

How did the Lucayans make use of the Rollin's Creek South barrier island?

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Figure 1. Previously documented sites on South Eleuthera.

Figure 3. The meandering transect was developed by Dr. William F. Keegan to navigate dense coppice (not to scale).

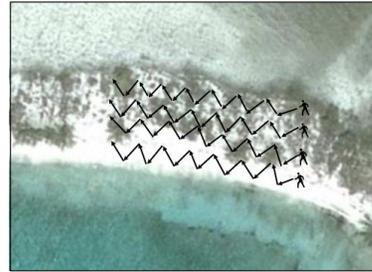
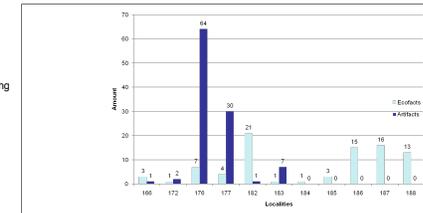


Figure 4. Histogram showing amount of artifacts and ecofacts found at each locality.



Discussion

Based on the findings, we located three Lucayan sites, none of which are permanent settlements because:

- Findings were concentrated at specific sites and not continuously scattered (Figures 2 and 4).
- Small range of pottery thicknesses indicates only one or two pots were at each site vs. a permanent settlement's large amount of pots (Figures 9 and 10).

The evidence suggests that Rollin's Creek Ceremonial site and Rollin's Creek South site were used for ceremonial purposes because:

- Specialty pottery that was found indicates ceremonial use as it was not used in daily life.
- High percentages of specialty pottery at these sites compared to Sullivan's baseline data (Table 1).

The third site, Rollin's Creek Resource site, was likely a resource-procurement area because:

- Large number of shell remains at Rollin's Creek Resource site (figure 4)
- Could have been used by permanent settlement across the creek

We supported our barrier island theory because we found Lucayan sites, but found contradictory evidence for the settlement pairing theory because no permanent settlement was found.

Recommendations:

Our project area holds significance in archaeological studies because it likely had ceremonial uses, while very few other documented Lucayan sites are believed to have ceremonial uses. The location of our project area brings up the question as to whether all permanent settlements had nearby satellite sites used for ceremonial and resource gathering purposes. Recommendations for future studies include completing documentation of our project area, as well as continuing to test the barrier island and settlement pairing hypotheses.

Figure 10. Frequency of Palmetto Ware thicknesses at Rollin's Creek Ceremonial site with a range from 4 to 6 mm.

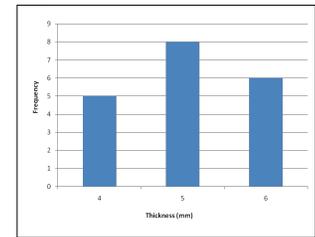
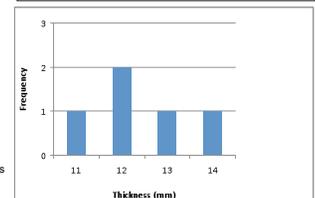


Table 1. Percentages of Palmetto Ware types in Sullivan's data, at Rollin's Creek Ceremonial site, and Rollin's Creek South site.

Types	Sullivan%	RCC%	RCS%
Plain	95.4	97	85.7
Punctate-Incised	0.2	3	0
Molded Appliqué	0.5	0	14.3
Mat Marked	3.7	0	0

Figure 9. Frequency of Palmetto Ware thicknesses found at Rollin's Creek South site with a range of 11 to 14 mm.



Methods

The major materials used for this survey are the GPS and field notebook that is used to document measurements. The method used in this survey was a standard phase 1 surface survey, specifically, a meandering transect, a phase 1 survey designed especially for the Bahamas. No digging or artifact collection was involved. Documentation of objects is broken down into sketching, taking a GPS waypoint, taking photographs, measuring the objects, and recording data in the field notebook.



Figure 8. Scatter of ecofacts found at Rollin's Creek Ceremonial site..



Figure 7. Smooth lithic found at Rollin's Creek Ceremonial site.



Figure 5. Scatter of Palmetto Ware pieces found at Rollin's Creek Ceremonial site.



Figure 6. Undisturbed King Helmet Conch found at Rollin's Creek Resource site.

Results

- 3 main sites documented: Rollin's Creek South site at locality 183, Rollin's Creek Ceremonial site centered on locality 177, and Rollin's Creek Resource site
- A total of 105 pieces of Palmetto Ware was found
- 3 main scatters of Palmetto Ware at Rollin's Creek South and Rollin's Creek Ceremonial sites
- High percentages of specialty Palmetto Ware pottery found
- Smooth lithic found at Rollin's Creek Ceremonial site
- Large scatter of ecofacts at Rollin's Creek Resource site
- King Helmet conch found at Rollin's Creek Resource site

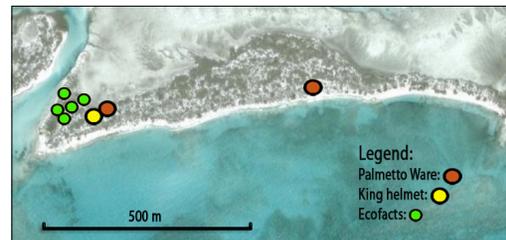


Figure 2. Project area of Rollin's Creek South with findings.

Introduction

Archaeology is the study of past human activity through examining the materials that they have left behind. The Lucayan Taino people inhabited the Bahamas for nearly 800 years, spanning roughly from 650 CE to 1550 CE, with a population comparable to the population of the outer islands of the Bahamas today.

We were interested in testing two hypotheses. One, that barrier islands were commonly settled by the Lucayans in order to take advantage of the ample resources to be found in the nearby creeks, coppice, and ocean. The other, Dr. William F. Keegan's settlement pairing idea, that Lucayans often built settlements in pairs less than 1.5 km apart.

We based our project area off of these two hypotheses after comparing possible sites with the trends in Lucayan settlements shown by Shaun Sullivan and Dr. William F. Keegan's data. In total, Shaun Sullivan collected 15 sites on Eleuthera in 1974 for his master's thesis, and Dr. William F. Keegan has done a lot of work within The Bahamas.

When surveying our project area, we look for ecofacts (hole-punch conch, nerite shells) and artifacts. The most significant artifact is Palmetto ware, a pottery specific to the Lucayans that we are unable to replicate.

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Acknowledgments: Justin Symington, Hannah Berardi, Dr. William F. Keegan, and Bradley Watson