

An Update on the North Carolina Fluted-Point Survey

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Continued work on a statewide survey of North Carolina fluted points has yielded 252 fluted points—a 33 percent increase over the 189 specimens initially reported (Daniel 2000).¹ Moreover, recent evaluation of this database in light of the recognition of Redstone points in South Carolina (see Goodyear, this issue) resulted in the reclassification of the entire database (Daniel 2005). Accordingly, both the North Carolina and South Carolina databases are now consistent typologically. North Carolina types include Clovis, Redstone, Cumberland, Gainey, Simpson, and some apparent fluted-point fragments and preforms. Suffice it to say that the reclassification primarily included assigning points previously classified as Clovis or Clovis variants into either Redstone or Gainey categories. Furthermore, the remaining Clovis variants were subsumed under the Clovis type. A significant result of this work is the recognition of the greater ratio of Clovis points to Redstone points in both states, with approximately four Clovis points for every Redstone in South

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¹The database for the points discussed in this article is available directly from the authors or may be accessed on the Web site for the Paleoindian Database of the Americas: <http://pidba.tennessee.edu/northcarolina.htm> (Anderson et al. 2005).

Carolina (see Goodyear, this volume) and three Clovis points for every Redstone point in North Carolina.

Clovis points are the predominant Paleoindian form identified in the survey ($n = 174$, 69 percent). While this category generally corresponds to the Southwestern form and is characterized by a relatively large size, straight-sided base, and shallow basal concavity, there is considerable variability within this class (Haynes 2002:81–93). With respect to geographic distributions, Clovis points were recorded in every physiographic region of the state.

Redstone-like points (Cambron and Hulse 1964; Mason 1962; Perino 1968) represent the second-most frequent category in the survey ($n = 53$, 21 percent). Redstone points are scattered in the eastern Piedmont and Fall Line. North Carolina Redstones exhibit distinctive full facial fluting, relatively deep basal concavity, and triangular form similar to what is called Redstone in the mid-South. As such, this type likely represents a post-Clovis manifestation in North Carolina.

The Cumberland fluted point (Cambron and Hulse 1964), another distinctive form common to the mid-South, was also identified in the survey ($n = 6$, 2.4 percent). Like the Redstone, it is characterized by long flutes but has a distinctive eared base. The fact that four of the six specimens were made from chert and cluster in the Mountain region suggests that they originated in Tennessee or elsewhere in the mid-South. Cumberland points are postulated to represent the post-Clovis point type for the Mountains.

Several points ($n = 7$, 2.8 percent) in the survey were tentatively identified as Gainey-like in form. Gainey points are common in the Great Lakes region (Deller and Ellis 1988) but have been identified in Iowa and Missouri (Morrow and Morrow 2002) as well. In this survey, Gainey points are relatively large-to medium-sized, with relatively deep basal concavities analogous to Redstone points but exhibit an excurvate to parallel-sided rather than triangular blade form. A single long, pronounced flute occurs on at least one face of a few specimens, but just as often shallow multiple flutes are also present. A single Simpson-like point (Bullen 1975), seven broken fluted point performs, and four indeterminate fluted-point fragments round out the point types.

Trends in raw material use noted in the first report are generally enhanced by the additional data. Metavolcanic stone ($n = 137$, 54.4 percent) dominates raw material types. Stone sources of this raw material likely come from the Carolina Slate Belt in the eastern Piedmont and from the Uwharrie Mountains in particular (Daniel and Butler 1991, 1996). Chert ($n = 79$, 31.3 percent) constitutes the second-most abundant stone type and represents a variety of cryptocrystalline materials including jasper and chalcedony. These materials almost certainly originated from several sources located outside North Carolina. In any case, most chert specimens probably reflect exchange or mobility originating from outside the state. Quartz, quartzite, and crystal quartz are grouped into a residual category ($n = 36$, 14.3 percent) and include far fewer points than metavolcanic stone or chert despite their more widespread availability in the state.

In short, the above pattern of stone use supports the notion of two Paleoindian settlement clusters—one centered in the eastern Piedmont and

the second in the Mountains—noted previously (Daniel 2000, 2005). Greater than expected frequencies of metavolcanic points occurring in the Piedmont along with fewer than expected occurrences of chert points contrast with the Mountains, where greater than expected frequencies of chert points occur along with lesser frequencies of metavolcanic points. The relative absence, for instance, of Tennessee cherts in the Piedmont and Uwharrie rhyolite in the Mountains bespeaks an absence of movement or contact between the regions. Thus, the occupation of the Piedmont appears unrelated to the Mountains.

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