



The archaeological ruins of El Antigual are located at roughly N16°22'57", W86°24'23", placing the site near the center of the island. The site spreads across two small hilltops and the saddle that connects them, covering about 800 square meters of sometimes steep and uneven terrain. From either hilltop, one can clearly see both bay and ocean sides of the island and a clear view of the mainland of Honduras.

One major (2-3 m wide, 1-2 m deep) quebrada runs north to south through the middle of the saddle and divides the site in two. Two or three smaller quebradas that drain the hilltops merge into the larger one near the center of the site, which meanders southeast and empties into Caribe Point Bight. The hilltops are currently covered with sacate and other low lying vegetation, while the saddle is completely forested, largely with palms and ferns.

The site is currently under overgrown brush and so it is impossible to determine the extent of buildings. There are numerous areas along the slopes of the hills with high concentrations of small boulders, suggesting the possibility that part of the site was artificially terraced in the past. Numerous artifacts—as isolated finds and in concentrations indicative of activity areas—can be observed throughout the entire site. Artifacts include mostly plainware and decorated (incised) pottery similar to the Dorina variety of pottery. The ceramics, along with the discovery of a green obsidian blade segment, strongly suggest that the latest occupation of the site dates to the Postclassic period (Cocal phase), ca. AD 1000 to 1530.

In August of 2008, PROJECT ROATÁN was initiated to investigate El Antigual and the surrounding region in preparation for the development of a museum that will be constructed on the island by the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History and as an initial means of developing a long-term cultural heritage project in collaboration with local communities.