

Ms. Jansie G. Webster
President
Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society
The Valley, Anguilla

RE: 2022 Dissertation Research at Hughes Estate, Lower South Hill

Dear Ms. Webster,

This report is a preliminary summary of the results of the archaeological research conducted at Hughes Estate site in Lower South Hill from May 26 to July 3, 2022. Research permission was obtained from the Anguilla Department of Environment. The Hughes Estate site is currently divided into eleven parcels and owned by four families. Ms. Webster, the president of the Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society, contacted the parcel owners and obtained permission for archaeological excavation on their property.

The Hughes Estate project was led by Temple University PhD Candidate, Elysia Petras for her doctoral thesis research. She arrived in Anguilla on May 24 and began preparations for the field research which began on May 30th and ran until to July 3, 2022.

Temple University undergraduate students, Karin Naktin and Rafi Lockenour, as well as Temple Master's student Cara Tercsak, consisted as crew members from May 30th through June 24, 2022. Hilary Symes, who holds a PhD in Anthropology from Temple University participated in one week of excavation from June 25 through July 1, 2022. Volunteers from Anguilla who participated in at least one day of excavation include Aveline Wilson, Bria Gumbs, Candecia Ross, Carl Webster, Melissa Meade, Rhina Meade, Daphne Nyles, Denicia Nyles, and Zaria Nyles. Other visitors toured the site including detective Carlos Charles, Jessica Davis, Mikeal Mussington, and Kay Bell. Julia Petras, from the USA participated in excavation for four days

late June and Elysia Petras's faculty advisor from Temple University. Dr. Paul Farnsworth also visited the site.

Summer 2022 Fieldwork Summary

We excavated 10 different 1x1 meter units (Figure 1) and 23 different 25 cm x 25 cm shovel test pits (STPs) between May 30th and July 2, 2022 (Figure 2).

Four of the units were excavated in the vicinity of Locus I. Locus I is a single mortared foundation wall of ~20 cm thickness and is at least 2.7m in length. It may have been the wall of a small dwelling or storeroom. It is located about 18 meters south of the cistern and 16 meters east of the smokehouse in an area between two field walls. There is high concentration of artifacts in the area in which locus I is located. We had not investigated Locus I summer 2021, making it a new area of investigation for summer 2022.

Two units were excavated in the vicinity of the plantation smokehouse. One being laid roughly 4 meters northwest of the Smokehouse, and the other roughly 2.5 meters northeast of the smokehouse. In 2021 we had investigated the Smokehouse with 5 shovel tests but no larger units, making the two units laid in 2022 a more thorough investigation of the smokehouse locus.

Two units were excavated north of the plantation animal pen, Locus D. In 2021 we had investigated the animal pen with shovel tests but no units. We laid the two units in an area of high surface artifact concentration. Previously, it had been unclear if the artifacts we observed on the surface north of the animal pen were associated with the pen or were the refuse swept west from the Locus E structure. We laid these two units to address that question.

One unit was excavated to the northeast of Locus E. Last summer we had excavated two units in Locus E vicinity, which was an area of focus during the 2021 season. We laid the third

unit this season to investigate the northeastern bounds of the large Locus E artifact scatter observed to the north and east of structure E.

One unit was laid southwest of the structure we believe to be the main estate house, Locus A. Last season we had excavated a Unit downhill (north) of Locus A , and this season we investigated the area near the structure's southern staircase.

Last summer we laid a grid across the site, placing a flag every 20 meters. We created five lines, lines 1 through 5, spaced 20 meters apart along a E-W axis. Along these lines we placed 8 flags every 20 m N-S. We are able to excavate most flags along lines 2 through 4 during summer 2021.

In 2022 we excavated 6 shovel tests along line 1. We were not able to excavate shovel tests along this line summer 2021 as originally planned due to time constraints. Line 1 is the westernmost transect line on the site and therefore gives us an idea of the western boundaries of the site. We excavated 6 STPs along line 5, as we were also not able to excavate shovel tests along this line last summer as originally planned due to time constraints. Line 5 is the easternmost transect line on the site and therefore gives us an idea of the eastern boundaries of the site.

This summer we also extended our transect lines 20 meters south. Last summer the lines ended at point "a", which is parallel to the NW corner of the smokehouse. We extended lines 1 through 5 by 20 meters southward, calling the new southern point "i". STPs 2i, 3i and 4i were excavated into addition to "i" points on lines 1 and 5 as already included in the sections above.

In addition to 2i, we excavated two more STPs along line 2 during summer 2022. During 2021 we had excavated 8 STPs (2a- 2h) along line 2. This year we placed one STP halfway

between 2a and 2i, and one halfway between 2d and 2e. This resulted in some of the line having STPS every 10 meters, giving a finer grain picture of artifact density N-S along line 2.

In 2021 we had excavated 4 STPs along line 3 as some of our 20 meter flags landed in buildings or in dense shrubbery. During 2022, to complete the line we excavated halfway between points 3c and 3d, and halfway between points 3b and 3c. 3c fell on a wall of a structure and could not be excavated, so these two new points located 10 meters north and south from 3c captured that area. We also excavated halfway between 3a and 3i, and halfway between 3f and 3g as well as between 3g and 3h, allowing for a finer grain investigation of artifact distribution along line 3.

In summer 2021 we had excavated STPs at 4h, 4g, 4f, 4d and 4e but did not get further south due to time constraints. This summer we completed STPs at 4a and 4c but were unable to access 4b due to dense vegetation. We also excavated halfway between 4e and 4f as this is an area we wanted to explore in more detail.

In addition to laying some STPS at 10 m intervals on N-S lines, we also closed the gaps E-W between some lines. We excavated four points along the new Line J, which is located halfway between lines 3 and 4. The four STPS we excavated along line J fell on the hillside north of Locus A, as we wanted to investigate this area more closely. We also placed an STP between 3d and 4d to get a better idea of the area south of Locus A as well.

One STP was placed between lines 1 and 2 along the “b” grid, just south of the animal pen. One STP was excavated inside Locus H.

At the conclusion of excavation, all shovel test pits and units were back-filled. Twenty sherds from the Hughes Estate site were taken with permission from the Department of Natural Resources to the US for neutron activated analysis (NAA) testing conducted by Elysia Petras at the University of Missouri Research Reactor Archaeometry Laboratory. Samples will be returned to Anguilla after testing in early 2023.

A follow up report on analysis of the 2022 excavations is currently being drafted and will be submitted to you upon completion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elysia Petras', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Elysia Petras
PhD Candidate
Department of Anthropology, Temple University

Figure 1: Map of Hughes Estate 1x1 m Units Excavated to date

