

Folsom Points from Crane County, Texas: Site 41CR10 (The Hot Tubb Site)

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ABSTRACT

A multi-component Folsom-Midland bison kill site has been studied in Crane County, Texas. Originally recorded in the 1980s, it was later excavated in 2002-2003 by archaeologists from Southern Methodist University. Since that time, the authors have been able to document seven additional Folsom points from this site and the data are presented here.

INTRODUCTION

Seven Folsom points found at a site on the Tubb Ranch (41CR10), Crane County, Texas, are reported and discussed in this paper (Figure 1). The artifacts were surface collected over a period of several years, having been exposed in a deep sand blowout, along with remnants of a bison kill. The finder, Nick Esquivel, reported the site to Dr. Michael Collins early in the 1980s. Dr. Collins visited the site in 1984 and recorded it with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL). During his visit, Collins was accompanied by Dennis Stanford and Pegi Jodry. The site is located on the Sandhills Ranch, and more specifically in the Tubbs Oilfield Lease. Given the scorching temperatures in west Texas during the visit, it seemed only appropriate for the site to be named "Hot Tubb."

In 2002 and 2003, Dr. David Meltzer, of Southern Methodist University (SMU) conducted two seasons of excavations at this site and subsequently published a complete report on his excavations (Meltzer et al. 2006). At the time of his publication, these artifacts were not available for study and documentation. In the fall of 2006, the authors were fortunate enough to borrow and record the specimens. This short paper is therefore intended to be a supplement to the work previously published by Dr. Meltzer on this site (Meltzer et al. 2006).

The archaeology of Crane County has been summarized by Harrell (1995). He was aware of the Hot

Tubb site and noted the limited evidence for Folsom within the county. The Hot Tubb Site is located in the Monahans Dunes of central Crane County between the towns of Monahans and Crane. This locale is just southwest of the geological feature known as the "Caprock." The area is best described as a transitional zone between the Southern High Plains and the Chihuahuan Biotic Province (Blair 1950).

The site is multi-component, including a Folsom-Midland era bison kill of at least six *Bison antiquus*. Other Paleoindian and Archaic artifacts are also reported (Meltzer et al. 2006; Figure 7).



Figure 1. Location of Crane County.

ARTIFACT DESCRIPTIONS

Specimen 1 (Figure 2)

This is a complete Folsom point made of fair quality, light brown, Edwards chert. Both faces are fluted with a single flute scar. The flute on side one (obverse) is well defined and runs the entire length of the specimen, while the flute on the reverse is obliterated by pressure flaking above the hafting point on the lateral edges. An uninitiated fluting nipple was prepared for the reverse face, apparently for another fluting attempt, but never used. The specimen exhibits heavy grinding on both lateral edges.

Specimen 2 (Figure 3)

The specimen is a complete Folsom point fluted on both faces by single flutes. The material is a good quality, light brown to dark brown Edwards chert. There are no remnants of a fluting nipple on either face. Both lateral edges are heavily ground. This point is distinctly lanceolate in shape as opposed to typical Folsoms. This specimen has the widest flutes of all of the artifacts reported in this paper.

Specimen 3 (Figure 4)

This is another complete Folsom point, made of high quality, gray chalcedony or agatized wood. The material contains fine, black linear features. One feature cuts diagonally across the distal end of the Folsom point and appears to be a healed fracture. Under light magnification, there are yellow and white streaks dispersed longitudinally across both faces. The left basal ear is predominately yellow in color and which could possibly be indicative of the material directly under the core cortex. The base has been thinned with two flutes, which may have initiated simultaneously. A third flute on the obverse face appears to have initiated from the distal tip and terminates in a hinge under one of the basal flutes. This is possible evidence that this point was fluted by using a method of compression, by placing the distal tip against an anvil. The distal flute does not exhibit characteristics one would expect from an impact fracture. The origin of the distal flute have been obliterated by resharpening. Both lateral edges are

moderately ground. No fluting nipple remnants remain. This specimen was heavily resharpened. The reverse face of this point has only one flute, which extends the entire length of the point and has been intruded upon by resharpening of the distal tip. The reverse flute is moderately erratic in both surface and flute margins.

Specimen 4 (Figure 5)

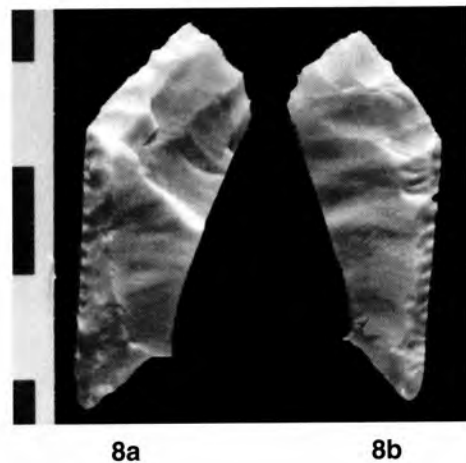
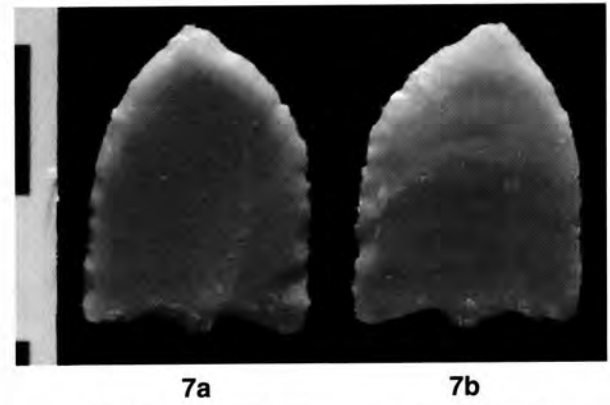
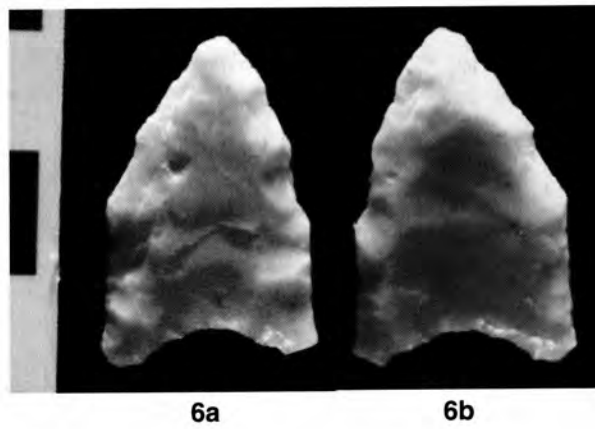
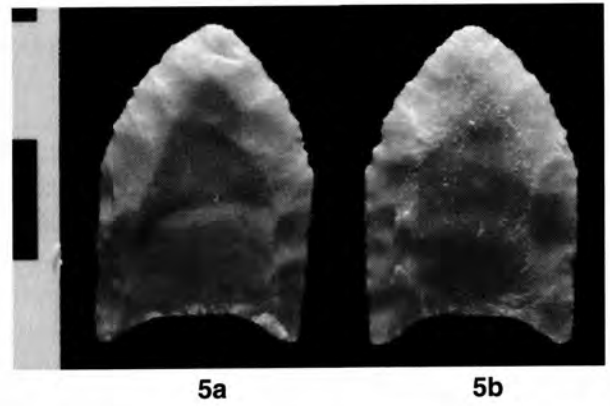
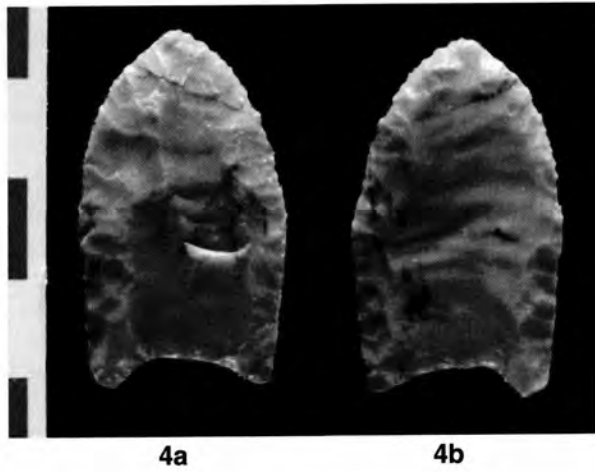
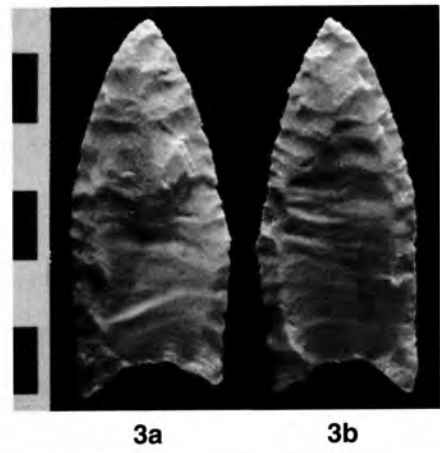
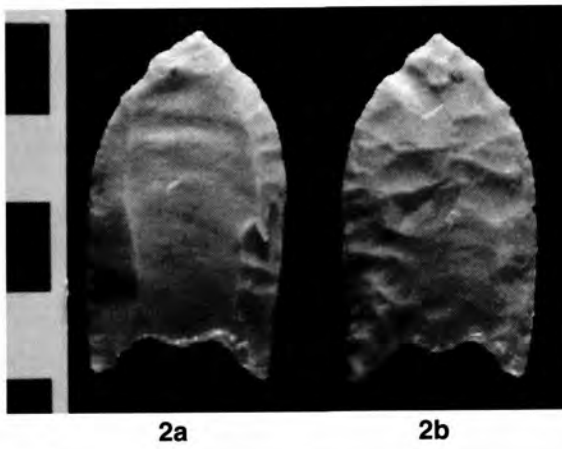
This Folsom point is complete, with a single flute on both faces. The lateral edges are heavily ground. No remnants of a fluting nipple remains on either face. Material is of a good quality, light brown, Edwards chert, which under light magnification exhibits tiny, off-white speckles dispersed throughout the material. Flutes on both faces have been obliterated by resharpening above the hafting point.

Specimen 5 (Figure 6)

The specimen is a complete, heavily resharpened Folsom point. The specimen was thinned on both faces by single flutes. No fluting nipple remnants remain. The material is a good grade, light tan, Edwards chert with tiny brown speckles dispersed throughout the material. Flute surfaces on this specimen are very smooth. This specimen has been subjected to heat and exhibits several potlids and internal heating fractures. The lateral edges are heavily ground. No fluting nipple remnants remain. Resharpening on this specimen was done alternately.

Specimen 6 (Figure 7)

This tiny specimen may be an unfluted Folsom preform. Lateral edges are not ground, though lightly tried. A prepared, uninitiated fluting nipple exists which would have fluted the obverse face. This specimen is obviously made on a small flake with side one (obverse) exhibiting the original flake surface. The material is a good quality, light brown, Edwards chert which, under light magnification exhibits tiny red speckles uniformly dispersed through out the material. This specimen was not found at the bison kill site, 41CR10, but it was in the same draw, about 1000 feet west (upstream).



Figures 2-8. Folsom Points from the Hot Tubb Site, Crane County, Texas. Each specimen is described in text. Jerry Bridwell helped edit the photographs.

Table 1. Munsell Color Chart Readings Obtained During UV Light Analysis.

UV Light Responses	Long Wave	Short Wave	Natural Light
Specimen 1	10YR 6/6	2.5Y 6/6	7.5YR 5/3
Specimen 2	10YR 4/6	10YR 5/4	7.5YR 5/3
Specimen 3	GLE Y2 2.5/5PB	GLE Y2 7/10B	GLE Y2 4/10B
Specimen 3	GLE Y2 7/5PB	White Streak Only	GLE Y2.5/5PB
Specimen 4	7.5YR 6/6	7.5YR 6/6	7.5YR 5/4
Specimen 5	2.5YR 3/6	10YR 4/6	10YR 6/4
Specimen 6	10YR 7/6	5YR 6/8	10YR 4/3
Specimen 7	2.5YR 5/6	2.5YR 4/8	10YR 7/2

Table 2. Measurements for the Folsom Specimens from 41CR10.

All measurements are in millimeters (mm).

Specimen (side 1)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maximum Length	38	57	36	29	29	22	39
Maximum Width	29	27	23	18	17	16	N/A
Maximum Width to Base	23	25	20	15	18	14	N/A
Basal Width	20	21	19	13	19	16	N/A
Maximum Thickness	4.5	4.5	4.0	3.3	4.1	2.2	4.6
Flute Thickness	2.5	4.0	3.5	2.8	4.0	N/A	N/A
Basal Concavity Depth	6.0	6.0	5.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	N/A
Number of Flutes	1	1	2	1	1	0	N/A
Flute Length	32	36	30 /20	21	22	N/A	N/A
Flute Width	15	18	12	11	10	N/A	N/A
Edge Grinding (left)	25	23	13	15	13	none	19
Edge Grinding (right)	23	23	17	14	10	none	N/A
Reworked?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Impact Fracture?	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes
<i>(side 2)</i>							
Number of flutes	1	1	1	1	1	0	N/A
Flute Length	25	37	32	21	18	N/A	N/A
Flute Width	13	18	12	14	15	N/A	N/A

Specimen 7 (Figure 8)

A fragmentary Folsom point, consisting of one basal ear and the distal tip. The specimen was fractured longitudinally. Only one lateral edge remains which exhibits very fine, highly controlled, pressure retouching. This specimen was fluted on both faces, however the number of flutes cannot be determined. The reverse face exhibits remnants of what may have been an impact fracture, which originated from the distal end, but has been obliterated by resharpener. The longitudinal fracture, which broke this specimen in two, may have occurred during resharpener. Observable flute surfaces are very smooth. The material is a high quality, light tan Edwards chert.

ARTIFACT PROVENIENCE WITHIN THE SITE

The Folsom points documented in this report, with the exception of Specimen 6, were found by Mr. Nick Esquivel in two general groupings near or within the bone bed excavated by Meltzer et al. (2006). Mr. Esquivel pointed out the find locations of the artifacts, at which time it became apparent the artifacts were “grouped” in two separate locations within the northeast quadrant of Meltzer’s grid system (Meltzer et al. 2006:Figure9). UTM coordinates were obtained with a GPS unit at these group locations. These “groupings” are designated here as *Group 1* consisting of Specimens 1 and 2 and *Group 2* consisting of Specimens 3, 4, 5 and 7. As shown in Figure 9, Group 1 was located by Mr. Esquivel as found in the main bone bed, southeast of Meltzer’s datum HTA, approximately corresponding to Meltzer’s site map at 986 meters north and 1007 meters east. Group 2 was pointed out farther east of Group 1, approximately corresponding to Meltzer’s site map at 987 meters north and 1057 meters east.

It must be noted that these locations pointed out by Mr. Esquivel, were taken years after their discovery, and, being in a dune setting, that the site has changed greatly. Thus provenience for these reported artifacts within 41CR10 can be considered only as approximations.

Ultra Violet Light Analysis

UV light analysis was accomplished using a UVGL-55 Multiband UV-254/365 NM and a Munsell Color Chart. First, all specimens colors were compared to the color chart in natural light, then all specimens placed under the UV light and responses noted in long wave, and finally in short wave responses were noted per specimen. UV light responses were taken in a dark room using an ordinary flash light to view the color chart. Results of this study can be found in Table 1.

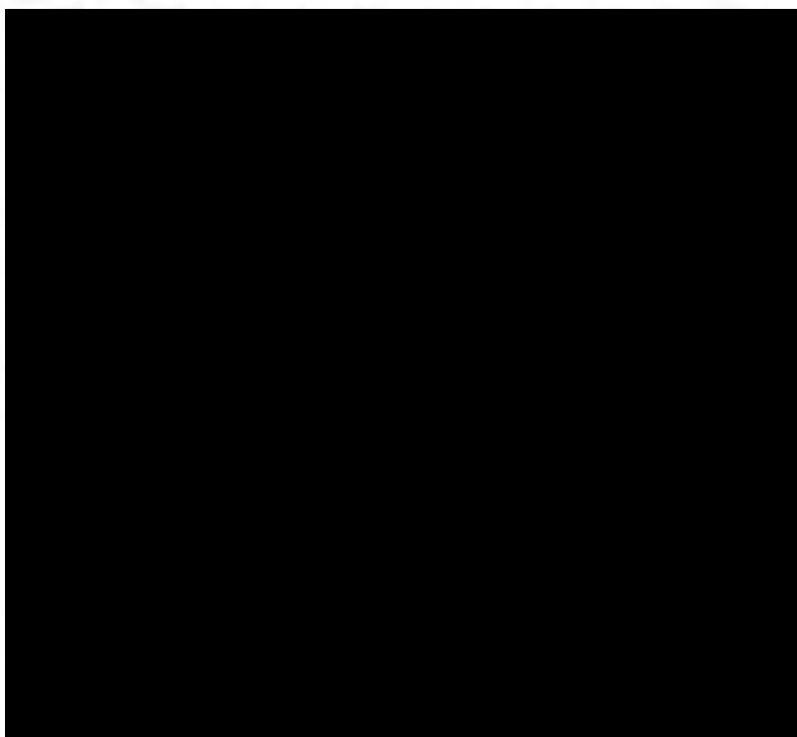


Figure 9. Topographic Map of Locality 2 at the Hot Tubb Site, 41CR10. This map reflects the work of Meltzer et al. (2006:Figure 2). However, the approximate locations of the points reported here are indicated by Group 1 and Group 2. Courtesy of *Plains Anthropologist*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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