

A PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE BRAZOS FEE FORMER
ARROWHEAD GUN CLUB IN CENTRAL BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS

By

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A PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE BRAZOS FEE FORMER
ARROWHEAD GUN CLUB IN CENTRAL BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS

Brazos Valley Research Associates

Project Number 01-03

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological survey of a wetlands area (approximately four acres) within the Brazos Fee Former Arrowhead Gun Club in central Brazos County, Texas was conducted on February 28, 2001 by Brazos Valley Research Associates of Bryan, Texas under the stated requirements of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District. The area was investigated by shovel testing. No archaeological sites were found in the project area, and it is recommended that the removal and cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste in this area be allowed to proceed as planned. Copies of the report are on file at the Corps of Engineers; the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas; Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (CRA), and Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Brazos Valley Research Associates is appreciative of the assistance provided by Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (CRA) throughout this project. Brad Alker, Geologist of CRA provided maps and visited the project area during the field survey to ensure that the proper areas were examined. The Principal Investigator is grateful to the field survey crew, Bobby Jemison and Arthur F. Romine for their participation in this project. Skipper F. Scott at the Fort Worth Corps of Engineers served as the reviewer for this project, and his input was valuable to the successful outcome of this investigation. All figures appearing in this report were prepared by Lili Lyddon of Lyddon Illustrations in North Zulch, Texas.

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INTRODUCTION

BVRA was retained by CRA to conduct a Phase I cultural resources survey of a four acre wetlands area in central Brazos County, the site of the Former Arrowhead Gun Club. The project area is located within a 107 acre tract, of which approximately 25 acres were used for the gun club which was in operation from 1983 to 1995 (Figure 1). Prior to 1983, the property was used as a dairy farm and as pasture. The property has been used intermittently for cattle grazing since the closure of the Arrowhead Gun Club in 1995. No other activities are being conducted at the site.

The current survey is part of a preconstruction notification (PCN) being prepared for Thousand Oaks Development Company of Houston, Texas for the former Arrowhead Gun Club in accordance with 33 CFR § 330 of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Program. The objective of the PCN is to enable the Corps of Engineers District Engineer to review scheduled project activities and authorize work in wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in accordance with the Regulatory Program of the Corps of Engineers. The scheduled work will be conducted under Nationwide Permit 38 that regulates specific activities required for the removal and cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste materials and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Voluntary Cleanup Program.

The project area is depicted on United States Geological Survey topographical map Ferguson Crossing dated 1962 and photorevised 1980 (Figure 2). The wetlands examined during this investigation are formed by an unnamed tributary of Cedar Creek. The confluence of this tributary and Cedar Creek is approximately one mile to the south. The fieldwork was accomplished on February 28, 2001.

A check of the records at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas revealed no archeological sites have been recorded within the current project area. It was discovered that significant sites have been recorded in Brazos County, although no significant sites were encountered at this site. Prehistoric sites in this area are typically found on sandy ridges and uplands in close proximity to dependable sources of water such as creeks and rivers. No prehistoric sites in the county have been reported on clay hills, active floodplains, or wetland areas. Therefore, the current project area was viewed as a low probability area for the presence of archaeological sites.

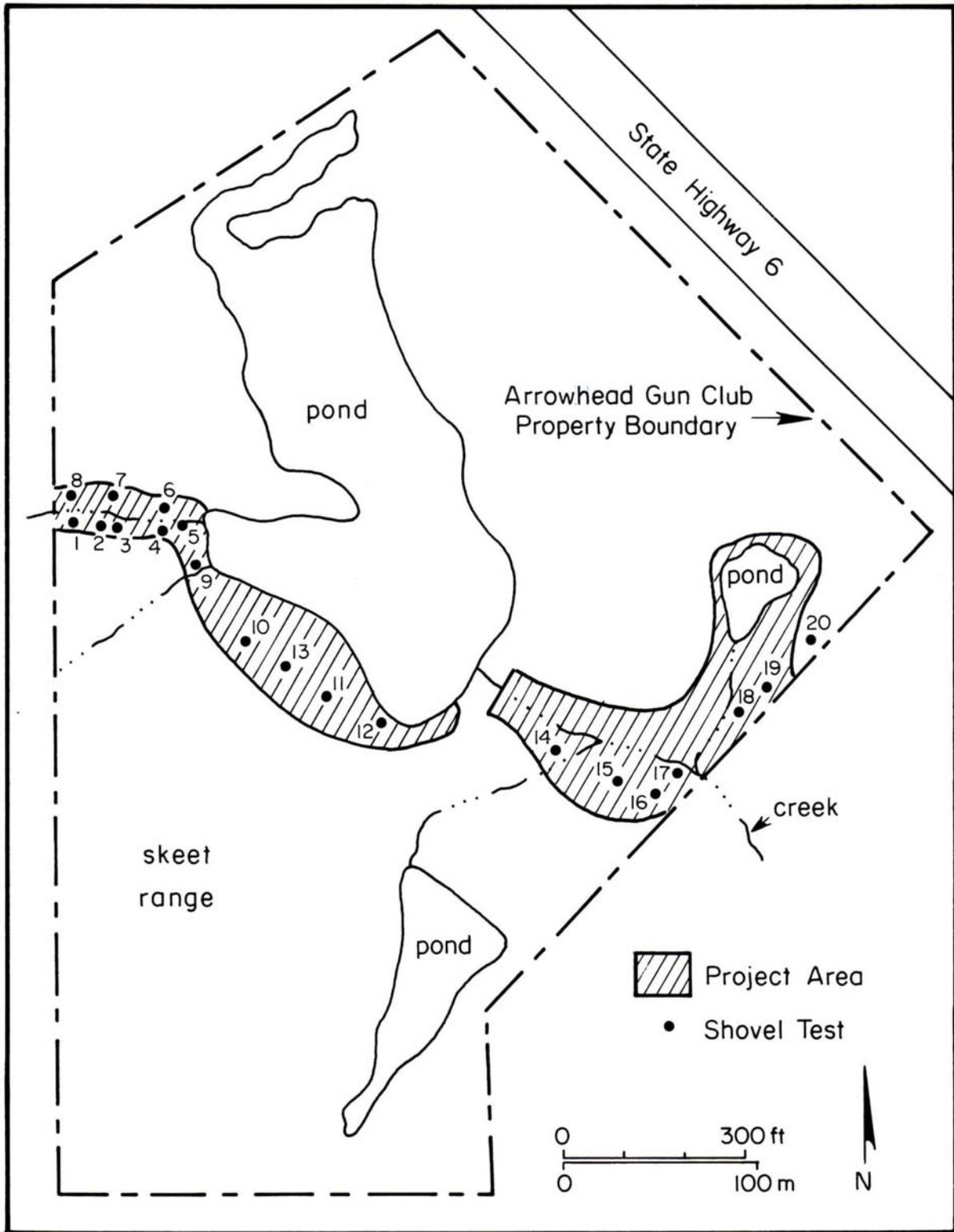


Figure 1. Project Area

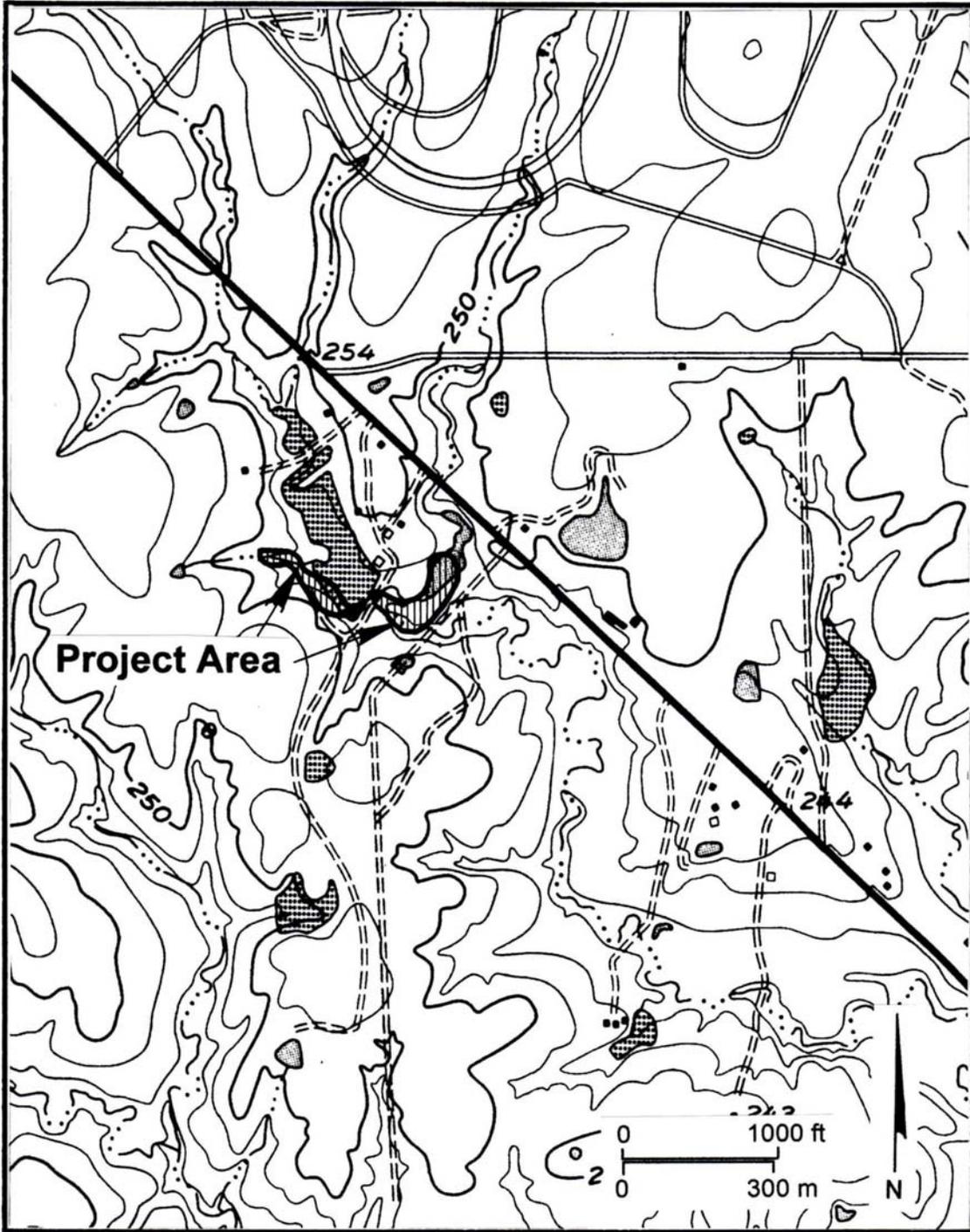


Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Map Ferguson Crossing

FIELD METHODS

The project area was examined on February 28, 2001. BVRA was represented by William E. Moore (Principal Investigator), Arthur F. Romine, and Bobby Jemison. CRA was represented by Brad Alker. Together, this team walked the entire wetlands area, delineated areas to be surveyed, and excavated shovel tests. In addition, exposed areas were examined for the presence of cultural materials. Surface visibility was poor except in a few areas on the eroded slopes of adjacent hills.

Shovel tests were dug to clay when possible. The size of each test was 30 x 50 cm and varied in depth from 20 to 90 cm below the existing ground surface. All excavated fill was screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth. Data obtained from shovel testing were recorded on a shovel test log, and the approximate location of each test was plotted on a project area map prepared by CRA (Figure 1). In all, 20 shovel tests were dug.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Examination of the files at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas revealed no sites have been recorded in the project area. There was also no indication that any part of the project area had been surveyed by professional archaeologists. As stated above, the entire project area is located within a wetlands area as defined by CRA. Overall, soils were shallow, and clay was encountered at all but three shovel tests, these tests being in disturbed areas adjacent to berms surrounding Pond 1 and Pond 7. Overall, the sandy and clayey soils form a thin mantle overlying clay with an average depth of 34 cm. In several areas, small natural gravels were observed eroding from the surface, and they were found in shovel tests, usually directly over the underlying clay stratum. The poor drainage in the area was evidenced by very wet soils in virtually every shovel test excavated. There are three principal reasons that explain the absence of archaeological sites in the project area. First, prehistoric sites are typically located on well-drained sandy hills. Second, the survey area was confined to known jurisdictional wetlands at the site; the tributary that flows through the project area is the lower end of what was probably an intermittent stream in prehistoric times at best. Third, sites are usually found at the top of landforms not on slopes or in creek beds, the focus of this study.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the opinion of Brazos Valley Research Associates that there are no archaeological sites within the current project area as defined by jurisdictional wetlands. Therefore, it is recommended that the removal and cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste materials in the area investigated be allowed to proceed as planned.

Appendix I: Shovel Test Log

Test	Depth	Results
01	20 cm	sterile - gravels at the surface and throughout; on slope
02	20 cm	sterile - gravels overlying the clay; on slope
03	30 cm	sterile - wet soils overlying the clay; on slope
04	50 cm	sterile - clay at 40 cm, test dug to 50 cm; on slope
05	30 cm	sterile - very wet soils; in creek bed
06	42 cm	sterile - clayey soils over clay; on slope
07	40 cm	sterile - wet clayey soils over clay; on slope
08	50 cm	sterile - wet clayey soils over clay; on slope
09	30 cm	sterile - disturbed soils; on a berm area
10	25 cm	sterile - gravels throughout the test; on slope
11	20 cm	sterile - shallow sandy clay; on slope
12	30 cm	sterile - clayey soils over clay; on slope
13	20 cm	sterile - clayey soils; on slope
14	10 cm	sterile - clay at surface; on slope
15	50 cm	sterile - wet sand not dug to clay; on berm area
16	30 cm	sterile - clayey soils; on slope
17	50 cm	sterile - clayey soils; on slope
18	90 cm	sterile - sand and clay; on low area
19	25 cm	sterile - gravel and clay; next to pond
20	30 cm	sterile - clayey soils; next to berm
