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## Initial Testing Report and Recommendations for Archaeological Resources Along Proposed Loop 1604, Bexar County, Texas

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## Initial Testing Report and Recommendations for Archaeological Resources Along Proposed Loop 1604, Bexar County, Texas

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INITIAL TESTING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RESOURCES ALONG PROPOSED LOOP 1604, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

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State Department of Highways  
and Public Transportation

Archaeology Section

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INITIAL TESTING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RESOURCES ALONG PROPOSED LOOP 1604, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

Archaeological Site 41BX503 is located in southeastern Bexar County along Loop 1604 at the intersection of the Loop and Schultz Road and is 4.2 miles south of the intersection of U.S. 181 and F.M. 1518. The site was discovered on July 13, 1978, by a member of the S.D.H.P.T. professional cultural resources staff and was recommended for testing in accordance with Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 C.F.R., Part 800). Testing was conducted from November 8 through December 6, 1978, by the Department's professional cultural resources staff.

The site is located along the western end of a small second terrace system overlooking the San Antonio River floodplain to the west and south. The floodplain extends .25 mile west and approximately 1.0 mile south to the river. The site is along the eastern side of the river and is within 50 meters of an overflow channel of the river (Figure 1).

Site 41BX503 covers an area 40 meters north-south and 90 meters east-west, with the western half lying within the proposed Right of Way. Cultural debris was found thinly scattered along the terrace crest in a 40-by-40-meter area. This area has been frequently plowed which may have resulted in an exaggeration of the horizontal limits of the site to some extent.

Testing of the site was accomplished through the use of three backhoe trenches along the margins of the site and seven 2-meter squares spaced across the Right of Way (Figure 2). All of the squares were excavated in arbitrary 10-cm. levels from the present ground surface after the 20-cm. thick plow zone was removed as one level. All soil from the units was screened through 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth.

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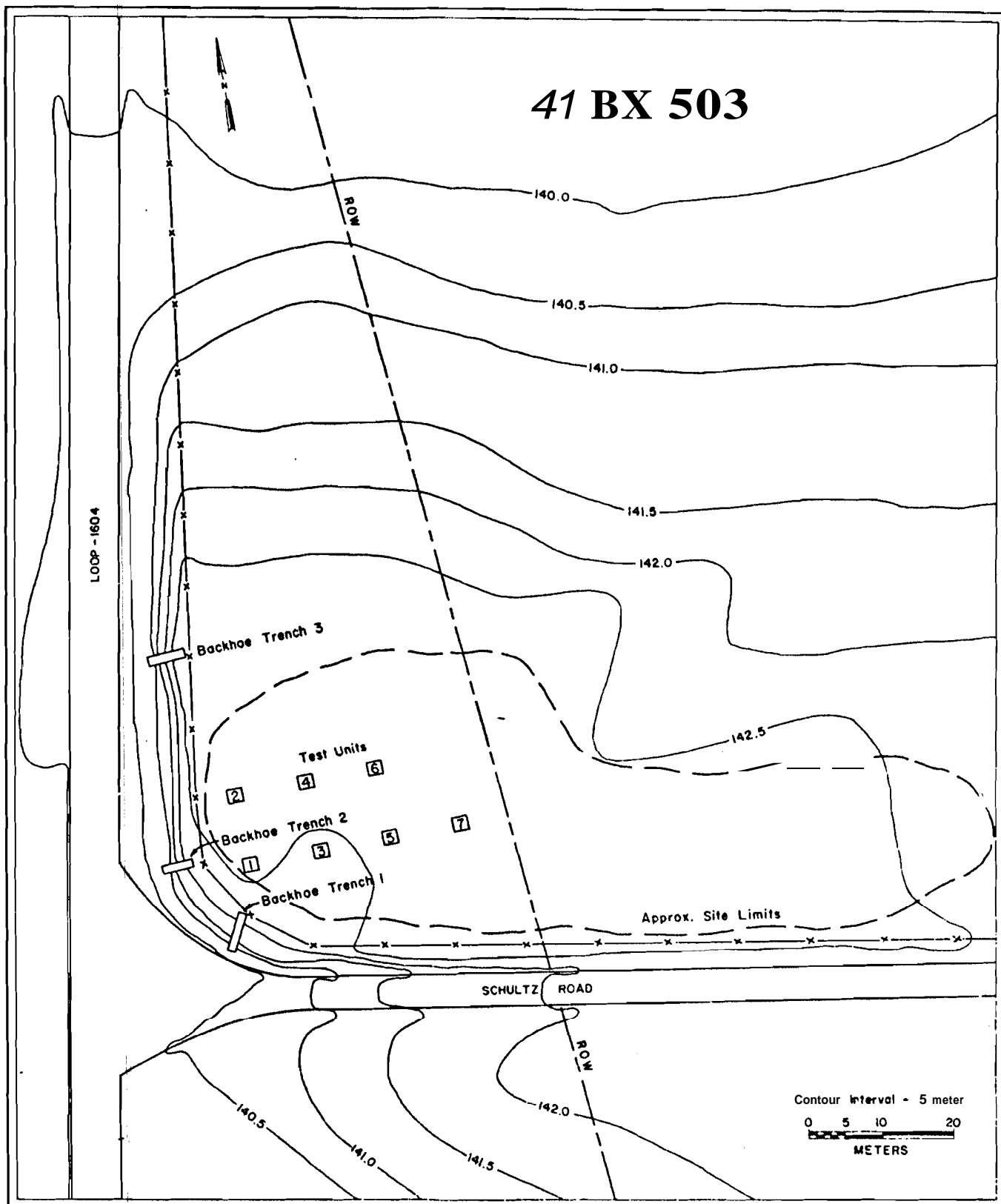


Figure 2. Contour Map of 41BX503

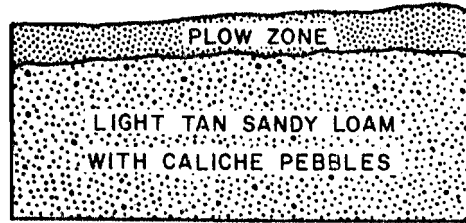
Soil profiles from the backhoe cuts and the test units revealed that the basic soil was a light tan sandy loam with scattered caliche pebbles extending to a minimum depth of 4 meters below the surface. The backhoe cuts outside the plowed field revealed a 60-cm. thick upper zone of brown sandy loam overlying the light tan sandy loam. This upper zone was not apparent in the test units and is presumed to have eroded away and to have mixed with the lower deposits due to plowing activities. Selected soil profiles are illustrated in Figure 3.

Cultural debris was not apparent in the backhoe trenches and was largely limited to the top four levels, or 50 cm., in the hand-excavated units. The bulk of the recovered materials was found in the plow zone with a rapid drop in density of materials in each succeeding level. The plow zone yielded 61.2% of the recovered debris, Level 2 contained 25.8%, Level 3 had 10%, and Level 4 produced 2.8%. Levels 5 through 8 contained less than 1% each. Cores and chipped stone tools were recovered from only the upper 30 cm., and 86.6% of these were from the plow zone. Historic debris, consisting primarily of glass and crockery, was recovered from the upper three levels (40 cm.) in the same zones showing the highest density of flakes, cores, and chipped stone tools. Material distributions are shown in Figure 4.

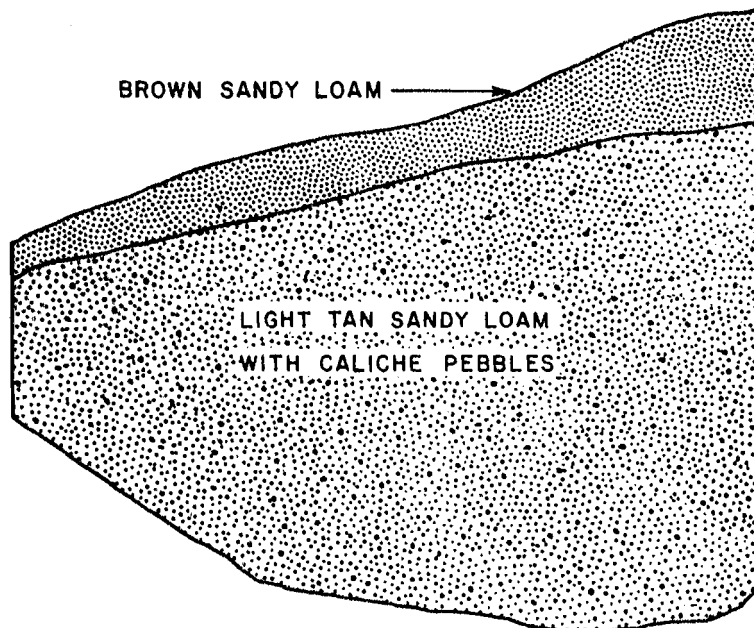
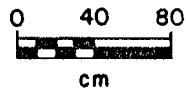
The cultural occupations at Site 41BX503 do not appear to exceed 40 cm. in depth and are more likely limited to the upper 30 cm. Some mixing is evident by the freshly plowed field with the 20-cm. deep plow zone and by some historic materials found as deep as 40 cm.

Approximately 1% of the site within the Right of Way was tested, and a very low yield of chipped stone tools and cores was recovered. A total of 37 levels was excavated; and only 4 biface fragments, 1 preform, and 11 cores were recovered. No diagnostic artifacts were found beneath the

# 41 BX 503



Test Unit 1



Backhoe Trench I

Figure 3. Soil Profiles (41BX503)



Level	Test Unit: 1	Test Unit 2	Test Unit 3	Test Unit 4	Test Unit 5	Test Unit 6	Test Unit 7
Flake Counts							
0-20 cm	19	188	85	103	245	127	327
20-30 cm	55	96	33	5	92	49	143
50-60 cm	2	12			0		
60-70 cm	0	6					
70-80 cm	1	0					
80-90 cm	0	1					
Cores and Chipped Stone Tools							
0-20 cm	1	1	0	4	5	2	0
20-30 cm	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
30-90 cm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Historic Debris							
0-20 cm	2	7	2	1	9	4	1
20-30 cm	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
30-40 cm	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
40-90 cm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Level	Average Flakes	Total Cores/Tools	Total Historic Debris
0-20 cm	156.2	13	26
20-30 cm	67.5	2	4
30-40 cm	26.4	0	1
40-50 cm	7.4	0	0
50-60 cm	4.6	0	0
60-70 cm	3.0	0	0
70-80 cm	0.5	0	0
80-90 cm	0.5	0	0

Figure 4. Distribution of Cultural Materials (41BX503)

the surface although 4 were found on top. Daily surface examinations in a clean field produced only 1 Bulverde, 1 Lerma, 1 Tortugas, and 1 Fairland point, along with 4 biface fragments and 7 cores. Selected artifacts are illustrated in Figure 5.

This low recovery rate of tools is taken to be indicative of a small and short-term prehistoric occupation(s) at Site 41BX503. If the recovered sample can be considered representative of the site, the high ratio of cores to tools (18:13) may indicate that the primary activity at the site was lithic reduction of stream-rolled flint cobbles. Features, such as burned rocks and hearths, were notably absent; and the lack of these items may indicate short-term utilization of the area.

Site 41BX503 appears to be a minor Archaic site with a major emphasis on core reduction. The site shows some mixing due to plowing activities, and some downward movement of cultural debris is also expected in the sandy soils. The deposits appear shallow, with most of the site disturbed by plowing. These disturbances and the seemingly minor nature of the occupation indicate that the site has little significance in Texas prehistory.

Site 41BX503 does not meet the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and further archaeological mitigation is not warranted.

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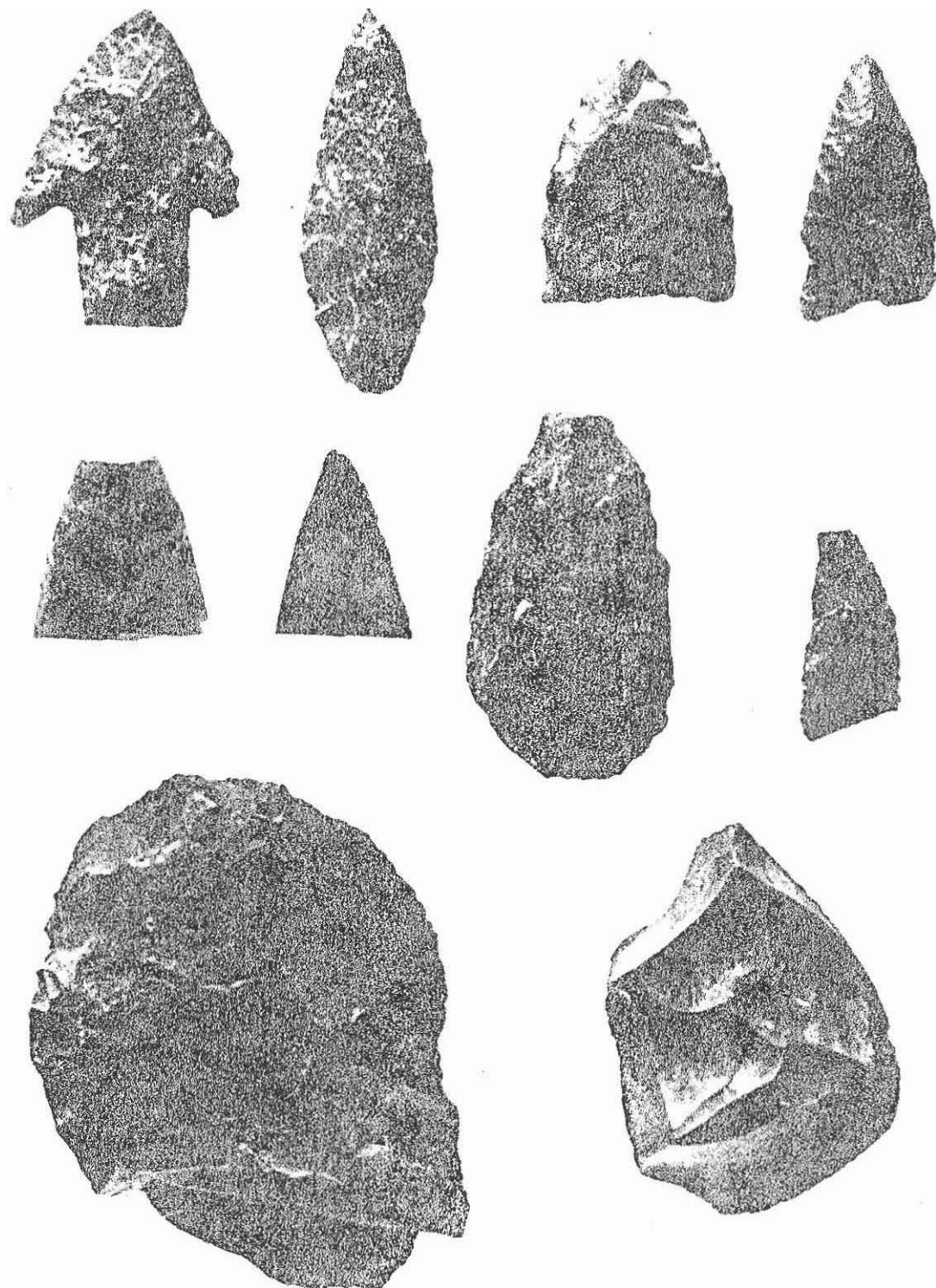


Figure 5. Selected Artifacts (41BX503)