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Title: An Overview of Paleoindian Lithics at the Carson-Conn-Short Site (40BN190), Benton County, Tennessee

Year: 2008

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Source: *Current Research in the Pleistocene* 25:125-127.

Publisher Link: http://csfa.tamu.edu/?page_id=834

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An Overview of Paleoamerican Lithics at the Carson-Conn-Short Site (40Bn190), Benton County, Tennessee

Mark R. Norton and John B. Broster

The Tennessee Division of Archaeology has undertaken excavations and surface collecting at 40Bn190 for the last 15 years (Broster and Norton 1993, 1996; Broster et al. 1994, 1996; Nami et al. 1996; Stanford et al. 2006). Eight areas of concentration have been recorded, with high numbers of fluted performs, projectile points, and uniface tools within four of these areas. The majority of lithic artifacts excavated and recorded on the surface have been of Clovis age and pertain to the manufacture of Clovis fluted points and blade tools. Unfortunately, no ^{14}C dates have been obtained from our excavations. A total area of 16 m² has been excavated to a maximum depth of 70 cm. The majority of Clovis artifacts have been found 35-55 cm below surface. Upper deposits contain a mixture of Clovis, late-Paleoamerican, and early Archaic materials. At the time of this writing, we have recovered 39 Clovis, 5 Cumberland, 10 unfluted Cumberland, 22 Beaver Lake, 32 Quad, and 8 Dalton projectile point/knives. Some of the Clovis points are shown in Figure

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1. Additionally, 540 Clovis performs, 27 channel flakes, and 125 *outré passé* flakes have been recorded. Unifacial tools based on prismatic blades include 183 endscrapers, 35 spurred endscrapers, 480 sidescrapers, 406 blade knives, 88 graters, 963 blades, 216 blade cores, and 23 core tablet flakes.

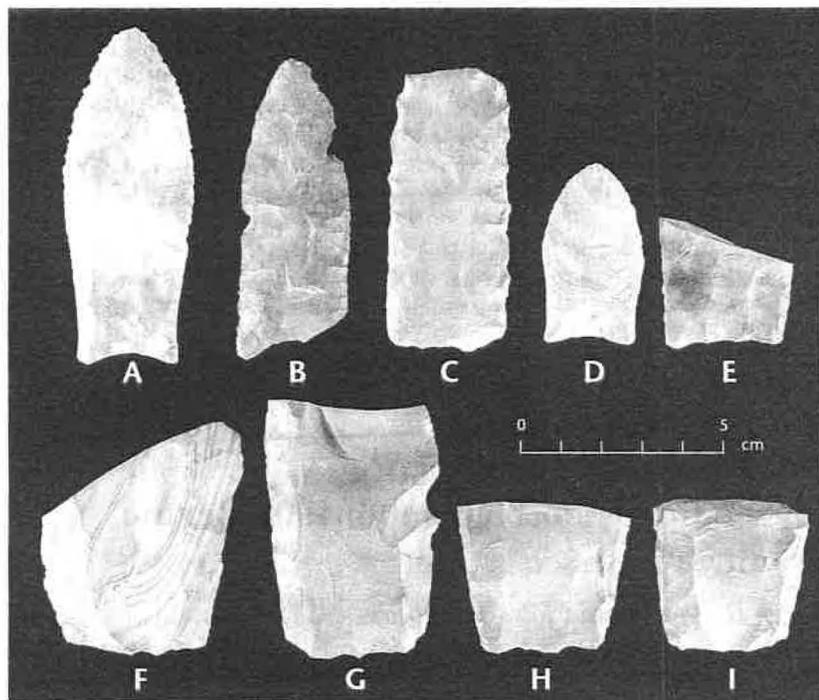


Figure 1. Clovis projectile points (A-E) and Clovis preforms from 40Bn190.

We believe that since it is located within 200 m of a high-quality chert resource, the site is a combination quarry-workshop and base camp. Sites of this nature along the Tennessee River are not at all rare. The Kirk Point site (40Hs174) (McNutt et al. 2008), located directly across the river from 40Bn190, contains a similar configuration of early lithic artifacts. Clovis projectile points and blade tools are found there (Figure 1), although the majority of artifacts date to the late-Paleoamerican and early-Archaic time periods. The famous Nuckolls site (40Hs60) (Lewis and Kneberg 1958), located 41 km downriver, contained Clovis, Cumberland, and late-Paleoamerican occupations. The outcropping of abundant fine-grained cherts in the general area appears to have been a major draw for hunter-gatherers for several thousand years.

Senior graduate students from the University of Kentucky, University of Memphis, and University of Tennessee are presently undertaking studies of Paleoamerican assemblages and components from these sites. We believe that these sites will be of great importance in the understanding of the late-Pleistocene/early-Holocene occupation of this area of the Midsouth.

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The Sage Hen Gap Fluted-Point Site, Harney County, Oregon

Patrick O'Grady, Scott P. Thomas, and Michael F. Rondeau

The Sage Hen Gap site (35HA3548) is a fluted-point site on the northern perimeter of the Harney Basin. It is only the second site containing more than one fluted point recorded in Oregon. The site is located at the crest of a long draw between westerly uplands and the Harney Valley to the east. Buck Springs obsidian occurs naturally on site. The site also provides a panoramic view of the "gap" through which both animal and human traffic would have passed. The site was initially recorded in 1984 (Crespin 1984) and remained unevaluated until 2007, when Scott Thomas of the Burns District BLM relocated the site form. Sketches of one fluted point and one Black Rock Concave Base point prompted Thomas to make a site visit in February 2007, during which his crew collected two fluted points. In June, a fourth fluted point was

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