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Research Design Archaeological Site 41KE93
Kendall County, Texas

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Very little information is available regarding Site 41KE93. The site is located adjacent to FM 474, approximately 8.7 miles northeast of Boerne, in Kendall County, Texas. It is situated on a small finger of land some 100 meters south of the Guadalupe River at Ammans Crossing and is bordered to the west by Sebinas Creek. Two hearths and a scatter of lithic debris were observed on the surface at the time the site was recorded, but no temporal or cultural indicators have, as yet, been found. From surface indications within the project right-of-way, the portion of the site available for the present study is limited to an area of about 100 by 50 ft. (the limits of the SDHPT jurisdiction).

Testing operations will begin with a thorough surface examination of the site in order to locate any exposed concentrations of cultural materials. The exposed hearths will be exposed and documented with drawings and photographs. A series of 2 meter squares will be excavated along the right-of-way fence from the area of the hearths toward the river in order to determine the depth of the culture-bearing deposits and to evaluate the integrity of the cultural zones. The goal of the testing phase shall be to evaluate the site for potential State Archeological Landmark status as well as to delineate the temporal, cultural, and spatial limits of the site.

Areas with the greatest soil and cultural depths will be chosen for more extensive excavation as the components, if present, are more likely to be isolated in deeper soils. Plans are to expose larger excavation areas if
testing results warrant more detailed investigation. These areas will be excavated in 4 meter blocks quartered into 2 meter squares and dug in either 5 or 10 cm levels, depending upon the results of the previous testing. All hand-excavated matrix will be passed through 0.25 in. hardware cloth in order to recover lithic and organic remains by square and level. Soil samples will be taken for potential special studies such as pollen analysis or snail studies.

Research goals will center on a determination of the age and cultural affiliation of the site as well as a determination of site function, with an emphasis on revealing the exploitative strategies through time. Hopefully preservation conditions will favor the recovery of organic materials and a partial understanding of which materials were being exploited at the site can be obtained. The cultural history of the site and of Kendall County will also be explored through an analysis of material recovered through these investigations.