

1-1-2009

Exotic Clovis Stone Tools from the Topper Site, 38AL23, Allendale County, South Carolina

Albert C. Goodyear

University of South Carolina - Columbia, goodyear@mailbox.sc.edu

Keith Derting

D. Shane Miller

Ashley M. Smallwood

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/sciaa_staffpub



Part of the [Anthropology Commons](#)

Publication Info

Published in *Current Research in the Pleistocene*, Volume 26, 2009, pages 60-62.

<http://csfa.tamu.edu/>

© 2009 by Center for the Study of the First Americans

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archaeology and Anthropology, South Carolina Institute of at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty & Staff Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact SCHOLARC@mailbox.sc.edu.

Exotic Clovis Stone Tools from the Topper Site, 38AL23, Allendale County, South Carolina

Albert C. Goodyear, Keith Derting, D. Shane Miller, and Ashley M. Smallwood

► **Keywords:** Clovis, Topper, American Southeast

Excavations at the Topper site in Allendale County, South Carolina, have yielded abundant chert artifacts related to Clovis quarrying, manufacturing and tool-using activities (Goodyear et al. 2007; Miller 2007). As of 2008, counting units on the terrace area and the hillside area overlooking the terrace, 578 m² has been excavated. Chert outcrops at the site at the eroding escarpment and in the river bed. Topper chert is described petrologically as a silicified grain stone from the Tertiary Flint River formation and is a member of the Allendale type (Upchurch 1984). This report summarizes the incidence of non-chert Clovis tools foreign to the site.

The exotics are represented by five metavolcanic artifacts and one quartz crystal artifact (Figure 1). These raw materials were checked against the lithic raw-material type collection curated at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, maintained by K. Derting.

Albert C. Goodyear and Keith Derting, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1321 Pendleton Street, Columbia SC 29208; e-mails: goodyear@sc.edu derting@sc.edu

D. Shane Miller, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona, PO Box 210030, Tucson AZ 85721; e-mail: dsmiller@email.arizona.edu

Ashley M. Smallwood, Center for the Study of the First Americans, Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-4352; e-mail: smallwood.ashley@gmail.com

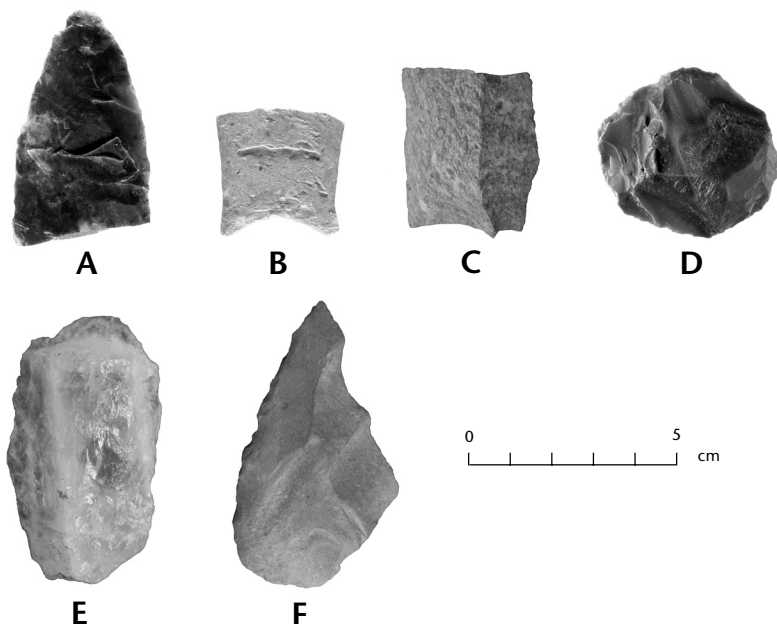


Figure 1. Exotic Clovis stone tools from excavated contexts at the Topper site, 38AL23.

Of the six artifacts, two fragments of Clovis points on exotic material have been recovered at Topper to date. One is the distal portion (Figure 1A) of a point (SC495) found in the terrace area. It is made of an unweathered black fine-grained rhyolite. The other is a Clovis base (SC489) (Figure 1B) made of a weathered porphyritic rhyolite with inclusions of quartz, feldspar, and iron pyrite. This base is from the hillside excavations. The three remaining metavolcanic artifacts, all from the hillside, are made of fine-grained tuffs. One of these (Figure 1C), on a differentially crystallized tuff, is the medial section of a flake, possibly a prismatic blade since it has three parallel scars. It is not retouched and macroscopically appears unused. The second (Figure 1D) is an endscraper on a flake made of dark green welded vitric tuff (Novick 1978:428). The material is very fine grained, unweathered, and translucent on the edges. The third (Figure 1F) is a lighter green, fine-grained tuff similar to Figure 1D, described above. It is unifacially retouched along the left margin with evidence of heavy wear damage on the right margin. The entire artifact feels dull, probably from use and transport. The last item (Figure 1E) is a quartz crystal flake from the hillside with expedient unifacial retouch on the left margin and distal end.

All the metavolcanics could be from the Uwharrie Mountains area of the central North Carolina Piedmont (cf. Daniel 1998). Quartz crystal is abundant in the Piedmont of Georgia and the Carolinas. Rhyolite origins are less definitive, since quarries are also known in the western South Carolina Piedmont. The three pieces made of tuff, however, are strongly suspected to be

from the Uwharrie Mountains area of North Carolina. Green tuff outcrops are known from near Ashboro, North Carolina (E. Poplin, pers. comm. 2009). If some of the artifacts described here came from the Uwharries, transport over a distance of 250–350 km is indicated. Since non-chert debitage is extremely rare at Topper (e.g., Miller 2007), all these pieces were likely carried in and discarded once at the quarry. As such, they may be as informative about where people came from as what they were used for at Topper.

We thank the members of the Allendale Paleoamerican Expedition, Clariant Corporation, owners of the Topper site, and Daryl P. Miller for photography.

References Cited

- Daniel, I. R., Jr. 1998 *Hardaway Revisited, Early Archaic Settlement in the Southeast*. The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.
- Goodyear, A. C., D. S. Miller, and A. M. Smallwood 2007 Introducing Clovis at the Topper Site, 38AL23, Allendale County, South Carolina. Paper presented at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, Texas.
- Miller, D. S. 2007 Site Formation Processes in an Upland Paleoindian Site: The 2005–2007 Topper Firebreak Excavations. Unpublished M.A. thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- Novick, L. 1978 Prehistoric Lithic Material Sources and Types in South Carolina: A Preliminary Statement. *South Carolina Antiquities* 10:422–37.
- Upchurch, S. B. 1984 Appendix A: Petrology of Selected Lithic Materials from the South Carolina Coastal Plain. In *An Archaeological Survey of Chert Quarries in Western Allendale County, South Carolina*, edited by A. C. Goodyear and T. Charles, pp.125–60. Research Manuscript Series 195, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.