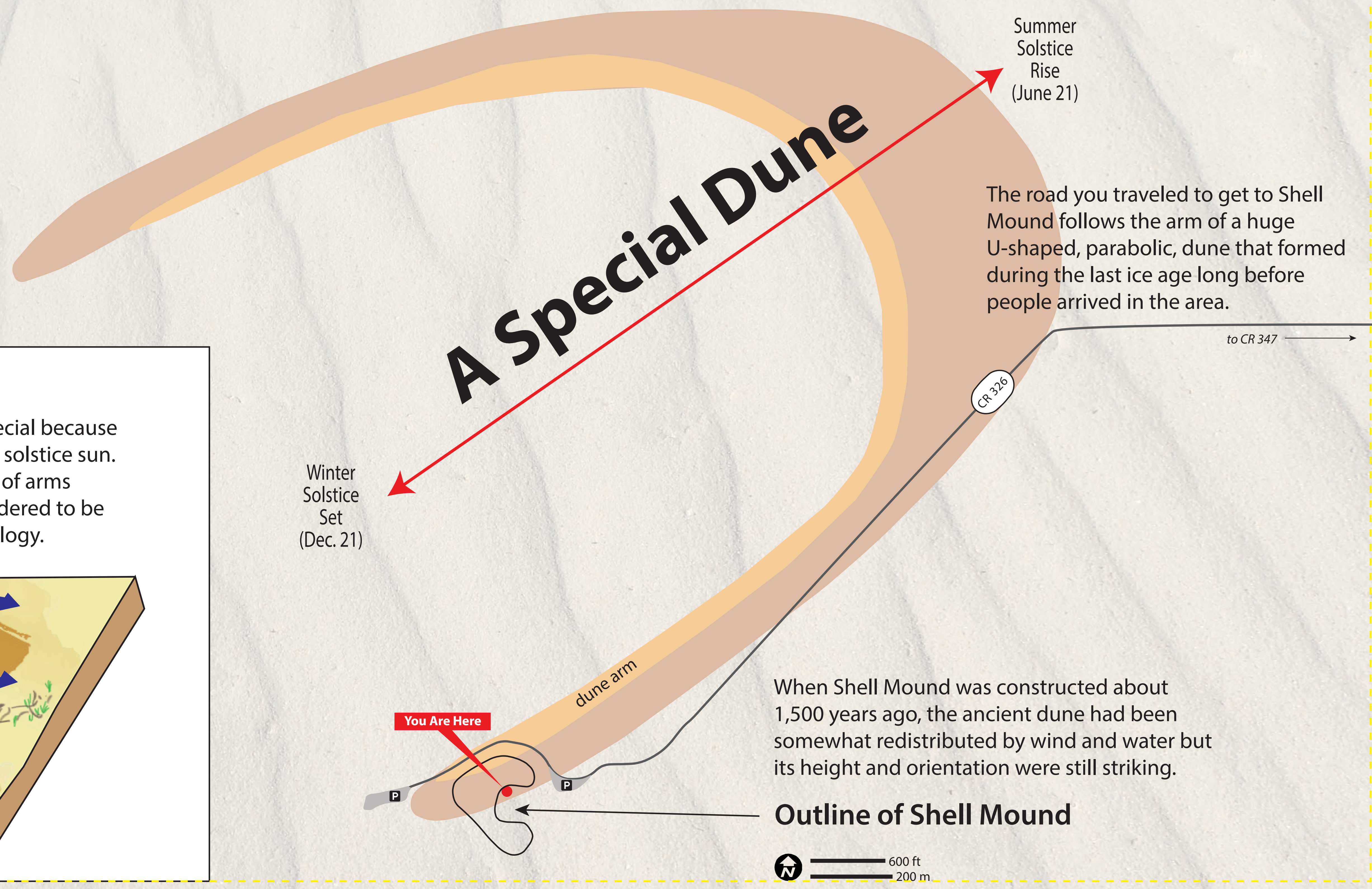
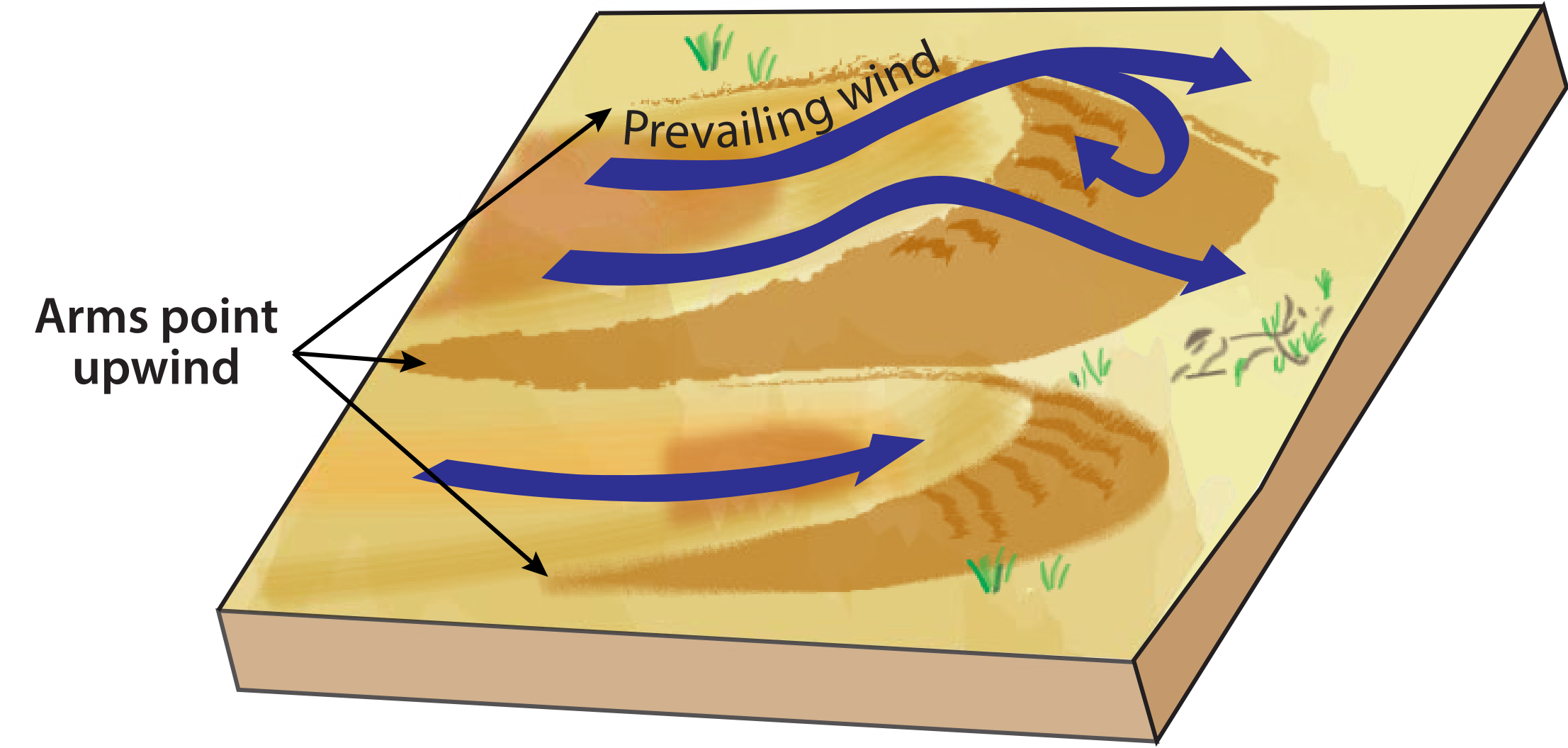


Parabolic Dunes

Parabolic, or U-shaped, dunes in the area are special because their arms happen to point to the setting winter solstice sun. Native Americans emplaced burials on the ends of arms presumably because those locations were considered to be sacred within the context of the peoples' cosmology.



When Shell Mound was constructed about 1,500 years ago, the ancient dune had been somewhat redistributed by wind and water but its height and orientation were still striking.