

## A QUARRY SITE IN WESTERN DUVAL COUNTY

C. K. Chandler and Leo Lopez

### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to report a prehistoric lithic quarry site in an area where no quarry sites have been recorded before now. The site consists of a surface outcrop of large imbedded boulders of a lithic material not previously identified in this area of southwest Texas.

### THE SITE

This site is situated near the crest of a low ridge at the western edge of the Goliad Sands formation in west central Duval County (Renfro n.d.) The Goliad formation is a pliocene depositional system 300-600 feet thick made up of clay, sand, sandstone, marl, caliche, limestone and conglomerate (Sellards et al. 1954). The site is about one-half mile east of the Duval/Webb County line about 15 miles north of the small town of Bruni. The quarry material appears as an exposed surface outcrop of large imbedded boulders on the upper slope of the ridge. The exposed boulders show considerable evidence of quarrying activities with numerous flakes and chunks on the ground surface.

This material has been identified as quartz arenite. It is light gray in color. Within this same quarry is a smaller outcrop of quartz arenite that is brownish-yellow in color. This material appears to be of lesser quality than the light gray material and there is little evidence of it being quarried by prehistoric peoples. The brownish-yellow material has very little exposure at present and may not have been in evidence until fairly recent times. A recent visit to the site reveals the landowner has cleared a *sendero* immediately adjacent to the quarry and revealed a few primary and secondary flakes and nodules of this brownish material, and one thick circular biface scraper (6 to 7 cm in diameter) which appears to have been flaked by direct percussion and obviously is unfinished. While no artifacts of this yellowish

brown material were found at 41DV133, it appears to have been minimally quarried and carried to some local sites for further work.

The clearing of the *sendero* has exposed large numbers of flakes and expanded the size of the quarry to 50 meters or more in diameter.

### BACKGROUND

Compared to Central Texas and the Lower Pecos, the South Texas archaeological region is one of the least known regions of the state (Hester 1980). However, there have been a number of archeological sites recorded in this general area. Paul Ward, working from personal records of Bromley Cooper, recorded 159 sites in south-central Texas. Seventy-three of these sites were in northwest Duval County and 44 were in northeast Webb County. The area of these sites is just north and northwest of this quarry site. None of the sites recorded by Ward were identified as a quarry site.

What brought our attention to this site was the finding of a complete Folsom point about one mile to the north. Rose Treviño reported this point to the Office of the State Archeologist and that office requested C. K. Chandler to investigate the site of the Folsom find to determine if it was a Folsom site or just an isolated find. The point was found by Al Lopez while deer hunting on family ranch property. Al did not live in the area but his brother, Leo, knew the location of the Folsom find. Leo guided a group of us to investigate the site. En route we crossed this low ridge where the quarry site is located. While investigating the area of the Folsom find, Leo called our attention to a large area of scattered



lithics and deflated hearths (41DV133). A surface collection was made. Several stemless dart points, two unifacial Clear Fork tools, a sandstone tubular pipe and a number of thin bifaces and biface fragments were collected.

Additional materials have been collected from the lithic scatter and deflated hearth area (41DV133) and all materials collected have been documented and classified. They include several Desmuke dart points, two Lerma, several Nueces Scrapers, two Clear Fork tools, several Perdiz arrow points, a sandstone pipe and a pipe fragment. The two Clear Fork tools (generally called gouges), several thin triangular bifaces, a few thick bifaces and a few biface fragments, and four flakes are all of the light gray quartz arenite. Of the 10 Desmuke points two are of the light gray quartz arenite. None of the artifacts collected from 41DV133 were of the brownish-yellow material.

On returning from investigating the surface site and the area of the Folsom find we stopped to

investigate the rock outcrop on the ridge. Samples of material from both the gray and the brownish-yellow rock outcrops were collected and portions of this material have been placed at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin, the Office of the State Archeologist in Austin, and at the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio for comparative analysis purposes.

## CONCLUSIONS

Clear Fork tools have a long history of use. Large Clear Fork unifaces often appear in the Early Archaic (Turner and Hester 1985). Desmuke points are primarily of the Late Archaic time period. It appears that the quarry site reported here (41DV134) was used throughout most of the Archaic period by prehistoric peoples as a source of good quality material for the manufacture of both projectiles and tools.

## References Cited

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Hester, Thomas R.<br/>1980 <i>Digging into South Texas Prehistory</i>.<br/>Corona Publishing Company. San<br/>Antonio.</p> <p>Renfro, H. B.<br/>n.d. Geological Highway Map of Texas<br/>(Map No. 7). The American<br/>Association of Petroleum Geologists.<br/>Tulsa, Oklahoma.</p> | <p>Sellards, E. H., W. S. Adkins, and F. B.<br/>Plummer<br/>1949 <i>The Geology of Texas, Vol. 1:<br/>Stratigraphy. Bureau of Economic<br/>Geology, The University of Texas<br/>Bulletin 3232, Austin.</i></p> <p>Turner, Ellen Sue and Thomas R. Hester<br/>1985 <i>A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of<br/>Texas Indians</i>. Texas Monthly Press,<br/>Austin.</p> |
|---|--|

=====

ATTENTION LA TIERRA CONTRIBUTORS!

Please see Page 40 of this issue for some additional requirements for all manuscripts submitted to the Editor.