



August 4, 2017

Ms. Jansie Webster
President
Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society
P.O. Box 252
The Valley
Anguilla

RE: Initial Archaeological Reconnaissance and Test Excavations at Wallblake Plantation

Dear Ms. Webster,

This letter report is brief preliminary summary of the results of the initial archaeological reconnaissance and test excavations on St. Gerard's Catholic Church property in June/July 2017.

Permission for the project at Wallblake plantation was obtained from the Catholic Diocese of Saint John's - Basseterre in October 2016 and on March 29, 2017 from the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism who has leased the main house complex. Principal Investigator and Project Director, Paul Farnsworth, Ph.D., arrived in Anguilla on June 20 and began preparations for the field research. He was subsequently joined by one graduate student and three undergraduates from Temple University in Philadelphia before fieldwork began on June 26th. Unfortunately, no students from Anguilla decided to participate in the field program although the opportunity was made available through the 6th form technical program internship program and through emails to history teachers at the school. This meant that the field crew was less than half the size originally anticipated. Nonetheless, a significant field research program was undertaken that met the major goals set for the field season. Fieldwork at Wallblake estate ended on Friday, July 14th, and processing and cataloguing of the artifacts recovered ended at 5 p.m. on Monday, July 17th, when the artifacts were handed over to Ms. Jansie Webster, current president of the Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society.

Field Research

One of the primary goals of the field season was to compile as complete a map as possible of the historic remains at the Wallblake property. A great deal of time was devoted to this part of the project by two to three crew members throughout the field season. Mapping was accomplished using a combination of methods and instruments, including mapping compass and stadia rod, laser distance meter, tape and compass. As each segment of the property was mapped, a field map was drafted and checked for accuracy, and any discrepancies were resurveyed and corrected. The initial mapping survey focused on the standing structures in the main house complex (main house, kitchen, two ancillary buildings, cistern and catchment), and was then expanded to include the historic (and significant modern) features of the entire property. These included the animal mill and the sugar processing house that both stand on Church property. All of the historic structures were also photographed. All archaeological shovel tests and excavation

units were also included in the mapping project. I append a copy of one version of the map that has been produced since the field season ended showing the historic structures, and archaeological excavations in relation to the major modern features of the property. It will be possible to produce various maps of the project area selectively showing the historic structures, and archaeological excavations or just the major modern features of the property. One of the Temple undergraduate students is currently working on producing these maps over the course of the semester as an independent study under the direction of the Project Director.

The initial proposal included controlled surface collections of artifacts from both the main house area, and the African village area followed by subsurface testing. However, due to the difficulties encountered in moving over the surface collection area in the heavily wooded village area, reduced size of the field crew and the large numbers of surface artifacts observed, it was decided that the surface collection would take more time and yield more artifacts than could be processed in the field season, and yet would provide relatively limited information due to the biases of preservation and observation (e.g. light colored artifacts are more visible than darker ones, thus biasing the sample to light colored ceramics). Therefore, after a brief test collection of one 10 by 10 meter square, this phase was quickly abandoned in favor of controlled sub-surface testing by means of 25 x 25 cm square shovel tests. Shovel tests were excavated by means of shovel, trowel and brush, and all dirt was screened through ¼ inch mesh. Shovel tests were excavated to bedrock or a depth of approximately 50 cm if no bedrock was encountered. All artifacts and ecofacts were bagged for subsequent washing, sorting and cataloguing in the field laboratory. In total 33 shovel tests were excavated during the 2017 field season, 6 around the main house (Locus A), 4 around the kitchen building (Locus B) and 23 in the wooded area (Locus H) where the African village is believed to have been located (northwest of the kitchen, behind the modern cemetery). Based upon the results of the shovel testing, three 1 x 1 meter excavation units were dug, one each in Locus A, B, and H. Units were excavated by means of shovel, trowel and brush, and all dirt was screened through ¼ inch mesh. A summary of the results of the excavations are presented below by locus.

Main House (Locus A)

The main house consists of a wood-frame house built on a large stone cellar. The house was restored a number of years ago, and was undergoing additional restoration at the time of the fieldwork. There is an ancillary stone structure attached to the left rear of the house. Close examination suggests that it was built prior to the main house and may be the oldest standing building on the site. It was probably used as a storage building, though it may not have started out that way. The areas to the front, east side, and rear of the house have been landscaped, and in particular a layer of gravel has been spread over a weed barrier to the rear of the house. As a result there were very few artifacts visible on the surface to guide shovel test placement. It was decided to excavate six shovel tests around the main house. Two were placed on either side of the main entrance stairway (ST1, ST2). Another (ST3) was placed to the southeast of the house in a mounded area. The mound was found to be composed of a reddish-brown soil that had been dumped over the original ground surface, which started at a depth of 23 cm. As a result, the reddish-brown soil was labeled as level 1 and the soil below the original surface was labeled level 2. Behind the house two shovel tests were excavated. ST4 was located in an area between the rear steps and the door to the building attached to the south side of the main house (locus C).

Another shovel test (ST 5) was excavated approximately mid-way between the rear stairs and the southwest corner of the house. The sixth and final shovel test (ST6) was located on the northwest side of the house. Neither ST 5 nor ST6 encountered bedrock but could not be excavated deeper without expanding the size of the excavation. The results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary Results from Shovel Tests excavated at the Main House (Locus A).

Shovel Test	Final Depth (cm)	Ceramics	Glass	Metal	Tobacco Pipes	Brick	Mortar & Plaster	Shell	Animal Bone	Other/ Notable Artifacts
ST1	26.5	13	4				4	1		
ST2	21.0	1	2	2				2		
ST3/1	23.0		4	3						Plastic
ST3/2	45.0	14	12	5	2			6	3	
ST4	45.0	11	21	64	1	1	10	10	2	Button, plastic (2), caulk
ST5	55.0	9	14	27		1	3	6	1	Plastic
ST6	54.5	6	18	7			2	1		Plastic, cloth, cement (22)

As can be seen, ST4 contained artifacts from most artifact categories and included a button. It was also one of the deepest shovel tests excavated. However, it should be noted that the artifacts from the upper part of the shovel test included many modern nails, plastic and other materials from the various phases of restoration of the house, as was true of all of the shovel tests. ST5 also contained most major artifact categories and was also deep, but overall contained fewer artifacts and a higher proportion of modern materials than ST4. Therefore, it was decided to excavate a 1 x 1 meter test unit in the immediate vicinity of ST4.

Unit 1 was excavated immediately south of ST4. Excavation was by means of a combination of natural and arbitrary levels. Level 1 consisted of the modern gravel layer that had been placed over the weed barrier. It was 7 cm thick. Level 2 commenced directly beneath the plastic weed barrier and extended 10 cm down from there. Excavation continued in 10 cm arbitrary levels from that point to a depth of 47 cm. At that point bedrock covered much of the unit, and excavation proceeded in the various potholes, cracks and crevices until bedrock was encountered, which, with one exception, was at a depth less than 57 cm, the bottom of the next level. One crevice extended to a depth of 71 cm and, as no artifacts had been recovered from the upper part of this level, it was decided to continue excavation to bedrock as part of the same level. Table 2 summarizes the results.

Table 2. Summary Results from Unit 1 excavated at the Main House (Locus A).

Level	Final Depth (cm)	Ceramics	Glass	Metal	Tobacco Pipes	Brick	Mortar & Plaster	Shell	Animal Bone	Other/ Notable Artifacts
Surface	2.0	3	2	5		3	3	2		
1	7.0	2	4	5			3			Plastic, electrical wire (2), battery electrode, calcite crystal
2	17.0	24	10	11	2	9	2	55	6	Plastic, cement (8), mano
3	27.0	20	17	5		13	2	38	2	Mano
4	37.0	14		5	1	2	2	15	6	
5	47.0		3	8	1	2	4	5		
6	71.0									No artifacts

As would be expected, modern materials were mixed with historic artifacts in levels 1 and 2, but levels 3, 4 and 5 appear to be relatively undisturbed and contained a range of historic artifacts. There were very few artifacts recovered from level 5, but the one tobacco pipe stem from that level had a bore diameter of 5/64” which dates between 1710-1750 according to Harrington, although it should be noted that they were produced as late as 1800, and the date ranges given are based on English pipes, and given Anguilla’s proximity to Sint Maarten, this could be a Dutch pipe.

The ceramics recovered from the excavation unit include delftware, white salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, porcelains, redwares, and coarse earthenwares. These ceramics span the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with the presence of 1 sherd of white salt-gazed stoneware in level 2 suggesting a date between 1740-1775 at the earliest end of the range, and that accords well with the pipe stem. However, in level 4, the deepest level to contain ceramics, only pearlware and Chinese porcelain were recovered. Chinese porcelain has an extremely broad date range, but pearlware dates no earlier than 1775, usually after 1780, and is common through at least 1830. In level 3, in addition to these ceramic types, there were sherds of “late” creamware that date between about 1775 and 1820. Therefore the deposit appears to begin around 1780, and based on this evidence I would suggest that the main house was constructed around that time.

The presence of significant proportions of porcelain indicate wealth, as may be expected at the main house. The food remains were primarily West Indian Topshell (*Cittarium pica*), commonly called whelks in the West Indies. Medium-sized mammal bones (sheep/goat) were the most represented in the animal bone recovered, with one large mammal (cattle/possibly pig), as well as some fish present. However, very little bone or shell was recovered from the main house area.

Kitchen (Locus B)

The kitchen building has a large fireplace and chimney at the northwest end. On the exterior is the ruin of a large oven. There does not appear to have been a roof structure covering this feature. An inscription on the kitchen building reads 1787, but whether that applies to construction of the kitchen, or the plantation house complex, or is later graffiti, is much debated. The water catchment takes up the area directly in front of two-thirds of the kitchen and the rest of the area to the front and southeast side has been landscaped. No artifacts were visible in the vicinity of the oven, but there was a scatter of artifacts over the area directly behind the kitchen.

It was decided to excavate four shovel tests around the kitchen. One was placed near the front door at the south end of the structure (ST1). Another (ST2) was placed to the southeast of the kitchen below a window opening. The third shovel test (ST3) was placed 3 meters behind the kitchen. A distinct soil color change was noted at 25.5 cm deep and so a new level was started at that depth. The fourth shovel test was placed 2 meters to the north side of the build near the oven (ST4). The results are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary Results from Shovel Tests excavated at the Kitchen (Locus B).

Shovel Test	Final Depth (cm)	Ceramics	Glass	Metal	Tobacco Pipes	Brick	Mortar & Plaster	Shell	Animal Bone	Other/ Notable Artifacts
ST1	32.5	11	5	1		1	2	8	8	Plastic, pink painted limestone, white paint
ST2	26.0		9	4				4	1	Plastic (2)
ST3/1	25.5	21	56	25			1	50	10	Plastic, asbestos tile, calcite crystal
ST3/2	54.0	33	41	17				50	18	Shotgun shell
ST4	33.0	5	5	5			13	11		Paper

ST3 recovered vastly more artifacts as well as bone and shell than did the other shovel tests, all coming from a dark grey ashy soil. Even though plastic and other modern materials were recovered from the upper level of ST3, and twentieth-century nails came from the lower level, it was clear that this location has a deep midden of historic materials. Therefore, Unit 1 was excavated immediately next to ST3. Excavation was by means of arbitrary 10 cm levels, ending at a depth of 70 cm when bedrock covered the entire floor of the unit.

Table 4. Summary Results from Unit 1 excavated at the Kitchen (Locus B).

Level	Final Depth (cm)	Ceramics	Glass	Metal	Tobacco Pipes	Brick	Mortar & Plaster	Shell	Animal Bone	Other/ Notable Artifacts
Surface	0	2	2					2	1	
1	10.0	49	142	135		5	1	141	28	False tooth, plastic (10), cement (6), shotgun shell, slate.
2	20.0	73	139	142	1	3	2	108	50	Glass marble, plastic comb, cloth, plastic, cement (2), shell button, snap, clothing rivet.
3	30.0	147	313	335	2	9	X (not collected)	162	114	Buttons (3), plastic (2), rubber, shotgun shell, gun cartridge, carved bone brush head.
4	40.0	348	367	581	1	21	X (not collected)	343	248	Paper, Bakelite.
5	50.0	249	300	442	1	13	7	284	137	Buttons (3),

Level	Final Depth (cm)	Ceramics	Glass	Metal	Tobacco Pipes	Brick	Mortar & Plaster	Shell	Animal Bone	Other/ Notable Artifacts
										clothing fastener, clothing rivet, slate.
6	60.0	72	110	107			2	99	50	Button.
7	70.0	36	60	46		4		169	22	

Modern materials were mixed with historic artifacts in levels 1, 2, and 3 of Unit 1. A single piece of aged brown paper was in level 4, but otherwise this level seemed undisturbed and contained a high density of historic artifacts. Levels 5, 6 and 7 appear to be relatively undisturbed and also contained a large quantity of historic artifacts. The tobacco pipe stems from levels 3, 4, and 5 had a bore diameter of 1/16” which usually date between 1750-1800 according to Harrington, although it should be noted that they were produced as early as 1710, and, again, the date ranges are based on English pipes and they might be a Dutch.

The ceramics recovered from the excavation unit include large quantities of whiteware, semi-vitreous earthenwares, porcelains, yellow wares, redwares, and coarse earthenwares. These ceramics span the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, from approximately 1820 at the earliest, but semi-vitreous earthenware was the most common ceramic and reflects an occupation from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. The presence of 1 sherd of pearlware in level 3, 4 sherds in level 4, 5 sherds in level 5, 2 sherds in level 6 and 1 sherd in level 7, together with 1 sherd of late creamware in level 5, and 2 sherds in level 6, hint at an earlier occupation possibly going back to 1780, and more in accordance with the pipestem dates. However, throughout these levels, as well as those above them, the large quantities of whiteware and semi-vitreous earthenware, as well as white porcelains strongly suggest that even the earliest levels in the unit date to the mid-nineteenth century. There was no delftware, no white salt-gazed stoneware, and only a couple of sherds of Chinese porcelain that could date earlier than 1780, but all of these ceramic types were found at the main house. Based on this evidence, I suggest that even the earliest levels in the unit date to the mid-nineteenth century, with a small number of curated ceramics (i.e. older vessels still in use) mixed in.

Large quantities of glass were recovered throughout the unit. Modern glass was found as deep as level 4 indicating some mixing of the deposits, and amethyst glass, among other types that date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, was found in moderate quantities even in level 7. Much of the glass appears to be nineteenth century in date or later, with some glass that could be older but has a long period of use also recovered in significant quantities.

The metal from the unit included large number of cast iron cooking pot fragments, as would be expected from a kitchen. The nails recovered could indicate mixing of the unit’s stratigraphy, with wire nails, which became common after 1890 in the US, being found in some numbers

down to level 6. However, wire nails were produced in significant quantities somewhat earlier in Britain, between the 1860s-1870s. The unit also had large quantities of cut nails in all levels. They were first introduced in the US in the 1790s where they became common between the 1820-1840s, but in Britain the transition occurred later, between 1840 and 1860. Wrought nails were replaced relatively rapidly by cut nails in much of the US, but persisted longer in more remote areas where local production of wrought nails remained a cheaper alternative than imported nails. This is especially true on remote Canadian sites where wrought nails were used in significant quantities into the late nineteenth century. Therefore, rather than interpreting the large quantities of cut and wire nails at depth in the unit as due to disturbance, I believe that they indicate construction of the building in the 1840-1860s, with, perhaps, a major refurbishment of it in the 1860s-1870s. Thus while only cut and wrought nails are found in the lowest level (7), by level 6 wire nails are already in use to maintain the building.

From the various lines of evidence, it seems that the kitchen was constructed around the 1840s or 1850s, and not in 1787 as suggested by the date carved into the front of the building.

The presence of large quantities of porcelain, large ceramic serving vessel fragments, as well as large amounts of glass, including cut glass, lamp glass, as well as bottles of many types and contents, all indicates the significant wealth of the plantation owners from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. West Indian Topshell (*Cittarium pica*), commonly called whelks in the West Indies, were the most commonly represented food source, although the large size of many individuals, as well as the numbers, stands in stark contrast to those recovered at the main house itself, or the village area (Locus H). Medium-sized mammal bones (sheep/goat) were the most represented in the bone recovered, and in significant quantities, with a few large mammal (cattle/possibly pig) bones also present. Large amounts of fish bones were recovered, and in some cases they represented quite large fish (possibly groupers, large parrotfish, etc.). Bird bone, probably chicken, was also present in small quantities, but less than might be expected. Clearly the diet was quite varied, at least in terms of protein, although we know nothing of the vegetable portion of the diet from the archaeological remains.

The Village (Locus H)

The modern cemetery associated with the Catholic Church is bounded on the northeast and southeast by old stone walls, and by a modern wire fence on the southwest. The fence of the cemetery extends the line of the stone wall that runs to the kitchen building and then extends southeast to the modern road. To the southwest of this fence, along a low, flat-topped, limestone ridge, late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century artifacts were visible in summer 2016. These artifacts included bottle glass, creamware, pearlware, stoneware, Chinese porcelain, whiteware, as well as various redwares. The artifacts were thought to cover approximately 60 meters southeast to northwest from the kitchen, and 20 meters northeast to southwest and it was thought that this might be the location of houses occupied by enslaved African laborers. It was originally proposed to cover this area with a 10-meter by 10-meter grid surface collection grid with of shovel tests at each intersection to map the concentrations of artifacts across this area. While this area is covered in trees and bush today, it would have been an open area when the plantation was operating. Unfortunately, due to the amount of vegetation, the idea of a surface collection was abandoned after just one square had been collected. In addition, with the smaller field crew than

originally anticipated, it was soon clear that there would not be time to excavate shovel tests over the entire grid during the 2017 field season. As a result, only two lines of shovel tests at ten meter intervals were excavated running southwest from the cemetery (ST0 – ST6; ST7 –ST14), and one line of shovel tests at ten meter intervals was excavated running northwest from the vicinity of the kitchen (ST15 – ST22). ST 3 and ST10 of the NE-SW lines also formed part of the line of shovel tests running SE-NW. The two NE-SW lines covered the area between the cemetery and both the northwest and the southwest property lines of the project parcel. The results of these shovel tests are summarized in Table 5. All shovel tests were excavated to bedrock.

Table 5. Summary Results from Shovel Tests excavated at the African Village (Locus H).

Shovel Test	Final Depth (cm)	Ceramics	Glass	Metal	Tobacco Pipes	Brick	Mortar & Plaster	Shell	Animal Bone	Other/ Notable Artifacts
ST0	21.0	3	11		1			13		
ST1	30.0	5	1				1	10		
ST2	21.0	17	1		2			13		
ST3	23.0	46	28		1			31		Calcite crystal
ST4	24.0	47	16	1				21		Coin
ST5	14.0	4	4	2		5		29		Carved shell
ST6	26.0							139		
ST7	11.0	2	1					7		
ST8	30.0	5	3			6		11		Rubber
ST9	10.0	2						9		
ST10	10.5	18	11	3				46		
ST11	24.0	12	4					10		
ST12	18.0	8	3					25		
ST13	12.0	18	1		1			4		
ST14	9.0		1	2					1	
ST15	12.0	7	1					15		
<i>ST3</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>28</i>		<i>1</i>			<i>31</i>		<i>Calcite crystal</i>
<i>ST10</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>				<i>46</i>		
ST16	35.0	7	1	6				23		
ST17	22.0	11	3					23		
ST18	20.5	3	7					5		
ST19	20.0	11	2	1				16		
ST20	25.0	10	4					21		

Shovel Test	Final Depth (cm)	Ceramics	Glass	Metal	Tobacco Pipes	Brick	Mortar & Plaster	Shell	Animal Bone	Other/ Notable Artifacts
ST21	19.0	3	3					2		Plastic (6)
ST22	23.0	9	1	2				22		

The shovel tests confirm that there is a scatter of artifacts extending from behind the kitchen northwest to the northern corner of the property, as virtually every shovel test recovered ceramics, glass and shell, despite the shallow soil throughout much of the area. The scatter is larger than originally estimated, extending over 90 meters northwest from the kitchen, and 50 to 60 meters southwest to northeast, at least towards the northwestern end of the property. The scatter is composed of domestic refuse and the most likely reason for it to be there is that people were living in the area. The most likely residents would be the enslaved workers in the African village of the plantation. Although the full grid could not be completed in 2017, several concentrations can be identified from the three lines that were excavated. The densest concentration is around ST 3 and ST4, but others appear in the vicinities of ST10 and ST11, ST 13, ST17, ST19 and ST20, and ST22 (which may be an extension of the deposits behind the kitchen, Locus B). These may well indicate the locations of several houses, as each house is unlikely to occupy more than a 10 x 10 meter area.

The artifacts from the shovel tests do include a small quantity of modern items, but these are few and far between, especially when compared to the main house complex. The presence of very little brick, mortar or nails indicates that the houses were probably of wood and thatch, in contrast to the main house complex, and did not use European-style wood-frame construction. Three tobacco pipe stems recovered from the shovel tests in Locus H had bore diameters measuring 5/64" while a fourth measures 3/32" (6/64"). A bore diameter of 5/64" dates between 1710-1750 according to Harrington, although it should be noted that they were produced as late as 1800, while 3/32" diameter pipestems usually date between 1680 and 1710, but they can rarely be found as late as 1800. Once again the date ranges are based on English pipes, and given Anguilla's proximity to Sint Maarten, these might be a Dutch pipes. Clearly these dates are earlier than those from the kitchen and even the main house. However, ST4 recovered a French, 2 Sous coin dated 1789. These were minted in Paris for the Colony of Cayenne (French Guiana). However, there are some experts who suggest that there were contemporary imitations of these issues, many emanating from Birmingham, England. The coin recovered at Wallblake is well-worn and appears to have circulated for some time prior to be deposited on the site. Coinage was scarce throughout the Lesser Antilles, and on Anguilla in particular, so it is not surprising to find coins of various nations in use on the British islands, and vice versa.

The ceramics from the shovel tests are dominated by pearlware with some creamware and a little whiteware, Chinese porcelain, yellow ware, and redware. Pearlware dates no earlier than 1775, usually after 1780, and is common through to about 1830, while all of the creamware recovered was late creamware that dates between about 1775 and 1820. Four sherds of delftware were recovered that typically date earlier than creamware and pearlware, possibly even as early as 1620 although this is not likely on Anguilla, and three sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware that suggest a date between 1740-1775. The Chinese porcelain recovered has a broad date range from as early as 1660 through the early nineteenth century. Thus, there are hints that the village

could date as early as the tobacco pipestems suggest, 1740 or even earlier, but the vast bulk of the ceramics date after 1780. At the other end of the time scale, whitewares can extend through the nineteenth century and into the twentieth, but all of the sherds recovered from Locus H are decorated in styles consistent with early whitewares dating between 1820 and 1840, and not later decorative styles. The complete absence of any semivitreous earthenwares and white porcelains so common at the kitchen also supports an end date around 1840.

The glass recovered from the shovel tests is largely from hand blown and dip molded bottles that are typical of the mid-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth centuries. A small number of modern glass sherds were recovered, as well as a few late nineteenth and early twentieth century sherds, but the bulk of the collection is not particularly time sensitive. The few (5) nails recovered from the village area were all hand wrought and would indicate an occupation prior to the 1840s. Three shovel tests recovered cast iron cooking pot fragments, which are typical of late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century African villages. Only one bone was recovered, it came from a medium sized mammal such as a sheep or goat. Shell, however, was common and found in almost every shovel test unit. West Indian Topsell (whelk) was the dominant species recovered from every shovel test and was clearly a staple food in the village. Only one possible fragment from a conch shell (*Strombus gigas*) was recovered, which is odd given their prominence in pre-Columbian sites on Anguilla and enslaved villages elsewhere in the West Indies. However, the large piles of historic conch shells near some beaches on Anguilla, such as at Sandy Ground, may indicate that even as early as the 1780s the meat was removed at the beach and the shells left there.

Based upon the distributions of artifacts from the shovel tests, it was decided to excavate a 1 x 1 meter unit between ST3 and ST4. Excavation was by means of arbitrary 10 cm levels, ending at a depth of 50 cm when bedrock covered the entire floor of the unit. The results are summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. Summary Results from Unit 1 excavated at the African Village (Locus H).

Level	Final Depth (cm)	Ceramics	Glass	Metal	Tobacco Pipes	Brick	Mortar & Plaster	Shell	Animal Bone	Other/ Notable Artifacts
Surface	0	6	8					5		
1	10.0	34	32	5				87	1	
2	20.0	41	54	7	2			145	1	Glass bead, carved shell, slate
3	30.0	5	5					17		
4	40.0							5		
5	50.0									No artifacts

The results from the excavation unit largely confirm the information from the shovel tests in Locus H. There was very little modern material found, just a few sherds of glass from modern

bottles on the surface and in level 1. Most of the glass was dark olive hand-blown or dip-molded bottle glass body sherds that generally date before the second half of the nineteenth century, but are not chronologically sensitive. Seven sherds from a cut-glass, wine glass were found in level 2 as well as 2 sherds from a crystal glass tumbler base, but all of the other glass recovered was from bottles.

Two of the tobacco pipe stems recovered from the unit had bore diameters of 5/64" while one measured 3/32". A bore diameter of 5/64" dates between 1710-1750 according to Harrington, although it should be noted that they were produced as late as 1800, while 3/32" bore pipestems usually date between 1680 and 1710, though they can rarely be found as late as 1800. So, once again the pipe stems are suggesting an earlier date for the occupation of the village. The ceramics from the excavation unit are again dominated by pearlwares, dating between 1780 and 1830, although late creamwares with a similar date range were also recovered. Two sherds of delftware that usually dates earlier than creamware, and one of white salt-glazed stoneware that suggest a date between 1740-1775 were also recovered from the unit. While these hint at an earlier occupation date, they could also be curated vessels brought to the site in the 1780s. Three sherds of Chinese porcelain were recovered along with only two of coarse earthenware, both presenting a stark contrast with the kitchen where these types were common. Only 7 sherds of whiteware were recovered from the unit, most coming from level 1, and all with early decorative styles suggesting a date range of 1820-1840. No later decorative styles were recovered, or any later ceramic wares such as semi-vitreous earthenware. The ceramics from the excavation unit again strongly suggest an occupation between 1780 and 1840.

There was relatively little metal recovered. As with the shovel tests, very few nails were recovered, 3 in total, and all were hand wrought nails that pre-date the mid-nineteenth century. Eight fragments from cast iron cooking pots were recovered, four of them coming from the same pot. The only other metal artifact recovered was an irregular piece of lead sheet that could be the raw material for making fishing weights, or lead shot perhaps. In contrast with the kitchen and main house excavations, there were no buttons or clothing fasteners recovered in the shovel tests or excavation units, but a spherical, wire-wound, clear-glass bead was recovered, along with a piece of carved shell, both in level 2. Another piece of carved shell was found in ST5, not far away, but none were recovered from the main house or kitchen. Thus we are seeing different decorative items in the village. A thin piece of slate from level 2 is interesting as it hints, perhaps, at literacy, as a writing slate was the primary tool for teaching writing in the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century. There was a limited range of food remains recovered from the unit. The most interesting, perhaps, was a long-bone fragment from a sheep or goat that had two cut marks on it, while the jaw of a medium to large-size fish, perhaps a parrot fish, was the only other bone recovered. Large quantities of shell were recovered, primarily West Indian Topshell (whelk). The largest individuals were smaller than some of those recovered from the kitchen, but were probably as large as most seen today. A number of other, smaller shell species were recovered throughout the unit, but not in sufficient quantities to suggest they were a major dietary component.

Summary

A significant amount of archaeological test excavation and mapping was accomplished at the Wallblake Estate during the three week field season from June 26 – July 14, 2017, with a small field crew. At the conclusion of excavation, all shovel tests and excavation units were back-filled as restored, as far as possible, to their original condition. All artifacts recovered from the excavations were catalogued in the field laboratory and a selection of them were photographed. On July 17th all artifacts were handed to the current president of the Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society for permanent curation. In total, 33 shovel tests were excavated during the 2017 field season, 6 around the main house (Locus A), 4 around the kitchen building (Locus B) and 23 in the wooded area (Locus H) where the African village is believed to have been located (northwest of the kitchen). Based upon the results of the shovel testing, three 1 x 1 meter excavation units were excavated, one each in Locus A, B, and H.

The data recovered from the excavation have only just begun to be analyzed, and the interpretations presented in this report should be viewed as preliminary and tentative. However, it appears that the materials excavated at the main house were deposited starting around 1780, and based on this evidence I would suggest that the main house was constructed around that time. The artifacts show occupation through the early-mid twentieth century, in accordance with the known history of the building. The artifacts and food remains do indicate a certain amount of wealth as would be expected.

The kitchen building, however, presents something of a chronological mystery. While the structure has the date 1787 carved into the wall, the archaeological lines of evidence suggest that the kitchen was constructed around the 1840s or 1850s, and not in 1787. The building was heavily used from the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, and large quantities of materials reflecting the wealth and status of the planter family during this time were recovered. The deposits are deep and ashy, as would be expected, but very few early nineteenth-century materials were recovered, and those that were recovered did not come from the lowest levels of the unit. If the kitchen was in use earlier, then the materials must be deposited elsewhere in the immediate vicinity, and perhaps more extensive excavations in the future will recover them.

In stark contrast, the area believed to have been occupied by the African village has left extensive deposits extending up to 90 meters northwest from the kitchen building, and containing no materials (aside from modern trash) that date later than approximately 1840. This suggests that the village was abandoned after emancipation in the 1830s, either as a result of the planters evicting the formerly enslaved people, or, as seems more likely, the formerly enslaved people choosing to leave and take up residence on lands abandoned by the many planters who left Anguilla after emancipation. The original date of the village is somewhat more ambiguous. The pipe stems and a few of the ceramics hint at an occupation beginning perhaps in the 1740s or earlier, but the vast majority of the evidence points to an occupation between 1780 and 1840, and so the earlier ceramics may be an curated (i.e. old) vessels brought to the location when the village was first occupied. This does raise an issue with the pipe stem dates, which all support an

earlier occupation, though they were all still being produced as late as 1780, just not in quantity. One other possibility is that the pipes are Dutch in origin, as the dating formulae apply only to English pipes.

Because of the larger size of the village than previously realized, and the smaller crew than originally anticipated, it was not possible in the 2017 field season to excavate the entire proposed grid of shovel tests over the entire village area. Therefore, we have not been able to identify all of the possible house locations within the village, or properly define those that have been identified. So far approximately six locations in the village area appear to have higher artifact concentrations, but much remains to be tested. Of these six, time only allowed us to excavate one, 1 by 1 meter unit in one of them. The results, however, have begun to provide a significant picture of the chronology and activities of the people living in the village during the period of slavery.

Overall the 2017 field project has produced some exciting results, raised new questions to be answered in future field seasons, and demonstrated the significant archaeological potential that exists on the Wallblake property. Hopefully it will be possible to continue the project in the summer of 2018 to further examine the area of the enslaved Africans' village.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Farnsworth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Farnsworth, Ph.D.
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