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Intensive Archeological Survey Of Poison Oak Road Realignment City Of Temple, Bell County, Texas

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Intensive Archeological Survey Of Poison Oak Road Realignment City Of Temple, Bell County, Texas

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Cultural Resources Survey

INTENSIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF POISON OAK ROAD REALIGNMENT CITY OF TEMPLE, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

April 12, 2018

Final Report - Public Copy

Terracon Project No. 96177272C

Antiquities Permit No. 8263

Ann M. Scott, PhD, RPA, Principal Investigator



Prepared for: Clark & Fuller, PLLC Temple, Texas

Prepared by:

Caitlin Gulihur, MA, RPA and Ann M. Scott, PhD, RPA
Terracon Consultants, Inc.
Austin, Texas

terracon.com



Environmental Facilities Geotechnical Materials

ABSTRACT

The City of Temple has proposed the Poison Oak Road Realignment project, where an approximate 8,700-linear-foot road improvements and realignment will be constructed in southwest Temple, Bell County, Texas. The project engineer, Clark & Fuller, PLLC, retained Terracon Consultants, Inc. to conduct a systematic, intensive pedestrian survey of the approximate 20-acre project area. Because the City of Temple, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, sponsored the project, the proposed undertaking is subject to compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas and oversight from the Texas Historical Commission. In addition, the survey meets the standards for compliance under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, should a US Army Corps of Engineers permit be necessary or federal funding be utilized for the project. The cultural resources survey was carried out in advance of ground disturbance under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 8263, issued to Ann M. Scott, PhD, RPA, Principal Investigator. Fieldwork was carried out by Project Archeologist Caitlin Gulihur, MA, and Archeological Technician Juan Morlock under the supervision of Ann M. Scott. Records from the project will be curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University.

The 8,700-linear-foot alignment, with a 100-foot wide construction corridor (20 acres), was considered the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Survey of the APE consisted of systematic pedestrian coverage, including discretionary shovel tests. The work was carried out on January 4-5, 2018. Several hundred linear feet of the alignment were disturbed from previous construction of the existing Poison Oak Road and associated utilities. Several hundred more linear feet had good ground surface visibility. Fourteen shovel tests were excavated in areas that had less than 30 percent ground visibility or placed in areas that appeared to be undisturbed. No artifacts were discovered during the excavation of the shovel tests. One isolated historic-age feature was observed. No sites were recorded or revisited as a result of the survey. Therefore, there are no historic properties present within the project area. It is Terracon's recommendation that there are no historic properties eligible for State Antiquities Landmark designation or National Register for Historic Places inclusion that will be affected by future construction of the proposed road improvements and realignment. In the unlikely event that human remains or intact cultural resources are discovered during construction, construction should cease in the vicinity of the remains and Terracon, the Texas Historical Commission's Archeology Division, or other proper authorities should be contacted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

				Page No.				
ABST	TRACT			i				
1.0	INTR	ODUCTION	I AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	1				
2.0	DEFI	NING THE	AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS	1				
3.0	RESE	EARCH ANI	D SURVEY METHODS	2				
1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0	3.1	Desktop Review						
	3.2	Intensive Pedestrian Survey						
	3.3	National Register of Historic Places and State Antiquities Landmark Criteria						
4.0	RESU	JLTS		3				
	4.1	Desktop Review						
		4.1.1 N	Mapped Geology and Soils	3				
			Previous Investigations, Recorded Sites, and Designations					
		4.1.3 H	Historic Imagery and Maps	4				
	4.2	Intensive Pedestrian Survey						
5.0			AND RECOMMENDATIONS	_				
6.0	REFE	RENCES C	CITED	7				

Appendices

Appendix A Exhibit Maps Appendix B Photographs Appendix C Shovel Test Log

INTENSIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF POISON OAK ROAD REALIGNMENT, CITY OF TEMPLE, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

Terracon Project No. 96177272C Antiquities Permit No. 8263 April 12, 2018

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This report presents the findings from an intensive pedestrian survey of approximately 8,700 linear feet where the City of Temple has proposed constructing road improvements and realignments in southwestern Temple, Bell County, Texas (Appendix A, Exhibits 1 and 2). The 20-acre survey was performed on behalf of the City of Temple, a political subdivision of the State of Texas. Therefore, the project is under the purview of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas. In addition, the survey meets the standards for compliance under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, should a US Army Corps of Engineers permit be necessary or federal funding be utilized for the project. The work described herein was performed under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 8263, issued to Ann M. Scott, PhD, RPA Principal Investigator, and in adherence to Title 13, Chapter 26 of the Texas Administrative Code. The work was carried out on January 4 - 5, 2018 by Project Archeologist Caitlin Gulihur, MA, and Archeological Technician Juan Morlock under the supervision of Ann M. Scott.

Abiding by standards set forth by the Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA) for short reports, this negative findings report includes introduction and management summary, defining the area of potential effects, methods, results, and recommendations. The report was authored by Caitlin Gulihur, Project Archeologist, and Ann M. Scott, Principal Investigator.

2.0 DEFINING THE AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The project area, which is the same as the area of potential effect (APE), is an approximate 8,700-linear-foot alignment with a maximum width of 100 feet. The total area of the APE is approximately 20 acres. The project area is located east of FM 317 and west of Old Waco Road in southwestern Temple, Bell County, Texas (See Appendix A, Exhibits 1 and 2). The proposed project consists of road improvements and a road realignment. In the areas where the project alignment follows the existing Poison Oak Road, the existing roadway will be improved from a two-lane to a four-lane roadway. In areas where the roadway will be realigned, a four-lane roadway will be constructed. The 100-foot-wide alignment includes the construction corridor and the new right-of-way (ROW) and easements that will be needed for the project.

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas April 12, 2018 Terracon Project No. 96177272C



3.0 RESEARCH AND SURVEY METHODS

The methods described below were employed to identify and characterize cultural resources present within the APE to the extent practicable. Desktop review focused on identifying previously known cultural materials and understanding the site setting, and fieldwork was used to both search for unknown cultural resources and gather more information based on the desktop review.

3.1 Desktop Review

Prior to fieldwork, and as part of the Antiquities Code of Texas permit application, background research and a literature search was conducted. This effort included desktop review of mapped geology and soils, search for previously recorded sites and investigations, a review of historic designations such as Registered Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and historical markers, and an examination of historic maps and aerials for evidence that the APE may have exhibited buildings or other features that may be considered historic (at least 50 years old).

3.2 Intensive Pedestrian Survey

In order to examine the 8,700-linear-foot APE for previously unknown cultural resources, an intensive pedestrian survey was conducted. The ground surface in the APE was systematically inspected by archeologists walking parallel transects spaced not more than 15 meters apart, for 100 percent coverage. The survey was augmented by shovel testing and fourteen shovel tests were excavated within the APE.

As a general method, shovel tests are excavated to varying depths that target Holocene-aged soils. Sediment was excavated in arbitrary 20-cm levels to depth and passed through ¼-inch hardware mesh. Characteristics and contents of shovel tests are recorded with photographs, forms and notes, and a hand-held global positioning system (GPS) unit; upon completion of excavation and documentation, the unit holes and artifacts, if present, are backfilled. Cultural materials encountered through the course of shovel test excavations are described and returned to their approximate origin. Archeological sites, if encountered, would be recorded with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and be assessed for eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP or designation as a SAL, as appropriate. This survey has a "no-collection" policy; therefore, diagnostic artifacts (if encountered) would be documented in the field and not collected. Records will be temporarily housed in Terracon's office in Austin and will be permanently curated by the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) at Texas State University upon completion of the project.

3.3 National Register of Historic Places and State Antiquities Landmark Criteria

For a historic resource to be deemed eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the resource must be at least 50 years old and must possess significance and integrity. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas April 12, 2018 Terracon Project No. 96177272C



of location design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and:

- a. That are associated with the events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d. That have yielded, or may likely to yield, information important in our prehistory or history (36 CFR 60.4).

Additionally, the State of Texas affords important cultural resources a level of protection beyond that of NRHP status if the resource meets the criteria for listing as a SAL. SAL criteria are divided into four categories based on the type of resource: archaeological site, shipwreck, cache and collection, and historic structure. The criteria for archaeological sites are:

- 1) The site has the potential to contribute to a better understanding of the prehistory and/or history of Texas by the addition of new and important information;
- 2) The site's archeological deposits and the artifacts within the site are preserved and intact, thereby supporting the research potential or preservation interest of the site;
- 3) The site possesses unique or rare attributes concerning Texas prehistory and/or history;
- 4) The study of the site offers the opportunity to test theories and methods of preservation, thereby contributing to new scientific knowledge; and
- 5) There is a high likelihood that vandalism and relic collecting has occurred or could occur, and official landmark designation is needed to ensure maximum legal protection, or alternatively, further investigations are needed to mitigate the effects of vandalism and relic collecting when the site cannot be protected (Title 13, Rule 26.10).

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Desktop Review

Results of the Desktop Review are detailed below.

4.1.1 Mapped Geology and Soils

Two bedrock geological units are identified in the project area. In the majority of the APE, the bedrock geology is identified as undivided parts of Washita and Fredericksburg Groups (Phanerozoic | Mesozoic | Cretaceous-Early periods) (Kwf), consisting of claystone, limestone, and shale (Barnes 1992). In the eastern portion of the APE, the bedrock geology is identified as Buda Limestone and Del Rio Clay, undivided (Phanerozoic | Mesozoic | Cretaceous-Early periods) (Kbd) consisting of limestone, marlstone, and claystone.

Poison Oak Road Realignment • Temple, Bell County, Texas April 12, 2018 • Terracon Project No. 96177272C



Eight soils are mapped within the APE (Appendix A, Exhibit 3) (Huckabee et al. 1977; USDA NRCS 2018). Eckrant-Rock outcrop complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony (ErB) is a shallow (12 inches to bedrock), well-drained soil located on ridges. Purves silty clay, 1 to 4 percent slopes (PrB) is a shallow (14 inches to bedrock), well-drained soil located on ridges. Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes (DeB) is a deep (52 inches to bedrock), well-drained soil located on ridges. Payne loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes (PcB) is a deep (72 inches to bedrock), well-drained soil located on stream terraces. Patrick soils, 1 to 8 percent slopes (PaD) is a deep (120 inches to bedrock), well-drained soil located on paleoterraces. Lewisville silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes (LeB) is a deep (62 inches to bedrock), well-drained soil located on stream terraces. Branyon clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes (ByA) is a deep (80 inches to bedrock), moderately well drained soil located on stream terraces. Denton silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes (DeA) is a deep (52 inches to bedrock), well-drained soil located on ridges.

4.1.2 Previous Investigations, Recorded Sites, and Designations

Review of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) and THC geospatial data using a 0.5-mile search buffer shows that only a small portion of the proposed project area has likely been previously surveyed. No archeological sites or other cultural resources have been recorded in the project APE. Eight previously recorded archeological sites are located within the 0.5-mile buffer. Site 41BL12 was recorded as a prehistoric-age rockshelter. Sites 41BL36, 41BL278, and 41BL279 were recorded as prehistoric-age open campsites; site 41BL279 was determined ineligible for NRHP listing by the THC. Site 41BL321 was recorded as a rockshelter with pictographs. Sites 41BL1218 and 41BL1240 were recorded as prehistoric-age lithic procurement sites; site 41BL1218 was determined ineligible for NRHP listing by the THC. Site 41BL1379, located immediately adjacent to the project APE, was recorded as a historic-age homestead site. Site 41BL1379 was determined by the THC to be ineligible for NRHP listing within the project ROW.

No previously designated RTHLs, SALs, or NRHP listed or District properties are present within the 0.5-mile search area.

4.1.3 Historic Imagery and Maps

Historic-period topographic maps dating back over 100 years cover the project area. Several years were examined including 1890, 1918, 1924, 1965, 1974, 1993, and 2012. No historic structures were observed within the APE. The current Poison Oak Road alignment is apparent in the topographic maps from 1965 and later. Historic aerials were also reviewed, the earliest of which was dated 1943. Others were dated 1952, 1964, 1976, 1985, 1996, 2004, and 2014. The current Poison Oak Road alignment is apparent in aerials from 1964 and later. Near the eastern end of the project APE, a small structure can be observed on the southern boundary of the project APE in aerials from 1964 and later. Historically, the western portion of the project area was undeveloped and agricultural land before Poison Oak Road was constructed. The eastern portion of the APE has historically been utilized as agricultural land.

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas April 12, 2018 Terracon Project No. 96177272C



4.2 Intensive Pedestrian Survey

The intensive pedestrian survey of the APE resulted in thorough coverage of the alignment and the excavation of fourteen shovel tests (Appendix A, Exhibit 4). The project APE from the intersection of Poison Oak Road and FM 317 to Old Waco Road and was relatively flat to gently sloping in topography. The APE was covered in short, local grasses. The eastern and western portions of the project APE had generally poor ground surface visibility, ranging between 2 to 20 percent (Appendix B, Photos 1 and 2). The central portion of the project area was located in agricultural fields with generally good ground surface visibility, ranging from 80 to 95 percent (Appendix B, Photo 3). The western portion of the project alignment was heavily disturbed from existing Poison Oak Road and buried utilities such as water lines, sewer lines, and fiber optic cables (Appendix B, Photos 4, 5, and 6). The central portion of the project area was located in agricultural fields with good ground visibility. Natural chert cobbles were observed in these plowed fields, but no cultural lithic materials were observed (Appendix B, Photo 7). The eastern portion of the project alignment had generally poor ground visibility, and was less disturbed than the western portion of the alignment (Appendix B, Photo 8). Fourteen shovel tests were placed in areas that appeared undisturbed and had less than 30 percent visibility (Appendix B, Photo 9) (see Appendix C for shovel test log). No cultural materials were observed during shovel testing.

Site 41BL1379, located near the intersection of FM 317 and Poison Oak Road, is mapped immediately south of the project area. Recorded in 2015 by Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) archaeologists as a historic-age homestead, no standing structures were observed when the site was recorded (Oksanen 2015). When the portion of the APE closest to 41BL1379 was inspected, it was very disturbed from construction activities (Appendix B, Photos 10 and 11). It is likely that the portion of 41BL1379 closest to the current project APE, if not the entire site, has been destroyed from construction activities.

One isolated feature was observed during the course of the survey (see Appendix A, Exhibit 4). This feature consists of an outbuilding structure located on the southern edge of the project APE. The structure is roughly 15 feet by 30 feet, and made from wood and sheet metal (Appendix B, Photos 12 and 13). Historic aerial photographs indicate that this outbuilding was built between 1952 and 1964. No historic-age cultural materials were observed in the vicinity of the outbuilding. Given the isolated nature of the structure, its recent age, and the lack of associated artifacts, it was not recorded as an archaeological site.

In the western portion of the project alignment, several parcels could not be surveyed due to lack of Right of Entry (ROE) (see Appendix A, Exhibit 4). In total, the parcels which could not be surveyed added up to 1,070 linear feet. However, this was not deemed to be detrimental to the survey as the parcels are not entirely adjoining and do not constitute the entire width of the alignment. When the parcels without ROE were examined from adjoining parcels with ROE, it was observed that they had been heavily disturbed by utilities and landscaping activities (Appendix B, Photos 14 and 15). It is unlikely that the parcels without ROE contain intact cultural resources.

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas April 12, 2018 Terracon Project No. 96177272C



5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Terracon archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of an approximate 8,700-linear-foot APE in advance of the construction of road improvements and realignment by the City of Temple in Temple, Bell County, Texas. The project area was systematically surveyed and fourteen shovel tests were placed within the APE. No archeological sites were recorded.

It is Terracon's opinion that there are no historic properties in the APE eligible for listing on the NRHP or designation as a SAL. Therefore, Terracon recommends that the project be allowed to proceed as future construction of road improvements and realignments will not affect historic properties. In the unlikely event that human remains or intact cultural resources are discovered during construction, construction should cease in the vicinity of the discovery and Terracon, the Texas Historical Commission's Archeology Division, or other proper authorities should be contacted.

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas April 12, 2018 Terracon Project No. 96177272C



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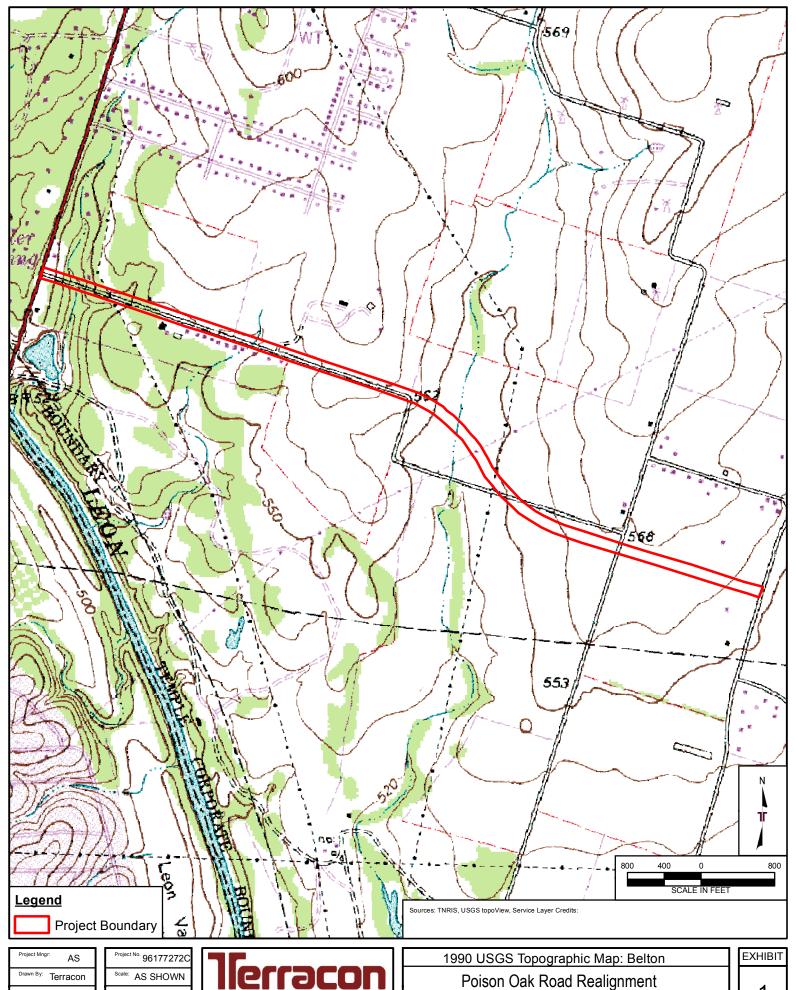
USDA NRCS, Soil Survey Staff

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Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas April 12, 2018 Terracon Project No. 96177272C



APPENDIX A Exhibit Maps



CG

961772720 Date: Jan 15, 2018

Consulting Engineers & Scientists
5307 INDUSTRIAL OAKS BLVD. - #160 AUSTIN, TX 78735

Poison Oak Road Temple, Bell County, Texas



Drawn By: Terracon CG

ect No. 961772720 AS SHOWN 961772720 Date: Jan 15, 2018

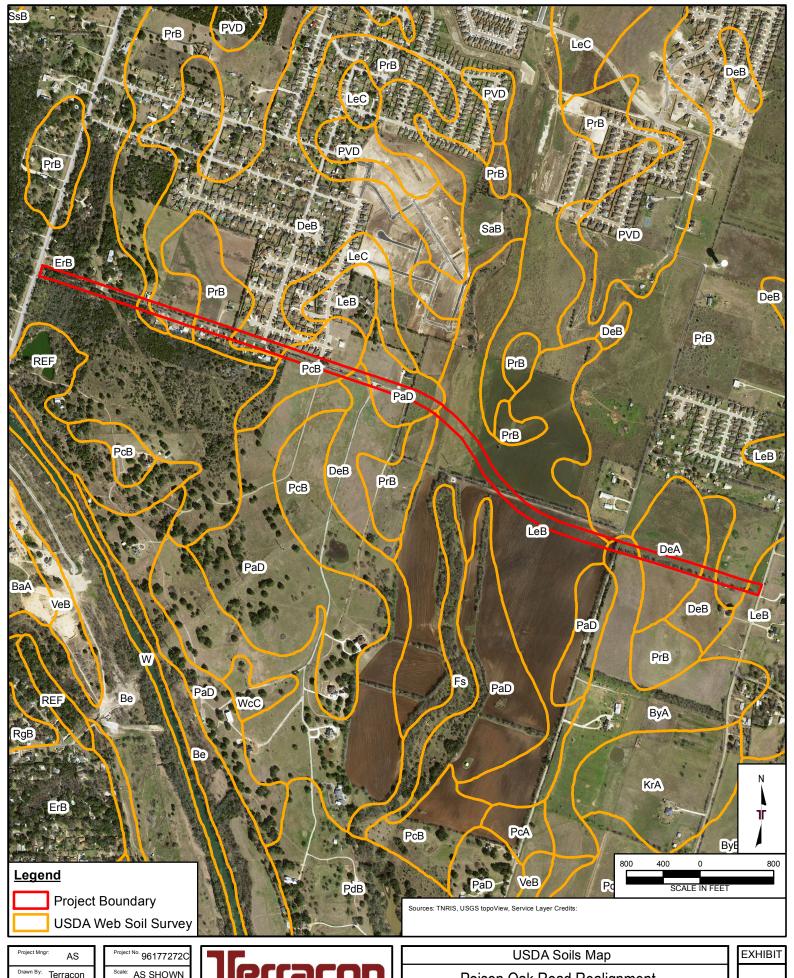
Consulting Engineers & Scientists
5307 INDUSTRIAL OAKS BLVD. - #160 AUSTIN, TX 78735

2015 Aerial Photograph

Poison Oak Road Realignment

Poison Oak Road Temple, Bell County, Texas

2



Project Mngr: AS

Drawn By: Terracon

Checked By: CG

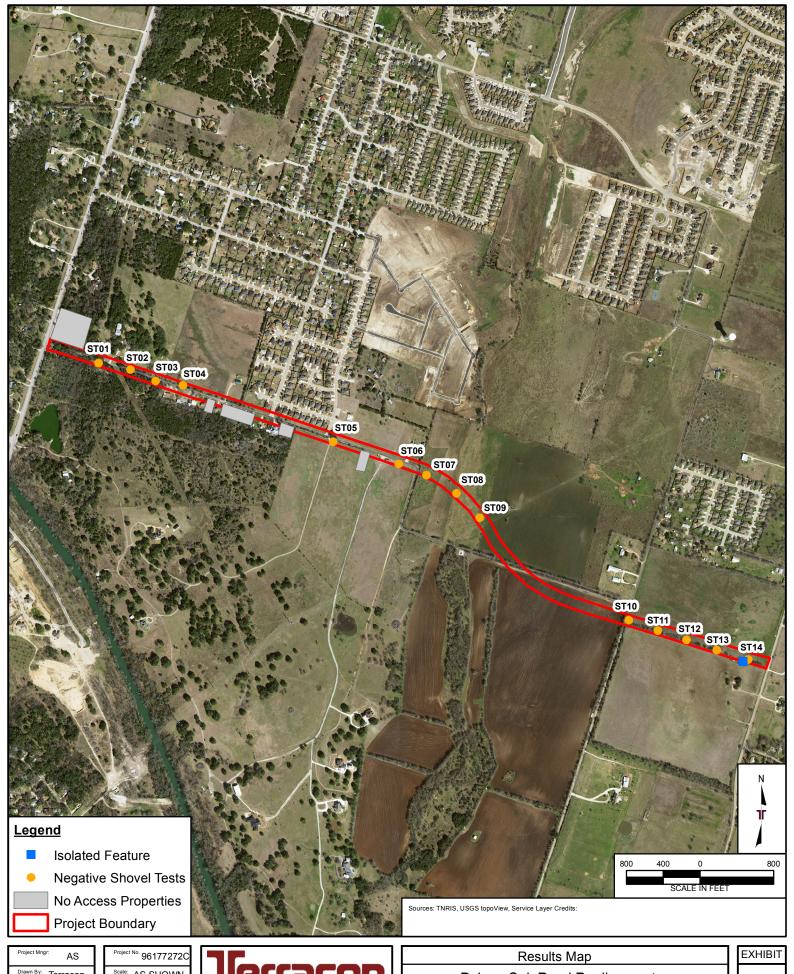
Approved By: AS

Scale: AS SHOWN
File No.: 96177272C
Date: Jan 15, 2018

Consulting Engineers & Scientists
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Poison Oak Road Realignment
Poison Oak Road, E of FM 317
Temple, Bell County, Texas

3



Terracon CG

AS SHOWN 961772720 Date: Jan 15, 2018

Consulting Engineers & Scientists
5307 INDUSTRIAL OAKS BLVD. - #160 AUSTIN, TX 78735 PH. (512) 442-1122 FAX. (512) 442-1181

Poison Oak Road Realignment Poison Oak Road Temple, Bell County, Texas

4

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas April 12, 2018 Terracon Project No. 96177272C



APPENDIX B Photographs

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas Terracon Project No. 96177272C Photos taken January 4-5, 2018





Photo 1. Poor ground surface visibility in the western portion of the project area. View to the west.



Photo 2. Poor ground surface visibility in the eastern portion of the project area. View to the east.

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas
Terracon Project No. 96177272C Photos taken January 4-5, 2018





Photo 3. Good ground surface visibility in the central portion of the project area. View to the southeast.



Photo 4. Western portion of project alignment, on south side of Poison Oak Road. Note disturbances from existing road, utilities, and landscaping in yards. View to the east.

Poison Oak Road Realignment ■ Temple, Bell County, Texas
Terracon Project No. 96177272C ■ Photos taken January 4-5, 2018





Photo 5. Western portion of project area, on north side of Poison Oak Road. Note disturbances from existing road and landscaping. View to the east.



Photo 6. Western portion of project area, on north side of Poison Oak Road. Note disturbances from road and utilities. View to the east.

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas Terracon Project No. 96177272C Photos taken January 4-5, 2018





Photo 7. Central portion of project area. Note good ground surface visibility and natural chert cobbles. View to the southeast.



Photo 8. Eastern portion of project area. Note poor ground visibility and utilities. View to the east.

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas
Terracon Project No. 96177272C Photos taken January 4-5, 2018





Photo 9. Shovel Test 08.



Photo 10. Construction/gravel pit near location of 41BL1379. View to the southeast.





Photo 11. Project APE near 41BL1379. Note disturbances from construction. View to the west.



Photo 12. Historic-age outbuilding in the eastern portion of the project APE. View to the west.

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas Terracon Project No. 96177272C Photos taken January 4-5, 2018





Photo 13. Historic-age outbuilding in the eastern portion of the project area APE. View to the northeast.



Photo 14. Parcel without ROE near intersection of FM 317 and Poison Oak Road. Note landscaping disturbances. View to the northeast.

Poison Oak Road Realignment ■ Temple, Bell County, Texas
Terracon Project No. 96177272C ■ Photos taken January 4-5, 2018





Photo 15. Parcels without ROE west of intersection of Poison Oak Road and Ridgeway Drive. Note disturbances from utilities and landscaping. View to the southeast.

Poison Oak Road Realignment • Temple, Bell County, Texas April 12, 2018 • Terracon Project No. 96177272C



APPENDIX C Shovel Test Log

Cultural Resources Services (Shovel Test Log)

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas Shovel Tests from January 4-5, 2018 Terracon Project No. 96177272C



ST ID	Depth cmbs	+/-	Ground cover	Munsell & Color	Texture	% Gravels	Comments
ST01	0-15	-	95%	10YR 2/1 Black	Loam	25%	Bioturbation, rootlets throughout. Poorly sorted gravels. Terminated due to gravels/bedrock.
ST02	0-15	-	100%	10YR 2/2 Very dark brown	Loam	0-5%	Leaf litter, rootlets throughout. Terminated due to gravels/bedrock.
ST03	0-20	-	98%	10YR 2/1 Black	Loam	0-5%	Rootlets near surface. Terminated due to bedrock.
ST04	0-40	-	100%	10YR 2/2 Very dark brown	Clay loam	0-5%	Rootlets near surface, some small calcium carbonate nodules with depth. Very compact starting at 35cmbs. Terminated due to compactness.
ST05	0-5	-	99%	10YR 3/2 Very dark greyish brown	Loam	0-5%	Small gravels and rootlets. Somewhat abrupt boundary with lower layer.
ST05	5-40	-	-	10YR 2/1 Black	Clayey loam	0-5%	More compact clay with depth. Some small calcium carbonates with depth. Terminated due to gravels/bedrock at 40cmbs.
ST06	0-35	-	60%	10YR 4/4 Dark yellowish brown	Silty loam	5-10%	Calcium carbonate nodules start at 20cmbs. Rootlets near surface. Terminated due to bedrock.
ST07	0-40	-	80%	10YR 3/6 Dark yellowish brown	Silty loam	0-5%	Some rootlets near surface. Compacted from livestock trample. Small calcium carbonates throughout. Terminated due to bedrock.

Cultural Resources Services (Shovel Test Log)

Poison Oak Road Realignment Temple, Bell County, Texas Shovel Tests from January 4-5, 2018 Terracon Project No. 96177272C



ST ID #	Depth cmbs	+/-	Ground cover	Munsell & Color	Texture	% Gravels	Comments
ST08	0-45	-	40%	10YR 2/2 Very dark brown	Clay loam	0-5%	Compact due to livestock trample. Rootlets near surface. Calcium carbonate nodules starting at 40cmbs. Terminated due to carbonates.
ST09	0-40	-	95%	10YR 2/1 Black	Loamy clay	0-5%	Very compact. Rootlets near surface. Some small calcium carbonates with depth. Terminated due to compactness of soil.
ST10	0-30	-	80%	10YR 2/1 Black	Loamy clay	0-5%	Rootlets near surface. Very compact. Gravels/decomposing bedrock start at 25cmbs.
ST11	0-25	-	70%	10YR 2/1 Black	Loamy clay	0-5%	Rootlets near surface. Large gravels starting at 15cmbs. Terminated due to bedrock.
ST12	0-20	-	90%	10YR 2/2 Very dark brown	Loamy clay	0-5%	Rootlets near surface. Terminated due to bedrock.
ST13	0-25	-	100%	10YR 2/2 Very dark brown	Loamy clay	5-10%	Rootlet near surface. Large gravels starting at 20cmbs. Terminated due to bedrock.
ST14	0-20	-	100%	10YR2/2 Very dark brown	Loamy clay	5-10%	Rootlets near surface. Small gravels. Terminated due to bedrock.