

**CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED  
BLUE WING ROAD PROPERTY,  
BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

Prepared for

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## ABSTRACT

JUWI Solar (JUWI) contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to conduct an intensive cultural resources survey of the 115-acre Blue Wing Road property located at the intersection of Blue Wing Road and the Interstate Highway (IH) 37 frontage road, one mile northeast of Southton, Bexar County, Texas. Work was done to satisfy requirements of the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO) per the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360 to 35-634). These investigations included a background review and a pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations.

The purpose of the work was to locate and identify all prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the project area, establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate with regard to the project area, and evaluate the significance of any site recorded within the property. SWCA archaeologists James Barrera, Christina Nielsen and John Lowe conducted the fieldwork on October 1, 2009. In all, the area of potential effects (APE) is an irregularly shaped parcel oriented northwest-southeast, totaling 115 acres with a maximum depth of impact of three feet.

The results of the background review determined that no previously recorded sites are located within or directly adjacent to the project area. The western edge of the project area along Blue Wing Road was previously surveyed in 1977 during the San Antonio 201 Wastewater Treatment Project (Fox 1977). No cultural resource sites were recorded within one mile of the current project area during these investigations. This previous investigation currently only overlaps with approximately 9 acres of the proposed project area leaving the remaining 106 acres unsurveyed for cultural resources.

The project area consists of a large open agricultural field that is currently dominated by patchy native grasses with surface visibility ranging from 60–90 percent. A total of 24 shovel tests were excavated within the project area resulting in the documentation of site 41BX1586, which is located in the northern portion of the project area. Site 41BX1586 is a diffuse prehistoric lithic scatter that stretches across a 300 x 125-m area. Artifacts consisting of 20–25 lithic reduction flakes and roughly 50 burned rocks were noted on the surface and within one positive shovel test. No diagnostic artifacts or intact cultural features were noted within the site boundaries. Overall, the site is very sparse in nature and has been severely impacted by agriculture-related impacts and as a result possesses little to no research value. No further work is recommended for site 41BX1586. Accordingly, no intact significant cultural resources will be affected by any construction activities within the project area. SWCA recommends no further archeological investigations within the project area.



## INTRODUCTION

JUWI Solar (JUWI) contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to conduct an intensive cultural resources survey of the 115-acre Blue Wing Road property located at the intersection of Blue Wing Road and the Interstate Highway (IH) 37 frontage road, one mile northeast of Southton, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). Work was done to satisfy requirements of the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO) per the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360 to 35-634). These investigations included a background review and a pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations.

The purpose of the work was to locate and identify all prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the Area of Potential Effects (APE), establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate with regard to the APE, and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site recorded within the APE. SWCA archaeologists James Barrera, Christina Nielsen and John Lowe conducted the fieldwork on October 1, 2009. In all, the APE is an irregularly shaped parcel oriented northwest-southeast, and totalling 115 acres with a maximum depth of impact of three feet.

## DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The project area consists of a large open agricultural field that is currently dominated by patchy native grasses with surface visibility ranging from 60–90 percent (Figure 2). The frontage road of IH-37 forms the northern and eastern boundaries of the project area while a private road forms the southern boundary and the western boundary coincides with Blue Wing Road. The construction of steep embankments associated with IH-37 have impacted the northern periphery of the project

area along with a number of inconspicuous parallel ditches that run north-south across the central portion of the property (Figure 3). In addition to these disturbances, agricultural activities, clearing, and erosion have adversely impacted the natural character of the landscape leaving only a shallow loamy top layer underlain by dense clays (Figure 4). Near surface bedrock was encountered within the western portion of the project area along with a scattering of naturally occurring chert cobbles, which were found to be dispersed across the entirety of the project area. In these types of settings, any cultural materials would typically be confined to surface or near surface contexts thus allowing for their discovery, if present.

The geology of the project area is mapped as Eocene-age Wilcox Group (Barnes 1983). These deposits consist of mudstone and sandstone 440–1200 feet thick (Barnes 1983).

The soils in the project area belong to the San Antonio-Crockett soil association. These soils are typically deep clay loam and sandy loam with claypan (Taylor et al. 1991). Specifically, the soils within the project area are mapped as Crockett soils, 2–5% slopes, eroded (CkC2), Orelia clay loam, 0–1% slopes (OrA), San Antonio clay loam, 1–3% slopes (SaB), and Webb fine sandy loam, 1–3% slopes (WbB) (Taylor et al. 1991).

## METHODS

### *BACKGROUND REVIEW*

SWCA conducted a thorough background cultural resources and environmental literature search of the project area. An SWCA archaeologist reviewed the Southton, USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory

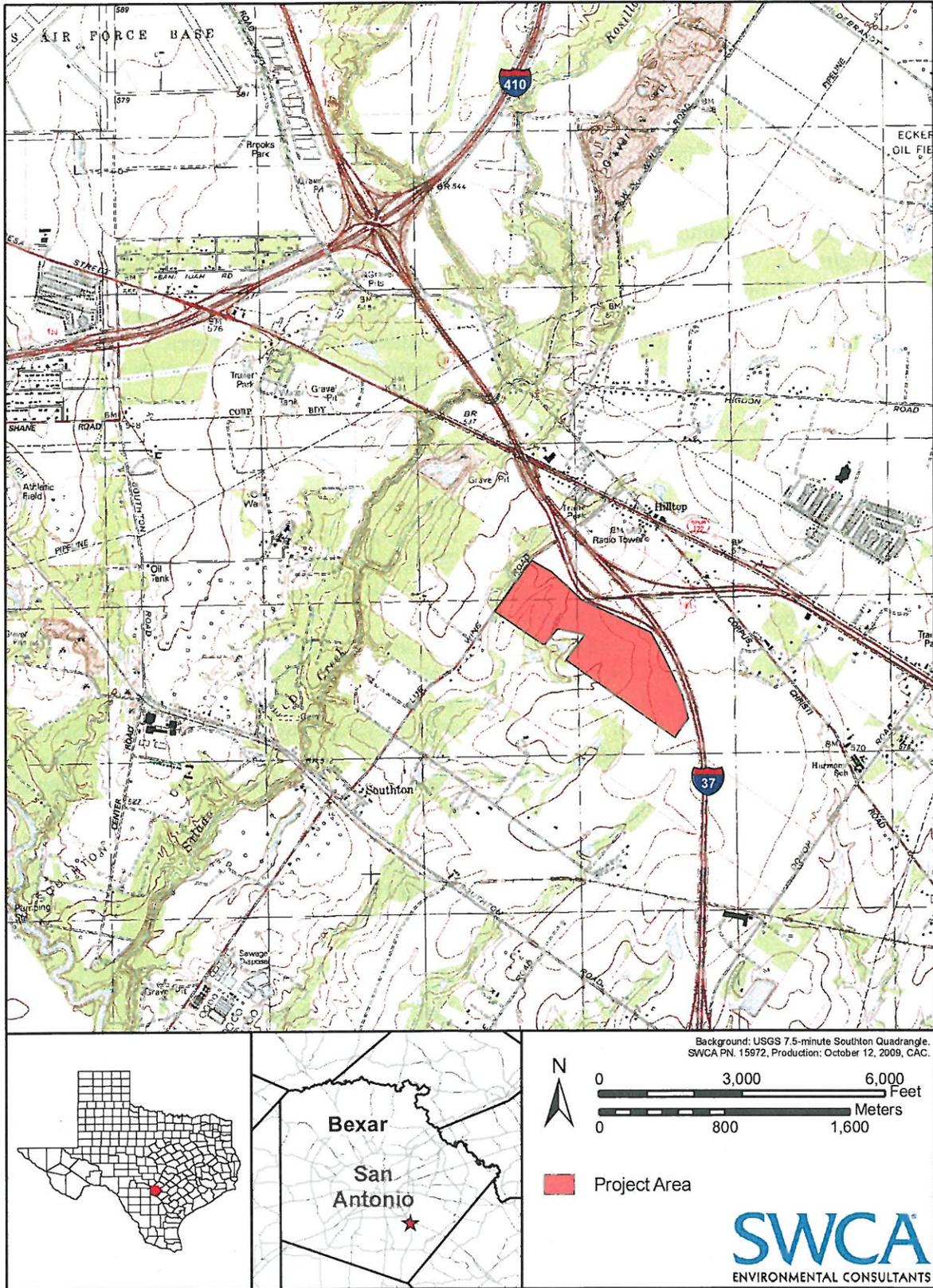


Figure 1. Project location map.



Figure 2. Overview of Blue Wing Road project area, facing northeast



Figure 3. View of drainage ditches in the central portion of the project area



Figure 4. View of shallow basal clays within shovel test

(TARL) and searched the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) online database for any previously recorded surveys and historic or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or near the project area. In addition to identifying recorded archaeological sites, the review included information on the following types of cultural resources: NRHP properties, SALs, Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHM), Registered Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Historic Overlay maps, cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. The archaeologist also examined the *Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas* (Taylor et al. 1991) and the *Geologic Atlas of Texas, San Antonio Sheet* (Barnes 1992). Aerial photographs were reviewed to assist in identifying any disturbances.

### ***FIELD METHODS***

SWCA's investigations consisted of an intensive pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations within the APE. Archaeologists examined the ground surface and exposures for cultural resources. Subsurface investigations involved shovel testing in settings with the potential to contain buried cultural materials. The shovel tests were approximately 30 cm in diameter and excavated to culturally sterile deposits or impassible basal clay, whichever came first. The matrix from each shovel test was screened through ¼-inch mesh, and the location of each excavation was plotted using a hand-held GPS receiver. Each shovel test was recorded on a standardized form to document the excavations.

Archaeological sites were recorded using a State of Texas Archeological Site Data Form, a pace and compass sketch map, a plot on the topographic map, and photographs, each completed while on the site in the field. The sites had a GPS point recorded at the arbitrary da-

tum point, and these coordinates were recorded on the site forms and submitted to TARL for the final location information. Additional site records such as individual site descriptions, site notes and daily journal forms regarding site specific information were also maintained during this project.

### ***CULTURAL SETTING***

As the only cultural resources identified in the project area are prehistoric, the following cultural setting only describes this portion of the cultural history of the area. The proposed project area falls within Central Texas Archeological Region (Pertulla 2004). Although the archaeological regions are not absolute, they do generally reflect recognized biotic communities and physiographic areas in Texas (Pertulla 2004:6). The Central Texas Region, as its name implies, is in the center of Texas and covers the Edwards Plateau and portions of the Blackland prairie east of the Edwards Plateau. The following synopses provide basic culture histories of the Central Texas region.

The archaeological record of the Central Texas region is known from decades of investigations of stratified open air sites and rockshelters throughout the Edwards Plateau, its highly dissected eastern and southern margins, and the adjoining margins of physiographic regions to the east and south (see Collins [2004] for review). Traditionally, the Central Texas archaeological area has included the Balcones Canyonlands and Blackland Prairie—that is, north of San Antonio (e.g., Prewitt 1981; Suhm 1960). These two areas are on the periphery of the Central Texas archaeological area, and their archaeological records and projectile point style sequences contain elements that suggest influences from and varying degrees of contact over time with other areas such as the Lower Pecos and Gulf Coastal Plain (Collins 2004; Johnson and Goode 1994). For more-complete bibliographies con-

cerning archaeological work done in the region, see Black (1989), Collins (1995), and Johnson and Goode (1994).

### **PALEOINDIAN PERIOD**

Surficial and deeply buried sites, rockshelter sites, and isolated artifacts represent Paleoindian (11,500–8,800 B.P.) occupations of the Central Texas region (Collins 2004:116). The period is often described as having been characterized by small but highly mobile bands of foragers who were specialized hunters of Pleistocene megafauna. But Paleoindians probably used a much wider array of resources (Meltzer and Bever 1995:59), including small fauna and plant foods. Faunal remains from Kincaid Rockshelter and the Wilson-Leonard site (41WM235) support this view (Bousman 1998; Collins 1998; Collins et al. 1989). Longstanding ideas about Paleoindian technologies also are being challenged.

Collins (2004) divides the Paleoindian period into early and late subperiods. Two projectile point styles, Clovis and Folsom, are included in the early subperiod. Clovis chipped stone artifact assemblages, including the diagnostic fluted lanceolate Clovis point, were produced by bifacial, flake, and prismatic-blade techniques on high-quality and oftentimes exotic lithic materials (Collins 1990). Along with chipped stone artifacts, Clovis assemblages include engraved stones, bone and ivory points, stone bolas, and ochre (Collins 2004:116; Collins et al. 1992). Clovis points are found evenly distributed along the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau, where the presence of springs and outcrops of chert-bearing limestone are common (Meltzer and Bever 1995:58). Sites within the area yielding Clovis points and Clovis-age materials include Kincaid Rockshelter (Collins et al. 1989), Pavo Real (Henderson and Goode 1991), and San Marcos Springs (Takac 1991). A probable Clovis polyhedral blade core and blade fragment was found at the Greenbelt site in San

Antonio (Houk et al. 1997). Analyses of Clovis artifacts and site types suggest that Clovis peoples were well-adapted, generalized hunter-gatherers with the technology to hunt larger game but not solely rely on it.

In contrast, Folsom tool kits—consisting of fluted Folsom points, thin unfluted (Midland) points, large thin bifaces, and end scrapers—are more indicative of specialized hunting, particularly of bison (Collins 2004:117). Folsom points have been recovered from Kincaid Rockshelter (Collins et al. 1989) and Pavo Real (Henderson and Goode 1991).

Postdating Clovis and Folsom points in the archaeological record are a series of dart point styles (primarily unfluted lanceolate darts) for which the temporal, technological, or cultural significance is unclear. Often, the Plainview type name is assigned these dart points, but Collins (2004:117) has noted that many of these points typed as Plainview do not resemble Plainview type-site points in thinness and flaking technology. Nonetheless, it has become clear that the artifact and feature assemblages of the later Paleoindian subperiod appear to be Archaic-like in nature and in many ways may represent a transition between the early Paleoindian and succeeding Archaic periods (Collins 2004:118).

### **ARCHAIC PERIOD**

The Archaic period for Central Texas dates from ca. 8,800 to 1,300–1,200 B.P. (Collins 2004:119–121) and generally is believed to represent a shift toward hunting and gathering of a wider array of animal and plant resources and a decrease in group mobility (Willey and Phillips 1958:107–108). In the eastern and southwestern United States and on the Great Plains, development of horticultural-based, semisedentary to sedentary societies succeeds the Archaic period. In these areas, the Archaic truly represents a developmental stage of ad-

aptation as Willey and Phillips (1958) define it. For Central Texas, this notion of the Archaic is somewhat problematic. An increasing amount of evidence suggests that Archaic-like adaptations were in place before the Archaic (see Collins 2004:118, 1998; Collins et al. 1989) and that these practices continued into the succeeding Late Prehistoric period (Collins 1995:385; Prewitt 1981:74). In a real sense, the Archaic period of Central Texas region is not a developmental stage, but an arbitrary chronological construct and projectile point style sequence. Establishment of this sequence is based on several decades of archaeological investigations at stratified Archaic sites along the eastern and southern margins of the Edwards Plateau. Collins (1995, 2004) and Johnson and Goode (1994) have divided this sequence into three parts—early, middle, and late—based on perceived (though not fully agreed upon by all scholars) technological, environmental, and adaptive changes.

The use of rock and earth ovens (and the formation of burned rock middens) for processing and cooking plant foods suggests that this technology was part of a generalized foraging strategy. The amount of energy involved in collecting plants, constructing hot rock cooking appliances, and gathering fuel ranks most plant foods relatively low based on the resulting caloric return (Dering 1999). This suggests that plant foods were part of a broad-based diet (Kibler and Scott 2000:134) or part of a generalized foraging strategy, an idea Prewitt (1981) put forth earlier. At times during the Late Archaic, this generalized foraging strategy appears to have been marked by shifts to a specialized economy focused on bison hunting (Kibler and Scott 2000:125–137). Castroville, Montell, and Marcos dart points are elements of tool kits often associated with bison hunting (Collins 1968). Archaeological evidence of this association is seen at Bonfire Shelter in Val Verde County (Dibble and Lorrain 1968),

Jonas Terrace (Johnson 1995), Oblate Rockshelter (Johnson et al. 1962:116), John Ischy (Sorrow 1969), and Panther Springs Creek (Black and McGraw 1985).

#### LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD

Introduction of the bow and arrow and, later, ceramics into Central Texas marked the Late Prehistoric period. Population densities dropped considerably from their Late Archaic peak (Prewitt 1985:217). Subsistence strategies did not differ greatly from the preceding period, although bison again became an important economic resource during the late part of the Late Prehistoric period (Prewitt 1981:74). Use of rock and earth ovens for plant food processing and the subsequent development of burned rock middens continued throughout the Late Prehistoric period (Black et al. 1997; Kleinbach et al. 1995:795). Horticulture came into play very late in the region but was of minor importance to overall subsistence strategies (Collins 2004:122).

In Central Texas, the Late Prehistoric period generally is associated with the Austin and Toyah phases (Jelks 1962; Prewitt 1981:82–84). Austin and Toyah phase horizon markers, Scallorn-Edwards and Perdiz arrow points, respectively, are distributed across most of the state. Violence and conflict often marked introduction of Scallorn and Edwards arrow points into Central Texas—many excavated burials contain these point tips in contexts indicating they were the cause of death (Prewitt 1981:83). Subsistence strategies and technologies (other than arrow points) did not change much from the preceding Late Archaic period. Prewitt's (1981) use of the term "Neolithic" recognizes this continuity. In fact, Johnson and Goode (1994:39–40) and Collins (2004:122) state that the break between the Austin and Toyah phases could easily and appropriately represent the break between the Late Archaic and the Late Prehistoric.

## RESULTS

### *BACKGROUND REVIEW*

The results of the background review determined that no previously recorded sites are located within or directly adjacent to the project area. The far western edge of the project area along Blue Wing Road overlaps with a large area survey conducted in 1977 for the San Antonio 201 Wastewater Treatment Project (Fox 1977). No cultural resource sites were recorded within one mile of the current project area during these investigations. This previous investigation currently only overlaps with approximately 9 acres of the proposed project area leaving the remaining 106 acres unsurveyed for cultural resources. Finally, the St. Anne Cemetery is located approximately 0.89 miles southwest of the current project area.

### *FIELD SURVEY*

On October 1, 2009 SWCA archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the 115-acre Blue Wing Road project area. The THC/Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA) survey standards require a minimum of one shovel test per three acres for projects of this size thus necessitating the excavation of a total 38 shovel tests within the APE. The investigations targeted the western and central portion of the project area based on the proximity of a tributary of the San Antonio River and the anticipated likelihood for associated alluvial features. In reality, shovel tests in the western portion of the project area encountered shallow degrading bedrock with little to no alluvial deposition noted and soils in the eastern half were considerably deeper, extending up to 70 cm below surface (cmbs). The deeper soils were documented as sandy clay loam and mottled clay loam with gravels underlain by dense mottled clay at 55–70 cmbs. Extremely dense and compact basal clays

were encountered at much shallower depths within the remainder of the project area ranging from 15–30 cmbs. A well defined plow zone extending to 20–25 cmbs was documented throughout the entire project area, indicating that agricultural activities have left virtually none of the property intact.

In all, SWCA excavated a total of 24 shovel tests within the project area (Figure 5, Table 1). The THC/CTA survey standards were not met due primarily to the nature of the disturbances within the project area including ditching, road construction, clearing, plowing, and erosion. Additionally, surface visibility was typically high (60–90 percent) due to patchy grass cover, allowing for the discovery of surface artifacts (Figure 6). The investigation of the 115-acre project area resulted in the documentation of one new prehistoric site, 41BX1586.

### **SITE 41BX1586**

Site 41BX1586 is a prehistoric artifact scatter that stretches across a broad upland terrace in the northern portion of the project area (Figure 7). The entirety of the site is within an open agricultural field with relatively high surface visibility (ca. 75–90 percent) (Figure 8). A definable plow zone of sandy clay loam was noted extending to 20 cmbs. The plow zone is underlain by extremely compact angular blocky clays and shovel tests were typically terminated at 35 cmbs due to impenetrable clayey deposits.

IH-37 currently forms the northern boundary of the site while the western, southern, and eastern boundaries were defined based on the distribution of surface artifacts and positive and negative shovel tests. Site 41BX1586 measures approximately 300 x 125-m northwest to southeast with artifacts noted exclusively within the shallow plow zone or in surface contexts.

IMAGE RESTRICTED

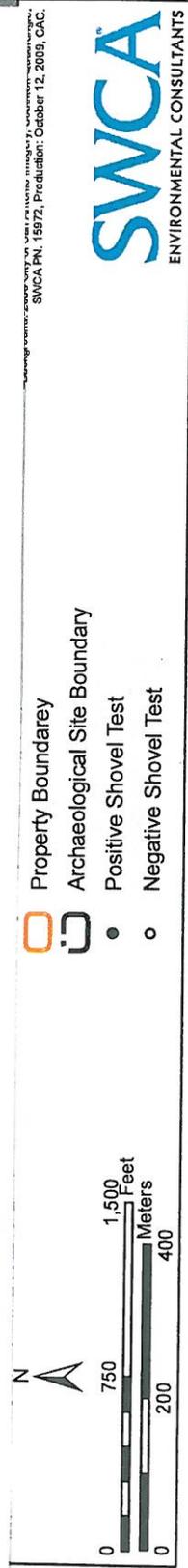


Figure 5. Survey results map.

Table 1. Blue Wing Road Shovel Test Data

Shovel Test #	P=Pos N=Neg	Site	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture Description	Inclusions	Comments
1	N		0-60	10YR 2/2	Very Dark Brown	Clayey Sandy Loam	Very few sandstone cobbles	Open field w/all grasses, south end of project area. Ground surface visibility (GSV) 5%. More clay content w/depth.
			60-65	10YR 2/1	Black	Clay Loam		10YR4/6 mottles some sand content but clay sticks together very well. Terminated at basal clay.
2	N		0-25	10YR 5/4	Yellowish Brown	Sandy Clay Loam	Chert spall	Fallow field, 100m W of IH 37. Broad level upland terrace. Plowzone. 1 cart spall @ 2'. Abrupt change @ 25.
			25-50	10YR 3/2	Very Dark Grayish Brown	Clay Loam	CaCO3 filaments and flecking-1%, rootlets	Dense clay with little loam. Angular, blocky, firm, semi-moist. Very compact @ 50. Terminated at compact soil.
3	N		0-25	10YR 5/3	Brown	Sandy Loam	Few small sandstone/hematite gravels	Hayfield, upland. Upper 5-10 is loose, dry, lighter. Gravels increase in size with depth.
			25-45	10YR 5/3	Brown	Clay Loam	Very few sandstone gravels, sparse CaCO3 filaments	Clay loam, clay increases w/depth.
			45-50	10YR 4/4	Dark Yellowish Brown	Clay		Some strong brown mottles. Firm, blocky, angular. Terminated at basal clay.
4	N		0-65	10YR 2/2	Very Dark Brown	Clayey Sandy Loam		Open field w/all grasses, south end of project area. GSV 5%. More clay content w/depth.
			65-70	10YR 2/1	Black	Clay Loam		10YR4/6 mottles some sand content but clay sticks together very well. Terminated at basal clay.
5	N		0-25	10YR 6/6	Brownish Yellow	Sandy Loam	5% angular gravels (sandstone)	Same setting as #2. Loose, gravel and sandy loam. Disturbed-plowing, very moist.
			25-50	10YR 4/3 w/5YR 6/6	Brown w/Reddish Yellow	Sandy Clay Loam		Disturbed mixed red clay with loose sandy loam. Abrupt change @ 50. moist.
			50-60	5YR 6/6 w/10YR 6/6	Reddish Yellow w/Brownish Yellow	Sandy Clay Loam		Firm Red clay. Undisturbed. Terminated at basal clay.
6	N		0-30	10YR 5/3	Brown	Sandy Clay Loam	Few sandstone gravels	Same setting as #3. By graded area/wash leading to stock tank. Vegetation a little shorter, more sparse. Gravels increase with depth.
			30-40	10YR 4/6	Dark Yellowish Brown	Sandy Clay		Firm, compact sandy clay. Almost hardpan. Impassable @ 40. Terminated at compact soil.
7	N		0-7	10YR 4/6	Dark Yellowish Brown	Clay		Shallow basal clays in a tall grassy area w/small trees. No gravels. Terminated at basal clay.
			0-25	10YR 6/6	Brownish Yellow	Clayey Sandy Loam		Lower upland terrace than #s 2&5. Still fallow field. Loose, granular sandy loam with clay mix from heavy disturbance
8	N		25-40	5YR 6/6 w/10YR 6/6	Reddish Yellow w/Brownish Yellow	Sandy Clay Loam		Abrupt, very dense angular, blocky red clay @ 25. Looks as though this has been bladed/scraped at some point. Sandstone @ 40. Red clay is basal. ST 20 meters east of site. Terminated at bedrock and basal clay.
			0-20	7.5YR 5/4	Brown	Sandy Clay Loam	Two chert cobbles. Two small gravels	Same setting as #3. Small quantity of burned rock in 2 meter radius of shovel test. Loose 0-20, blocky 10-20. No cultural materials.
9	N	41BX1586	20-30	7.5YR 4/3	Brown	Sandy Clay		Firm, blocky, compact, no gravels. Completely impassable at 30 cm. Surface maybe deflated on old plowzone.
			0-15	10YR 3/3	Dark Brown	Sandy Clay Loam		Southwest of FS 1, open field
10	N		15-30	10YR 2/2	Very Dark Brown	Sandy Clay Loam	Very few sandstone pebbles	Starting to get compact
			30-35	10YR 2/1	Black	Clay Loam		10YR5/8 mottles, compacted sticky clay. Terminated at basal clay.
11	N		0-30	10YR 5/6	Yellowish Brown	Sandy Clay Loam		heavily disturbed plowed field at south end. Sticky clay loam with sand to 30. Mottled, frequently wet. Moist.
			30-40	10YR 6/8	Brownish Yellow	Clay Loam		Moderately firm, moist, clay loam. Very little sand, very yellow. Likely not basal, getting very firm @ 40. Terminated at compact soil.
12	P	41BX1586	0-20	10YR 5/4	Yellowish Brown	Sandy Clay Loam	Two small sandstone gravels	Roughly 20 meters west of site datum. One flake -2 meters east on surface. Friable plow zone. One burned rock (5 cm in diameter) at 5 cmbs.
			20-35	10YR 3/3	Dark Brown	Clay Loam	Some CaCO3	Moist, sticky clay loam. Clay increasing with depth, very firm @ 30, by 35 cm impassible probably basal.

Table 1. Blue Wing Road Shovel Test Data

Shovel Test #	P=Pos N=Neg	Site	Depth (cm/b)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture Description	Inclusions	Comments
13	N	41BX1586	0-25 25-30	10YR3/2 10YR2/1	Very Dark Grayish Brown Black	Sandy Loam Clay Loam		Plowed field, tall grasses. South edge of site, no artifacts on surface. 10YR3/2, 10YR5/4 mottles. Extremely compact and blocky. Terminated at compact soil.
14	N	41BX1586	0-20 20-25	10YR6/6 10YR 7/3	Brownish Yellow Very Pale Brown	Sandy Clay Loam Clay Loam		In center of site 41BX1586 @ datum. Flake and modern trash on surface 3 meters south of ST 14. Loose sandy clay loam. Plow zone to 20 cm. Very firm, angular, blocky, clay @ 20. Likely not a basal clay, very compact/compacted. Terminated at compact soil.
15	N		0-15 15-20	10YR3/3 10YR2/2	Dark Brown Very Dark Brown	Clay Loam Clay	One sandstone gravel Gravels and calcium carbonate	West of site, lower elevation, thick tall grass Thick, dark clay. Terminated at compact soil.
16	N		0-18	10YR2/1	Black	Clay Loam	Roots and rootlets	Some sand content. Very compact clay @ 15. Terminated at compact soil.
17	N		0-25 25-40	10YR 6/4 10YR7/3	Light Yellowish Brown Very Pale Brown	Sandy Clay Loam Clay Loam		Moist sandy clay. Plow zone. Nearest surface artifacts -30 meters west. ST located 30 meters west of site.
18	N		0-20	10YR 3/3	Dark Brown	Sandy Clay Loam	Sandstone and hematite gravels throughout	Moist, sticky clay to 40. Firm @ 40. Not basal. Terminated at compact soil. On rise in north corner of APE. Ferric sandstone gravels and cobbles on surface. Terminated at basal clay.
19	N		0-30 30-65	10YR4/4 10YR3/2	Dark Yellowish Brown Very Dark Grayish Brown	Sandy Loam Clay Loam	Rootlets	Loose sandy loam. North end of project area.
20	N		0-15 15-25	10YR5/3 10YR3/1	Brown Very Dark Gray	Sandy Clay Loam Clay Loam		7.5YR 5/8 mottles @ 60. Compact clay. Terminated at basal clay. Shallow plow zone in fallow field. Maybe in low gully. Dark clay loam with sand (washed in). Very firm, angular, blocky, clay loam. Not basal -very compact clay. Terminated at compact soil.
21	N		0-15 15-30	7.5YR6/8 5YR5/2	Reddish Yellow Reddish Gray	Sandy Loam Sandy Clay Loam	Chert and sandstone gravels Very few gravels	Southwest end of property. Near stock tank. Same vegetation. Clay content increases with depth. Abrupt hardpan clay @ 30 cm.
22	N		0-25 25-30	10YR3/4 10YR3/3	Dark Yellowish Brown Dark Brown	Sandy Loam Clay Loam	Roots and rootlets	Northwest corner of project area. Loose sandy loam.
23	N		0-20 20-25	7.5YR7/6 2.5YR4/8	Reddish Yellow Red	Sandy Loam Sandy Clay Loam	20% angular gravels	Many 5YR4/8 mottles, some sand content. Terminated at basal clay. At far west edge of APE. 25 meters east of Blue Wind Rd. Dense gravels. Upland hill top.
24	N		0-35 35-45	10YR5/3 10YR4/2	Brown Dark Grayish Brown	Sandy Clay Loam Clay Loam	Gravels	Upland soils -no alluvium. Trenching not required along west of APE. Dense red blocky clay -basal @ 20. Terminated at basal clay. At south and west edge of APE, 30 meters north of two-track. Still fallow field, more clayey along southern edge (colluvium). Moist clay loam with little sand. Loose plow zone to 35. Firm moist blocky clay. Not basal. Dark clay appears to be upland/slope deposit, deeper progressing south. Terminated at compact soil.



Figure 6. Overview of typical ground visibility within the project area

IMAGE RESTRICTED

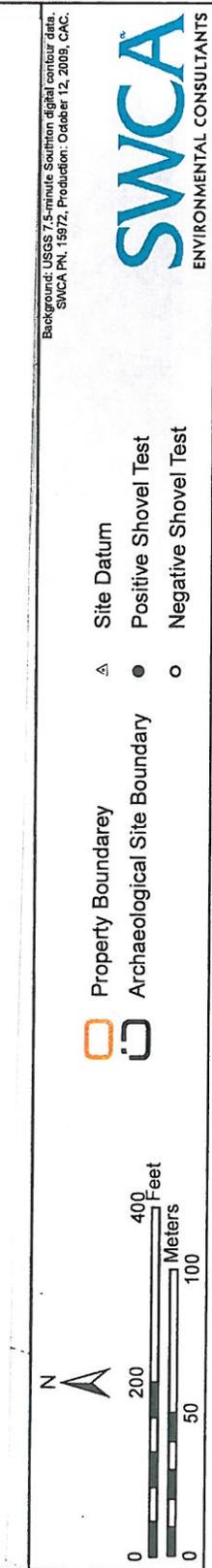


Figure 7. 41BX1586 site map.



Figure 8. Overview of site 41BX1586, facing north

Site 41BX1586 consists of a scatter of non-diagnostic lithic artifacts including 20–25 quartzite and chert flakes, two crude chert bifacial cores, and roughly 50 chert and quartzite burned rocks (Figures 9 and 10). The artifacts are closely intermixed with a high frequency of naturally occurring chert cobbles. While burned rock was documented within the site boundaries, no areas of high burned rock concentration were encountered. The presence of burned rock is generally indicative of a domestic feature, however in this case the burned rock was evenly dispersed across the site and it is unclear how it relates to the artifact assemblage. The most plausible interpretation is that the burned rock likely once formed a prehistoric feature but has since been destroyed and scattered as a result of years of plowing.

A total of 6 shovel tests (ST) were excavated within the site boundary (ST 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17) in order to define the site boundary on the eastern, southern and western sides. A single burned rock was encountered in subsurface context within ST 12 at 5 cmbs. The remainder of the artifact assemblage was noted exclusively in surface contexts. As this area has been used extensively for agricultural practices, it is likely that this burned rock was deposited as a result of frequent and persistent plowing rather than as a result of prehistoric cultural phenomena.

Site 41BX1586 is spread out over a relatively large area with artifacts evenly dispersed across the landscape. The abundance of naturally occurring chert cobbles in the area likely served as the catalyst for the initial deposition of artifacts as prehistoric peoples would have targeted this area as a resource of lithic materials. The burned rock may be the remnants of a single-use hearth feature, however it has since been destroyed; thus, severely limiting the ability to determine the prehistoric utility of the area. Additionally, the pervasiveness of

agricultural activity in the area has considerably altered the assemblage resulting in displacement and deflation. As such, the site has little contextual integrity or research value and is not considered significant.

## **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

SWCA conducted a cultural resources investigation of the 115-acre Blue Wing Road property located in southwestern Bexar County, Texas. Work was done to satisfy requirements of the San Antonio HPO per the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360 to 35-634).

The results of the background review determined that the far western end of the project area (approximately 9 acres) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources; however, no previously recorded sites are located within a mile radius of the project area.

The survey resulted in the documentation of site 41BX1586, which is located in the northern portion of the project area. Site 41BX1586 is a diffuse prehistoric lithic scatter that stretches across a 300 x 125-m area. Artifacts consisting of lithic reduction flakes and burned rock were noted on the surface and within one positive shovel test. No diagnostic artifacts or intact cultural features were noted within the site boundaries. Overall, the site has been severely impacted by agriculture-related impacts and as a result possesses little to no actual research value. No further work is recommended for site 41BX1586.

Overall, the project area possesses limited potential for buried cultural deposits due to the nature of the underlying soils and geology. Extensive clearing and plowing activities as well as nearby roadway construction have also adversely impacted the project area further reducing the likelihood for intact, significant



Figure 9. Chert core and quartzite flake encountered at site 41BX1586



Figure 10. Sample artifact assemblage from site 41BX1586

cultural deposits or features. In all, SWCA excavated a total of 24 shovel tests within the project area. The THC/CTA survey standards were not met due primarily to the nature of the disturbances within the project area including ditching, road construction, clearing, plowing, and erosion. Additionally, surface visibility was typically high (60–90 percent) due to patchy grass cover, allowing for the discovery of surface artifacts.

Based upon the results of current investigations, it is SWCA's opinion that the development of the project area will have no adverse impacts on significant cultural resources. SWCA recommends no further archaeological investigations within the project area.

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