

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A PROPOSED 48" WELL COLLECTION
LINE IN NORTH BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS

Antiquities Permit 3066

by

William E. Moore

Brazos Valley Research Associates

Contract Report Number 112

2003

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A PROPOSED 48" WELL COLLECTION
LINE IN NORTH BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS

Brazos Valley Research Associates

Project Number 02-19

Principal Investigator: William E. Moore

Prepared for

City of Bryan
P.O. Box 1000
Bryan, Texas 77805

by

Brazos Valley Research Associates
813 Beck Street
Bryan, Texas 77803

ABSTRACT

An archaeological survey of a proposed 48 inch water line, approximately three miles in length, in north Brazos County, Texas was conducted in January 2003 by Brazos Valley Research Associates of Bryan, Texas with William E. Moore serving as the Principal Investigator. Antiquities permit 3066 was issued for this project. The project area was investigated by shovel testing and probing, and no archaeological sites were found. It is recommended that the City of Bryan be allowed to proceed with construction as planned. Copies of the report are on file at the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division; the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL); and the City of Bryan.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The contract for this project was awarded to Brazos Valley Research Associates by the City of Bryan. Glenn Jones, Plant Operations Manager, is acknowledged for providing logistical support in the form of maps, obtaining landowner permission, and assisting the field crew locate the proper access points to this overland route. The Principal Investigator was assisted in the field by James E. Warren (Project Archaeologist), Art Romine, and Bobby Jemison. The figures that appear in this report were prepared by Lili Lyddon of LL Technical Services in North Zulch, Texas.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	iii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
FIELD METHODS	5
RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	6
REFERENCES CITED	7

Appendix I: Shovel Test Log

Figures

Figure 1. General Location Map	2
Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Map.....	3

INTRODUCTION

Brazos Valley Research Associates was retained by the City of Bryan to conduct a 100% Phase I cultural resources survey for the proposed 48 inch water line in north Brazos County, Texas (Figure 1). The project area is depicted on United States Geological Survey topographic map Bryan West (Figure 2). The proposed water line is approximately three miles in length with an easement of 30 feet. A 48 inch pipe will be placed in a 60 inch wide trench with an average cover of three feet. The proposed water line begins at Louis Mikulin Road and traverses cross-country parallel to the Southern Pacific Railroad grade to the City of Bryan low service pump station. The three mile project area is approximately 21.8 acres in size. There are two major stream crossings, Thompson Creek and Thompsons Branch (Figure 2). Since the route of the water line is viewed as a setting likely to contain prehistoric sites, an archaeological survey was required. This project will be reviewed at the state level by the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission. Antiquities permit 3066 was issued for this project. The field survey was conducted on January 15-17, 2003. The survey crew consisted of the James E. Warren, Art Romine, and Bobby Jemison.



Figure 1. General Location Map

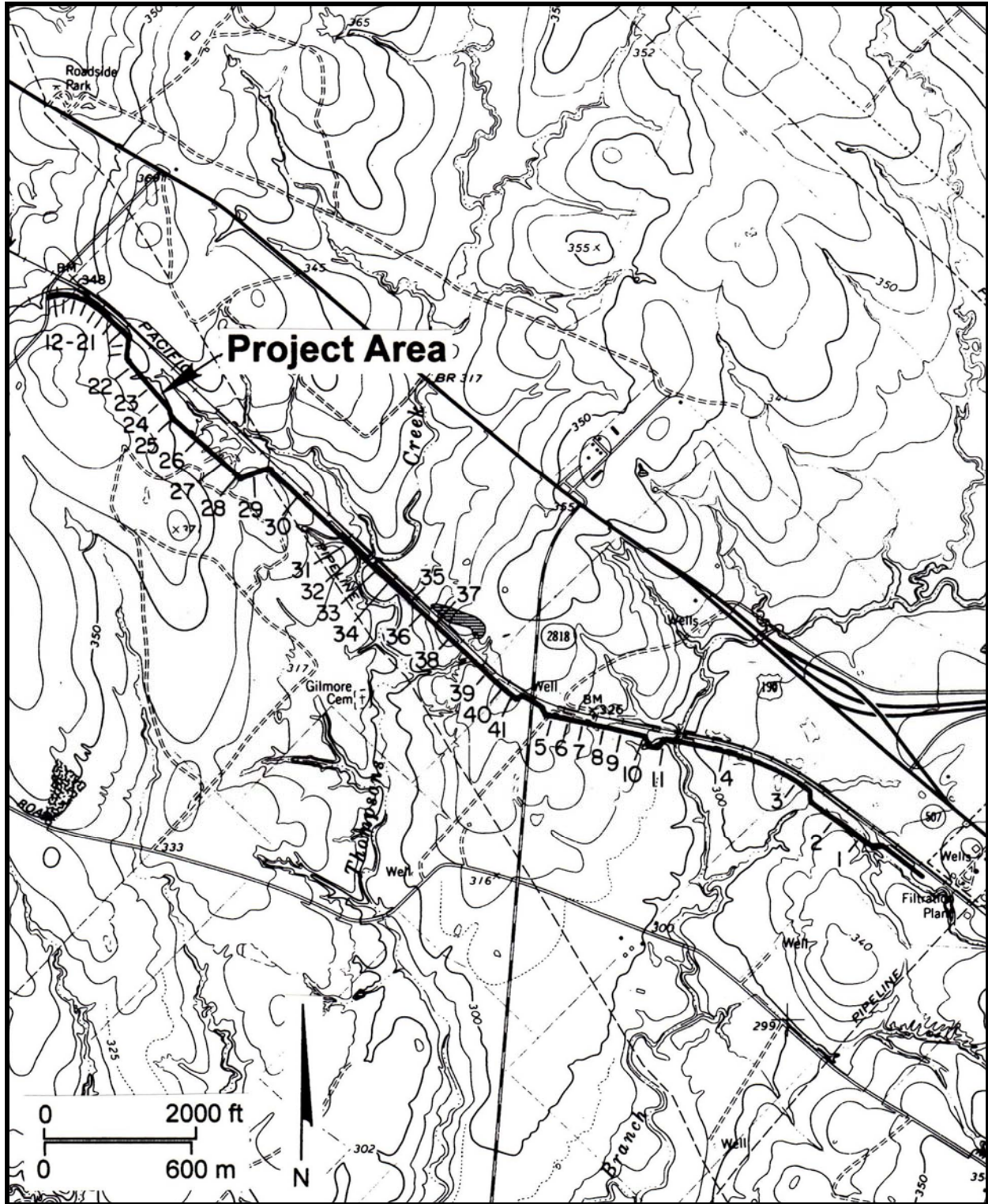


Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Map

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

According to a recently published planning document for the Eastern Planning Region of Texas (Kenmotsu and Perttula 1993:Figure 1.1.2), Brazos County is situated within the Southeast Texas archeological study region. In 1985, according to a statistical overview prepared by the Texas Historical Commission (Biesaart et al. 1985:114), Brazos County contained 33 recorded sites. In 1985, 0 sites in the county had been excavated, 0 had been tested by hand, and 33 had been surface collected. Two recorded prehistoric sites in the county were listed as Paleoindian, 1 was listed as General Archaic, and 1 was listed as Late Prehistoric (Biesaart et al. 1985:114). The archaeological potential of Brazos County is reflected in part by the increasing number of recorded sites found as a result of cultural resource management studies. The number of recorded sites now stands at 151 (Jean Hughes, personal communication, December 4, 2002).

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 sites have been recorded in the region, and several significant archaeological investigations have been performed in Brazos County. 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 or in active floodplains.

It is beyond the scope of this report to discuss in detail the archaeological background of Brazos County, especially when numerous contract reports are available. The interested reader is referred to the statistical overview (Biesaart et al. 1985) and the planning document published by the Texas Historical Commission (Kenmotsu and Perttula 1993) for more detailed information regarding the prehistory of Brazos County.

FIELD METHODS

Prior to entering the field, the Principal Investigator checked with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory for the presence of previously recorded sites in the project area and vicinity. No sites were found to be within the route of the proposed water line.

On January 15, 2003, the survey crew visited the project area with Glenn Jones, Plant Operations Manager for the City of Bryan. Since the route travels overland and crosses one major creek, one of its tributaries, and several gullies, the crew was unable to walk the entire route without entering the project area at different access points. Mr. Jones drove the crew to these access points so they could get to the various sections blocked by these streams.

The entire line was walked by the survey crew who looked for artifacts and features on the surface. Because of poor ground surface visibility the area was subjected to shovel testing. Tests were placed on terraces and hills considered to have the potential for containing buried cultural materials. Shovel tests were dug to clay when possible, and the size of each test was 30 x 50 cm in diameter and varied in depth from 10 to 90 centimeters below the existing ground surface. Some tests were terminated due to saturated soils. All excavated fill was screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth. Data obtained from shovel testing were recorded on a shovel test log (Appendix I). In all, 41 shovel tests were dug.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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. No archaeological sites were found in the project area. It is the opinion of Brazos Valley Research Associates that there are no archaeological sites within the route of the water line. Therefore, it is recommended that construction be allowed to proceed as planned. It is always possible that archaeological sites are missed during any cultural resources survey. Should areas containing prehistoric or historic artifacts not discussed in this report be discovered during construction, Archeology Division, Texas Historical Commission, must be notified immediately and all work stopped in the area of concern until the situation can be evaluated.

REFERENCES CITED

Biesaat, Lynne A., Wayne R. Roberson, and Lisa Clinton Spotts

1985 *Prehistoric Archeological Sites in Texas: A Statistical Overview*. Office of the State Archeologist, Special Report 28. Texas Historical Commission.

Kenmotsu, Nancy Adele, and Timothy K. Perttula

1993 *Archeology in the Eastern Planning Region, Texas: A Planning Document*. Department of Antiquities Protection, Cultural Resource Management Report 3. Texas Historical Commission.

APPENDIX I: SHOVEL TEST LOG

Test	Depth	Comments
01	20 cm	brown sandy loam over red clay
02	40 cm	brown sandy loam with some gravels over red clay
03	10 cm	black sandy clay over yellow clay
04	90 cm	dark gray sand to 50 cm and a light gray sand to yellow clay at 90 cm
05	70 cm	dark gray sand with gravels over yellow clay
06	60 cm	dark gray sand with gravels over yellow clay
07	30 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
08	20 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
09	30 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
10	30 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
11	30 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
12	10 cm	tan loamy clay over yellow clay
13	15 cm	tan loamy clay over yellow clay
14	15 cm	tan loamy clay over yellow clay
15	20 cm	tan loamy clay over yellow clay
16	30 cm	dark gray clay loam
17	40 cm	dark gray clay loam
18	30 cm	dark gray clay loam
19	40 cm	dark gray clay loam
20	40 cm	dark gray clay loam

21	60 cm	dark gray silty clay
22	20 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
23	50 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
24	40 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
25	40 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
26	50 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
27	70 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
28	40 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
29	40 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
30	30 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
31	30 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
32	30 cm	dark gray sandy clay with gravels
33	20 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
34	20 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
35	30 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
36	30 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
37	40 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
38	50 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay
39	70 cm	brown sandy loam over gravels at 60 cm and red clay at 70 cm
40	60 cm	brown sandy loam over gravels at 50 cm and red clay at 60 cm
41	10 cm	brown clay loam with gravels over yellow clay