

The Harbours of Caesarea Maritima: The Site and the Excavations v. 1 (British Archaeological Reports)

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Shallow geophysical exploration at the ancient maritime Maya site of Vista Alegre, Yucatan Mexico

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ABSTRACT

Geophysical methods are of great value when investigating or searching for archaeological sites because of their ability to cover a large area in a short time and reveal features and aspects of unexcavated locations. In submerged archaeological sites, the use of seismic survey methods is especially important, as the excavation process is more complicated than at typical terrestrial sites. While the terrestrial portion of the maritime Maya site of Vista Alegre, located in the northeastern part of the Yucatan Peninsula, has been mapped and partially excavated, the shallow offshore flooded landscape has not, in part due to difficulties determining the best targets for initiating the effort. Results from an earlier sediment core campaign resolved the character, environmental associations, and ages of underlying sediments, but could only minimally predict the presence of laterally continuous features due to the distance between cores. To resolve this issue, a seismic survey was conducted to extrapolate the spatial extent of these strata. The survey area covered the flooded bays flanking the terrestrial portion of Vista Alegre. This area has been affected by sea-level rise throughout time, and was a likely location of maritime activity in the past. Results from this study provided laterally continuous evidence for sea-level rise, reinforcing the previous study, and also identified the presence of a submerged ridge-basin structure. This structure was unexpected because it was neither continuous nor congruous with natural trends observed terrestrially. This uniqueness could be attributed to significant differences in the submerged landscape, and possibly the presence of anthropogenically-altered offshore features. The interpreted seismic data is useful both for a site-scale spatial understanding of the flooded landscape history, as well as for identifying potential locations for shallow water archaeological excavations.

1. Introduction

1.1. Submerged archaeological features

The position of a coastal archaeological site relative to the shoreline is dynamic (Benjamin et al., 2017). Therefore, identifying its features or reconstructing the site's full configuration requires subsurface knowledge, both on land and underwater. Depending on various natural and anthropogenic processes, dry portions of a site can become flooded while submerged features can become terrestrial. Amongst the inter-related natural processes affecting coastal archaeological sites are relative sea-level changes (Mortiztas et al., 2001; Mortiztas and Kolaiti, 2017; Mortiztas, 2017), tectonic movements (Minor and Grant, 1996;

Mortiztas and Marinos, 1994), sediment transport, erosion, deposition (Androuso et al., 2017; Kraft et al., 2005; Mortiztas et al., 2006), and possible combinations of those (Bailey and Flemming, 2008; Benjamin, 2010). These natural processes may have changed the relative location of the coastal site, for example, transforming a once coastal marine harboring area into a modern terrestrial feature by infilling; or submerging a coastal site due to sea-level rise (e.g. Benjamin, 2010; Faught and Donoghue, 1997; McKillop, 1995; Raban and Galili, 1985); or uplifting a site by tectonic movements (e.g. Mortiztas and Kolaiti, 2017; Pizzardi et al., 1992). During the Holocene, a general sea-level rise trend is recognized globally (Fitzhanks, 1989; Fleming et al., 1998) which carved new shorelines and submerged many prehistoric and historic coastal sites

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quently applying in Israeli archaeological sites: GPR and provide a ground plan of cultural remains before excavations Q?R?V,. (1) where Q is the quantitative estimation of information, R is . ing Bar-Kokhba's letters (Reeder et al.,). .. merged Roman Harbour (Caesarea Maritima, Israel) is of.CAESAREA MARITIMA PDF - Search results, Caesarea Maritima / E? s E s E Harbours of Caesarea Maritima (British Archaeological Reports (BAR) Synagogue Site - Studies in the Archaeology and History of Caesarea Maritima: Caput (v. 1) - Kursk The Greatest Battle - Invitation To The Old Testament A Catholic.Authority,1 is one of the smallest geographically-defined regions in the. Middle East, yet its how they have been expressed in excavation reports, has yet been made. a British Mandate (48).5 The archaeological activity in the Holy Land .. such remains were found include the major sites of Caesarea, Tiberias.Le chapitre 1 procede a des etudes individuelles sur chaque phares selectionnees . 15 The stratafrom the excavation of the Western Pharos. Fig. Fig. 19Mosaicfrom The Place of Corporations, Ostia. Fig. 20 Harbour at La Coruna. v Harbours Caesarea Maritima, Avner Raban (Ed.), BAR International Series ,. 1. The announcement of this ossuary, which has been for some time in private age has included radio, television, newspapers, magazines, and several web sites. 2. stone from Caesarea Maritima, Caesar's edict against grave robbery, For archaeological reports concerning the harbor of Caesarea Maritima, see.

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