

Folsom Points from Los Guachimontones Site, Jalisco, Mexico

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Recent archaeological research at the Los Guachimontones site (Jalisco, Mexico) yielded two fluted projectile point fragments (Esparza 2004:81–2) that fit the Folsom type (D. Stanford, pers. comm., December 2005). Los Guachimontones is by far the most important ceremonial building of the Teuchitlán Tradition, occupied around 350 B.C. to A.D. 500 (Weigand 1993). Although the finds are *anno domine*, we consider them relevant because of the scarcity of Folsom points in Mexico (Pearson 2002) and their potential importance for Paleoamerican research in Jalisco.

Although the three last authors believe that the specimens are of local obsidian, the first author considers they are probably of dark-green chert. Ongoing petrographical analyses will help to determine the raw material used to make these points, as well as their source. The first specimen was found along with obsidian prismatic blades within a layer below the fine clay floor of the ball court of the site (Figure 1A) (Weigand 1993; Weigand and García de Weigand 2005). It is a meso-basal fragment of a Folsom point (Figure 1B) 39 mm long, 34 mm wide, and 8 mm thick. Irregularities and contrabulbs of the scars suggest it was retouched by irregular pressure. Flake spacing and the absence of edge and basal grinding suggest it is likely an unfinished preform (D. Stanford, pers. comm., November 2005).

The other specimen is a basal portion of another Folsom preform (Figure 1C). It was found in Circle 6 of Los Guachimontones (Figure 1A). Because it was associated with human bones and shards dating to late pre-Classic times (ca. 100 B.C.), it might be a burial offering (Cach 2003). It is 29 mm long, 22 mm wide, and 8 mm thick. This specimen may have been broken during manufacture.

These points may have been collected for ceremonial use by Los Guachimontones inhabitants from nearby locations, such as the beaches at Zacoalco

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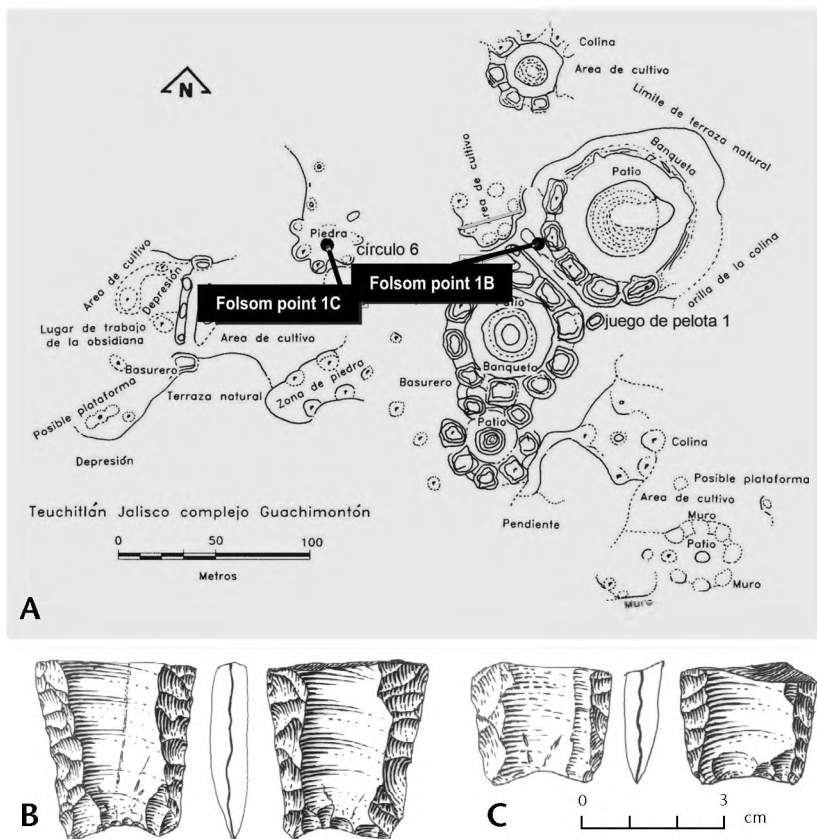


Figure 1. A, Map showing the original location of the points; B–C, Folsom points found in Los Guachimontones site.

Lake (around 45 km to the south) that have produced Paleoamerican surface finds (Arroyo Cabrales et al. 2003), and similar localities near Guadalajara (Irish et al. 2000). The Los Guachimontones finds are, in fact, the westernmost occurrence of Folsom points yet found in Mexico. They also increase to eight the number of occurrences of recorded and published Folsom points in Mexico (Pearson 2002:Table 6).

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