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Cultural Resources Survey For The Braun Elevated Storage Tank (EST) Project

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Cultural Resources Survey For The Braun Elevated Storage Tank (EST) Project

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CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY FOR THE BRAUN ELEVATED STORAGE TANK (EST) PROJECT

Williamson County, Texas

Final Report
December 2018

Texas Historical Commission
TAC Permit # 8515

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aci Project No.: 32-17-161

Abstract

On September 20, 2018, aci consulting conducted a cultural resources survey for the Braun Elevated Storage Tank (EST) Project in Williamson County, Texas. The Area of Potential Effect APE(APE) consists of a square, 0.82-acre (0.33-hectare) area and is located 656 feet (200 meters) north on an unnamed road off of W. State Highway (SH) 29, 1.2 miles (2 kilometers) west of Ronald Reagan Blvd. The entire 0.82-acre area was surveyed in preparation for the installation of the Braun EST (Figures 1 and 2).

This work was conducted in compliance with the Texas Administrative Code (13 TAC 26.20[2]) under Texas Antiquities Code permit number 8515, as well as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The survey did not result in the location of any new archeological sites, historic structures, or additional historic properties. Based on these results, no further archeological work is recommended. Records from this investigation will be curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL). Julie Shipp served as Principal Investigator.

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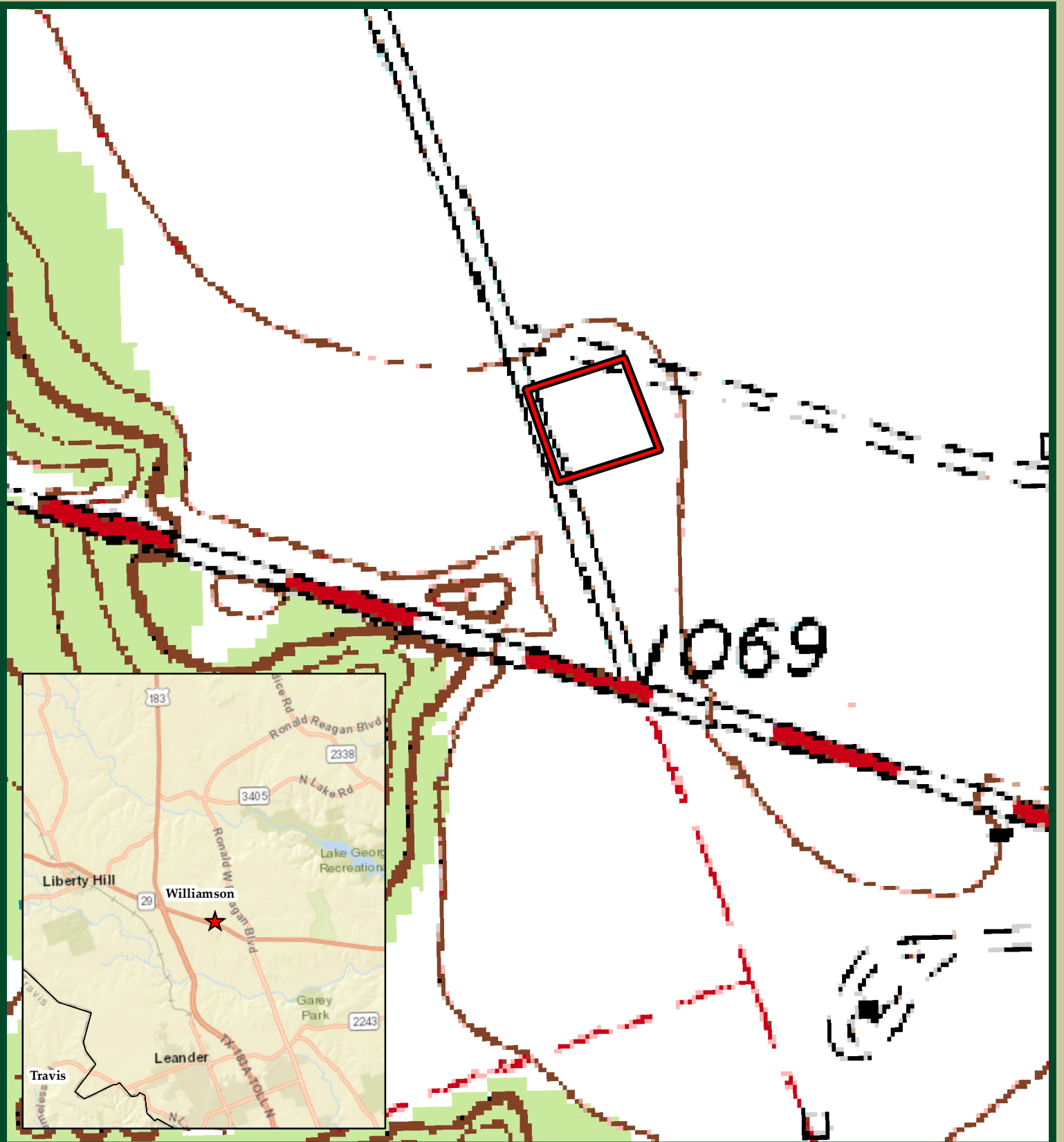
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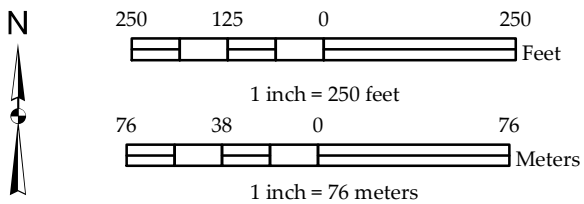
1.0 INTRODUCTION

On September 20, 2018, aci consulting conducted a cultural resources survey for the Braun Elevated Storage Tank (EST) Project in Williamson County, Texas. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) consists of a square, 0.82-acre (0.33-hectare) area and is located 656 feet (200 meters) north on an unnamed road off of W. State Highway (SH) 29, 1.2 miles (2 kilometers) west of Ronald Reagan Blvd. The entire 0.82-acre area was surveyed in preparation for the installation of the Braun EST (Figures 1 and 2).

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This map is intended for planning purposes only. All map data should be considered preliminary. All boundaries and designations are subject to confirmation.

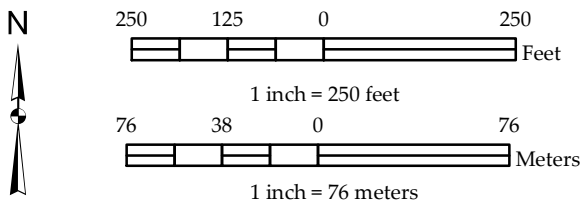


 Project Area





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 Project Area



2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.1 Physiography

The APE is located in central Texas in the south end of the Lampasas Cut Plain. The Lampasas Cut Plain is characterized by rolling hills bisected by the Brazos River and its tributaries to form broad, shallow valleys. In this region, the hills provide approximately 100 feet (30 meters) of relief along the creeks. Karst features including sinks, caves, and rock shelters are present but not common (Collins and Mear 1998).

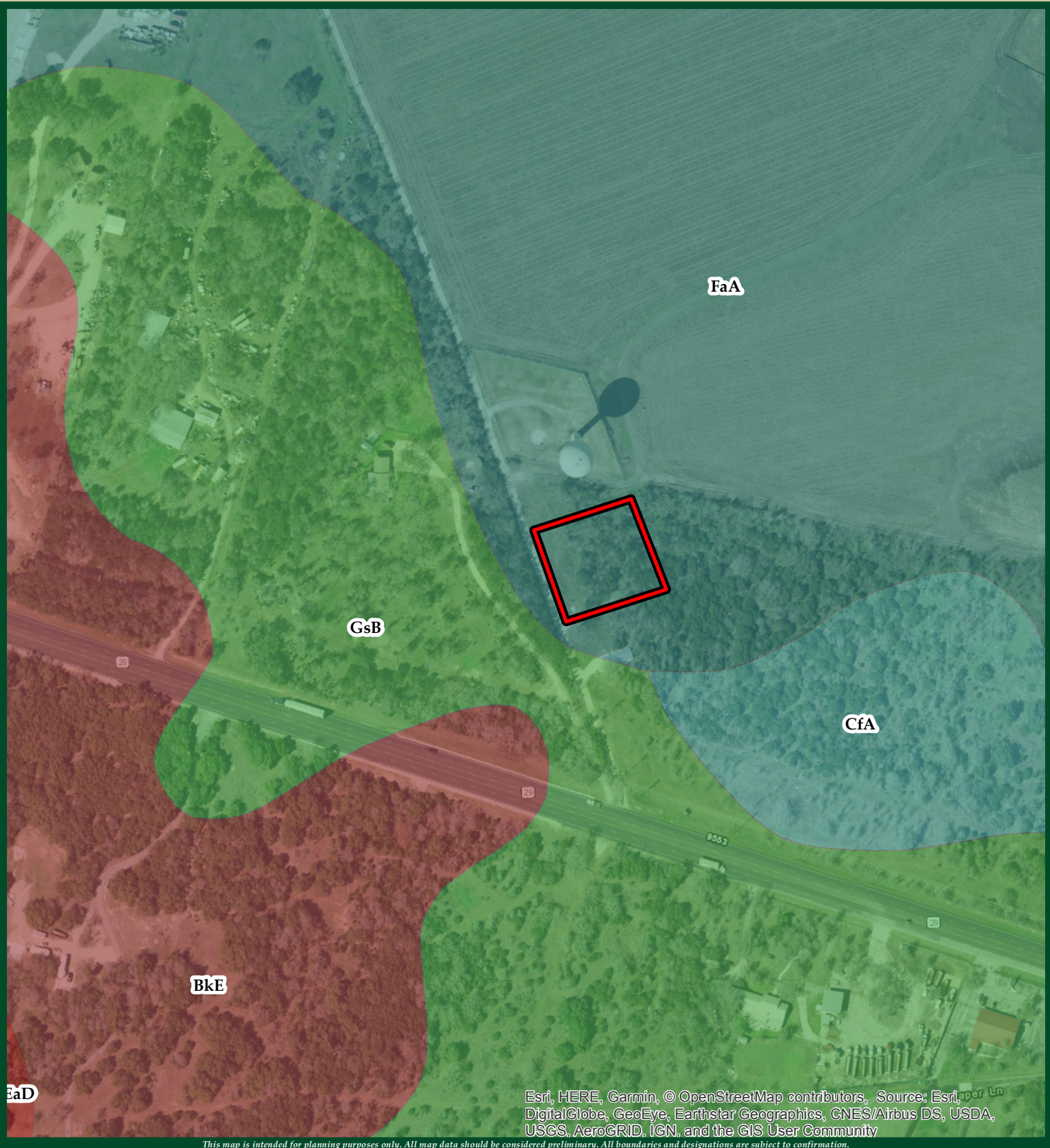
The Blackland Prairie lies just to the east of the APE on the eastern side of the Balcones Escarpment, a fault zone with hills to the west and north and low relief to the east and south. The Blackland Prairie supports prairie vegetation along with small woods often found along low-gradient streams. The Edwards Plateau is located just to the west of the APE. This region differs from the Lampasas Cut Plain in that the stream cut valleys are more deeply incised. Springs, karstic sinks, caves, and rock shelters are characteristic of the region (Collins and Mear 1998).

2.2 Geology and Soils

The geology of the region typically includes the Georgetown Formation overlying the Edwards Limestone Group that interfingers with the Comanche Peak Formation in Williamson County. These rocks are underlain by the Walnut Formation, which has members including the Keys Valley Marl Member, the Cedar Park Member, the Bee Cave Member, and the Bull Creek Member. Below the Walnut Formation is the Glen Rose Formation, another marine limestone that is a major groundwater source in the region (Barnes 1974).

One soil series is mapped within the APE (NRCS 2018; Figure 3). Fairlie clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes (FaA) consists of deep, moderately well drained, very slowly permeable soils. These soils are on nearly level to gently sloping uplands. Fairlie has been previously determined to have a low probability to contain archeological sites according to the Potential Archeological Liability Maps (PALM) model created by TxDOT ENV for highway projects in the Austin District (Abbott 2013). According to the Austin Hybrid District Potential

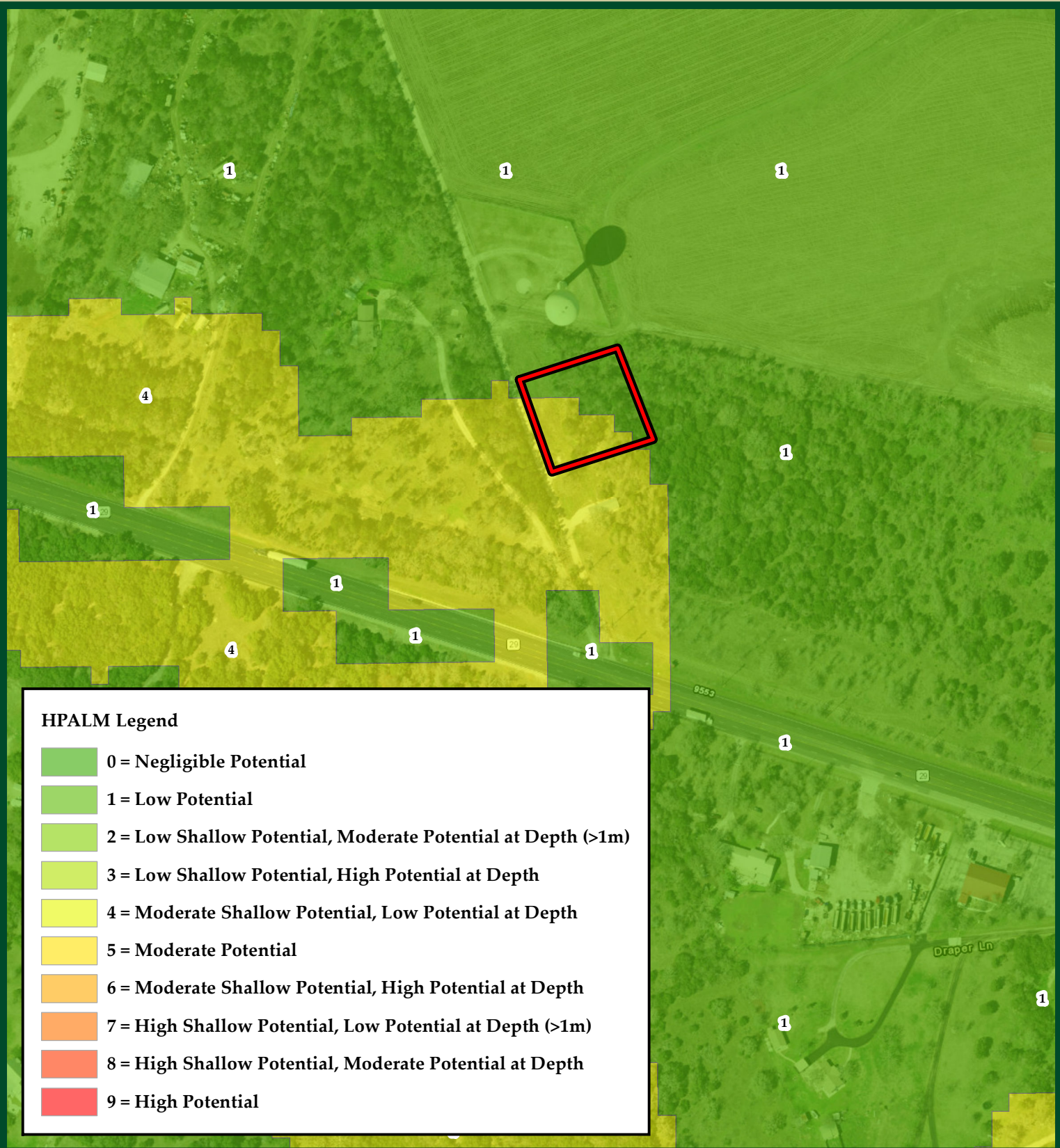
Archeological Liability Map (HPALM), the northeast half of the APE has low potential for cultural resources while the southwest half has moderate potential for intact cultural resources at a shallow depth (Figure 4) (Abbott and Pletka 2015).



N
 250 125 0 250
 Feet
 1 inch = 250 feet
 76 38 0 76
 Meters
 1 inch = 76 meters

 Project Area





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3.0 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

A literature review of the THC Archeological Sites Database (the Atlas) revealed that no previously recorded sites are within the APE nor has any portion of the APE been previously surveyed. Two archeological sites are located within one kilometer of the APE, as well as a cemetery. One previous investigation is mapped parallel to the south of SH 29 (Table 1 and Figure 5).

Table 1. Previously Recorded Sites Within One kilometer of the APE

Trinomial	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility	Distance from APE	Recommendations
41WM458	Prehistoric lithic quarry	Unknown	526 m west	None, site has been fully documented
41WM782	Prehistoric lithic quarry	Unknown	930 m west	None

4.0 METHODS

4.1 Survey Method

An intensive pedestrian survey of the entire APE was conducted to locate any archeological sites or other historical properties that may be within the APE. The pedestrian survey was conducted along the non-disturbed 0.82-acres (0.33-hectare) APE (see Figures 1 and 2). The northeast half of the APE has a low potential for cultural resources while the southwest half has a moderate potential for intact cultural resources at a shallow depth (see Figure 4).

Ground visibility was greater than 30% throughout the APE, and the soil was very shallow, commonly with bedrock at surface, therefore no shovel tests were conducted during the pedestrian survey. Visual inspection was used to determine the presence of cultural resources within the APE. Photographs were taken, and field notes discussing daily progress were created by the surveyor.

5.0 RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

The proposed APE consists of a square, 0.82-acre (0.33-hectare) area. The APE was entered from the west from an unnamed dirt road that is north of W. SH 29 and was surveyed using linear transects. The survey was conducted under warm conditions in the morning under a clear sky, with a slight breeze. No issues arose during the survey of the APE.

Ground surface was nearly level and vegetation consisted primarily of cedar elm, Ashe juniper, and mixed grasses and weeds. Visibility ranged from 30 to 100%, and bedrock was present at surface, therefore no shovel tests were conducted (Figure 6). Photographs and field notes discussing daily progress were created during the survey. Modern trash dumps were scattered throughout the APE (Figure 7). No cultural resources were located as a result of this investigation.



Figure 6. Example of ground visibility within the APE



Figure 7. Example of modern trash within the APE

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On September 20, 2018, aci consulting conducted a cultural resources survey for the Braun Elevated Storage Tank (EST) Project in Williamson County, Texas. APE consists of a square, 0.82-acre (0.33-hectare) area. The APE is located 656 feet (200 meters) north on an unnamed road off of W. State Highway (SH) 29, two kilometers west of Ronald Reagan Blvd. The entire 0.82-acre area was surveyed in preparation for the installation of the Braun EST (Figures 1 and 2).

The investigation consisted of a pedestrian survey and did not result in the location of new or previously recorded archeological sites, nor any other historic properties. Based on these results, no further archeological work is recommended. It must be noted that no level of survey intensity can be guaranteed to locate all cultural features within the APE. Therefore, should previously-unrecorded cultural resources, including human remains, be discovered during the course of construction for this project, the City of Georgetown will contact a qualified professional archeologist to assess the findings.

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