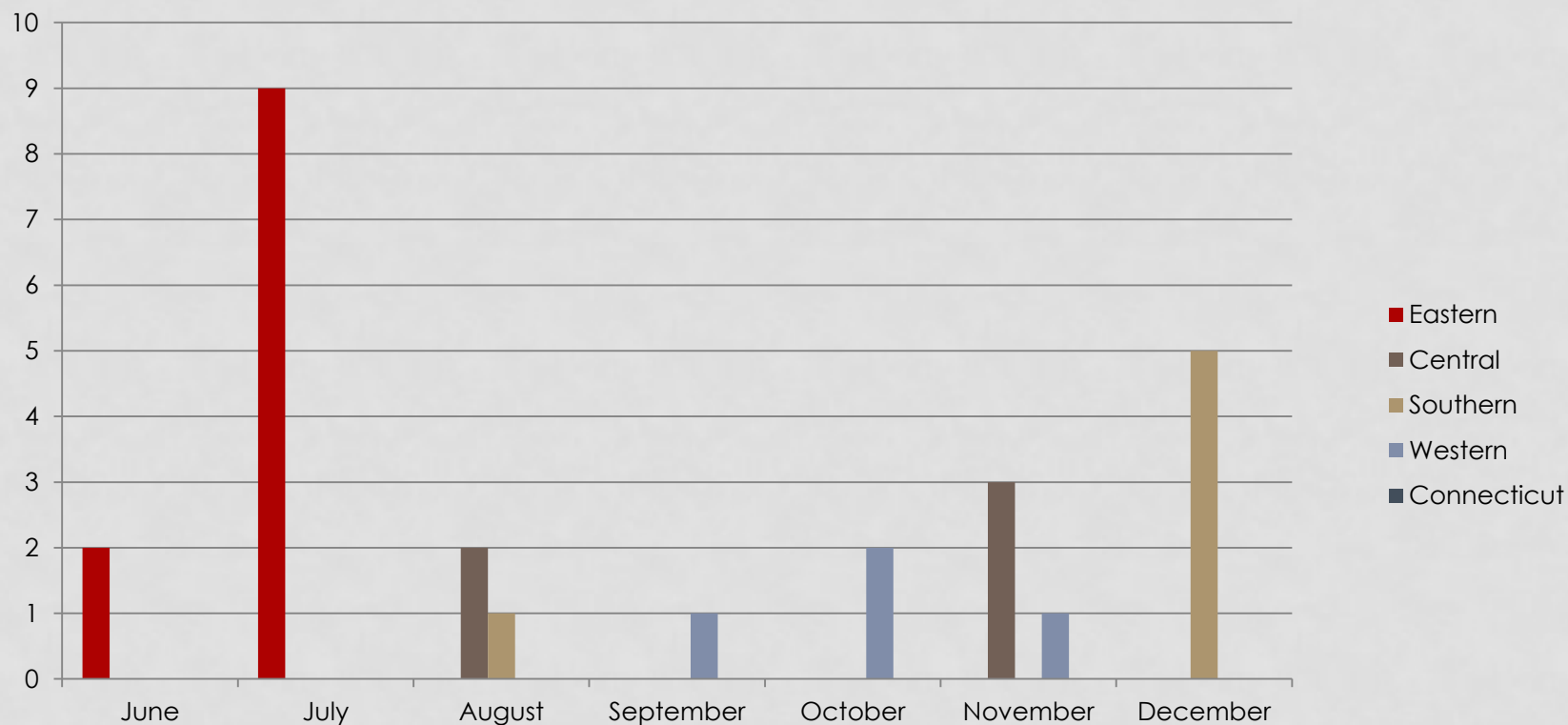
# COALITION ATTACKS ON ENGLISH SETTLEMENTS JUNE-DECEMBER 1675



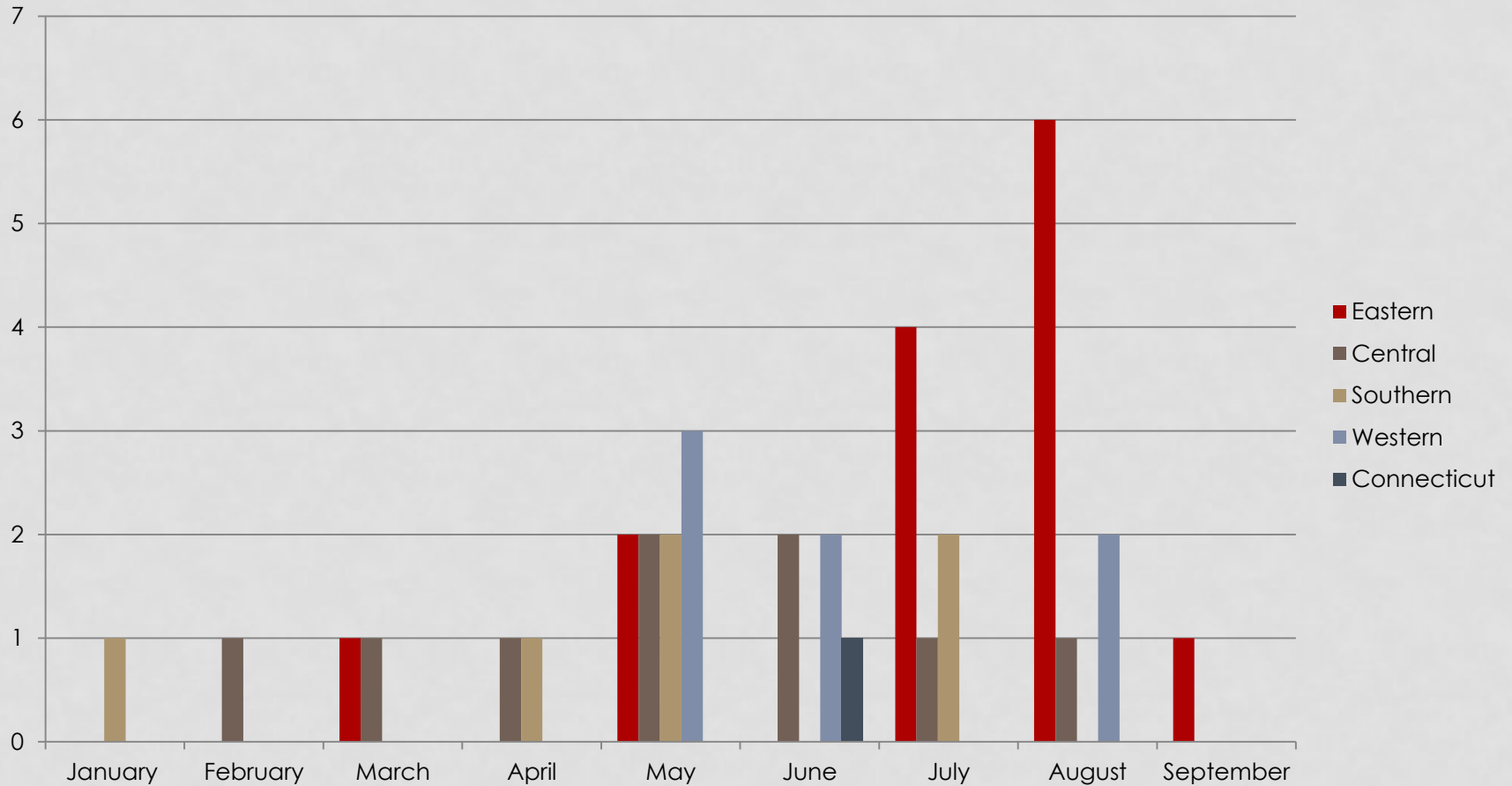
# COALITION ATTACKS ON ENGLISH SETTLEMENTS JANUARY- SEPTEMBER 1676



# ENGLISH OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1676



# ENGLISH OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1676





# FIELD METHODS & SURVEY TECHNIQUES

- Metal Detecting Surveys
- Remote Sensing
- GIS
- Archeological Survey & Excavation
- Military Terrain Analysis
  - **K**ey terrain
  - **O**bservation
  - **C**over and concealment
  - **O**bstacles
  - **A**venues of approach



# Battle of Great Falls (Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut)

## May 18-19, 1676

- English Force of 150 soldiers conduct a surprise dawn attack killing 200-300 men, women, and children
- Native forces recover from initial assault and launch counterattack
  - Native soldiers cross the CT River east and west of the English
  - English forces panic upon rumors of arrival of Metacom & 1,000 men
- English forces routed
  - Unorganized retreat to Deerfield
- Native forces pursue retreating English for nearly eight miles
  - Capt. Turner & 38 others killed
  - 29 wounded



# ENGLISH JUSTIFICATION

We have yet no return from the Indians: and are now past expecting of anything further...They sit by us secure without watch, busy at their harvest work storing themselves with food for a year to fight against us and we let them alone to take the full advantage...This being the state of things we think the Lord calls us to make some try and what may be done against them suddenly without further delays and therefore the concurring resolution of men here seems to be to goe out against them tomorrow night so as to be with them the Lord assisting before break of day.

CSL, Connecticut Archives, Colonial War, Series 1.Doc. 71.

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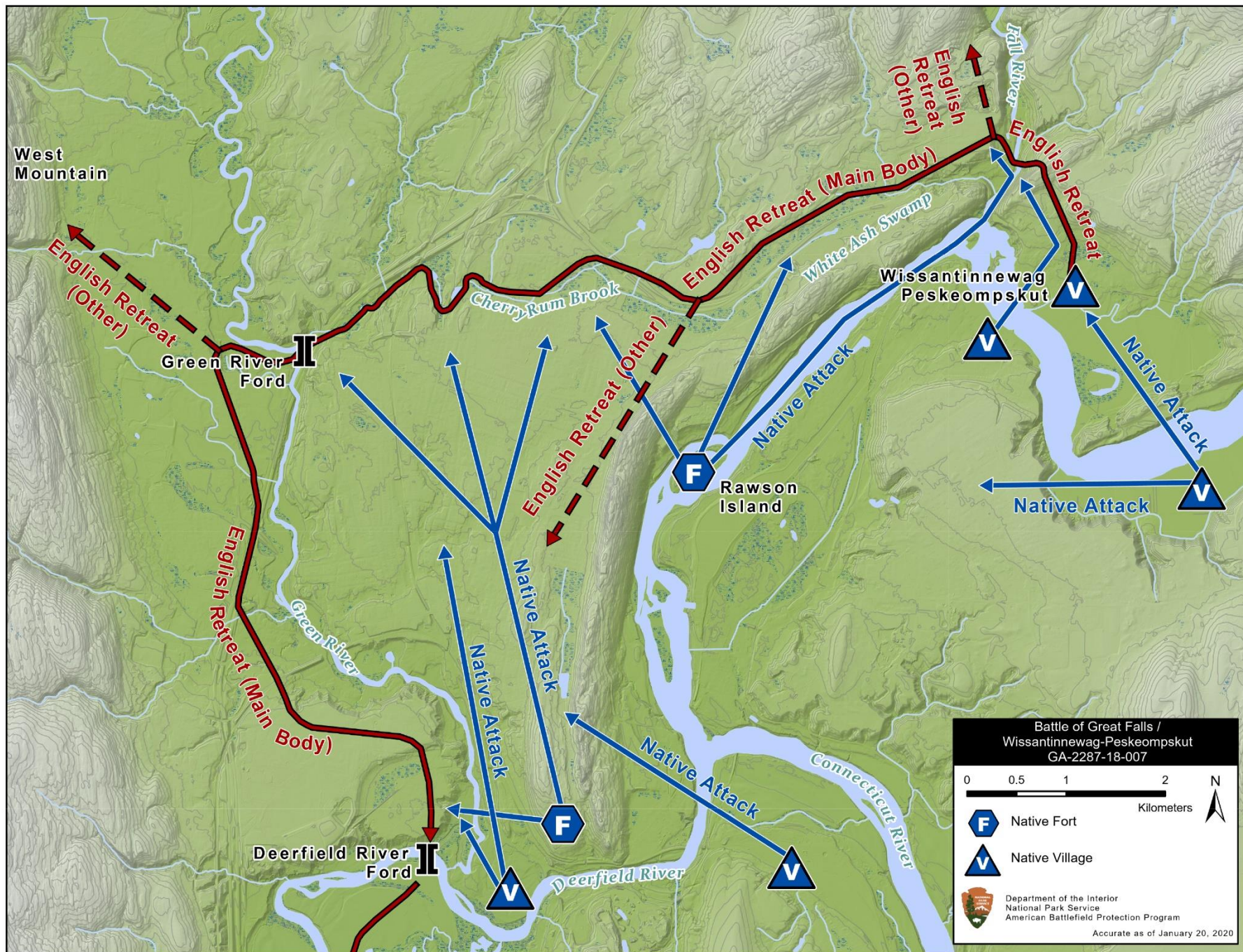


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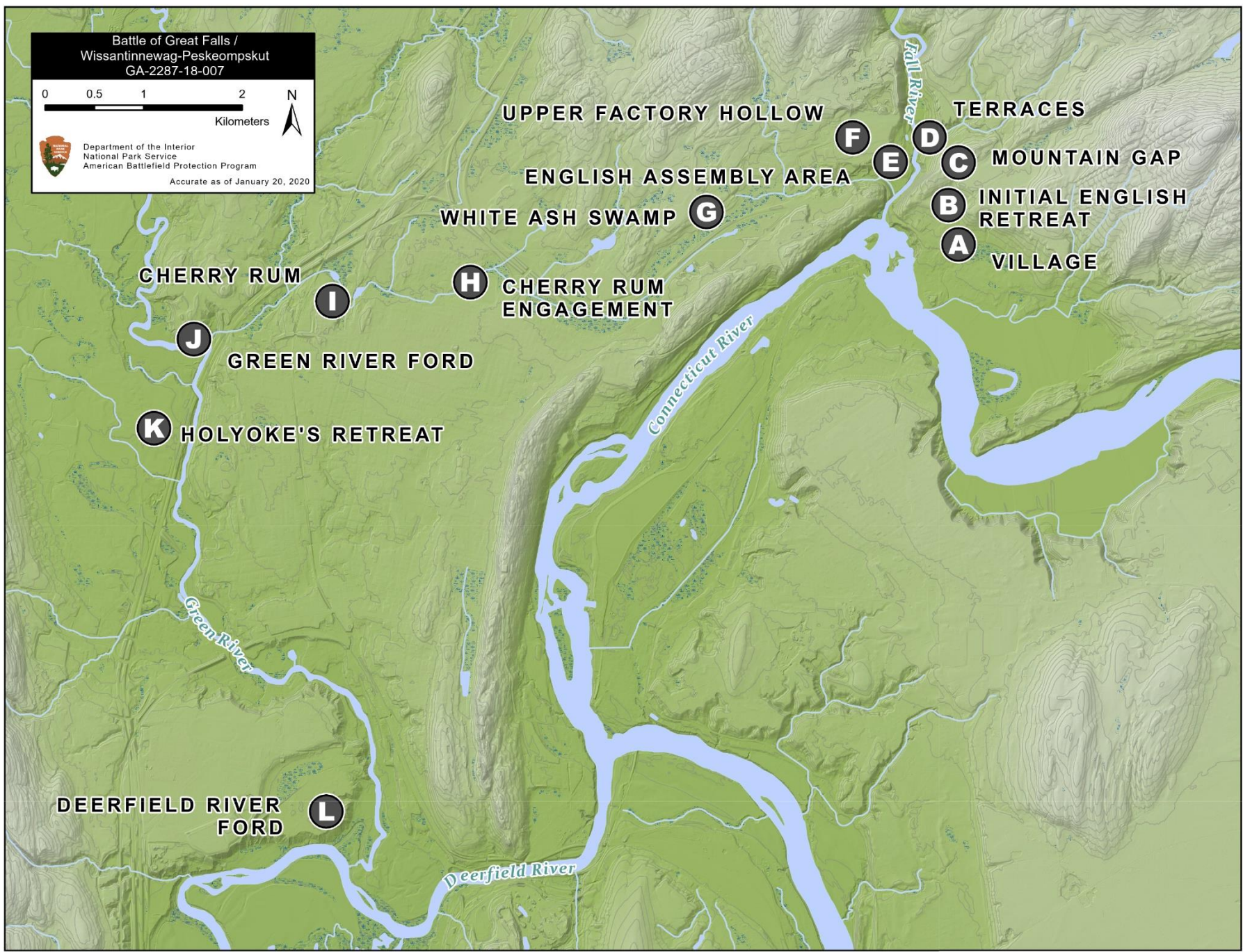




Battle of Great Falls /  
Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut  
GA-2287-18-007

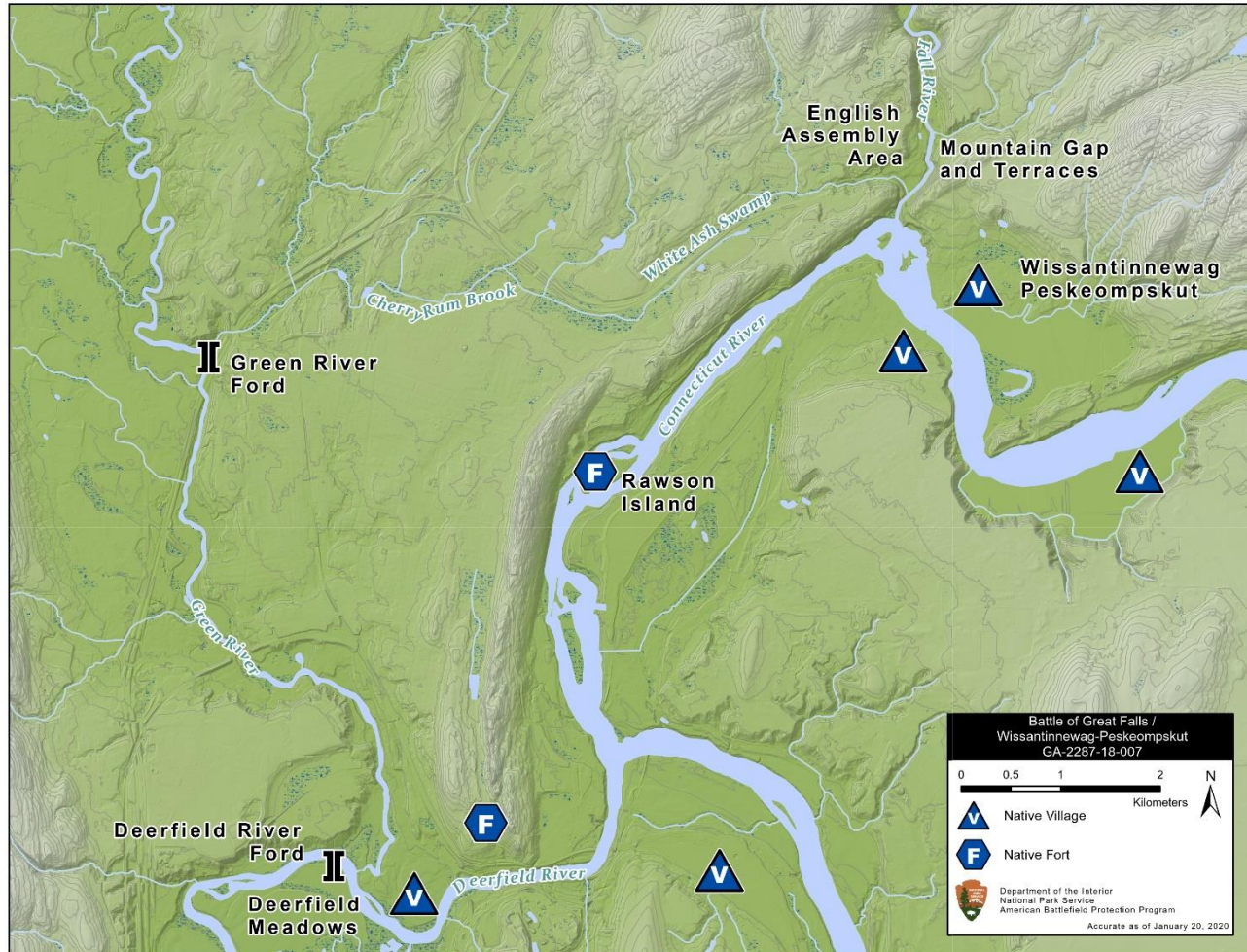
0 0.5 1 2  
Kilometers

Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
American Battlefield Protection Program  
Accurate as of January 20, 2020



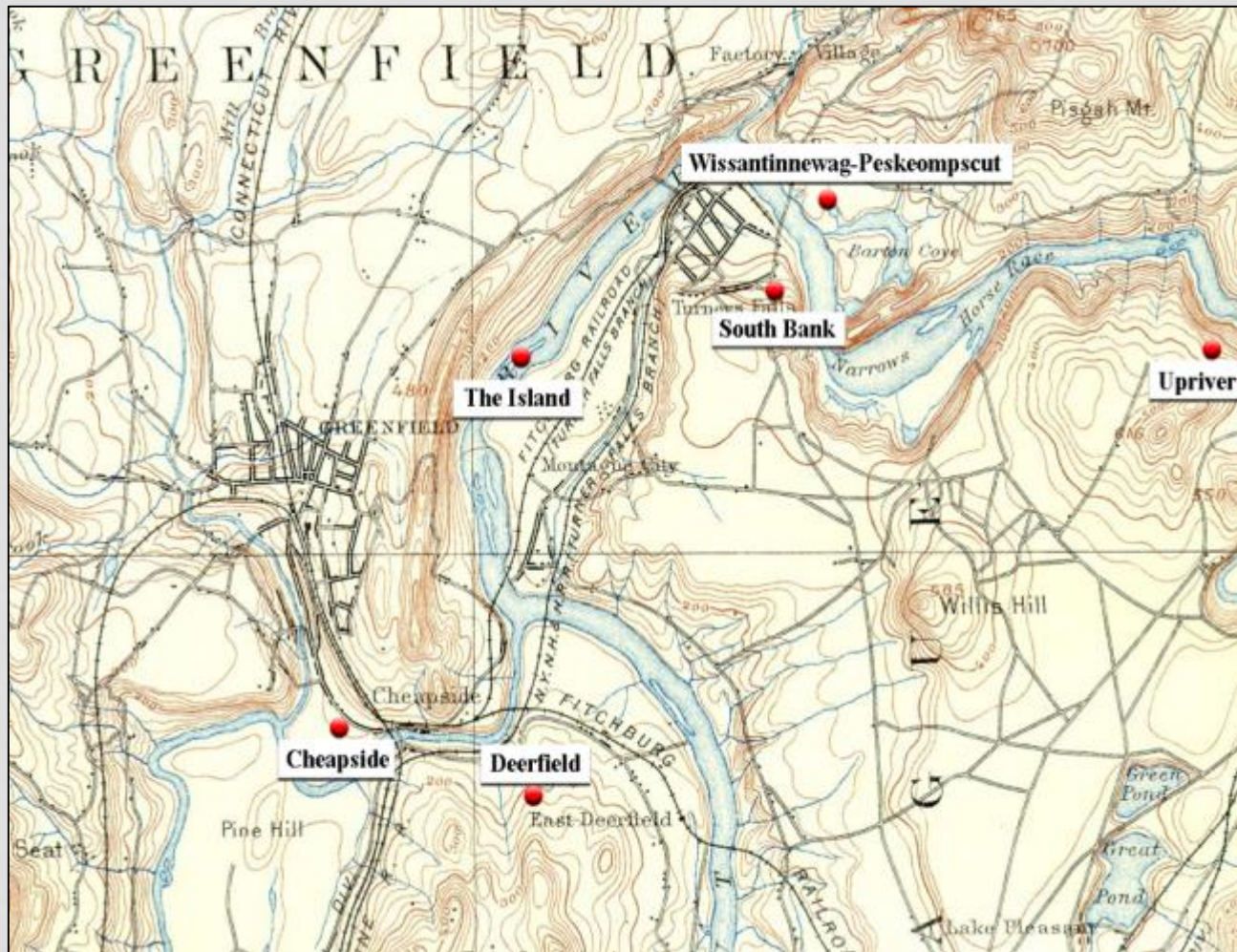


# KEY TERRAIN FEATURES



# KEY CULTURAL FEATURES

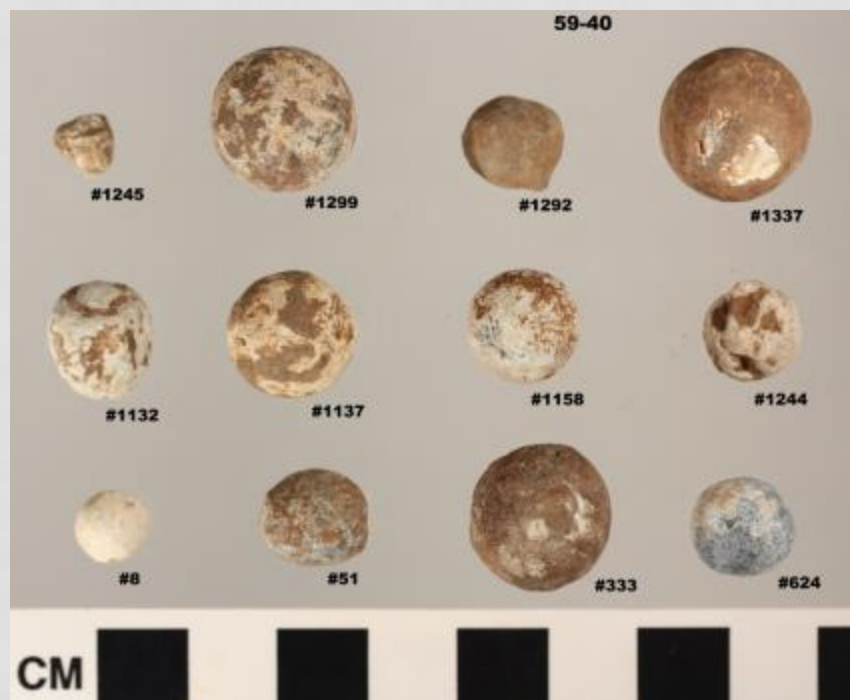
## NATIVE VILLAGES





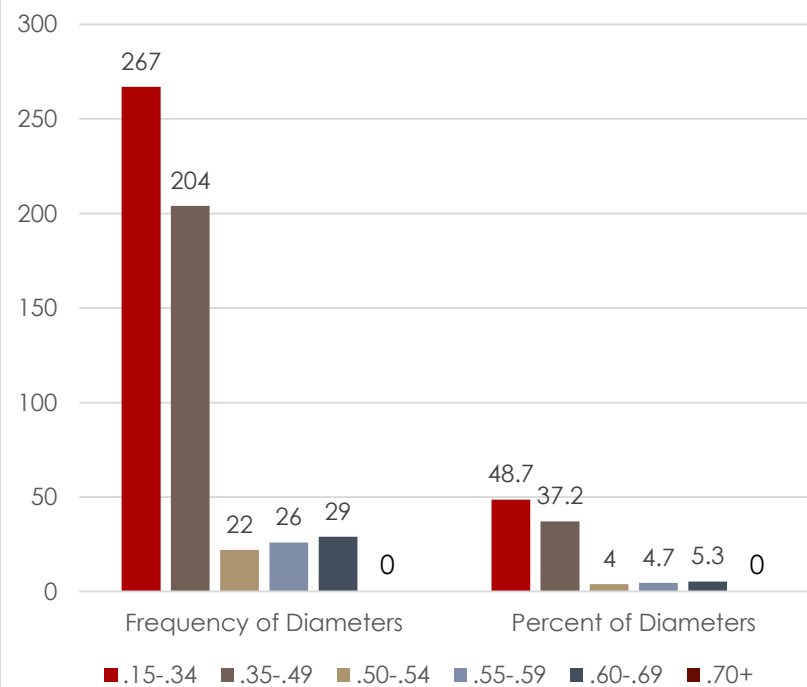
# MUSKET BALL ANALYSIS

## DROPPED, IMPACTED, DIAMETER



Dropped & Impacted Musket Balls

Frequency and Percent of Musket  
Ball Diameters  
in Tenths of Inches  
Battle of Great Falls - All Loci



# Anticipated Native Domestic Objects



Native Ceramics



Glass Beads



Gunflints



Brass Scrap and Arrow Points



Iron Trade Goods



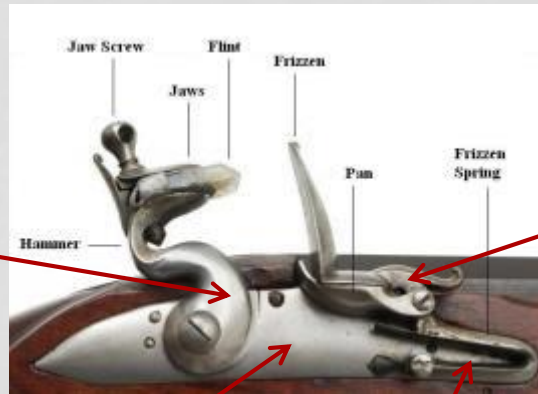
Brass Jesuit Rings



Knife Blade

# ANTICIPATED BATTLE RELATED OBJECTS

## GUN PARTS AND ACCESSORIES



Gun Barrel

# BATTLE RELATED OBJECTS

## MILITARY



Musket Ball With Firing Hemisphere



Possible Gun Parts  
Trigger, Jaw Screw, Ram Rod Tip



# BATTLE RELATED OBJECTS

## POSSIBLE HORSE TACK



# ENGLISH & NATIVE PERSONAL OBJECTS



Native



English or Native

# NATIVE DOMESTIC OBJECTS

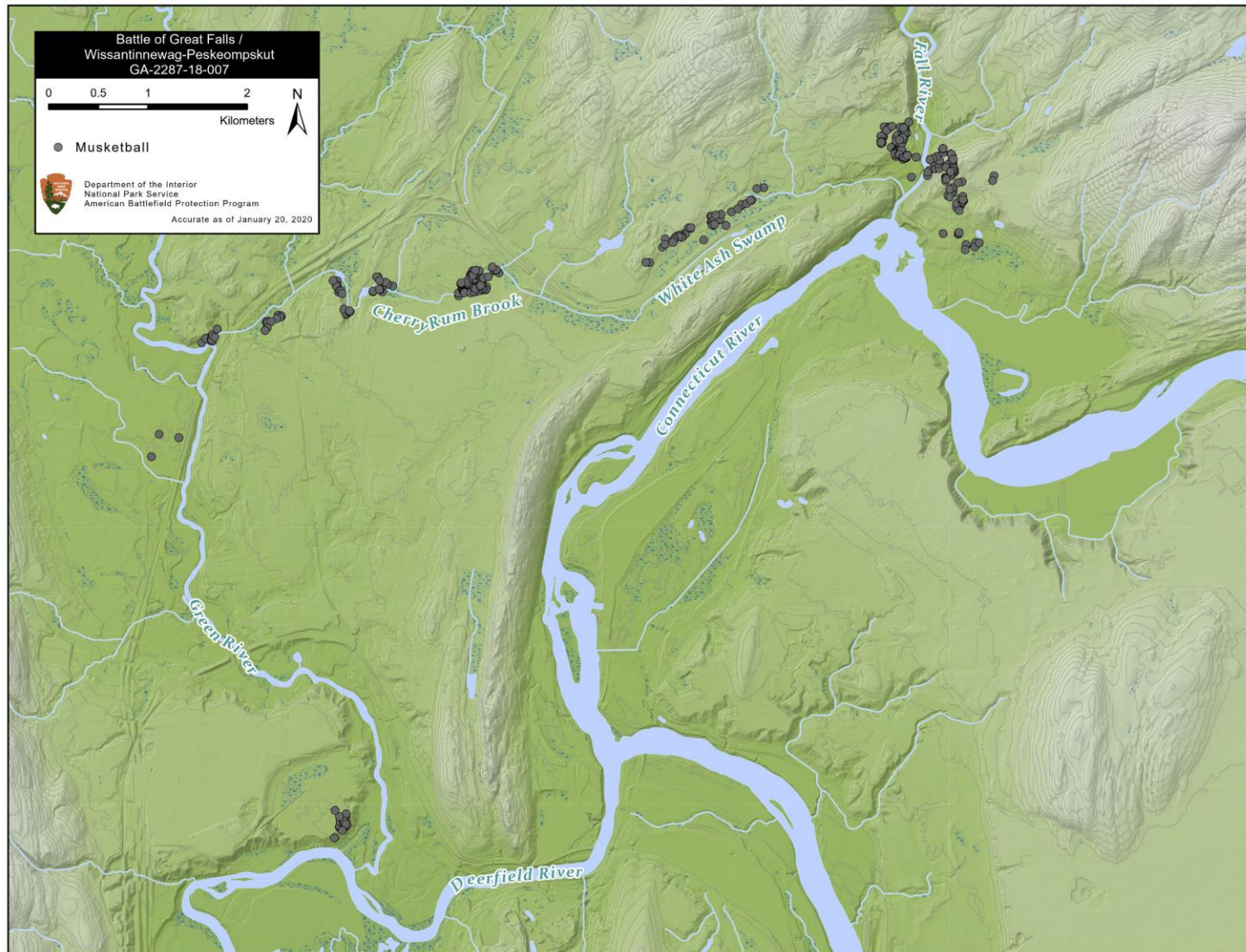


Reprocessed Brass Trade Kettle



Lead Bar and Molten Lead

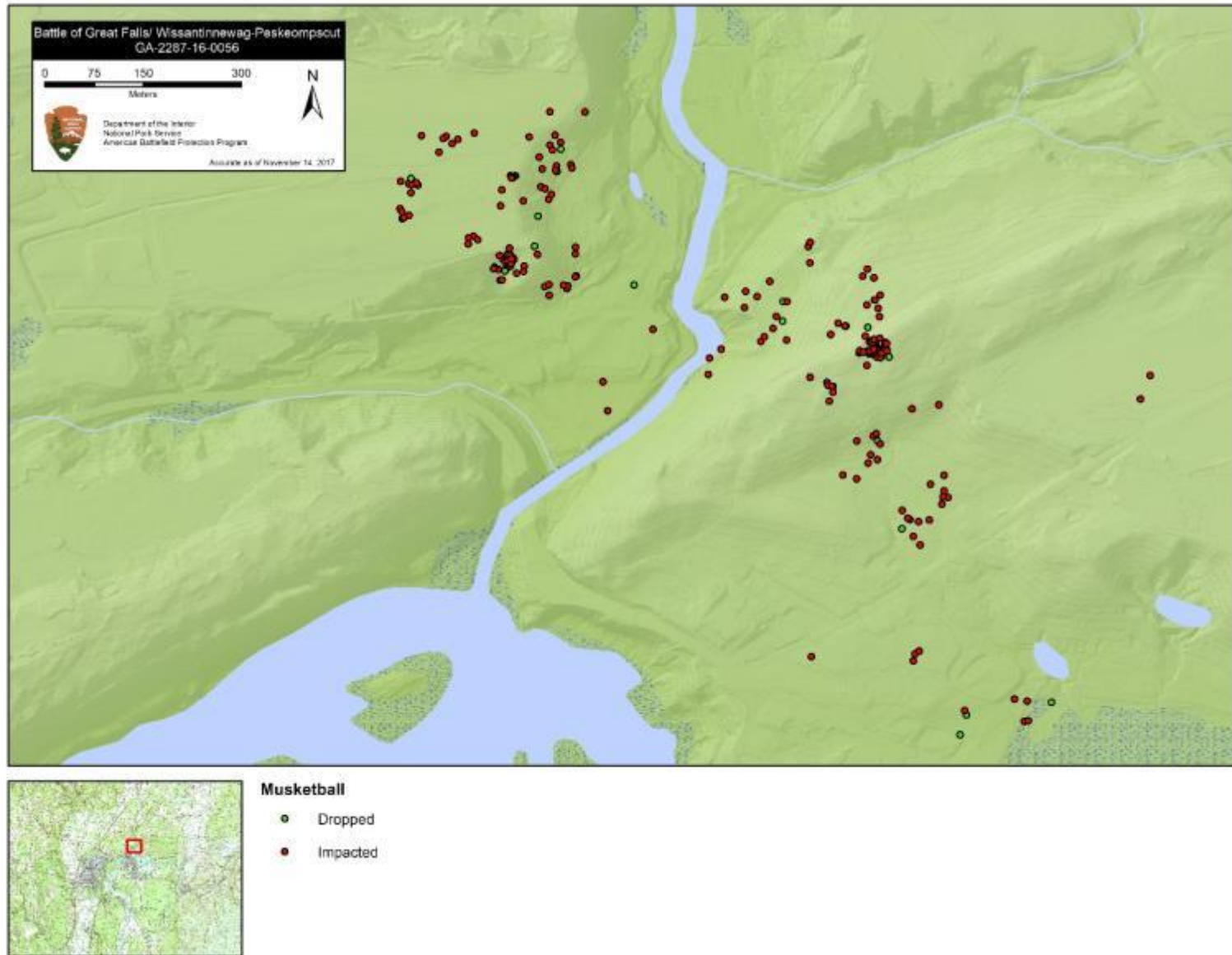
# ALL MUSKET BALLS





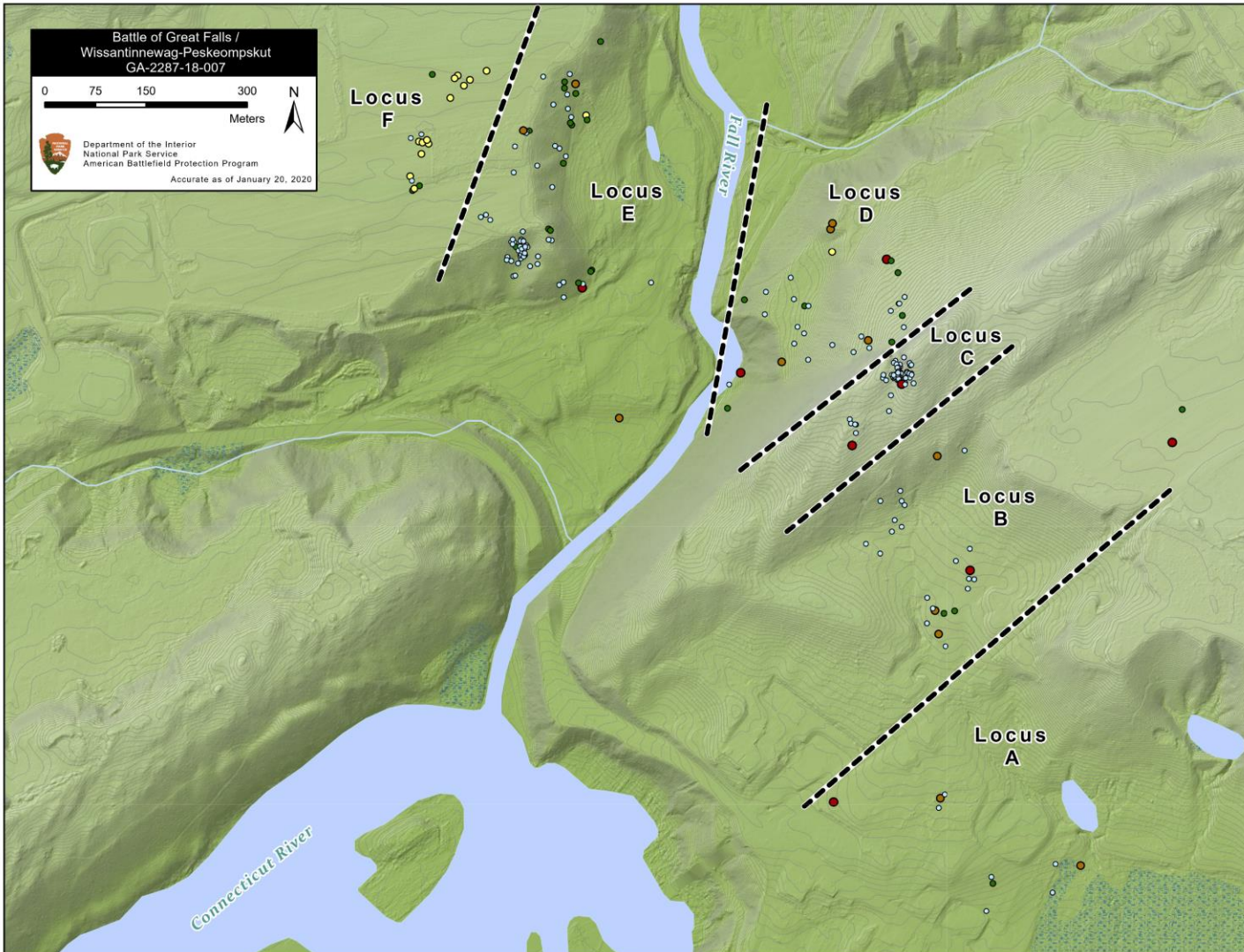
# RIVERSIDE TO FACTORY HOLLOW

## DROPPED AND IMPACTED MUSKET BALLS

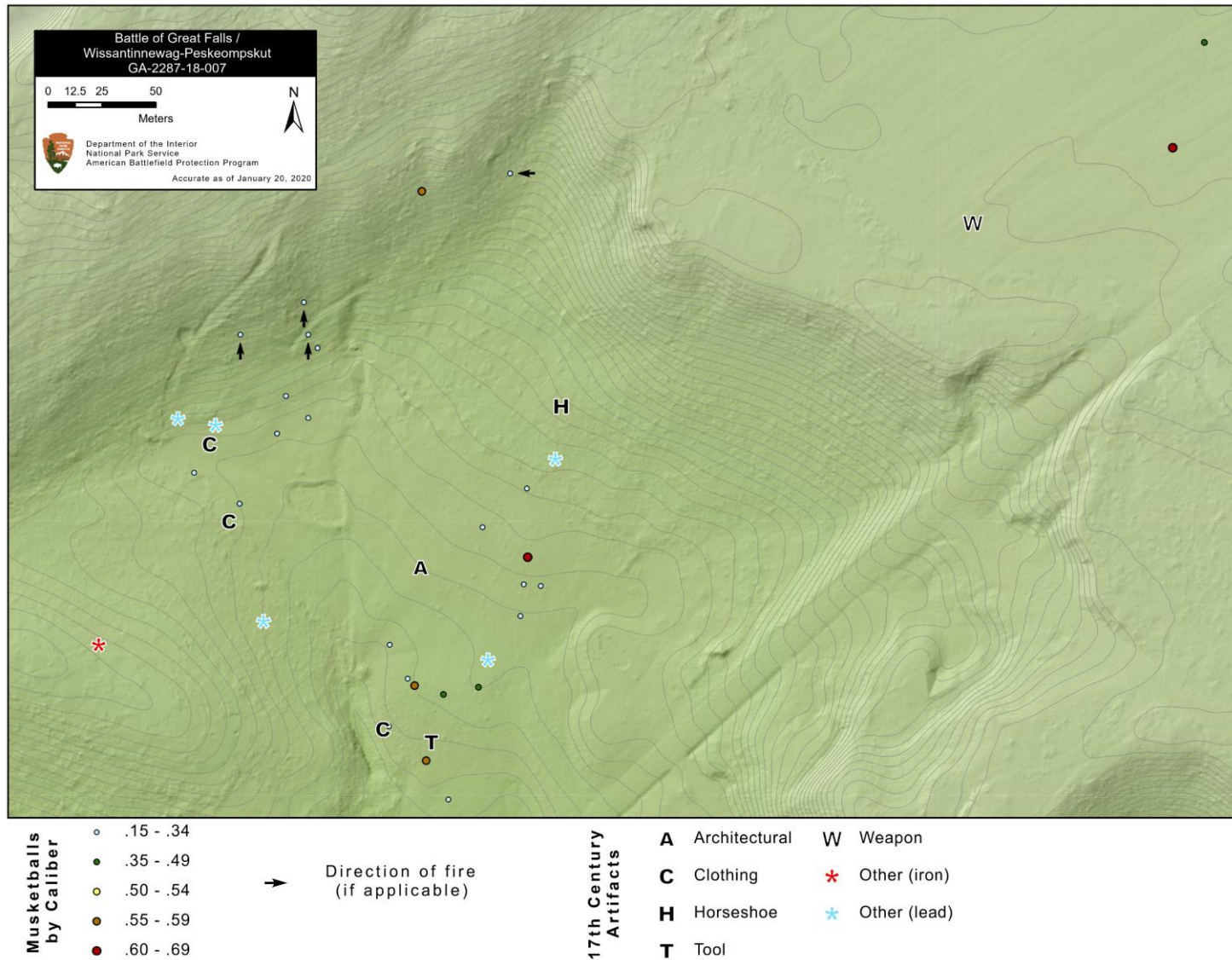




# LOCI A-F

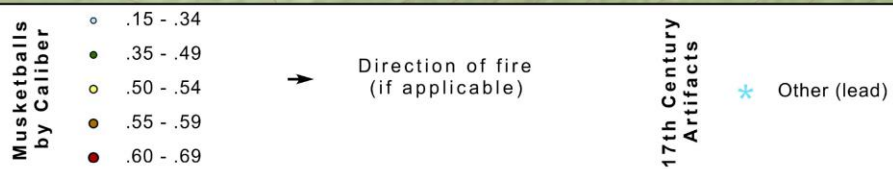
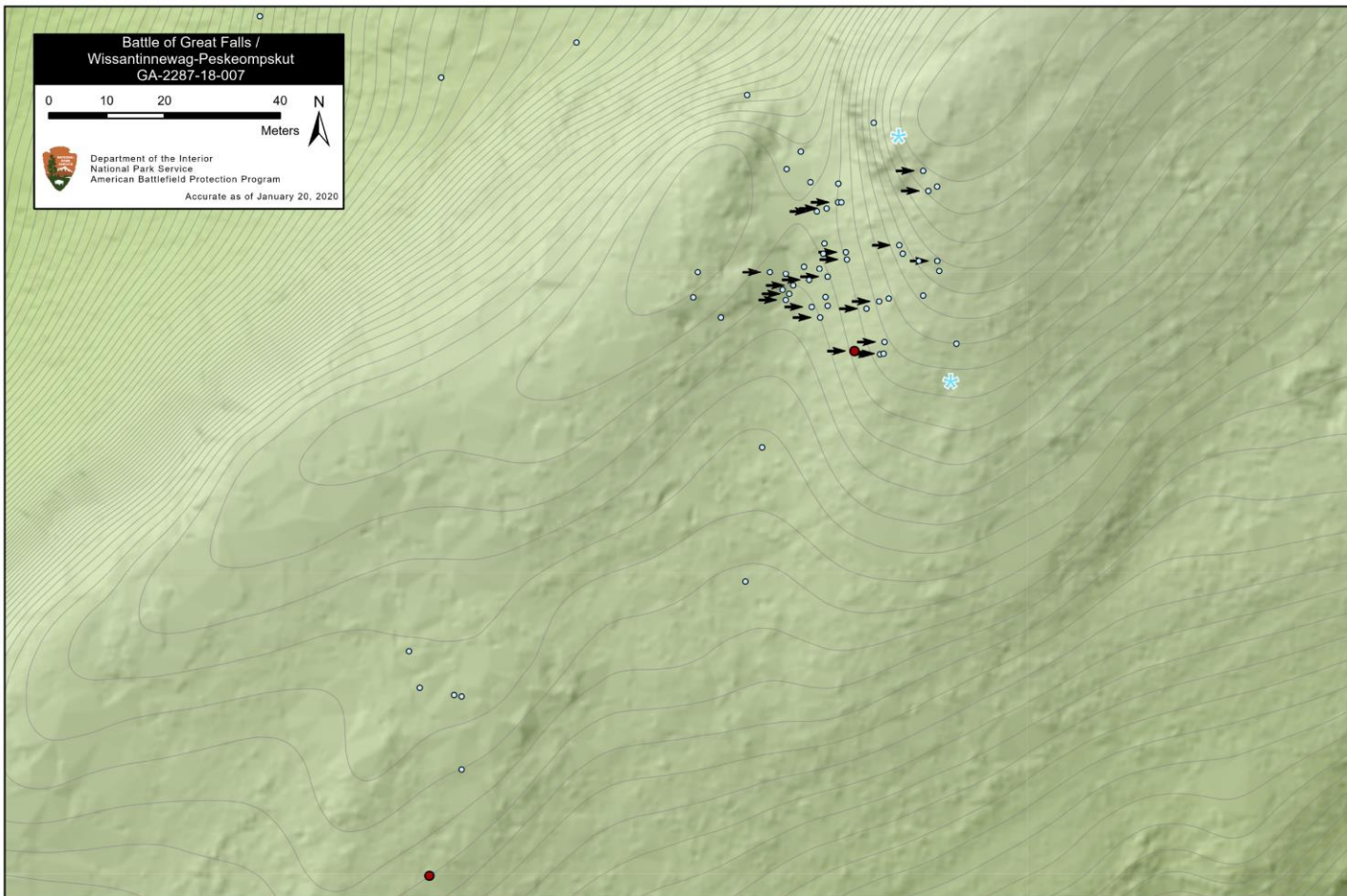


# LOCUS B





# LOCUS C



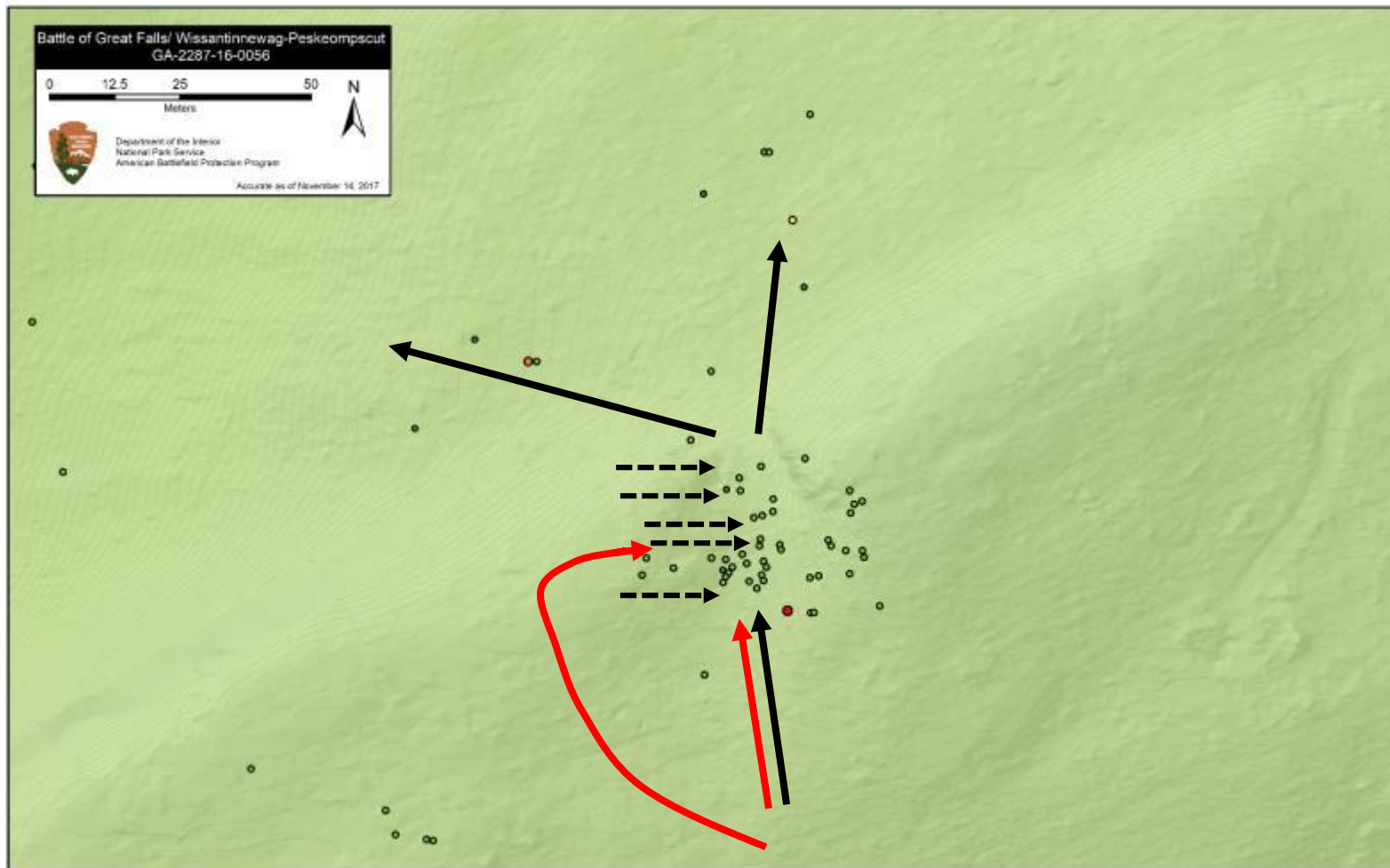


# THE MOUNTAIN GAP





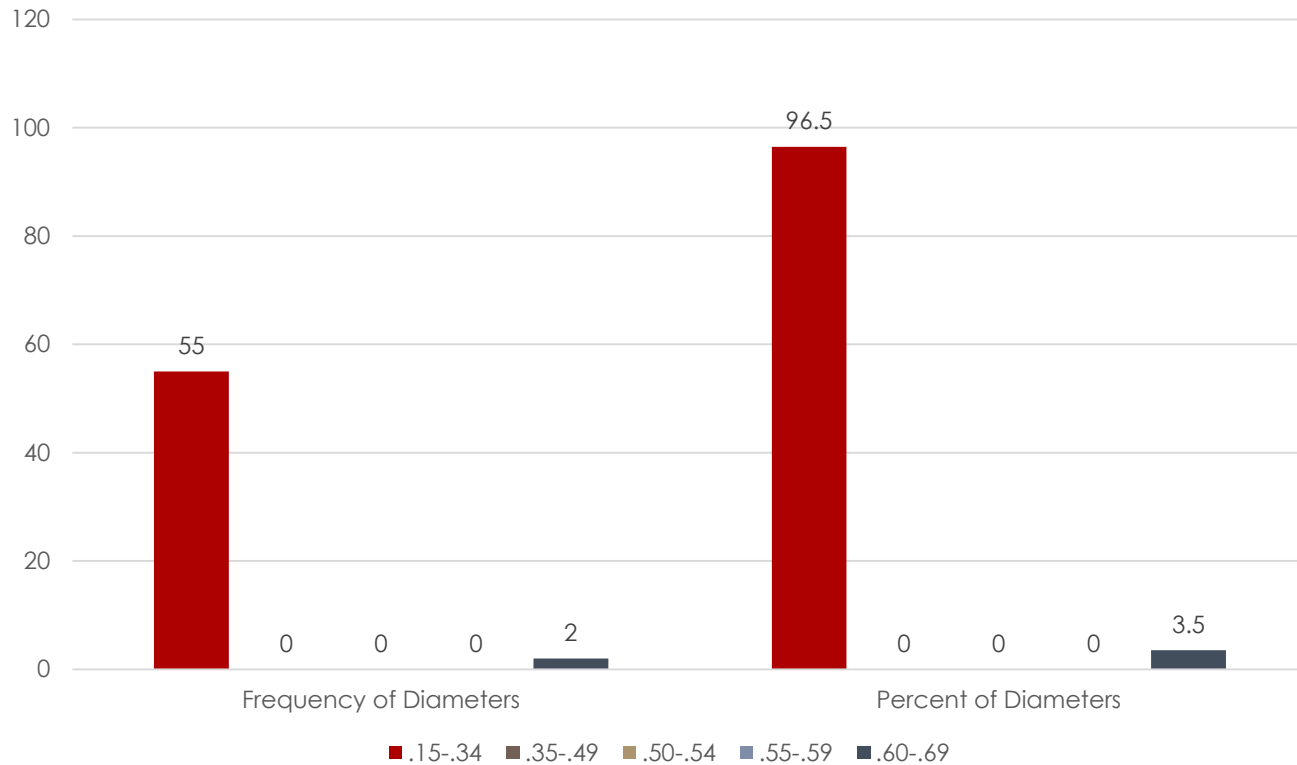
# THE GAP



Musketballs	
●	0.20 - 0.26
●	0.27 - 0.40
●	0.41 - 0.50
●	0.51 - 0.60
●	0.61 - 0.68

- English Retreat
- Native Counterattack
- - - → Direction of Fire

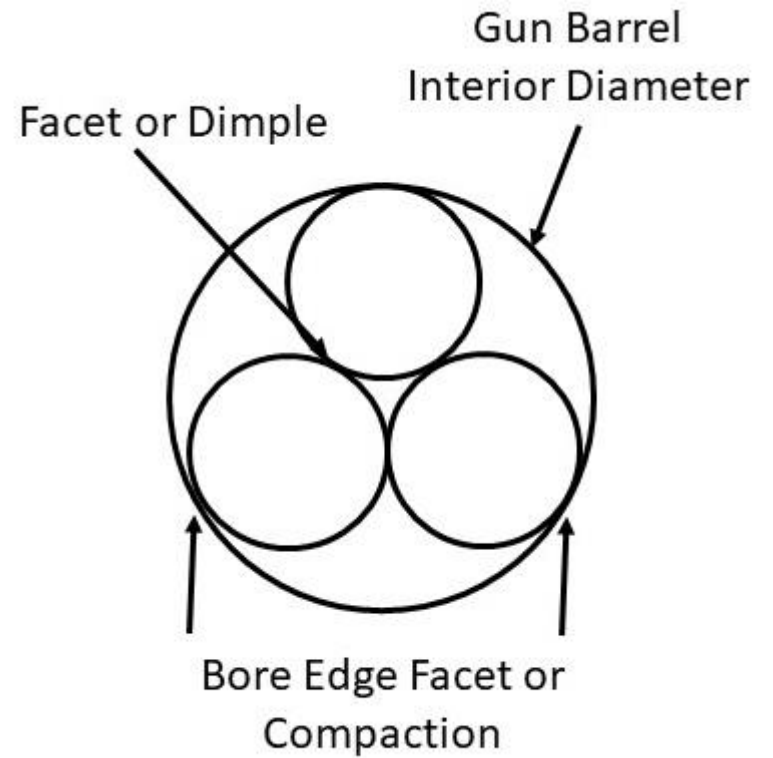
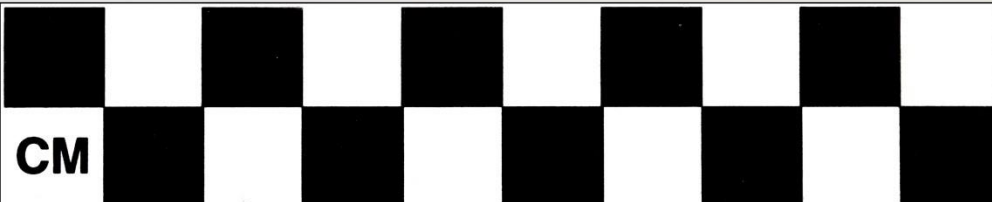
**Frequency and Percent of Musket Ball Diameters  
in Tenths of Inches  
Battle of Great Falls - Locus C  
Mountain Gap**



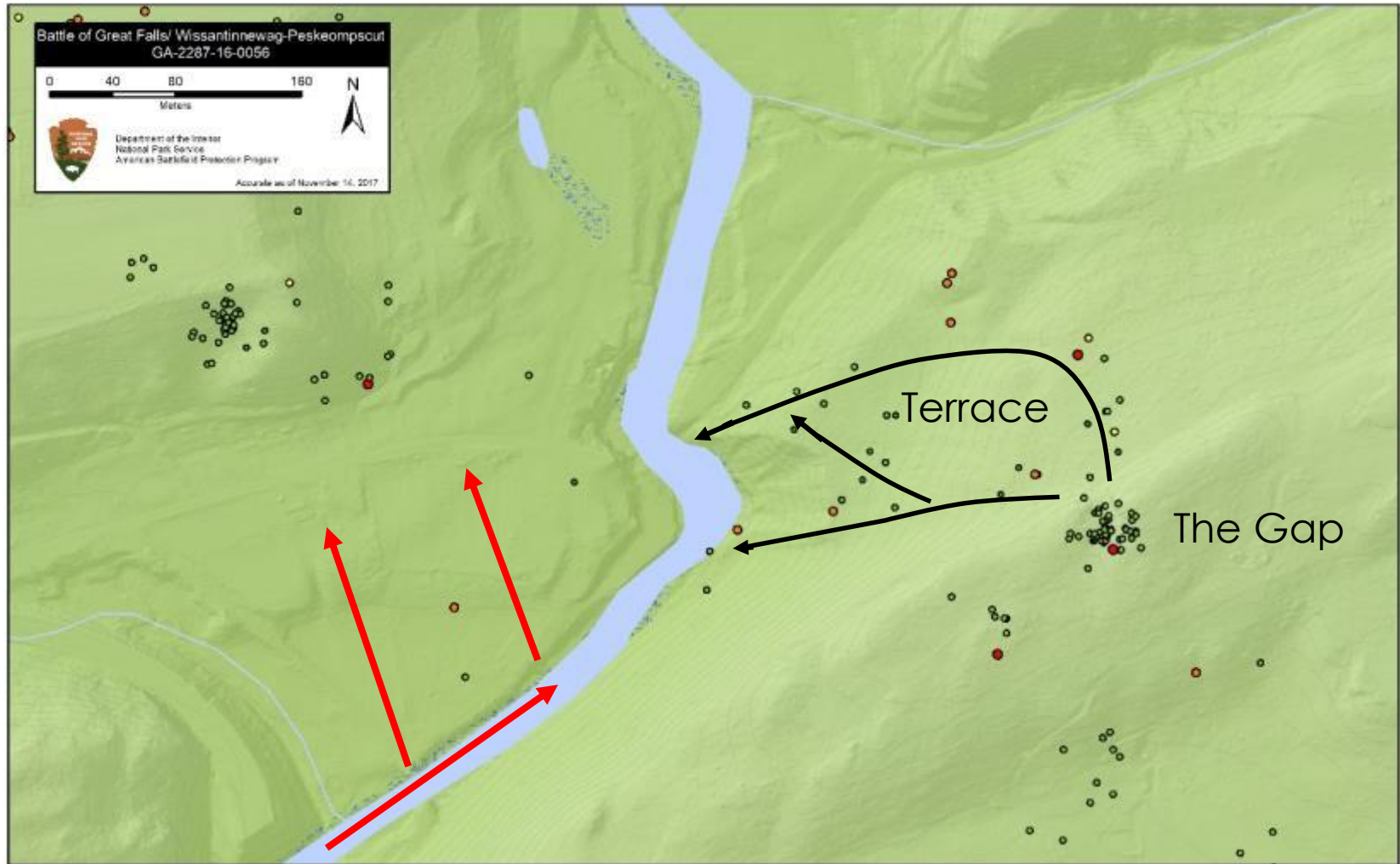
# FACETS



300-TFALLS



# LOCUS D THE TERRACE



Musketballs	
●	0.20 - 0.26
●	0.27 - 0.40
●	0.41 - 0.50
●	0.51 - 0.60
●	0.61 - 0.68

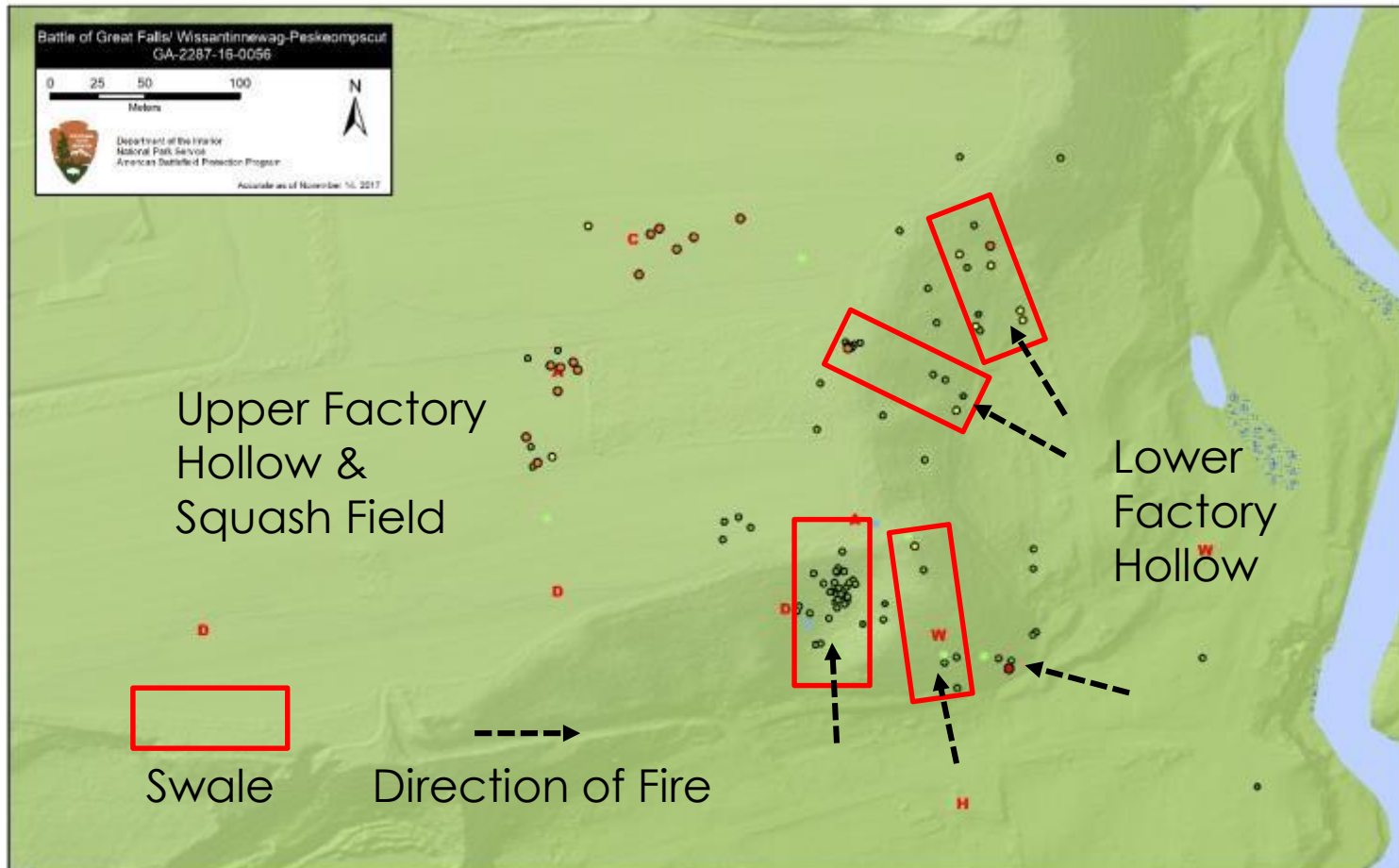
- English Retreat & Native Counterattacks
- Native Counterattacks



# TERRACE TOPOGRAPHY



# FACTORY HOLLOW

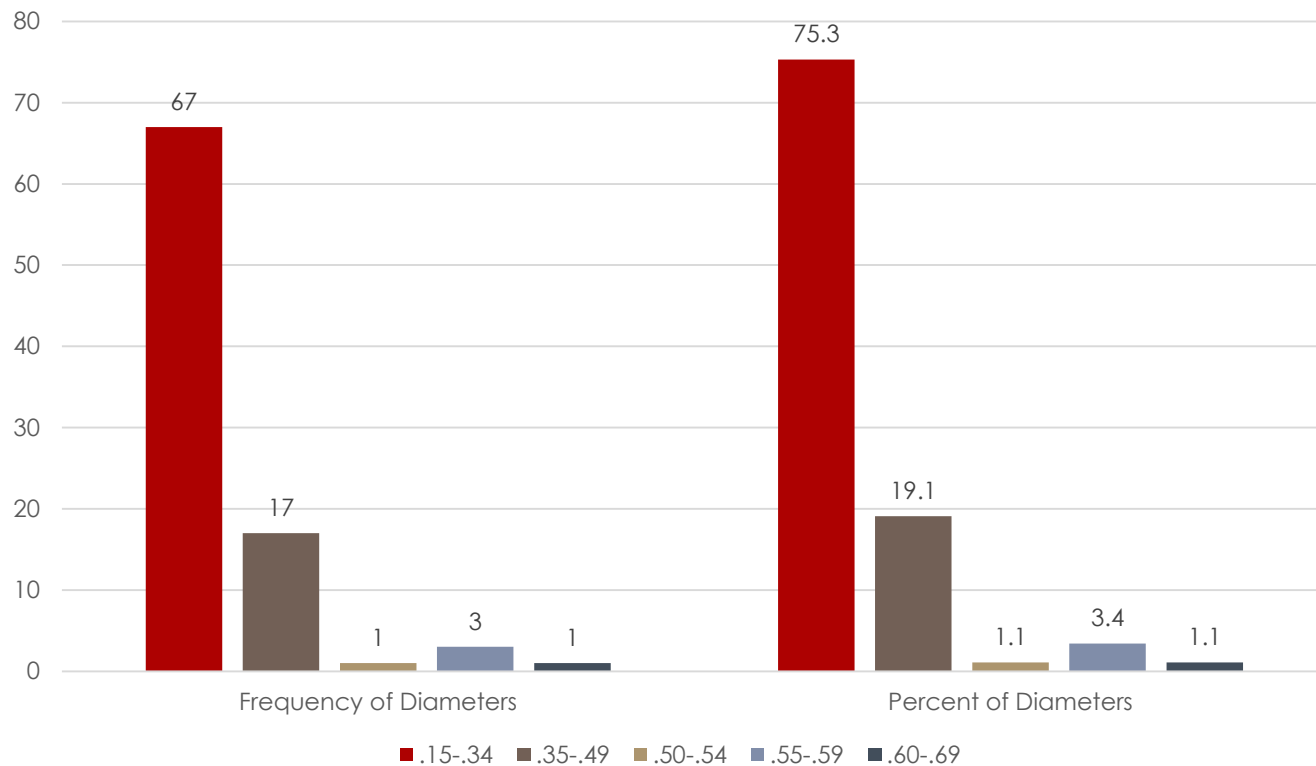


## Musketballs

- 0.20 - 0.26
- 0.27 - 0.40
- 0.41 - 0.50
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- 0.61 - 0.68

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>C</b> Clothing and Personal Artifact | <b>A</b> Possible 17th Century Architectural Artifact         | <b>●</b> Possible 17th Century Cuprous Artifact |
| <b>D</b> Domestic Artifact              | <b>C</b> Possible 17th Century Clothing and Personal Artifact | <b>★</b> Possible 17th Century Iron Artifact    |
| <b>●</b> Cuprous Artifact               | <b>D</b> Possible 17th Century Domestic Artifact              | <b>●</b> Possible 17th Century Lead Artifact    |
| <b>★</b> Lead Artifact                  | <b>H</b> Possible 17th Century Horse Shoe                     | <b>★</b> Possible 17th Century Pewter Artifact  |
|   | <b>T</b> Possible 17th Century Tool                           |   |
|   | <b>W</b> Possible 17th Century Weapon                         |   |

**Frequency and Percent of Musket Ball Diameters  
in Tenths of Inches  
Battle of Great Falls - Locus E  
English Assembly Area**



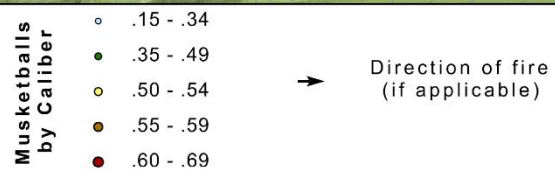
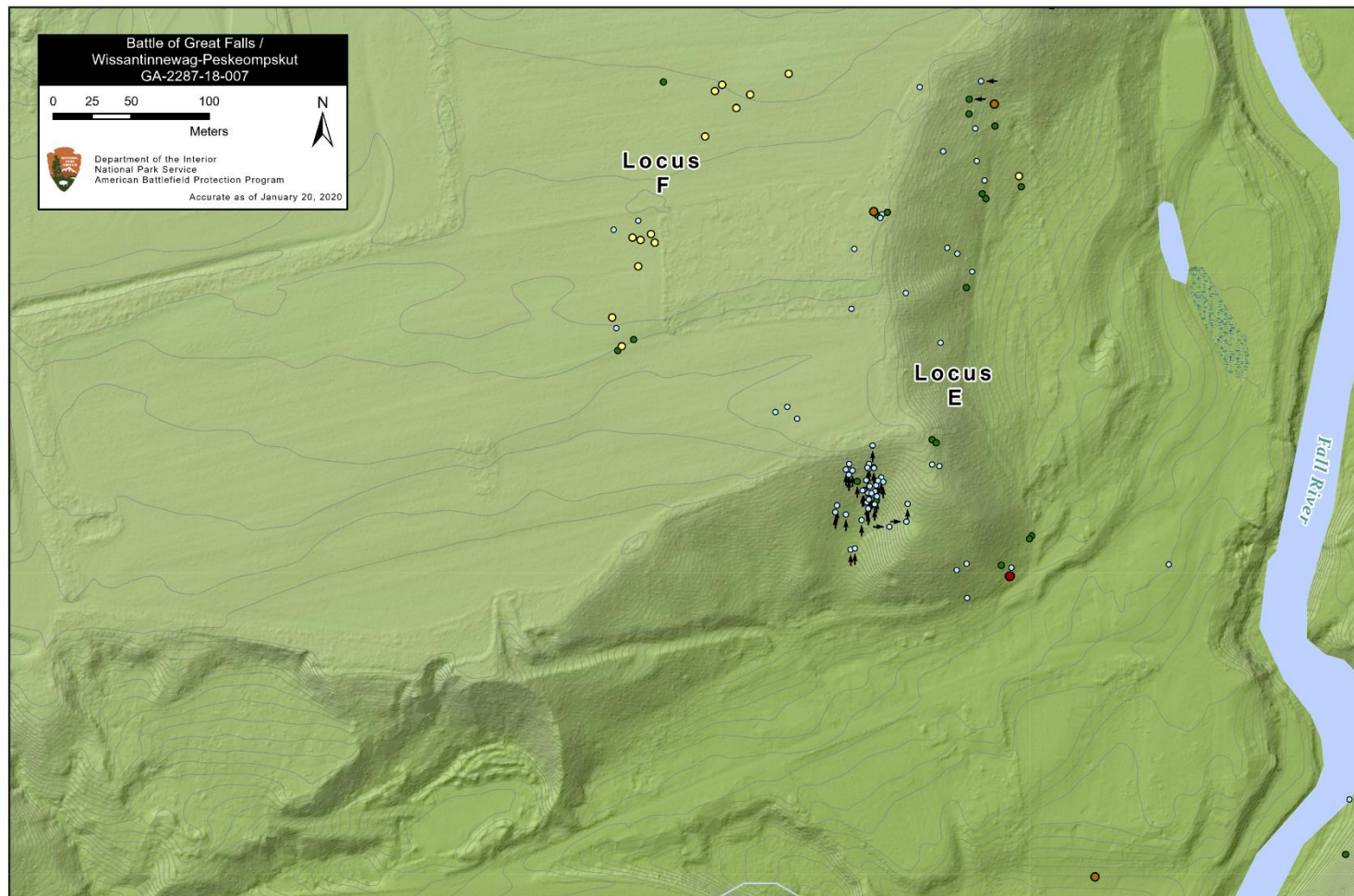


# SWALES

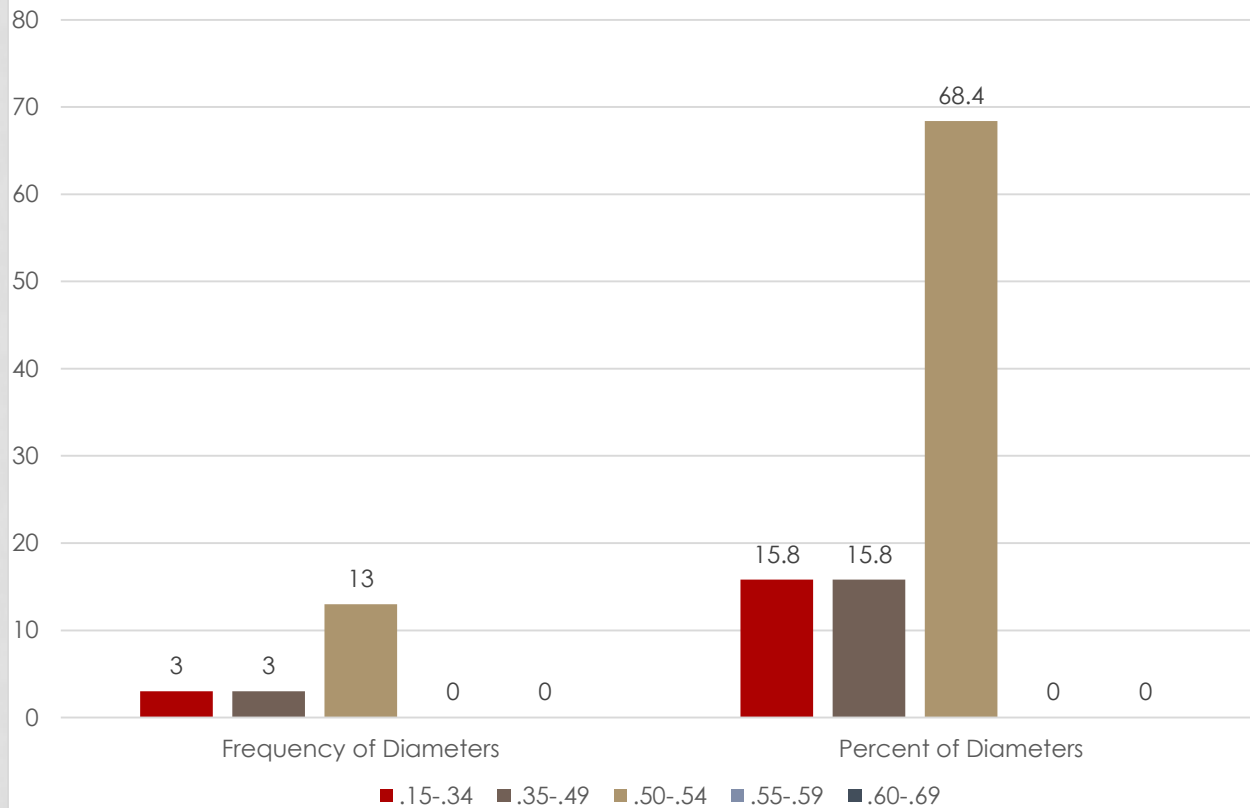




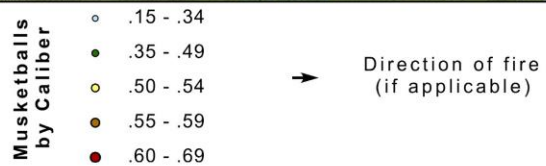
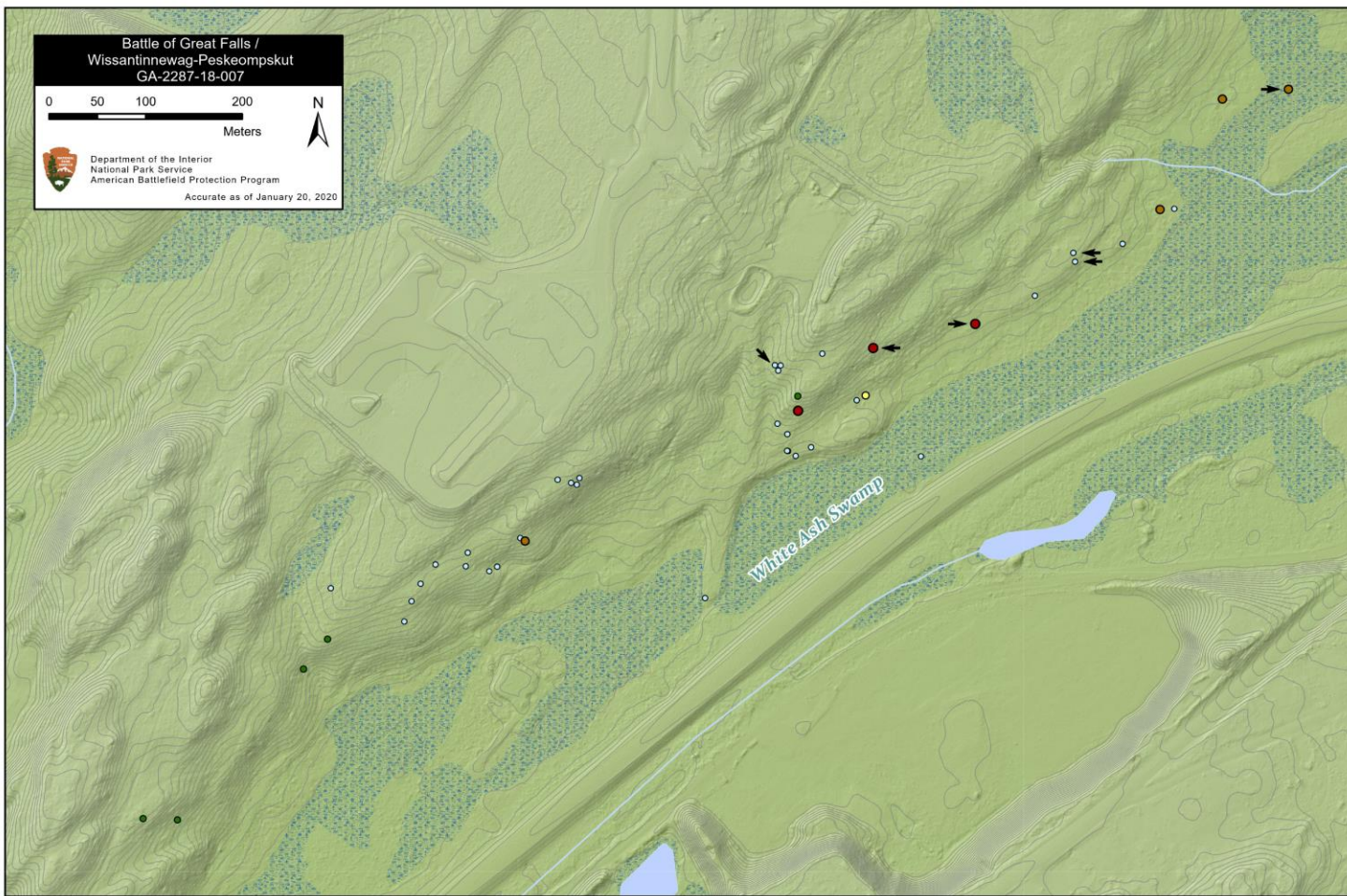
# LOCUS E & F



**Frequency and Percent of Musket Ball Diameters  
in Tenths of Inches  
Battle of Great Falls - Locus F  
Upper Factory Hollow**

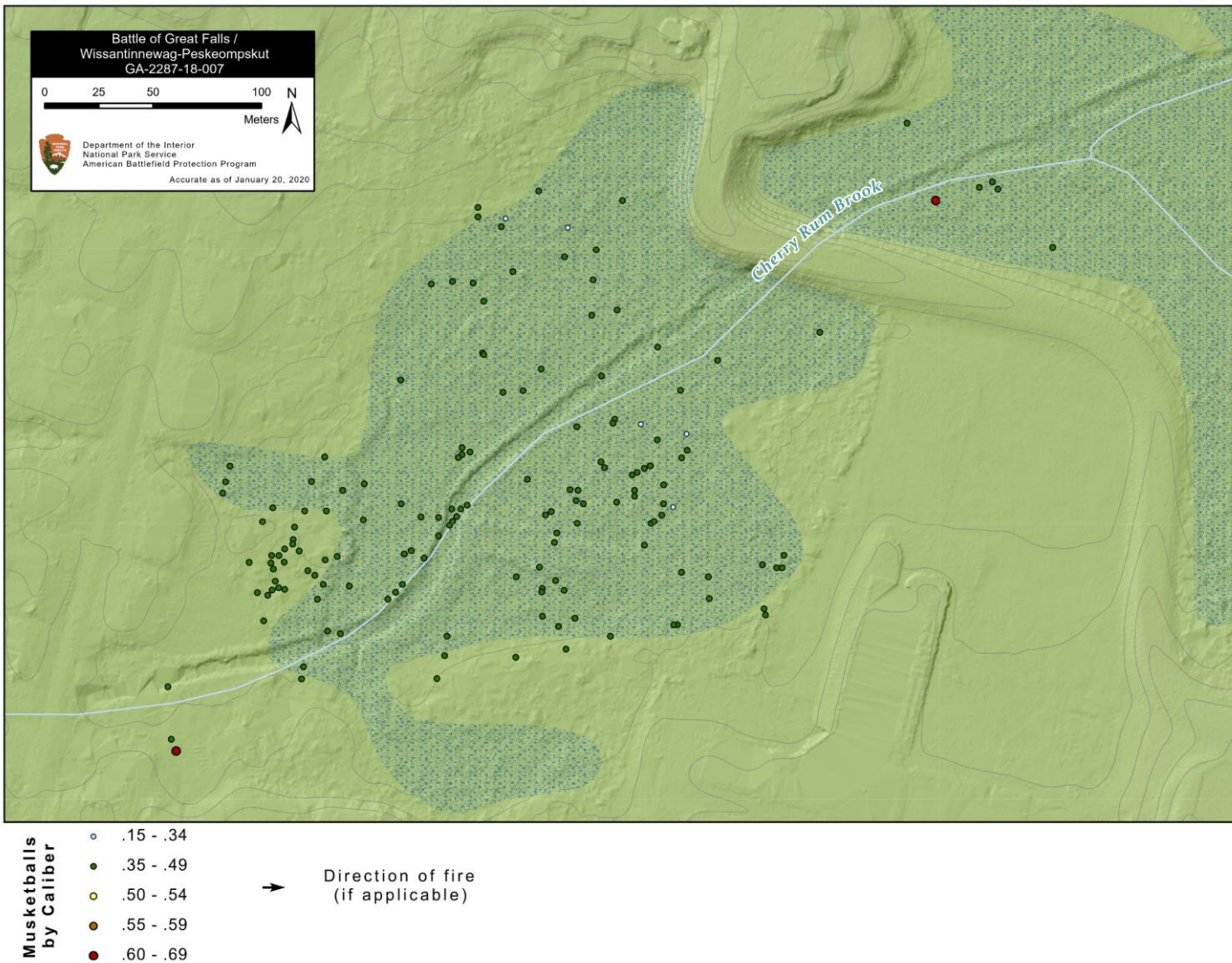


# LOCUS G



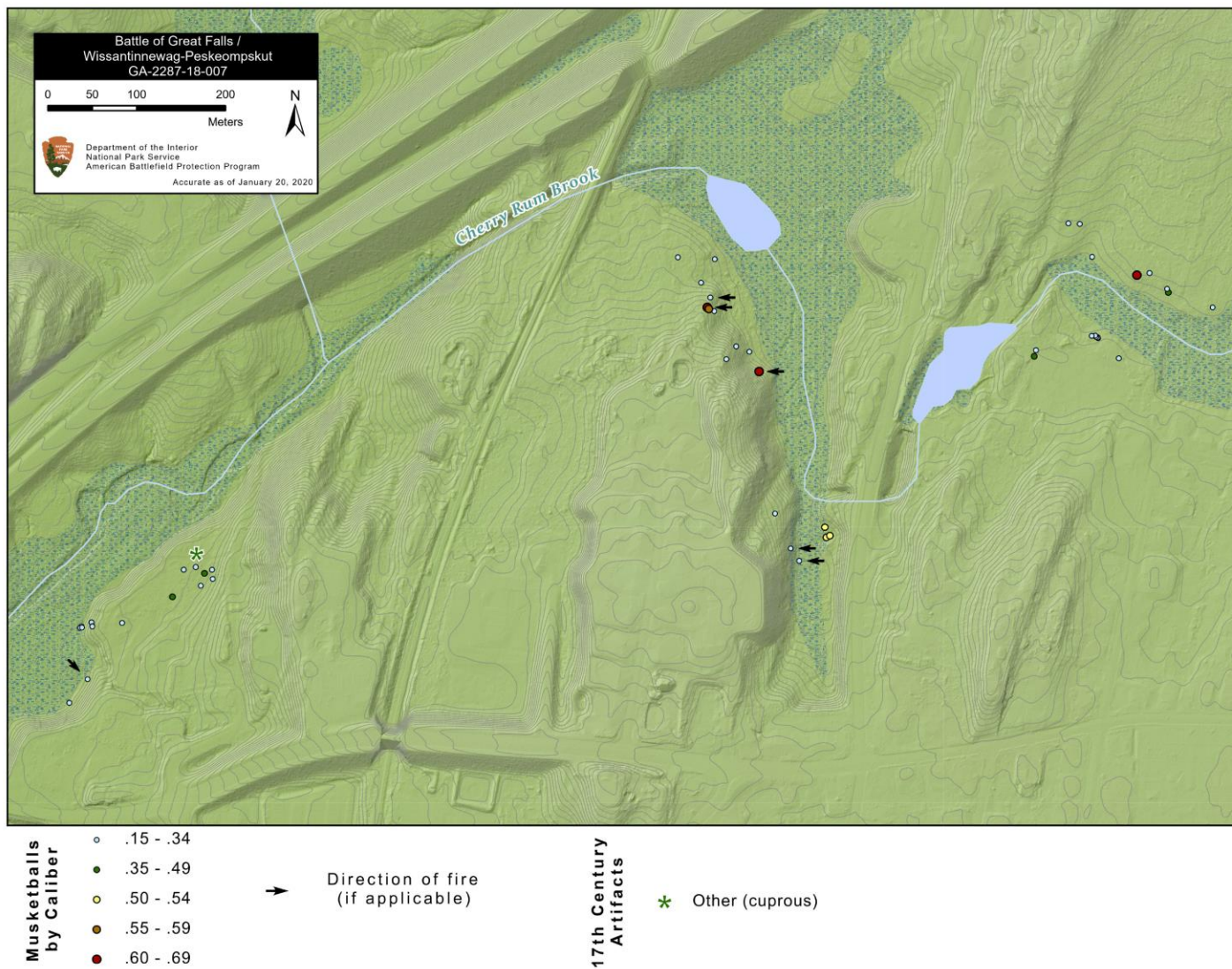


# LOCUS H

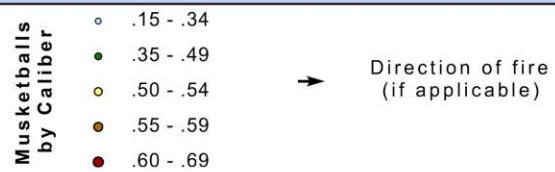
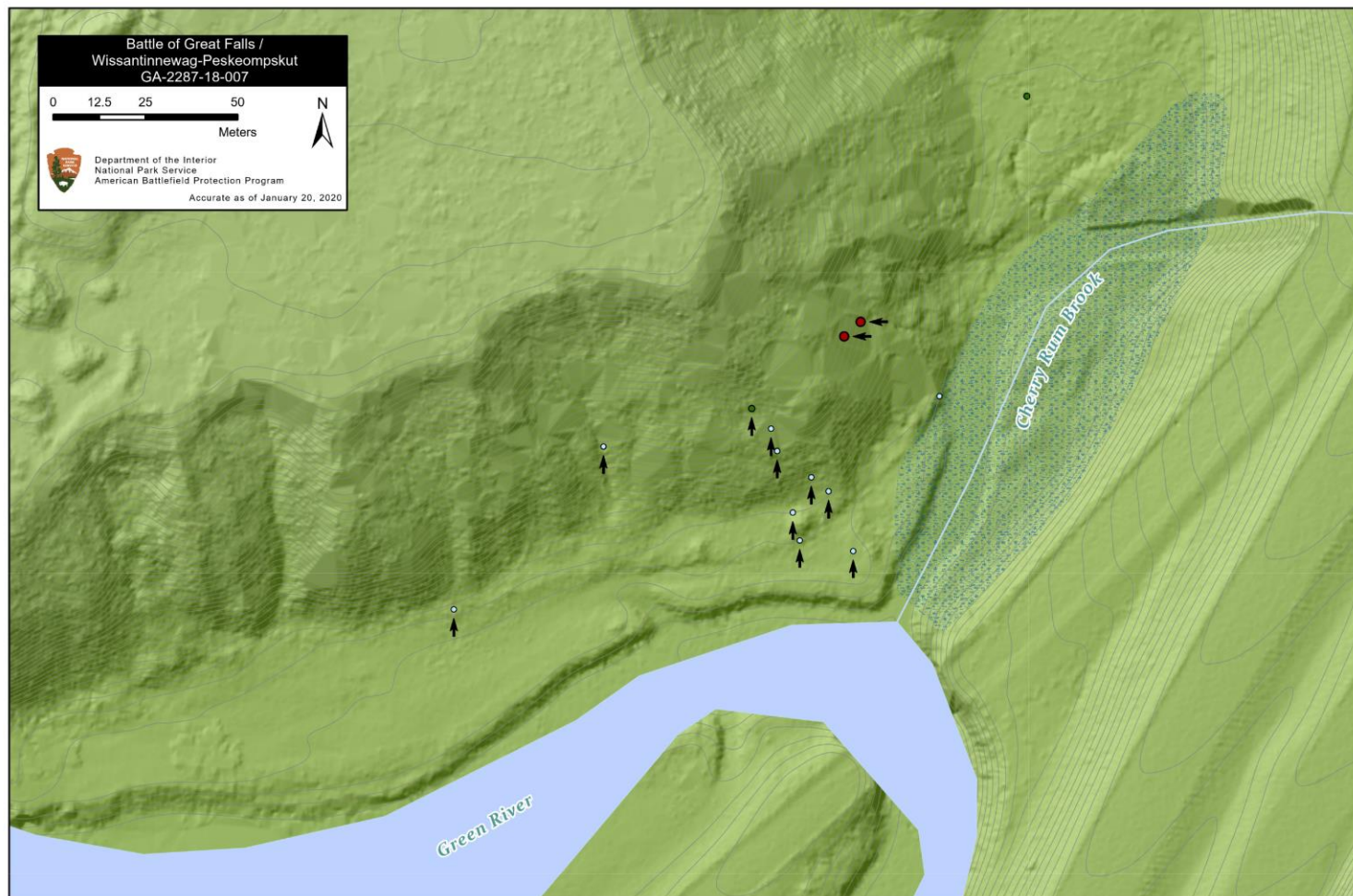




# LOCUS I

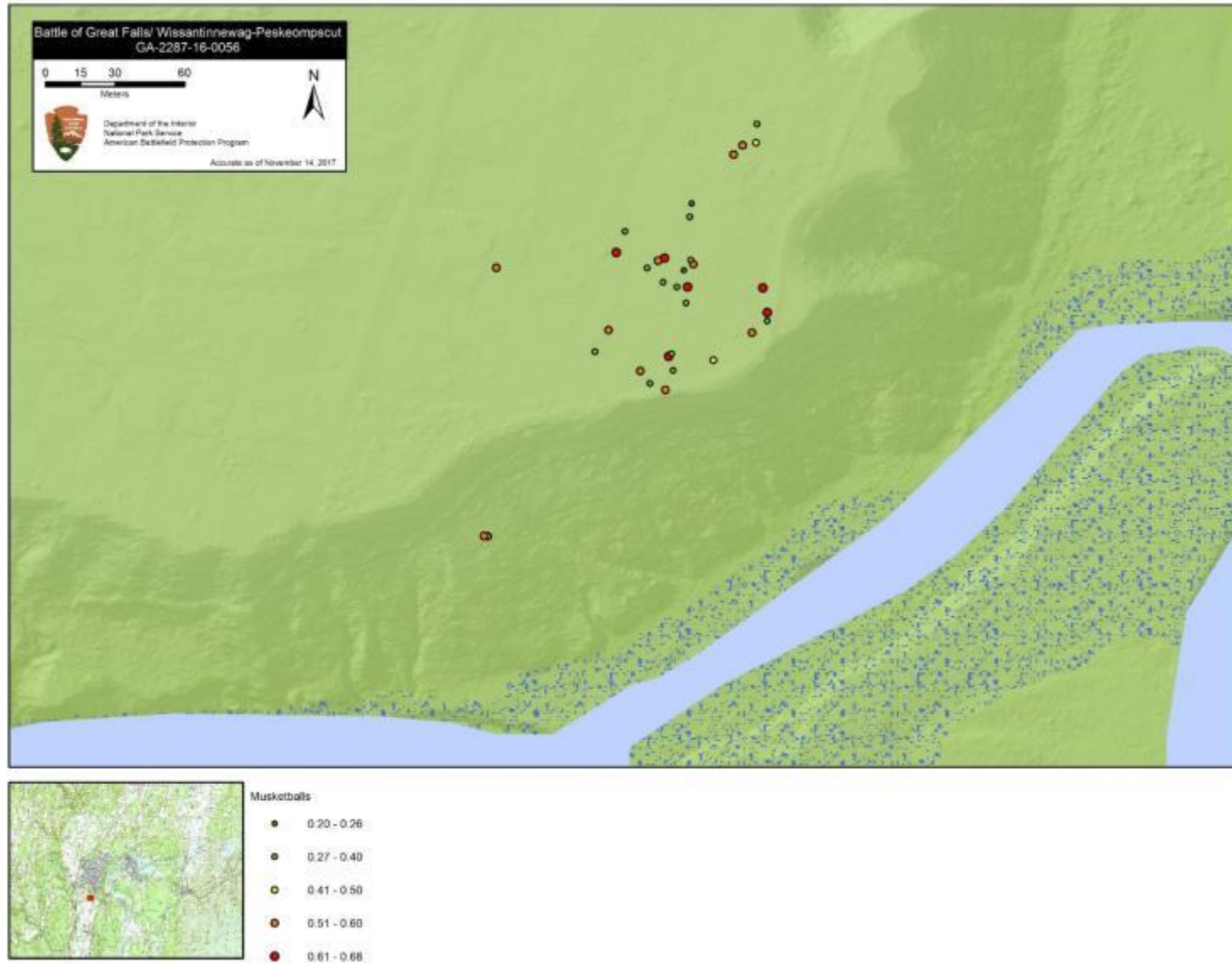


# LOCUS J



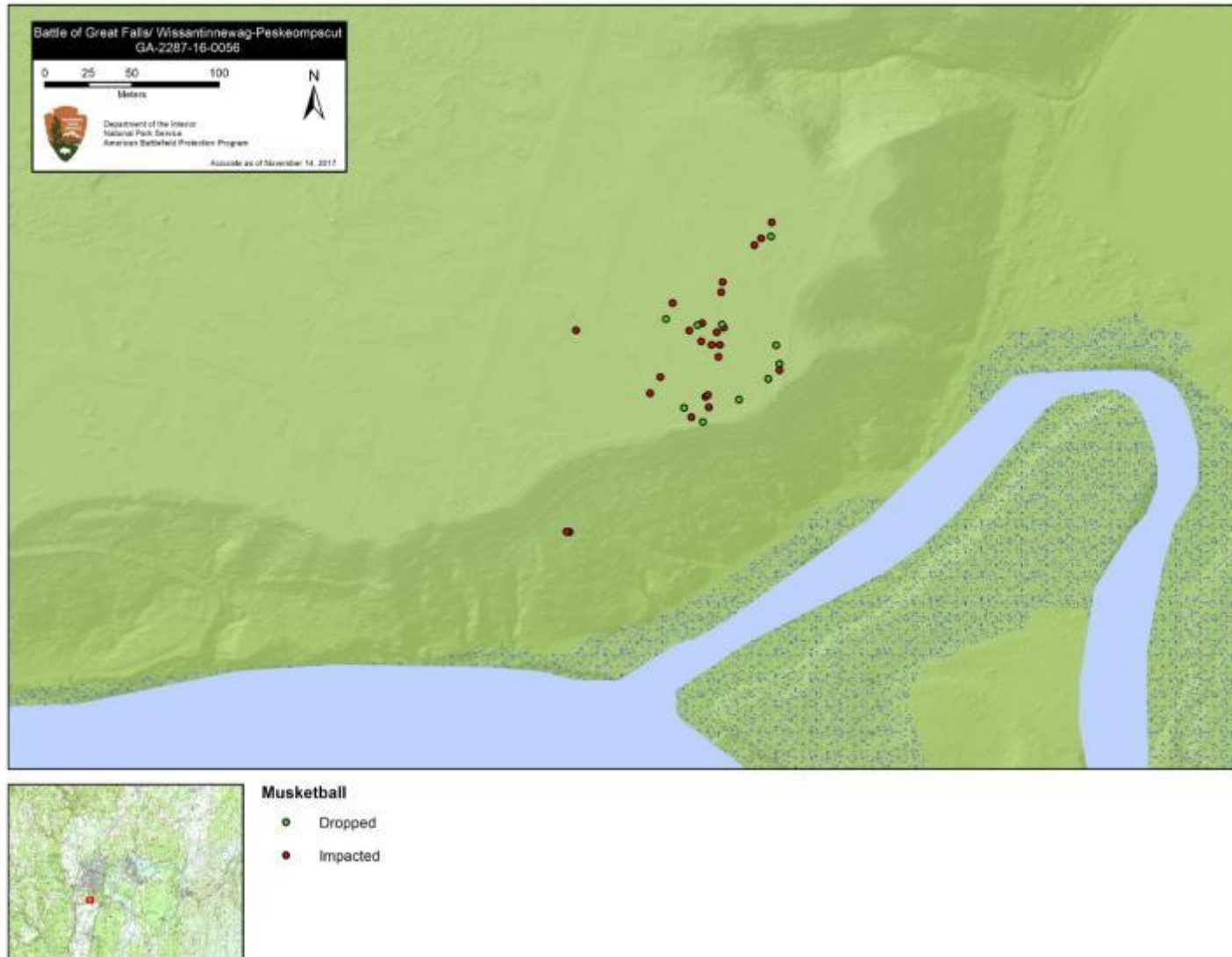


# GREEN RIVER FORD



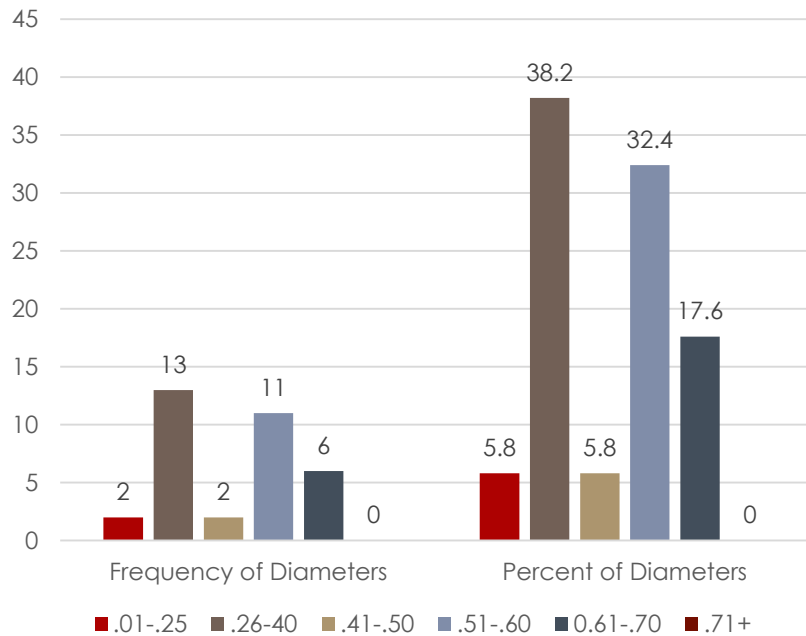


# GREEN RIVER FORD

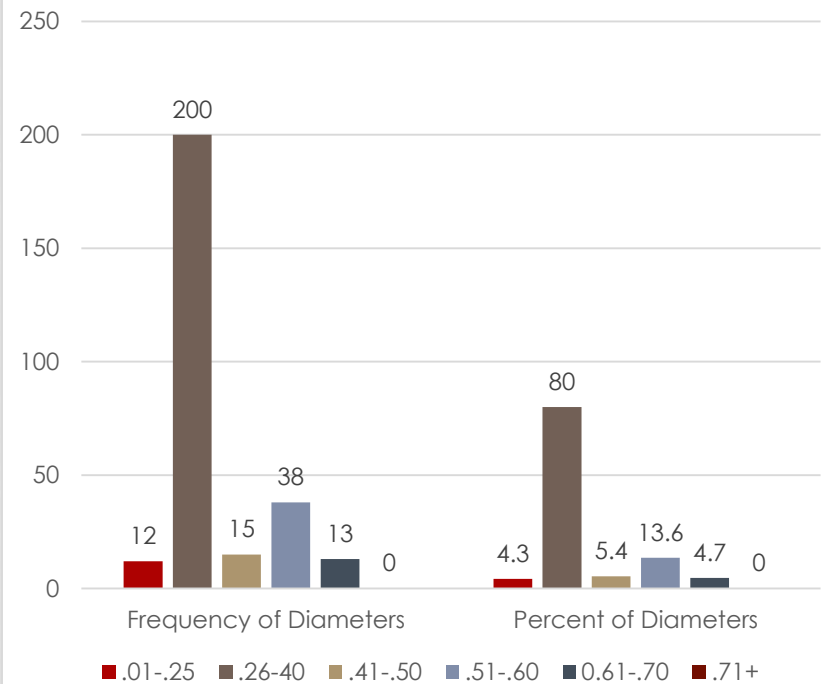


# GREEN RIVER FORD MUSKET BALL DIAMETERS

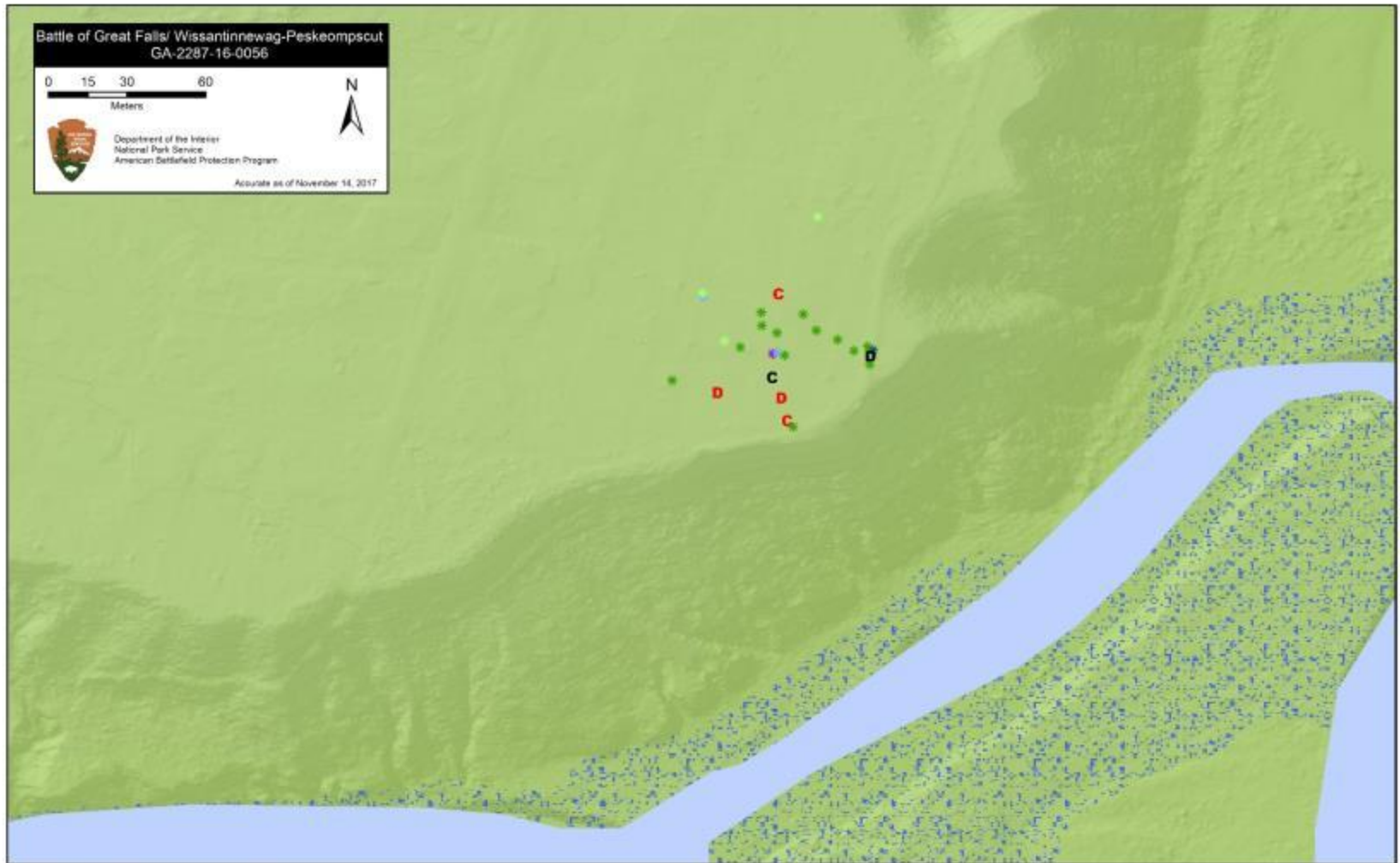
**Frequency and Percent of Musket  
Ball Diameters  
in Inches  
Battle of Great Falls  
Green River Ford**



**Frequency and Percent of all Musket  
Ball Diameters  
in Inches  
Battle of Great Falls**



# GREEN RIVER FORD DOMESTIC OBJECTS



- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>C</b> Clothing and Personal Artifact               | <b>A</b> Possible 17th Century Architectural Artifact         | <span style="color: green;">●</span> Possible 17th Century Cuprous Artifact |
| <b>D</b> Domestic Artifact                            | <b>C</b> Possible 17th Century Clothing and Personal Artifact | <span style="color: red;">★</span> Possible 17th Century Iron Artifact      |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> Cuprous Artifact | <b>D</b> Possible 17th Century Domestic Artifact              | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Possible 17th Century Lead Artifact     |
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Lead Artifact     | <b>H</b> Possible 17th Century Horse Shoe                     | <span style="color: purple;">●</span> Possible 17th Century Pewter Artifact |
|   | <b>T</b> Possible 17th Century Tool                           |   |
|   | <b>W</b> Possible 17th Century Weapon                         |   |



# GREEN RIVER FORD DOMESTIC OBJECTS



Brass Scrap



Lead Bead



Brass and Lead Objects



Native Copper Ore?

# AFTERMATH

The war in southern New England ended when English soldiers and their Native allies killed Metacom at Mount Hope in present-day Bristol, Rhode Island on August 12, 1676. The war continued in northern New England (primarily on the Maine frontier) until a treaty was signed at Casco Bay in April of 1678.

By the time the war had ended, Colonial authorities estimated that 600 English had been killed and 1,200 houses burned. It is impossible to accurately calculate Native casualties but it is estimated that a minimum of 3,000-5,000 Native men, women, and children died in battle and disease, starvation, and exposure, and hundreds more were sold into slavery throughout the Atlantic World.

But God hath consumed them by the Sword, and by Famine and by Sickness, it being no unusual thing for those that traverse the woods to find dead Indians up and down, whom either Famine, or sickness, hath caused to die, and there hath been none to bury them

# ENSLAVED NATIVES DURING KING PHILIP'S WAR

