Intra-Site Spatial Patterning of the Templeton Paleoindian Site in Western Connecticut

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Abstract

The Paleoindian occupation at Templeton is reconsidered based on research conducted since the site's initial study by Dr. Roger Moeller in the late 1970s. This poster describes the intra-site spatial patterning at Templeton gleaned from the 2016 excavations at the site and the reanalysis of the Paleoindian materials recovered by Moeller. Aspects of intra-site spatial patterning ascertained via ground penetrating radar surveys of the landform, lithic microwear analyses, micromorphological sediment analyses, and analyses of phytoliths recovered from sediments are also reported.

Site Discovery, Excavations, and Surficial Geology

• The Templeton site (ILF21) is located in Washington, Connecticut.
• Roger Moeller excavated the site in 1977 and 1982 to investigate the deeply buried Middle Paleoindian component (Moeller 1980, 1999, 2002).
• Beginning in 2015, Zachary Singer organized a reanalysis of the Paleoindian assemblage recovered by Moeller and directed new excavations at Templeton. Peter Leach conducted ground penetrating radar surveys and UAV surveys of the Templeton landform. Heather Rockwell performed low-power microwear analyses on Paleoindian lithics. Tiziana Matarazzo investigated the micromorphology of sediments at Templeton. Krista Dotzel analyzed phytoliths recovered from Paleoindian tools.

The quantity of debitage, channel flakes, and fluted preform fragments in Moeller’s block indicate a fluted point production area. The distribution of flutes in Moeller’s block suggest that the block may have contained a few activity areas. Test pits were excavated on the Templeton landform to investigate whether other Paleoindian activity areas were present. Evidence for additional Paleoindian fluted point production areas was recovered. No definite Paleoindian endscrapers have been found at Templeton, suggesting that tasks involving endscrapers, like hide working (Leebens 2013), were either located in yet undiscovered areas or perhaps not conducted at Templeton.

Paleoindian Intra-Site Spatial Patterning

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Synthesis

• Templeton contains a Middle Paleoindian Michaud-Neponti fluted point component.
• The Paleoindian material culture is deeply buried in alluvium, which is a rare setting for Paleoindian sites in New England.
• The majority toolstone in the Paleoindian component is Normanskill chert, likely procured from outcrops in the Hudson Valley. Chert use is associated with Archaeological occupations at Templeton.

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• The majority of the loci at Templeton contain evidence for specialized fluted point production activities.
• Paleoindian activity areas dominated by fluted point production occur throughout North America. For instance, fluted point production areas occur at the Bull Brook site in Massachusetts (Rutheisen et al. 2009), the Cliche-Rancourt site in New Hampshire (Boisvert 2008), the Barnes site in Michigan (Voss 1977), the Parkhill site in Ontario (Ellis and Dailer 2000), and the Lindenmeier site (Sellet 2013). Future excavations and multi-disciplinary analyses are planned for Templeton to attempt to locate additional Paleoindian loci and to study the recovered Paleoindian materials in more detail.

Raw Material Use and Distribution

Moeller originally attributed the majority toolstone in the Paleoindian assemblage to a local chert source and chert quarry was suggested as a secondary locality (Moeller 1980:30, 2002). Two sections of raw material and distributions of chert and quartz were examined to test Moeller’s assertion.

Acknowledgements and References

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