Intraspacial Patterning at a Late Precontact Piedmont Village Tradition Settlement in the Upper Yadkin River Valley

Peter Ellis and Eric E. Jones

Introduction

The authors examined the spatiotemporal patterning of surface artifacts, plowzone features, and insect features from the Late Precontact (ca. 200 B.C.-A.D. 1050) site of Yadkin 273 in the upper Yadkin River Valley of the North Carolina Piedmont. The goal is to determine if relationships between these remains can improve methods for locating intact settlement features and to test this at the Yadkin 273 site. Other related sites (1 and 2) are to be developed as new settlement patterns and cultural changes in the area.

Methods

A total of 3,667 surface artifacts and 362 plowzone features were measured, each from a 20-cm x 20-cm grid. Plowzone patterns were measured in order to determine the relative density of the artifact remains. Insect remains were also measured and organized in a series of five 1m x 1m units. All surface activity closely related to insect remains was measured in order to identify which insect activity was present at the site.

Results

Analysis of surface remains and plowzone features allowed us to explore the large scale relationship between surface features and spatial patterns of past human activity in the Yadkin River floodplain (Figure 2). This site may be a complex settlement, potentially indicating that large scale social and economic interactions occurred in the area. However, the data were not sufficient to determine the exact nature of these interactions.

Discussion

The results indicate that the Yadkin 273 site may be a complex settlement, potentially indicating large scale social and economic interactions occurred in the area. However, the data were not sufficient to determine the exact nature of these interactions.

Conclusions

Overall, the distribution of plowzone artifacts appears to be the most informative line of evidence to the presence of surface artifacts in both large and small scale. On the surface, the site area, and surface remains are important in understanding the spatial and temporal relationships of the site.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to recognize the contributions of the following individuals: Dr. Richard L. Davis, Jr., Dr. Jennifer L. Davis, and Dr. Sarah E. Frantz. The authors would also like to thank the Yadkin River Valley Electric Cooperative for their support and assistance.

References

