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An Archaeological Survey for the City of Bryan's Eastside Facility Project in Brazos County, Texas

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***AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE
CITY OF BRYAN'S EASTSIDE FACILITY
IN BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS***

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8903



***Ed Baxter Consulting
Archaeological Report 2019-01***

2019

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CITY OF BRYAN'S EASTSIDE FACILITY PROJECT
IN BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS**

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Ed Baxter Consulting
Archaeological Report 2019-01

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Abstract

An archaeological survey of the proposed 78 acre (32 hectares) City of Bryan's Eastside Facility Project, in Brazos County, Texas was performed by Ed Baxter, Consulting in May of 2019. Edward P. Baxter was the Principal Investigator and the Project Archaeologist. The survey took a total of three man days in the field. This study was performed under Texas Antiquities Committee Permit Number 8903. The project area was investigated using the pedestrian survey method supported by shovel testing. No previously recorded archaeological sites or cemeteries were found in the project area. The survey found no new archaeological sites. Copies of this final short report will be housed at the Texas Historical Commission (THC), Archeology Division, the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), the Texas State Library, and at Ed Baxter Consulting (College Station, Texas).

Acknowledgments

Ed Baxter Consulting is grateful to Jayson Barfknecht and Bill Riley with the City of Bryan and Bill Cullen of JBS Engineering & Environmental, LLC who aided in project development and completion. Special thanks to the landowners Susan Mcgee Vogt and Durwood Thompson, Jr. who provided access to the project area.

Definition of the Study Area

The 78 acre (32 hectare) project area is located in the Southeast Texas Archaeological Region (Figure 1) and is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Reliance, Texas 7.5' topographic quadrangle, 3096-413 (Figure 2) at UTM 14R 765459; 3393889 in Brazos County, Texas.

The area is privately owned and consists of pasture and forest used for ranching and deer hunting. Ranching disturbances included field roads and pasture clearing activities.

The Texas Municipal Power Agency's (TMPA) high voltage power line and access road has been constructed along the northern boundary of the project area.

An intermittent portion of Brushy Creek traverses along the northeastern boundary of the project area. An intermittent tributary to Brushy Creek traverses along the southeastern portion of the project area to a point of confluence with Brushy Creek at the eastern corner of the project.

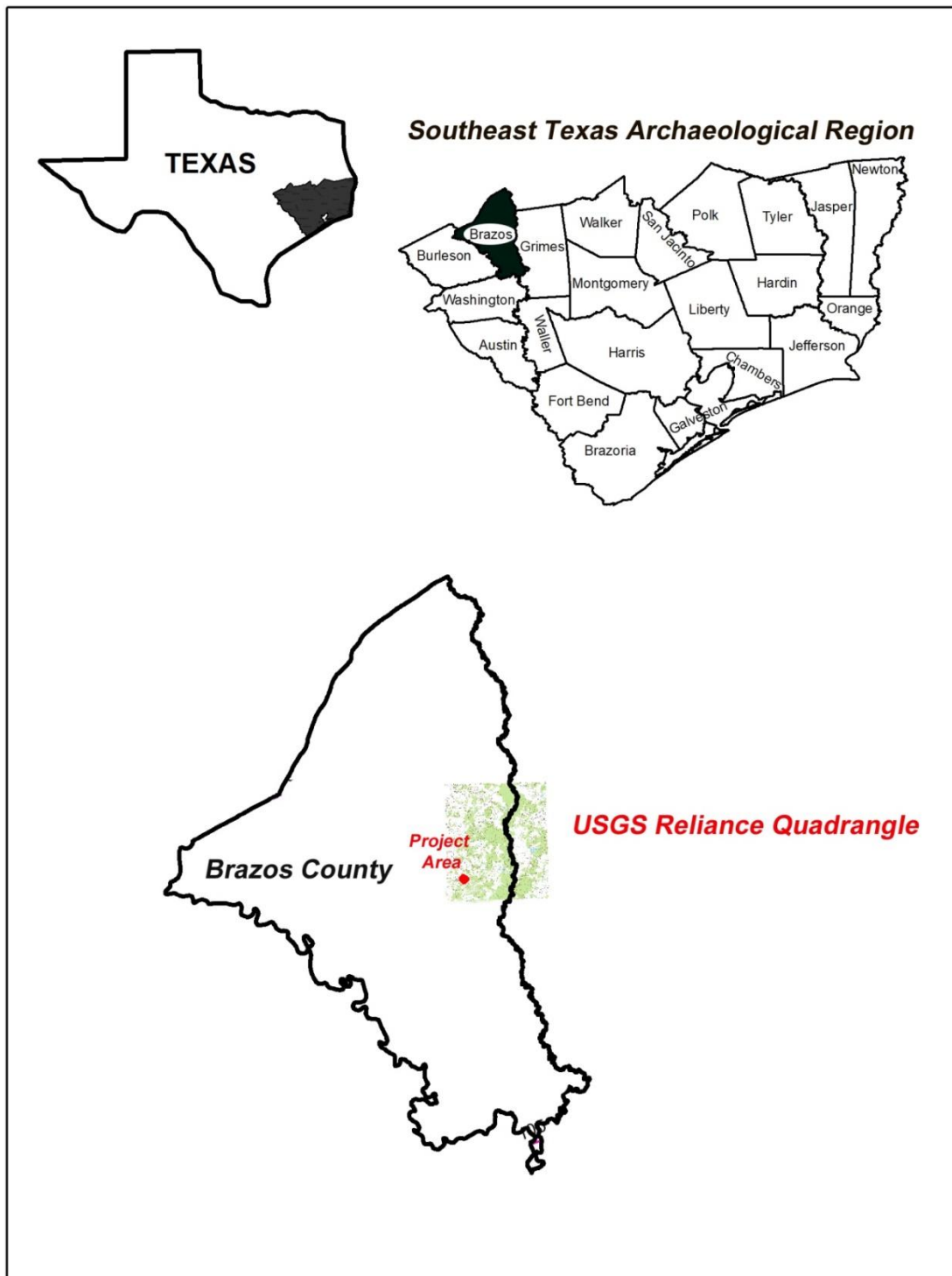


Figure 1. General Location of the Project Area

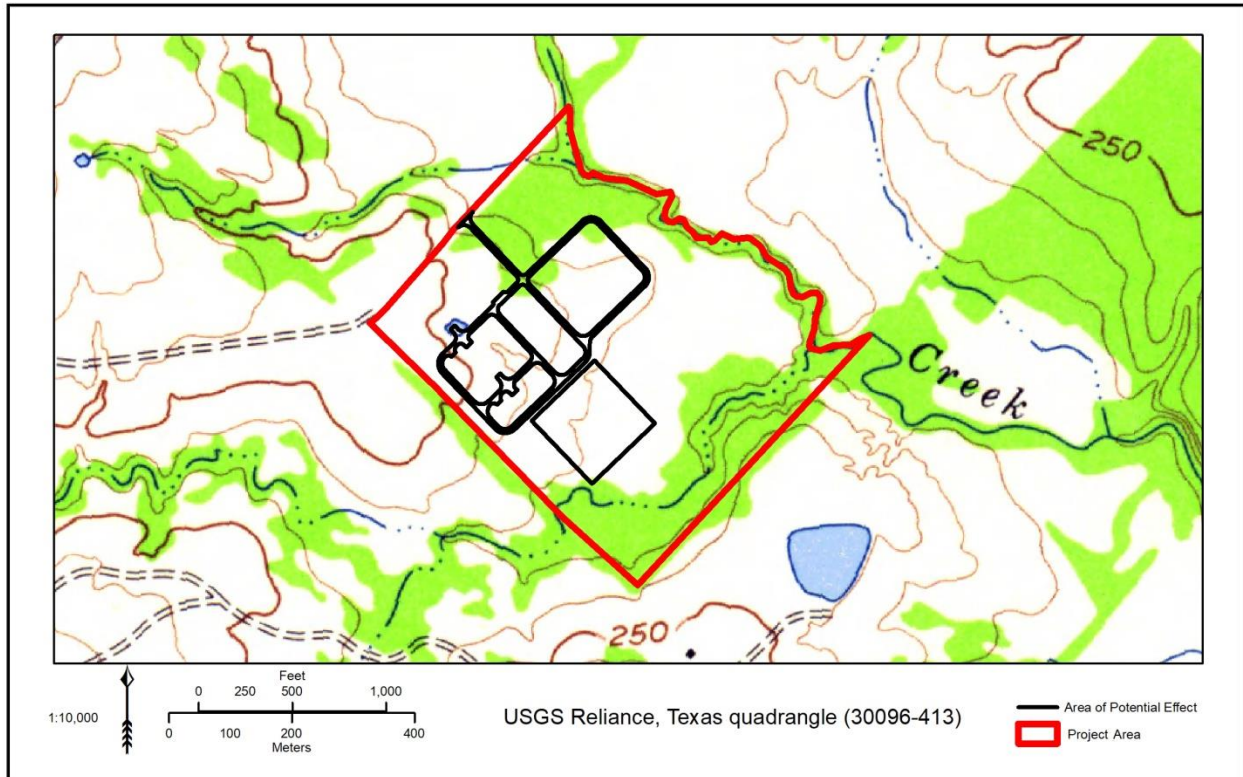


Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Quadrangle

Vegetation specific to the project area (Figure 3) was mapped by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). GIS data and vegetation descriptions can be found at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/gis/programs/landscape-ecology/by-ecoregion>.

They describe the project area as being in the East Central Texas Plains Southern Post Oak Savannah with the following specific divisions and areas: Post Oak Savanna: Post Oak Motte and Woodland, 36 acres (14 hectares); Post Oak Savanna: Savanna Grassland, 11 acres (4 hectares); Central Texas: Floodplain Hardwood Forest, 27 acres, (11 hectares); Central Texas: Riparian Hardwood Forest, <1 acre (<1 hectare); Central Texas: Riparian Herbaceous Vegetation, <1 acre (<1 hectare).

Soils types specific to the project area were documented on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS) website <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm> and are depicted in Figure 4.

Approximately 63 percent of the project area is a low probability area for intact prehistorical cultural resource sites. This area contains Eocene and Pleistocene soils that consist of a thin sandy mantel over clay that has been disturbed by pedoturbation and ranching activities. The majority of the proposed facilities are within this area. The remaining 37 percent of the project area consists of loamy alluvium of Holocene age found along the floodplains of intermittent branches of Brushy Creek. Only a very small portion of this area is included in the facility plans.

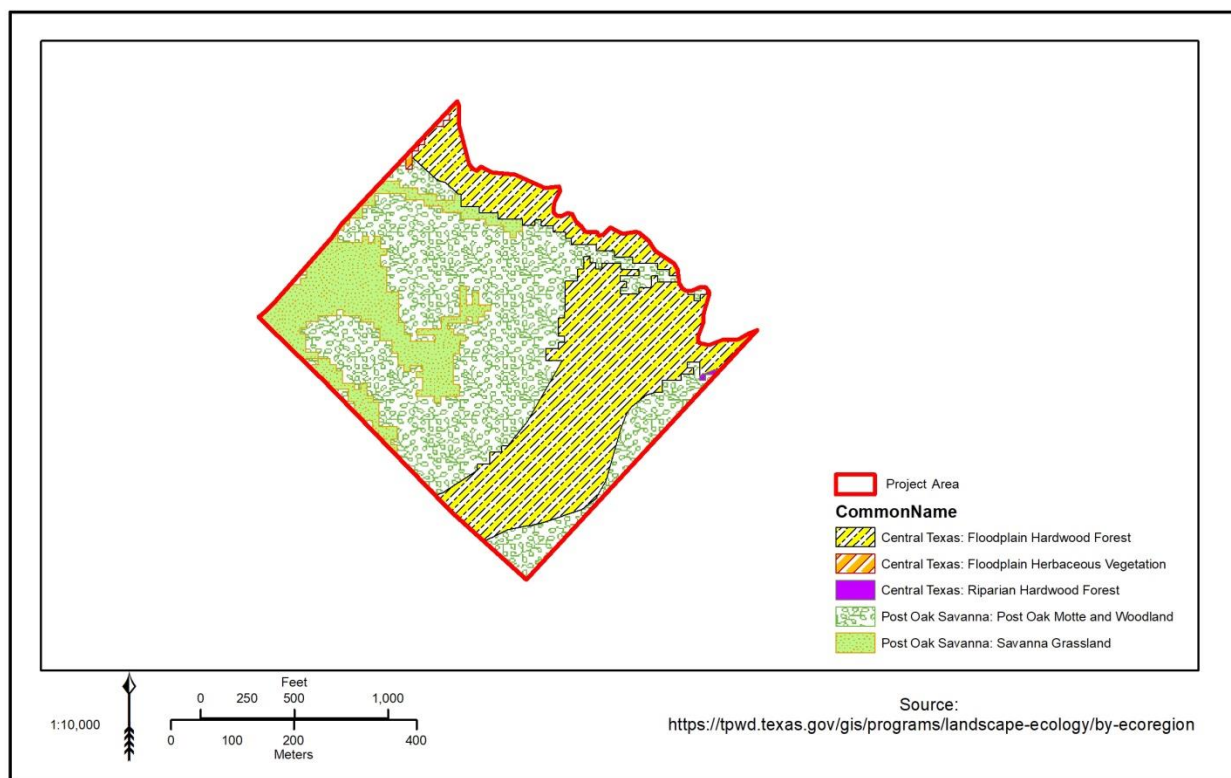


Figure 3. Project Area Vegetation

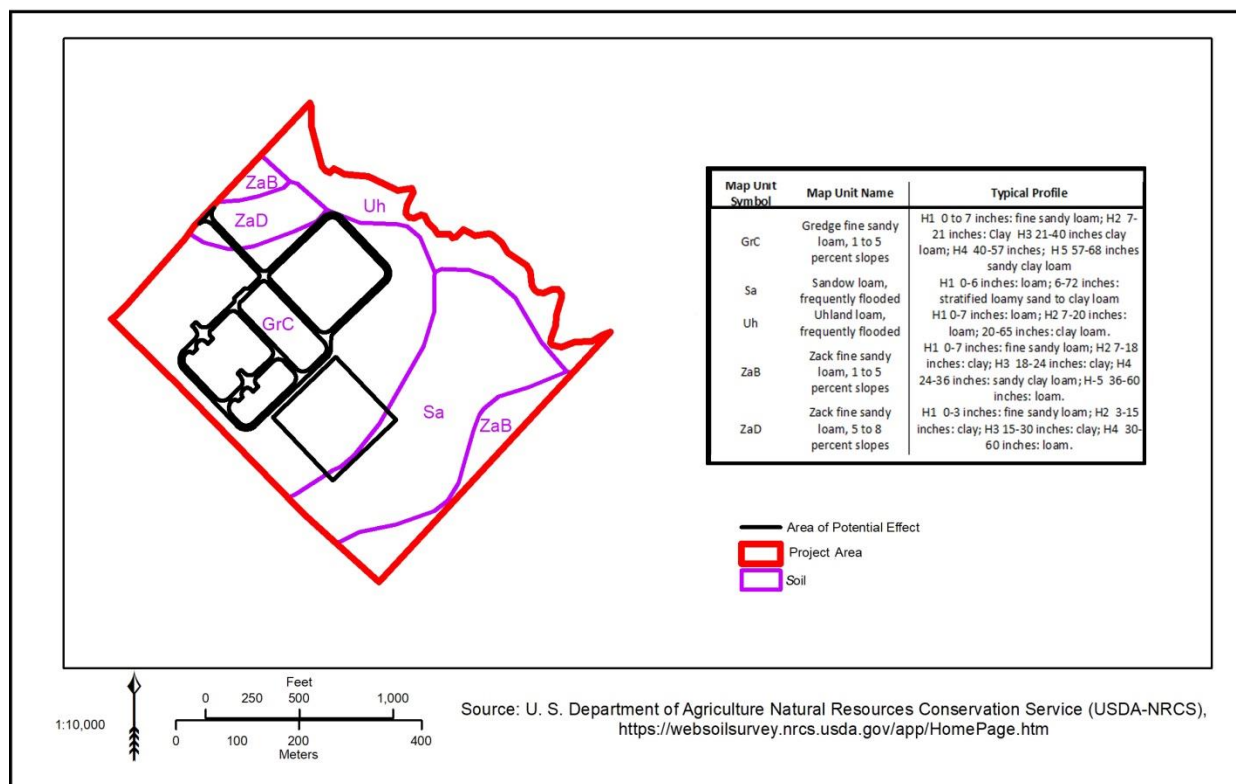


Figure 4. Project Area Soils

Management Summary

The City of Bryan proposes to develop an approximately 78 acre (32 hectares) area (Figure 2) above. The proposed Eastside Facility will consist of one electrical sub-station and other facilities which are still in the planning stage. An archaeological survey of the tract was conducted by Ed Baxter Consulting at the request of the City of Bryan, Texas, to support development of the proposed Eastside Facility. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) issued Antiquities Permit 8903 for the project. Ed Baxter Consulting is a sole proprietor company with no employees other than the owner, Ed Baxter, Registered Professional Archaeologist. The area was surveyed on May fourteenth, twentieth, and twenty-fourth, 2019. A total of 30 person/hours were expended on the survey.

Research Design

Pre-field research on previously recorded sites and surveys on or near the project area was conducted using the online resources of the THC's Atlas, (<http://nueces.thc.state.tx.us/>). Relevant reports that document work in the area were downloaded from the Atlas and were utilized in the research. Background research also included a review of historical aerial photographs found at the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center (https://eros.usgs.gov/#/Find_Data/Products_and_Data_Available/Single_Frame_Records) and historical aeriels found on Google Earth Pro <https://earth.google.com/web/>. Historic USGS and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) quadrangles found at the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) Texas Historic Overlay located at <http://tnris-txhistoricoverlay.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/>.

EROS single frame aeriels included ARA001160142176, January 25, 1953, 1:69,000; AR1VUB000050052, March 14, 1958, 1:17,000; and AR6145009600204, November 18, 1970, 1:62,292. Historic aerial photographs found on Google Earth Pro included 2010 and 2011 versions. TNRIS historic quadrangles included USGS Austin, Texas 1954, 1:250,000; USACE Carlos, Texas 1919, 1:62,000; USGS Carlos, Texas 1956, 1:62500 and USGS Reliance, Texas 1959, 1:24,000.

The Project Archaeologist investigated the project area utilizing surface inspection and shovel testing. Shovel tests were dug to the underlying clay subsoil or water and all excavated earth from the shovel testing was passed through ¼ inch (6.4 mm) hardware cloth. This task was documented through a digital shovel test log, digital field notes, digital photography and digital photographic logs. In addition, a handheld GPS was used to record the location of shovel tests. Shovel tests were concentrated in and around the areas of potential effect (APE).

Projects digital notes, logs, and photographs will be prepared for curation using TARL standards and then curated at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas. The survey short report was prepared using the guidelines established by the Council of Texas Archaeologists and submitted to the THC for review.

Results

Pre-field research on previously recorded sites and surveys on or near the project area indicated that there were no previous archaeological surveys in the project area. No previously recorded archaeological sites or cemeteries, National Register Properties or State Archaeological Landmarks were found within the project area. A review of historic USGS and USACE quadrangles and historic aerials originally indicated the presence of historic cultural resources in the form of a possible house and outbuilding within the project area. A refinement of the geo-referencing in ArcMap indicated these features may have been outside the project area. No indications of these resources were found during the survey.

The pedestrian survey and forty three shovel tests found no new cultural resource sites. One modern deer hunter's cabin (Figure 5a.) and one deer stand (Figure 5b.) was found. A review of the historic Google Earth Pro aerial photographs indicated the deer cabin appears in the area between 2010 and 2011.

Areas within the floodplains of the two intermittent streams were saturated with standing water in many areas.

Details of the locations and records of the shovel tests can be found in Appendix I of this report.



a. Deer Hunter's Cabin



b. Deer Stand

Figure 5.Views of Modern Features

Recommendations

The background research found no previously recorded cultural resource sites, National Register Properties or State Archaeological Landmarks within the confines of the project area. No new cultural resource sites were found during the course of the archaeological survey. Therefore, it is recommended that the City of Bryan's proposed Eastside Facility will have no impact on significant cultural resources and be allowed to proceed.

References

Google Earth Pro <https://earth.google.com/web/> accessed May 12, 2019.

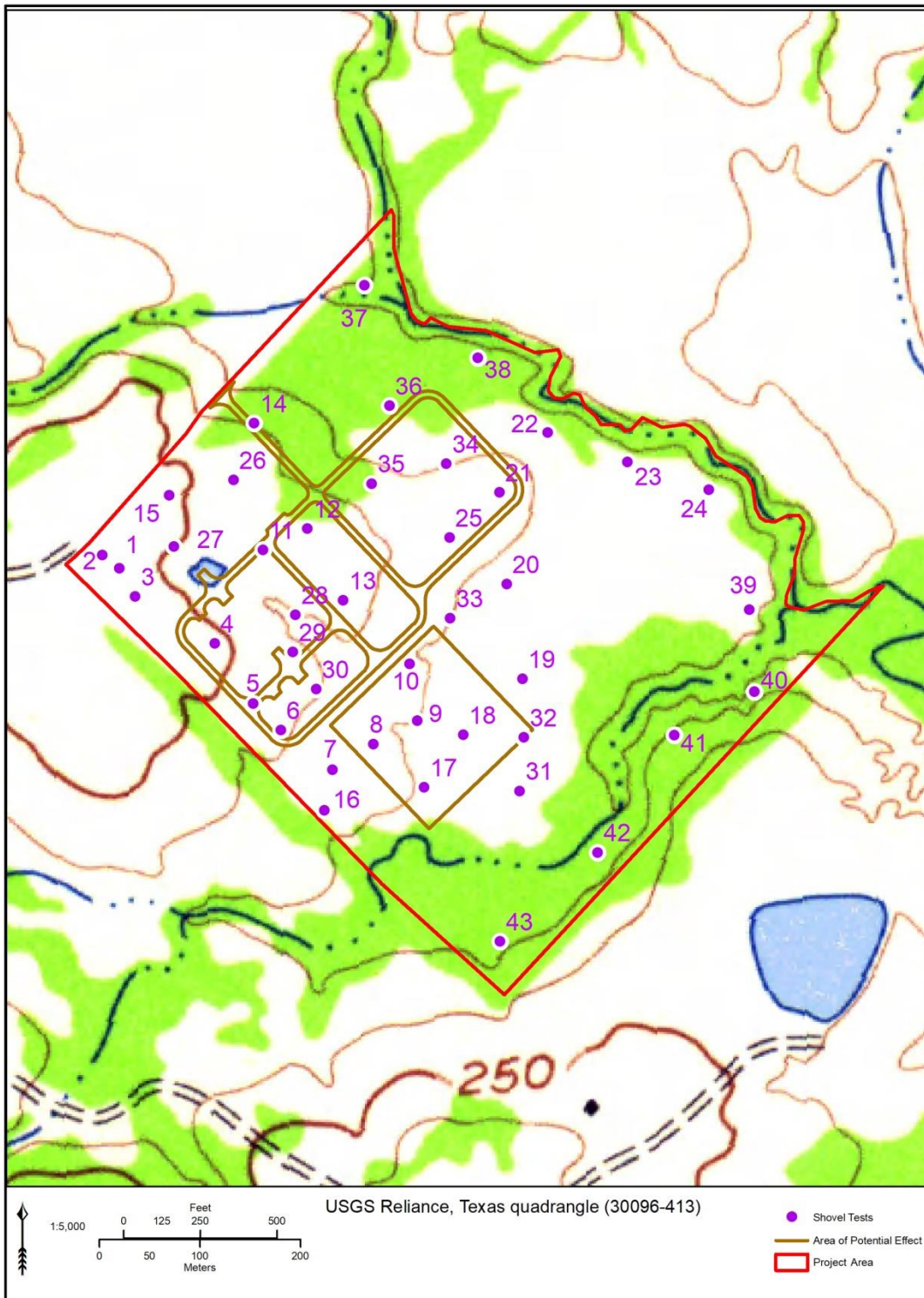
Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas, <https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/> accessed on January 15, 2019.

TNRIS Texas Historic Overlay located at <http://tnris-txhistoricoverlay.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/> accessed on February 25, 2019.

U. S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm> accessed January 15, 2019.

USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center, https://eros.usgs.gov/#/Find_Data/Products_and_Data_Available/Single_Frame_Records accessed on February 25, 2019.

APPENDIX I: SHOVEL TEST MAP AND LOG



SHOVEL TESTS ON TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Investigation Log					
Project: Bryan Eastside Facility					
Project Number: 2019-1 Recorder: Ed Baxter				Dates: May 14, 20, & 22, 2019	
ST	Depth Cm	Artifacts Y/N	Soil	Color	Comments
1	0- 30 30-35	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5YR5/4 2.5YR5/8	Gravels in Matrix
2	0-50 50-55	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5yr5/6 2.5yr5/8	Wet
3	0-8 8-12	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5YR5/4 2.5YR5/8	Wet
4	0-25 25-30	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5YR5/6 2.5YR5/8	Wet
5	0-22 22-30	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5yr5/6 2.5yr5/8	Wet
6	0-28 28-35	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5YR5/6 2.5YR5/8	Wet
7	0-56 56-60	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5YR5/6 2.5YR5/8	
8	0-55 55-60	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5YR5/6 2.5YR5/8	
9	0-25 25-30	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR7/4 2.5YR6/8	
10	0-10 10-13	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR7/4 2.5YR6/8	Wet
11	0-10 10-15	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR7/4 2.5YR6/8	Gravels in Matrix
12	0-8 8-10	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR5/4 2.5YR6/8	Gravels in Matrix
13	0-60 6-65	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR5/4 2.5YR6/8	Gravels in Matrix
14	0-33 33-35	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR5/4 2.5YR6/8	Gravels in Matrix
15	0-26 26-30	No	Sandy Loam/ Clay	10YR5/4 2.5YR6/8	Gravels in Matrix
16	0-25 25-30	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5YR5/6 2.5YR5/8	Gravels in Matrix
17	0-10 10-15	No	Sandy Clay Loam/ Clay	2.5YR5/6 2.5YR5/8	
18	0-58 58-65	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	2.5YR5/6 2.5YR5/8	
19	0-9 9-15	No	Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	
20	0-12 12-15	No	Clay Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	
21	0-25 25-30	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	
22	0-22 22-25	No	Clay Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	Brushy Creek Floodplain
23	10	No	Clay	2.5YR6/8	Brushy Creek Floodplain

ST	Depth Cm	Artifacts Y/N	Soil	Color	Comments
24	15	No	Clay	2.5YR6/8	Brushy Creek Floodplain
25	0-16 16-20	No	Clay Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	
26	0-14 14-15	No	Clay Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	
27	6	No	Clay	2.5YR6/8	
28	0-55 55-60	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	Gravels in Matrix
29	8	No	Clay	2.5YR6/8	
30	0-10 10-14	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	
31	15	No	Clay Loam / Water	10YR2/1	Tributary Floodplain Test Terminated Due to Water
32	0-10	No	Clay Loam / Water	10YR2/1	Tributary Floodplain Test Terminated Due to Water
33	0-50 50-55	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR7/4 2.5YR6/8	
34	0-40 40-45	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	
35	0-45 45-50	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	
36	0-12 12-15	No	Clay Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	
37	0-10	No	Clay Loam / Water	10YR2/1	Tributary Floodplain Test Terminated Due to Water
38	0-10	No	Clay Loam / Water	10YR2/1	Tributary Floodplain Test Terminated Due to Water
39	0-10	No	Clay Loam / Water	10YR2/1	Tributary Floodplain Test Terminated Due to Water
40	0-8 8-15	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	Toe Slope
41	0-8 8-10	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	Toe Slope
42	0-10	No	Clay Loam / Water	10YR2/1	Tributary Floodplain Test Terminated Due to Water
43	0-15 15-20	No	Sandy Loam / Clay	10YR3/3 2.5YR5/8	Toe Slope