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## An Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the USACE Jurisdictional Areas within the 153.0-acre Cuatro Vientos Tract in Webb County, Texas

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## An Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the USACE Jurisdictional Areas within the 153.0-acre Cuatro Vientos Tract in Webb County, Texas

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# **An Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the USACE Jurisdictional Areas within the 153.0-acre Cuatro Vientos Tract in Webb County, Texas**

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**HJN 130198 AR**

**Prepared for:**

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Laredo, Texas**

**Prepared by:**

**Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.  
Austin, Texas**

**June 2015**



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## **ABSTRACT**

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On 21 April 2015, Horizon Environmental Services, Inc. (Horizon) conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional areas within the 153.0-acre Cuatro Vientos tract located just southeast of Laredo in Webb County, Texas (Project Area). In all, the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area total approximately 13.6 acres along opposing sides of an unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek. Although the Project Area consists of private property and will be developed with private funds, its development will require the usage of a Nationwide Permit (NWP) issued by the USACE. As NWPs are federal permits, the undertaking also falls under the regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Horizon conducted the cultural resources survey of the USACE jurisdictional areas on behalf of Laredo Four Winds, LTD. (LFW) in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any archeological sites were located within the USACE jurisdictional areas and, if any existed, to determine if the project had the potential to have any adverse impacts on sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The cultural resources survey resulted in the reevaluation and partial boundary revision of portions of previously recorded site 41WB441 that are located within the USACE jurisdictional areas contained within the Project Area. Site 41WB441 was originally documented as an extensive prehistoric campsite by TRC Mariah and Associates (TRC) in 1997. In 2001, Blanton and Associates, Inc. (Blanton) reassessed a portion of the site and also recorded sites 41WB574 and 41WB575 within its overall boundaries. Realizing that sites 41WB574 and 41WB575 were smaller activity loci within the larger 41WB441, Blanton opted to include all 3 of these sites under the 41WB441 trinomial. Although this site is extensive, both TRC and Blanton assessed it as being ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP based on the presence of only surficial cultural deposits that have been comingled over time. While Horizon's investigations resulted in a slight expansion of the overall boundaries of the site, they also documented only sparse and surficial cultural deposits within the expanded area. With this in mind, it is Horizon's opinion that site 41WB441 is still considered to be ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP and that no additional cultural resources investigations are warranted on the site in connection with the current undertaking.

Based on the fact that site 41WB441 has now been assessed on 3 different occasions as being ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP, it is Horizon's opinion that the development of the

Cuatro Vientos tract will have no adverse effect on significant cultural resources listed on or considered eligible for listing on the NRHP within the USACE jurisdictional areas. Horizon therefore recommends that LFW be allowed to proceed with the development of the Project Area, relative to the jurisdiction of the USACE and Section 106 of the NHPA.



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Horizon Environmental Services, Inc. (Horizon) conducted the intensive cultural resources survey of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional areas within the 153.0-acre Cuatro Vientos tract reported herein in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Russ Brownlow served as the principal investigator for the project and lead author on this report. Briana Smith conducted the field investigations and was responsible for drafting the figures.



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

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This document reports the results of an intensive cultural resources survey of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional areas within the 153.0-acre Cuatro Vientos tract located just southeast of Laredo in Webb County, Texas (Project Area; Figures 1-1 and 1-2). In all, the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area total approximately 13.6 acres along opposing sides of an unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek. This includes the tributary channel as well as all associated uplands within 100.0 feet (30.5 meters [m]) of each bank of the tributary. Although the Project Area consists of private property and will be developed with private funds, its development will require the usage of a Nationwide Permit (NWP) issued by the USACE. As NWPs are federal permits, the undertaking also falls under the regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Horizon conducted the cultural resources survey of the USACE jurisdictional areas on behalf of Laredo Four Winds, LTD. (LFW) in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any archeological sites were located within the USACE jurisdictional areas and, if any existed, to determine if the project had the potential to have any adverse impacts on sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The cultural resources investigations consisted of an archival review, an intensive cultural resources survey of the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area, and the production of a report suitable for review by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in accordance with the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Rules of Practice and Procedure, Chapter 26, Section 27, and the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) Guidelines for Cultural Resources Management Reports. Russell Brownlow (Horizon's cultural resources director) served as the project's principal investigator, while Briana Smith (Horizon staff archeologist) conducted the field investigations.

Horizon conducted the survey of the Project Area on 21 April 2015. This entailed intensive surface inspection and subsurface shovel testing efforts on opposing sides of an unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek that extends through the northwestern quarter of the Project Area. The Texas State Minimum Archeological Survey Standards (TSMASS) require a minimum of 1 shovel test per 2.0 acres for projects measuring between 11.0 and 100.0 acres in size. As the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area total approximately 13.6 acres, a minimum of 7 shovel tests were necessary within the USACE jurisdictional areas in order to comply with the TSMASS. Horizon exceeded the TSMASS by excavating a total of 17 shovel tests within the USACE jurisdictional areas contained within the Project Area.

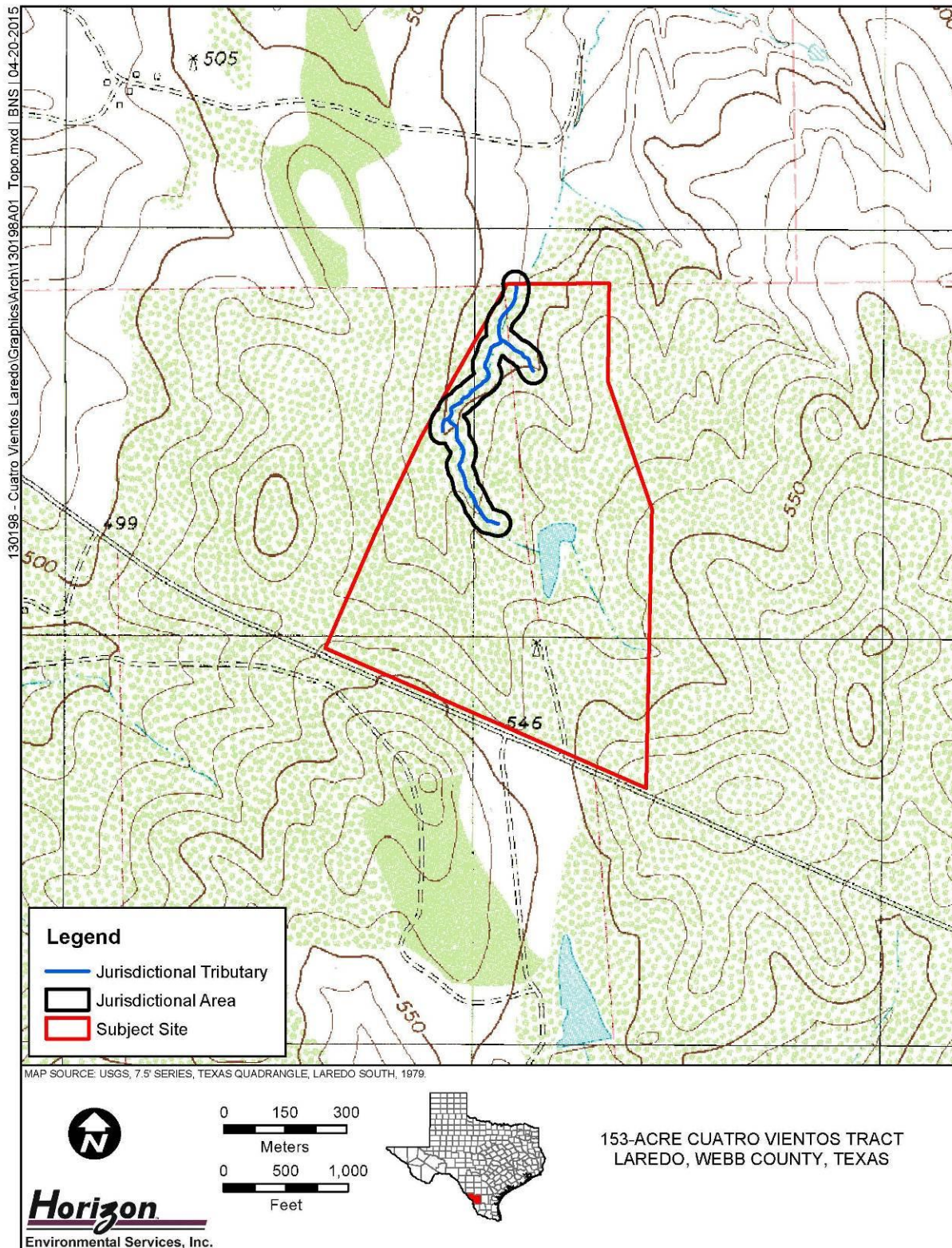


Figure 1-1. Topographic map with the location of the Project Area



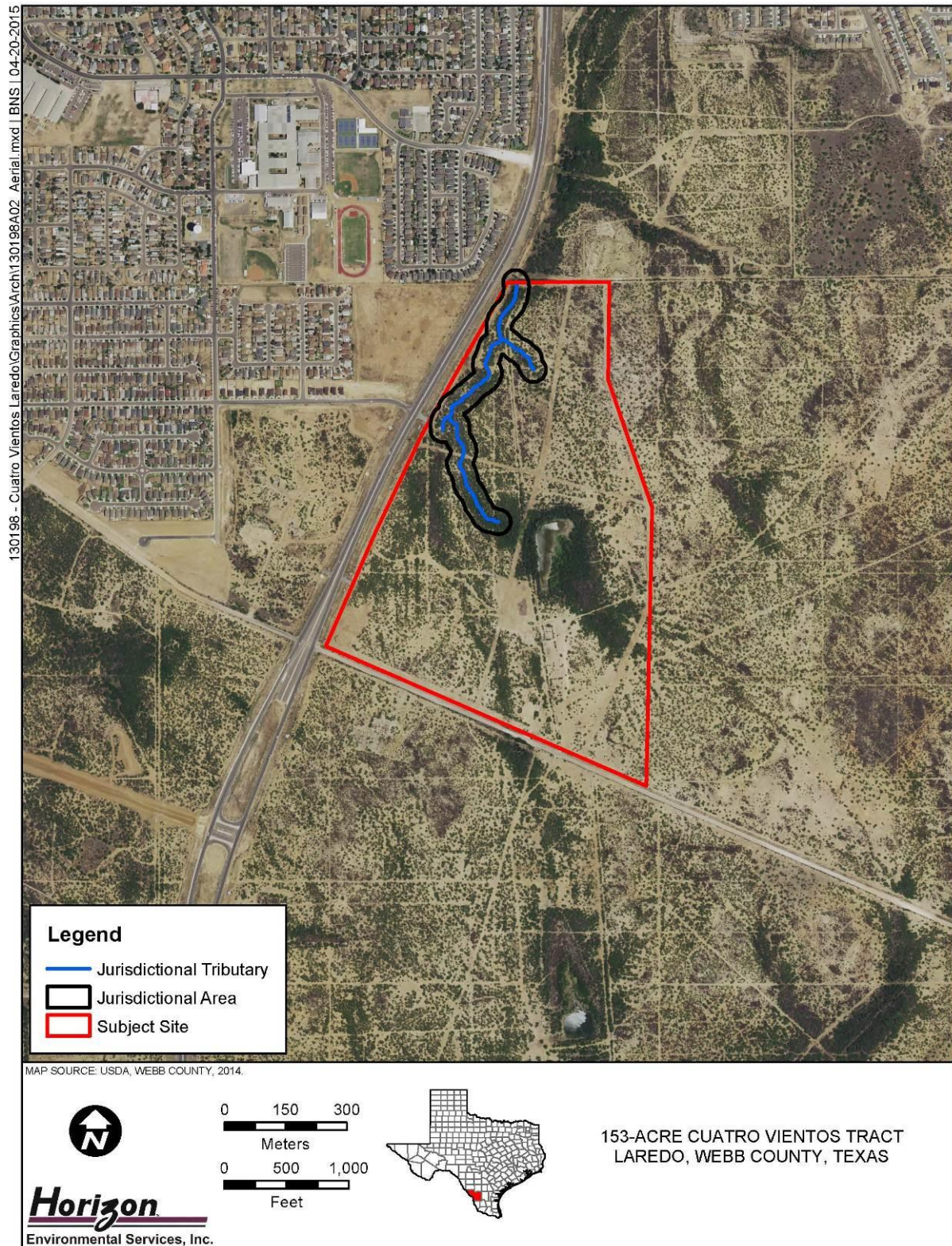


Figure 1-2. Aerial photograph with the location of the Project Area

The cultural resources survey resulted in the reevaluation and partial boundary revision of portions of previously recorded site 41WB441 that are located within the USACE jurisdictional areas contained within the Project Area. Site 41WB441 was originally documented as an extensive prehistoric campsite by TRC Mariah and Associates (TRC) in 1997. In 2001, Blanton and Associates, Inc. (Blanton) reassessed a portion of the site and also recorded sites 41WB574 and 41WB575 within its overall boundaries. Realizing that sites 41WB574 and 41WB575 were smaller activity loci within the larger 41WB441, Blanton opted to include all 3 of these sites under the 41WB441 trinomial. Although this site is extensive, both TRC and Blanton assessed it as being ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP based on the presence of only surficial cultural deposits that have been comingled over time. While Horizon's investigations resulted in a slight expansion of the overall boundaries of the site, they also documented only sparse and surficial cultural deposits within the expanded area. With this in mind, it is Horizon's opinion that site 41WB441 is still considered to be ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP and that no additional cultural resources investigations are warranted on the site in connection with the current undertaking.

Based on the fact that site 41WB441 has now been assessed on 3 different occasions as being ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP, it is Horizon's opinion that the development of the Cuatro Vientos tract will have no adverse effect on significant cultural resources listed on or considered eligible for listing on the NRHP within the USACE jurisdictional areas. Horizon therefore recommends that LFW be allowed to proceed with the development of the Project Area, relative to the jurisdiction of the USACE and Section 106 of the NHPA. However, in the unlikely event that any cultural materials (including human remains or burial features) are inadvertently discovered at any point during construction, use, or ongoing maintenance of the proposed ROW, even in previously surveyed areas, all work at the location of the discovery should cease immediately, and the THC and the USACE should be notified of the discovery.



## **2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

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### **2.1 GENERAL PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION**

The 153.0-acre Cuatro Vientos tract is located just southeast of Laredo in southwestern Webb County, Texas (see Figures 1-1 and 1-2). It can be found on the US Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Laredo South, Texas, topographic quadrangle map (see Figure 1-1). It is situated immediately northeast of the intersection of Cuatro Vientos Boulevard (to the west) and Wormser Road (to the south). Overall, the Project Area totals 153.0 acres. However, the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area total approximately 13.6 acres along opposing sides of an unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek. This includes the tributary channel as well as all associated uplands within 100.0 feet (30.5 m) of each bank of the tributary, per USACE instruction. Representative images of the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area at the time of the cultural resources survey are presented in Figures 2-1 through 2-4.

### **2.2 PHYSIOGRAPHY AND HYDROLOGY**

The Project Area currently consists of undeveloped rangeland on the southeastern outskirts of the town of Laredo. Topography within the Project Area is gently undulating with elevations ranging between approximately 490.0 and 570.0 feet (149.4 and 173.7 m) above mean sea level.

Hydrologically, the Project Area is situated within the Rio Grande Basin. The entire Project Area is drained to the north and northeast by an unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek that dissects the area. This tributary flows to the northeast and then northwest, joining Chacon Creek approximately 1.9 miles (3.0 kilometers [km]) northwest of the Project Area. Chacon Creek flows to the southwest, joining the Rio Grande River approximately 2.3 miles (3.7 km) northwest of the Project Area.

### **2.3 CLIMATE**

Spring temperatures for the City of Laredo average at 89 degrees Fahrenheit (° F) maximum and 54° F minimum; summer temperatures average at 98° F maximum and 73° F minimum; fall temperatures average at 95° F maximum and 70° F minimum; and winter temperatures average 71° F maximum and 46° F minimum (LDF, 2015). On average, there are 297 days out of the year that exceed 90° F weather, and 8 days that fall below 32° F. The average annual precipitation is 20 inches, and the annual average humidity is 62%.



**Figure 2-1. General view of central portion of the Project Area, facing west**



**Figure 2-2. General view of western portion of the Project Area, facing northwest**





**Figure 2-3. View from within the USACE jurisdictional tributary, facing northeast**



**Figure 2-4. Another view of the USACE jurisdictional tributary, facing south**

## 2.4 FLORA AND FAUNA

The Project Area is located in the Tamaulipan Biotic Province (WWF 2014) and the South Texas Plains vegetational region (Gould 1975). The upland areas support a rich tapestry of South Texas chaparral. The vegetation of the undeveloped and uncleared areas can be characterized as brush country, with variably dense scrub ranging in height from 4 to 10 feet. Mesquite and associated thorny shrubs, such as catclaw acacia, huisache, blackbrush, granjeno, whitebrush, prickly pear, and Spanish dagger are common locally. Understory vegetation is characteristically sparse. Along major drainages, live oak, Texas sugarberry, cedar elm, and retama occur. Little bluestem, bristleglass, paspalums, windmill grass, and buffelgrass are dominant grasses.

The Tamaulipan/Mezquital ecoregion of southern Texas and northeastern Mexico has unique plant and animal communities containing tree- and brush-covered dunes, wind tidal flats, and dense native brushland (WWF 2014). Although there are large acreages of cultivated land on the South Texas Plains, most of the area is still rangeland. Land holdings predominantly are large cattle ranches. Deer and other wildlife species are common. This area originally supported a grassland- or savannah-type climax vegetation. Long-continued grazing and other factors have altered the plant communities to such a degree that ranchers of the region now face a severe brush problem (Gould 1975).

## 2.5 SOILS

Two soil types are mapped within the boundaries of the Project Area. These soils are presented in Table 2-1 (NRCS 2015) and in Figure 2-5.

**Table 2-1. Soils mapped within the Project Area**

SOIL NAME	SOIL TYPE	SOIL DEPTH (INCHES)	SETTING
Copita fine sandy loam, 0 to 3% slopes (CpB)	Fine sandy loam	0 to 11: Fine sandy loam 11 to 37: Sandy clay loam 37+: Sandstone bedrock	Side slopes of low hills
Verick fine sandy loam, 1 to 5% slopes (VkC)	Fine sandy loam	0 to 6: Fine sandy loam 6 to 15: Sandy clay loam 15+: Sandstone bedrock	Summits and shoulders of ridges



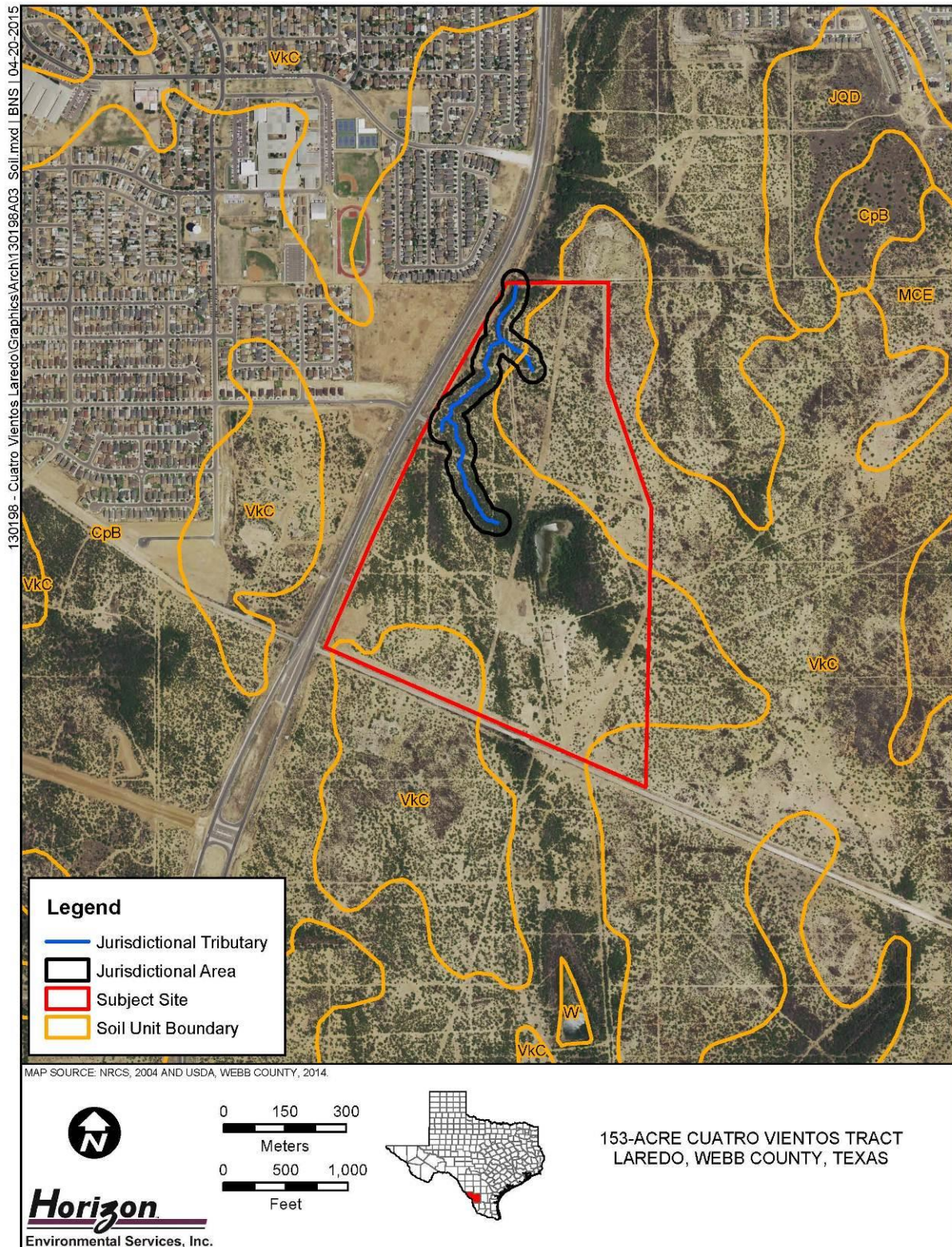


Figure 2-5. Soils mapped within the Project Area



## **3.0 CULTURAL BACKGROUND**

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The prehistory of South Texas can essentially be divided into 3 major periods: (1) Paleoindian (9200–6000 BC); (2) Archaic, which has been subdivided into the Early Archaic (ca. 6000–2500 BC), Middle Archaic (ca. 2500–400 BC), and Late Archaic (ca. 400 BC–AD 800); and (3) Late Prehistoric (AD 800–1600). These prehistoric periods are principally defined by the presence of particular diagnostic projectile points, but they are intended to designate general cultural patterns based on ecology, technology, and subsistence strategies (Black 1989:48-57; Suhm et al. 1954).

### **3.1 PALEOINDIAN PERIOD (CA. 9200–6000 BC)**

Evidence of Paleoindian occupations in South Texas (9200–6000 BC) usually consists of surface finds found most frequently in the Nueces-Guadalupe and Rio Grande plains. Only 2 stratified Paleoindian sites have been excavated in the region: Buckner Ranch (Sellards 1940) and Berger Bluff (Brown 1987). Both sites were deeply buried in alluvial terraces. Diagnostic projectile point styles of the Paleoindian period include Clovis (Meltzer 1986), Folsom (Largent et al. 1991), Golondrina, Scottsbluff, and Angostura (Black 1989:48-49). Finely flaked end scrapers fashioned on blades and bifacially worked Clear Fork tools are also diagnostic of the Paleoindian period. Paleoindian peoples have traditionally been characterized as terminal Pleistocene big-game hunters, but these highly mobile hunter-gatherers probably exploited a rich diversity of wild plant and animal foods. Investigations at Baker Cave, for instance, indicate that a diverse array of fish, snakes, and rodents was exploited by the Paleoindian occupants (Hester 1983). Paleoindian populations were probably organized into small groups that ranged over great distances across periglacial plains and marginally forested areas to acquire different food sources throughout the year (Black 1989:48).

### **3.2 ARCHAIC PERIOD (CA. 6000 BC–AD 800)**

The major distinction of the Early Archaic period (6000–2500 BC) is the replacement of earlier lanceolate-shaped projectile points by stemmed and corner-notched types. These styles include Bell, Andice, Early Triangular, and Early Expanding Stemmed points such as Bandy, Martindale, Uvalde, and related forms (Turner and Hester 1999). Other diagnostic artifacts include Clear Fork tools and large, thin, triangular bifaces with concave bases. The beginning of the Early Archaic period marks the onset of the modern Holocene era, during which the

periglacial climate of the late Pleistocene began to grow warmer. Available evidence from the Gulf Coastal Plain suggests that population densities remained low through the beginning of the Archaic period in South Texas, reflecting a continuation of the highly mobile adaptations of the Paleoindian period.

The Middle Archaic period (2500–400 BC) in South Texas is defined by the presence of Pedernales, Langtry, Kinney, Bulverde, and Tortugas projectile point styles (Bell 1958; Turner and Hester 1999). Distally beveled tools are also common during this period, and ground stone tools, such as tubular grinding stones and manos, appear for the first time (Black 1989:49). Site densities in South Texas increase markedly during the Middle Archaic, possibly reflecting a decrease in group mobility and/or an increase in territoriality among groups (Black 1989:51). A heavier reliance on vegetal foods may be indicated by the introduction of ground stone technology and the appearance of large, burned rock middens throughout Central Texas.

Late Archaic (400 BC–AD 800) occupations in South Texas are defined by small corner- and side-notched dart points, including Ensor, Frio, Marcos, Fairland, and Ellis types (Bell 1958, 1960; Turner and Hester 1999). Site densities continue to increase throughout the Late Archaic period, possibly indicating that population densities continued to rise. Cultural deposits on Late Archaic sites also tend to be deeper than during preceding periods, suggesting that occupations were either more extended in duration or that reoccupation of the same locations was more frequent (Black 1989:51). Cemeteries appear during this period, possibly indicating higher levels of social organization and increasing territoriality (Black 1989:51). During the Late Archaic, the exploitation of different ecological niches continued to intensify, becoming increasingly oriented toward the exploitation of seasonal food sources. This kind of adaptation is best illustrated by the frequent occurrence of shell middens along the coast and burned rock middens farther inland. Data collected from inland sites indicate that the economy was based primarily on vegetal resources supplemented with the hunting of small game such as rodents and rabbits (Black 1989:51).

### **3.3 LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD (CA. AD 800–1600)**

The onset of the Late Prehistoric period is defined by the appearance of pottery and the bow and arrow. The small dart points of the Late Archaic period were largely replaced by arrow points (Black 1989:52). The Late Prehistoric period in South Texas has been divided into 2 distinct time horizons, the Austin (AD 800–1350) and Toyah (AD 1350–1600) phases (Black 1986). The Austin phase is characterized by the presence of Scallorn arrow points, while the Toyah phase is defined by the presence of Perdiz arrow points. Faunal resources became increasingly important during this period, especially large mammals such as bison and deer. Lithic tool kits seem to have been manufactured for the processing of large mammals (Black 1989:51-57). Late Prehistoric sites are relatively common throughout South Texas, which might be interpreted as the result of population increases. The movement of bison from Central to South Texas may coincide with a movement of peoples and/or technology from both the Austin and Toyah phases of Central Texas (Black 1989:51-57).



### **3.4 HISTORIC PERIOD (CA. AD 1520 TO PRESENT)**

The historic era of South Texas began with the arrival of Europeans in the region and can be subsumed within the overall history of Texas. In South Texas, the historic era has been divided into 3 time periods: (1) Spanish Exploration and Colonial (ca. AD 1520–1821); (2) Mexican (1821–1836); and (3) Texas-American (ca. 1836 to present). The Protohistoric era in this region can generally be incorporated within the early part of the Spanish Exploration and Colonial period.

#### *Protohistoric*

Records from the initial Spanish expeditions provide the earliest ethnohistoric accounts of the Coahuiltecan-affiliated groups indigenous to the Rio Grande Plain (Hester 1989a:1-4; 1989b:77-82). Based on fragmentary ethnohistorical records, it appears that these people—part of an extinct cultural group that occupied lands stretching from South Texas deep into Mexico—were highly nomadic hunter-gatherers who moved in a seasonal pattern within distinctive territories (Hester 1989a). Available evidence suggests that Coahuiltecan living in the Rio Grande Plain (as well as in other parts of South Texas and northern Mexico) subsisted on a number of seasonal food sources, ranging from prickly pear in the fall to bison or deer in the late fall or winter, as well as small mammals and roots during off seasons or in times of hardship (Hester 1989b:77-81).

Two causes can be cited for the early destruction of the Coahuiltecan groups on the Rio Grande Plain. The primary reason stems from the great period of unrest among Native American groups generated by the introduction of the horse by the Spanish. Groups who adopted the horse (especially the Apache and the Comanche) eagerly took to raiding neighboring groups. Nomadic peoples such as the Coahuiltecan were especially vulnerable to such pressure, as they could neither consolidate for protection nor occupy defensible positions without risking starvation. Therefore, finally, the Coahuiltecan asked for missions to be established in their territories in order to protect them from the Apache and Comanche raiders. After the establishment of the Spanish missions in South Texas during the first half of the 18th century, the remnants of the indigenous Native American groups were rapidly integrated into the mission system or were subjected to outright extinction by depredation or disease (John 1975:171-174).

#### *Spanish Colonial*

The first European incursion into Texas was by Alvarez de Pineda in 1513 during the course of a Spanish mapping expedition. In 1528, Cabeza de Vaca crossed South Texas after being shipwrecked along the Texas Coast near Galveston Bay (Folan et al. 1989:85). Between 1688 and 1717, Spanish explorers such as Mazanet and Espinosa passed through the Rio Grande Plain from Mexico on their way to the Caddoan settlements in Northeast Texas (Hester 1989b:80-81). These early Spanish explorers recorded observations about the aboriginal groups in the region, but they were primarily engaged in consolidating territory for the Spanish Crown.

Following the founding of San Antonio in 1718, the town of Laredo was established along the Rio Grande in 1755 when rancher Tomas Sanchez de la Berrera y Gallardo was granted permission by the great Spanish colonizer, Jose de Escandon, to form a new settlement. Located in the province of Nuevo Santander, which included most of northeastern Mexico and parts of present-day Texas, Laredo was one of a series of settlements that Escandon established or authorized as part of Spain's effort to colonize the area south of the Nueces River (Clark and Juarez 1986:85; Folan et al. 1986:6).

Laredo was founded near a ford on the Rio Grande River on a grant consisting of 15 sitios de ganado mayor, or 66,000 acres. In 1767, Spanish authorities visited the community and laid out San Agustin Plaza. They also granted porciones (parcels of land fronting on the river) to the settlers. The community grew steadily after its designation as a villa or town, and by 1789 the population consisted of approximately 700 individuals. The town included a stone church and a priest's house, military barracks to house the soldiers who guarded the community against frequent Indian attacks, and approximately 85 civilian dwellings. The economy was based on ranching and salt mining at Sal del Rey in modern Hidalgo County (Anonymous n.d.; Clark and Juarez 1986:87-88; Folan et al. 1986:6).

#### *Mexican and Texas-American*

Prior to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, a Spanish garrison was established in Laredo to minimize the effects of depredations by Lipan Apache and Comanche raiders. In 1790, a daring attack on the city overran the garrison and exploded the powder magazine, deepening fears "that the Comanches' efforts to sweep through south Texas were succeeding" (Briggs 1982:7). Once the Texas-Mexico border was established along the Rio Grande in 1848, the role of protection in the Laredo area passed to the United States. In 1849, a company of mounted infantry under 2nd Lieutenant E.L. Viele arrived to establish an army post on "some high flats west of the city, opposite a ford and just north of a bend in the Rio Grande" (Briggs 1982:7) on the Texas side of the river about 3/4 of a mile west of the old Spanish town of Laredo. Originally named Camp Crawford (or Camp Laredo), the name of the post was changed in 1850 to Fort McIntosh in honor of Lieutenant Colonel James S. McIntosh, who died in September 1847 from wounds received at the Battle of Molino del Rey during the Mexican-American War (Frazer 1972). When construction began in 1850, the general military objective of the fort was to provide "escort service to caravans of travelers and [to reduce] Indian depredations and general outlawry" (Briggs 1982:8).

The 5th Infantry arrived at Fort McIntosh in November 1853 and, under the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers, began construction of a field fort north of the McIntosh Cantonment. This field fort was constructed of earthen embankments and designed as an artillery emplacement. Due to its 5-pointed shape, this bermed structure became known as Star Fort, as well as Field Fort McIntosh, and was located about 1/2 mile north of the post proper (Warren 1991:6). Star Fort was completed in less than 3 months, including a stone magazine within the enclosure. By the time it was abandoned in 1859, the cantonment area (south of Star Fort) included offices, storehouses, kitchens, a blacksmith shop, a sutler's store, stables, a

hospital, a carpenter's shop, officers' quarters, a parade ground, and possibly even a ranch house that predated the fort (Briggs 1982:11).

Throughout Fort McIntosh's early period, enlisted men apparently camped in tents and under brush arbors at various locations in and around the cantonment area and outside of Star Fort. After a year without Indian depredations in the area, Fort McIntosh was abandoned. The following year (1860), however, the post was reoccupied due to raiding, only to be abandoned again in 1861 as Texas took possession of it during the Civil War. At the close of the war in 1865, the infantry again arrived at Fort McIntosh. They found that much of the fort had been dismantled and removed during the war, leaving it essentially devoid of structures. By 1869, construction was again underway and a new post hospital, storehouse, guardhouse, and bakery were completed by 1870. During the last major construction episode in the 1880s, buildings at the fort were constructed of yellow Laredo brick. Many of these structures remain today.

Until its final military abandonment in 1949, Fort McIntosh continued to be used for military training of troops and, in 1942, became the home of the Southern Liaison Patrol of the newly formed Civil Air Patrol (Briggs 1982). According to Warren (1991:7), "[d]uring its long history, Fort McIntosh was involved in protecting local settlers and travelers from Indians and bandits, and played a role in the Civil War, the Mexican Revolution, the Spanish American War, and World Wars I and II."

Since 1946, Fort McIntosh has been utilized as a teaching facility, housing Laredo Junior College. Although the post has been altered to meet the needs of a college campus, several structures and some of its early period subsurface deposits remain potentially intact (Briggs 1982:25-26). Thus, Fort McIntosh, along with Star Fort, maintains its National Register District and State Archeological Landmark (SAL) status.

Throughout the late 18th century and first half of the 19th century, the citizens of Laredo considered themselves to be politically separate from the Anglo-American settlements developing in other parts of Texas. Nevertheless, their key location on the corridor between Mexico and the United States embroiled them in Mexico's war for independence against Spain prior to 1821, in the Texas revolution during the 1830s, and in the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848. Insurgents, troops, and supplies passed through the town regularly, keeping the community in a constant state of flux for 50 years. Population turnover was continuous, although the number of residents changed little (Clark and Juarez 1986:89-95; Folan et al. 1986:6-7).

The organization of Webb County in 1848 and subsequent increasing numbers of Anglo-American merchants contributed to a period of prosperity for Laredo. The town's economy was further stimulated during the Civil War, when it became a center for the Confederate cotton trade. Twenty years later, the arrival of the Texas-Mexican Railway and the International-Great Northern Railroad in 1881 caused Laredo's population to soar, and within a decade the number of residents had increased from 3521 to 11,319 (Anonymous n.d.; Folan et al. 1986:8). A major influx of Anglo-American entrepreneurs resulted in the construction of an electric railway system, the opening of new suburban developments, and the construction of numerous residential and commercial buildings. The establishment of coal mines northwest of Laredo contributed to the general prosperity of the region (Anonymous n.d.), as did a period of

agricultural development after 1900. Further significant population growth occurred during the second decade of the 20th century as large numbers of Mexican nationals crossed the border to escape the ravages of civil war. The population swelled by 50% between 1910 and 1920 (Anonymous n.d.), and new immigrants created a demand for housing throughout the city while contributing to the local infrastructure as teachers, businessmen, and laborers.

Discovery of oil in Webb County in 1921 assisted Laredo in sustaining a period of growth during the 1920s and 1930s, after which the city suffered the effects of the Great Depression. Establishment of the Laredo Army Air Field in 1942 aided in a general economic recovery that continued after World War II as the community became the location of numerous service industries. Increasing trade between the United States and Mexico further stimulated the local economy, which has remained strong throughout the last few decades.

## 4.0 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

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### 4.1 DATABASE AND MAP REVIEW

Archival research conducted via the Internet at the THC's *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas* (Atlas) website indicated the presence of 14 previously recorded archeological sites within a 1.0-mile (1.6-km) perimeter of the Project Area (THC 2015), while a review of the National Park Service's (NPS) NRHP Google Earth map layer indicated the presence of no historic properties listed on the NRHP within the review perimeter (NPS 2015). These previously recorded archeological sites and their distances from the Project Area are summarized in Table 4-1, while their locations relative to the Project Area are presented in Figure 4-1.

As can be seen in Table 4-1, 2 previously recorded sites are located within the boundaries of the Project Area. The first, 41WB444, was documented as a prehistoric lithic procurement area that was documented by TRC in 1997 during a survey of a waterline right-of-way (ROW) sponsored by the City of Laredo. Based on the shallow nature of the site's cultural deposits, it was assessed as being ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP. The second, 41WB441/574/575, is an extensive prehistoric campsite that likely represents countless temporary occupations throughout prehistory. TRC originally recorded this site as 41WB441 in 1997 during the survey of the waterline ROW noted above. Blanton later recorded sites 41WB574 and 41WB575 during a survey of Cuatro Vientos Road in 2001. As 41WB574 and 41WB575 appeared to represent smaller activity loci within the larger extent of 41WB441, Blanton opted to combine all 3 sites into 41WB441. Based on the shallow/surficial natures of the cultural deposits across this extensive site, TRC and Blanton both assessed it as being ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Based on the Atlas database, portions of the Project Area have been assessed on 5 different occasions (Figure 4-2). The first consists of a Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) permitted pipeline ROW that extends along the southern border of the Project Area. The survey of this ROW, conducted in 1984, produced negative results. The second, consisting of a waterline ROW along the northern border of the Project Area, was assessed by TRC in 1997. This survey resulted in the documentation of site 41WM444 within the northern extent of the current Project Area and 41WB441 along the western border of the current Project Area. The remaining 3 consist of linear surveys of the various alignments of Cuatro Vientos Road between 2001 and 2005. These prior surveys, conducted by Blanton, resulted in the reassessment of 41WM444 and the inclusion of sites 41WB574 and 575 within its boundaries.

**Table 4-1. Documented cultural resources within 1.0 miles of the Project Area**

Site Trinomial, Cemetery, or Historic Property	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility Status	Distance/Direction from Project Area	Potential to be Impacted by Project?
41WB399	Prehistoric campsite	Ineligible	0.9 miles northwest	No
41WB630	Prehistoric campsite	Ineligible	0.9 miles north	No
41WB400	Prehistoric campsite	Ineligible	1.0 miles northeast	No
41WB446	Prehistoric lithic procurement area	Ineligible	0.6 miles northeast	No
41WB631	Prehistoric campsite	Ineligible	0.2 miles north	No
41WB445	Prehistoric lithic procurement area	Ineligible	0.4 miles northeast	No
<b>41WB444</b>	<b>Prehistoric lithic procurement area</b>	<b>Ineligible</b>	<b>Within Project Area but outside USACE jurisdictional areas</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>41WB441/574/575</b>	<b>Prehistoric campsite</b>	<b>Ineligible</b>	<b>Within Project Area and USACE jurisdictional areas</b>	<b>Yes</b>
41WB440	Prehistoric lithic scatter	Ineligible	0.3 miles west	No
41WB82	Prehistoric lithic procurement area	Undetermined	0.1 miles west	No
41WB434	Prehistoric campsite	Ineligible	0.6 miles west	No
41WB771	Prehistoric lithic procurement area	Ineligible	0.3 miles southwest	No
41WB571	Prehistoric campsite	Ineligible	200.0 feet southwest	No
41WB632	Prehistoric lithic procurement area	Ineligible	0.6 miles southwest	No

## 4.2 PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

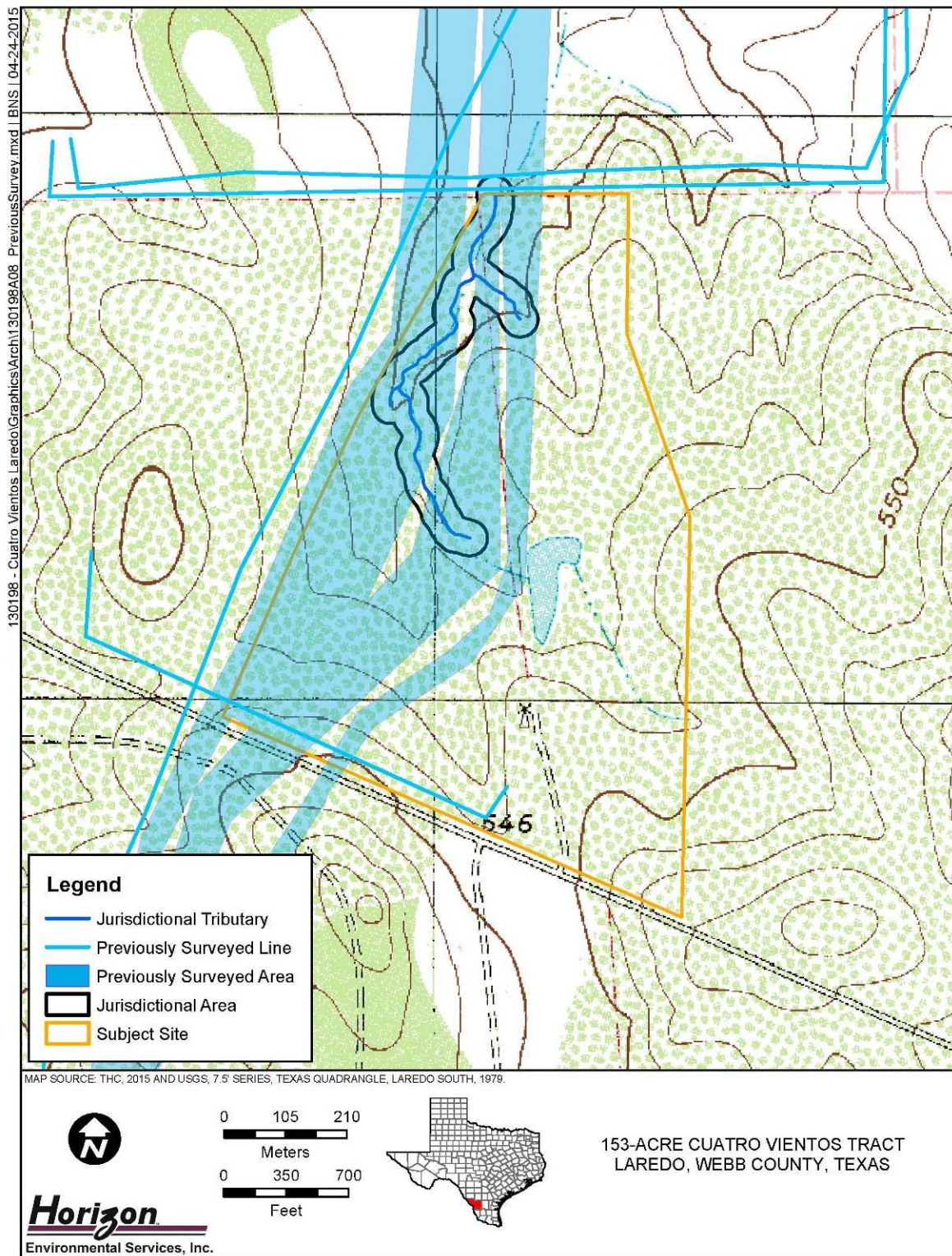
Prehistoric archeological sites are commonly found in upland areas and on alluvial terraces near stream/river channels or drainages. Based on the location of the Project Area on elevated landforms above unnamed tributaries of Chacon Creek, in conjunction with the presence of several previously recorded prehistoric sites within the overall boundaries of the Project Area, it was Horizon's original opinion, prior to the field efforts, that there existed a high potential for undocumented prehistoric cultural resources within USACE jurisdictional areas contained within the Project Area.

In regard to historic-era resources, the lack of visible structures in proximity to the Project Area on the relevant topographic quadrangle map and on Google Earth suggested a decreased potential for historic-era standing structures or associated cultural deposits within the limits of the Project Area.

Sensitive site data omitted



Figure 4-1. Documented cultural resources within 1.0 miles of the Project Area





**Figure 4-2. Location of prior cultural resources surveys within the Project Area**



## **5.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

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A Horizon archeologist completed the intensive pedestrian survey of the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area on 21 April 2015. This entailed intensive surface inspection and subsurface shovel testing efforts on opposing sides of an unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek that extends through the northwestern quarter of the Project Area. The Texas State Minimum Archeological Survey Standards (TSMASS) require a minimum of 1 shovel test per 2.0 acres for projects measuring between 11.0 and 100.0 acres in size. As the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area total approximately 13.6 acres (including the tributary channel and associated uplands within 100.0 feet [30.5 m] of each bank, per USACE instruction), a minimum of 7 shovel tests were necessary within the USACE jurisdictional areas in order to comply with the TSMASS. Horizon exceeded the TSMASS by excavating a total of 17 shovel tests within the USACE jurisdictional areas contained within the Project Area. All excavated matrices were screened through 0.25-inch (6.3-millimeter [mm]) hardware mesh or were trowel-sorted if the dense clay soils prohibited successful screening.

Field notes were maintained on terrain, vegetation, soils, landforms, shovel tests, cultural material observed (if any), etc. Standardized shovel test forms were completed for every shovel test. These forms included location data, depth, soil type, and notations on any artifacts encountered. If any new archeological sites were recorded, standard site forms were to be completed and filed at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) for permanent housing. Similarly, if any previously recorded archeological sites were assessed, updated site forms were to be completed and filed at TARL.

A selective collection strategy was utilized during the survey efforts wherein only diagnostic cultural materials were to be collected for eventual curation at an approved facility or for return to the appropriate landowner. Non-diagnostic artifacts were to be tabulated and assessed in the field and placed back where they were found. Digital photographs with a photo log were completed as appropriate. The locations of all shovel tests were recorded via handheld GPS units utilizing the UTM coordinate system and the NAD 83 map datum. Shovel test locations are presented in Figure 5-1. Shovel test data are presented in Appendix A.

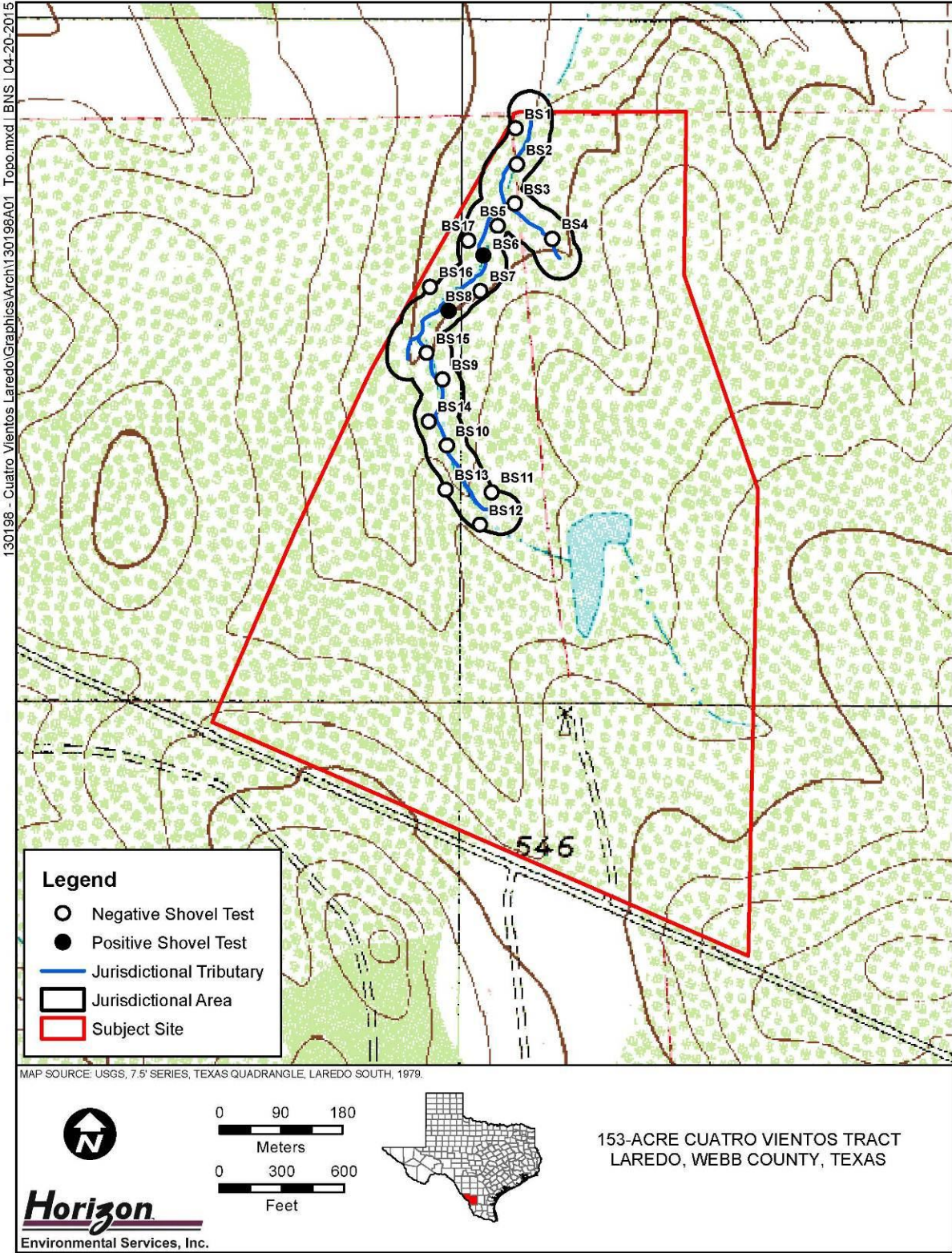


Figure 5-1. Shovel test locations within the USACE jurisdictional areas

## 6.0 RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS

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The cultural resources survey resulted in the reevaluation and partial boundary revision of portions of previously recorded site 41WB441 that are located within the USACE jurisdictional areas contained within the Project Area. The results are discussed below.

### 6.1 SITE 41WB441

#### General Description

Site 41WB441 was originally documented as an extensive prehistoric campsite by TRC in 1997 (see Figures 4-1 and 4-2). At that time, it was described as being primarily utilized for lithic procurement and reduction due to the presence of exposed chert gravels across the site, but minor evidence of camping in the form of burned rocks was noted (THC 2015a). The researchers also noted that the site retained little research value due to the presence of only non-diagnostic lithic materials and the lack of buried/stratified deposits.

The site was then reassessed by Blanton in the early 2000s during surveys associated with the Cuatro Vientos Roadway that extends along the western boundary of the current Project Area (see Figures 4-1 and 4-2). At that time, the site was described as a large lithic scatter and cobble testing area with heavy disturbances from brush clearing, ranch roads, and pipeline construction (THC 2015b). During the reassessment of site 41WB441, Blanton also documented nearby prehistoric sites 41WB574 and 41WB575. Realizing that all 3 sites overlapped and represented an extensive occupational area, Blanton opted to combine sites 41WB441, 41WB574, and 41WB575 under the 41WB441 trinomial. Despite the extensive nature of the site, Blanton also assessed the site as being ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP. On the site form, the researchers note:

*The massive area of the newly expanded 41WB441 must represent hundreds or thousands of prehistoric occupations through time. These occupations took place within an area where deposition was slow and disturbances very active. Ranching practices over the years have contributed to the near-complete denudation of the soils in this general area, and this site is a prime example. One of the most barren patches along a not particularly verdant stretch of the proposed Cuatro Vientos roadway, this site has witnessed as much as 50 centimeters of aerial and sheet wash erosion in places. Under most circumstances it would be folly to try and interpret past cultures from a*

*palimpsest accumulation in an area of limited deposition with inherently poor preservation of non-stone materials, but add the overgrazing, brush clearing, and severe erosion, and the conclusion regarding the research value for the combined 41WB441 is the same as for the previously recorded individual ones (THC 2015c).*

The early TRC and Blanton surveys resulted in the documentation of site 41WB441 primarily along the western bank of the unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek that comprises the USACE jurisdictional area within the current Project Area. Horizon's survey efforts resulted in the observation of the same extensive surficial deposits of eroded chert gravels along both banks of this tributary, but also resulted in the observation of numerous biface fragments, tested cobbles, and debitage fragments within areas along the eastern bank of the unnamed tributary in areas that had not been previously included in the 41WB441 site boundaries. As such, although Horizon still noted the same surficial deposits of temporally non-diagnostic lithic materials as the previous investigators, the current field efforts primarily resulted in the slight expansion of the boundaries of site 41WB441 to the east (Figures 6-1 and 6-2).

As currently recorded, site 41WB441 is situated on the eastern and western slopes of an area of gently undulating hills that are dissected by the unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek. Although some areas have been cleared for development, the majority of the site is covered in dense stands of mesquite, acacia, prickly pear, and other various cacti (Figure 6-3). As noted by TRC and Blanton, the location possesses heavily eroded soils with exposed gravels scattered over its surface (see Figure 6-3). These exposed gravels were likely a primary draw of the aboriginal inhabitants of the area, as they provided an ample source of raw materials for lithic implements. The Horizon field crew excavated a total of 17 shovel tests across the site. Of these, 15 produced negative results, while the remaining 2 produced evidence of only shallow cultural debris.

### **Observed Cultural Materials**

The cultural materials observed within the newly expanded areas of site 41WB441 are consistent with those described by the previous recorders of the site. Amidst the exposed chert gravels across the surface of the site, the Horizon field crew noted a moderate-density scatter of tested cobbles, lithic debitage, and biface fragments in various stages of reduction (Figure 6-4). Aside from the lithic materials, no other cultural materials such as floral and faunal remains, formal stone tools, or burned rock specimens were observed on the site. The majority of the cultural materials on the site were observed in surface contexts, although 2 shovel tests produced chert flakes and a possible hammerstone between 0 to 5.9 inches (0 and 15.0 centimeters [cm]) below surface.

### **Cultural Features**

No cultural features were observed on the modern ground surface on the site, and no evidence of subsurface cultural features was noted within any of the 17 shovel tests excavated on the site.

Sensitive site data omitted

**Figure 6-1. Location of site 41WB441**

Sensitive site data omitted

**Figure 6-2. Sketch map of site 41WB441**





Figure 6-3. Typical view of site 41WB441, facing northwest



Figure 6-4. View of typical lithic specimens observed on site 41WB441

### **Horizontal and Vertical Extents of the Cultural Materials**

Based on the mapped extent of the site on the Atlas database paired with Horizon's newly expanded boundaries, the horizontal extent of site 41WB441 measures approximately 3910.0 feet (1191.8 m) northeast-southwest by 1670.0 feet (509.0 m) northwest-southeast.

A total of 17 shovel tests excavated across the site primarily produced negative results, suggesting that the majority of cultural material on the site is confined to surface contexts. However, 2 of the shovel tests produced cultural materials from depths between 0 and 5.9 inches (0 and 15.0 cm) below surface, reflecting the presence of some shallow cultural deposits.

### **Summary**

Site 41WB441 has now been documented on at least 3 occasions as a moderate-density prehistoric campsite/lithic procurement area along the banks of an unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek. While the cultural materials on the site are scattered across an extensive area, they consist only of non-diagnostic lithic specimens restricted to the modern ground surface or extremely shallow subsurface contexts on the site. Based upon the lack of temporally diagnostic stone tools, preserved floral or faunal remains, and stratified, buried cultural deposits, Horizon concurs with the opinions of both TRC and Blanton that 41WB441 is considered to be ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP. With this in mind, it is Horizon's further opinion that no additional investigations are warranted on site 41WB441 in connection with the currently proposed undertaking.

## **7.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **7.1 SUMMARY**

On 21 April 2015, Horizon conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the USACE jurisdictional areas within the 153.0-acre Cuatro Vientos tract located just southeast of Laredo in Webb County, Texas. Although the Project Area consists of private property and will be developed with private funds, its development will require the usage of an NWP issued by the USACE. As NWPs are federal permits, the undertaking also falls under the regulations of Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966, as amended. Horizon conducted the cultural resources survey of the USACE jurisdictional areas on behalf of LFW in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any archeological sites were located within the USACE jurisdictional areas and, if any existed, to determine if the project had the potential to have any adverse impacts on sites eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Overall, the Project Area totals 153.0 acres. However, the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area total approximately 13.6 acres along opposing sides of an unnamed tributary of Chacon Creek. This includes the tributary channel as well as all associated uplands within 100.0 feet (30.5 m) of each bank of the tributary, per USACE instruction.

The TSMASS require a minimum of 1 shovel test per 2.0 acres for projects measuring between 11.0 and 100.0 acres in size. As the USACE jurisdictional areas within the Project Area total approximately 13.6 acres, a minimum of 7 shovel tests were necessary within the USACE jurisdictional areas in order to comply with the TSMASS. Horizon exceeded the TSMASS by excavating a total of 17 shovel tests within the USACE jurisdictional areas contained within the Project Area.

The cultural resources survey resulted in the reevaluation and partial boundary revision of portions of previously recorded site 41WB441 that are located within the USACE jurisdictional areas contained within the Project Area. Site 41WB441 was originally documented as an extensive prehistoric campsite by TRC in 1997. In 2001, Blanton reassessed a portion of the site and also recorded sites 41WB574 and 41WB575 within its overall boundaries. Realizing that sites 41WB574 and 41WB575 were smaller activity loci within the larger 41WB441, Blanton opted to include all 3 of these sites under the 41WB441 trinomial. Although this site is extensive, both TRC and Blanton assessed it as being ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP based on the presence of only surficial cultural deposits that have been comingled over time.

While Horizon's investigations resulted in a slight expansion of the overall boundaries of the site, they also documented only sparse and surficial cultural deposits within the expanded area. With this in mind, it is Horizon's opinion that site 41WB441 is still considered to be ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP and that no additional cultural resources investigations are warranted on the site in connection with the current undertaking.

## **7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the fact that site 41WB441 has now been assessed on 3 different occasions as being ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP, it is Horizon's opinion that the development of the Cuatro Vientos tract will have no adverse effect on significant cultural resources listed on or considered eligible for listing on the NRHP within the USACE jurisdictional areas. Horizon therefore recommends that LFW be allowed to proceed with the development of the Project Area, relative to the jurisdiction of the USACE and Section 106 of the NHPA. However, in the unlikely event that any cultural materials (including human remains or burial features) are inadvertently discovered at any point during construction, use, or ongoing maintenance of the proposed ROW, even in previously surveyed areas, all work at the location of the discovery should cease immediately, and the THC and the USACE should be notified of the discovery.

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**APPENDIX A**

**SHOVEL TEST DATA**



An Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the USACE Jurisdictional Areas within the 153.0-acre Cuatro Vientos Tract in Webb County, Texas

ST #	Easting	Northing	Depth (cmbs)	Soil	Artifacts
BS1	456054	3039035	0-40	Reddish-brown sandy clay loam	None
			40-55	Reddish-brown sandy clay	None
			55-60+	Mottled grayish-brown and reddish-brown clay	None
BS2	456056	3038983	0-40	Strong brown sandy loam	None
			40-45+	Strong brown compact sandy clay	None
BS3	456053	3038926	0-30	Light yellowish-brown sandy loam	None
			30-40+	Dark yellowish-brown sandy clay with heavy CaCO <sub>3</sub> inclusions	None
BS4	456108	3038874	0-30+	Olive-brown clay with heavy CaCO <sub>3</sub> inclusions	None
BS5	456027	3038892	0-30	Reddish-brown sandy loam	None
			30-35+	Mottled brown and yellowish-brown compact sandy clay	None
BS6	455985	3038871	0-30	Yellowish-brown sandy loam	1 secondary flake at 0 to 15 cmbs
			30+	Yellowish-brown very compact sandy loam	None
BS7	456008	3038849	0-30	Yellowish-brown sandy loam	None
			30+	Yellowish-brown very compact sandy loam	None
BS8	456004	3038798	0-45	Strong brown gravelly sandy loam	1 tertiary flake, 1 possible hammerstone at 0 to 15 cmbs
			45+	Large rocks	None
BS9	455956	3038768	0-30	Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam	None
			30+	Yellowish-brown very compact sandy clay	None
BS10	455949	3038668	0-3+	Reddish-brown very compact sandy clay loam (recently bulldozed)	None
BS11	455955	3038571	0-30	Reddish-brown sandy clay loam	None
			30-40+	Reddish-brown very compact sandy clay loam	None
BS12	456021	3038504	0-30	Reddish-brown sandy clay loam	None
			30-45+	Yellowish-red compact sandy clay	None
BS13	456004	3038425	0-25	Yellowish-brown sandy loam	None
			25-30+	Mottled yellowish-red, gray and white clay	None
BS14	455954	3038507	0-30	Yellowish-brown sandy loam	None
			30+	Compact reddish-brown sandy clay	None
BS15	455928	3038607	0-30	Reddish-brown sandy loam	None
			30-35+	Dark reddish-brown compact sandy clay loam	None



ST #	Easting	Northing	Depth (cmbs)	Soil	Artifacts
BS16	455925	3038706	0-35	Reddish-brown sandy loam	None
			35-40+	Yellowish-brown compact sandy clay loam	None
BS17	455930	3038803	0-30	Reddish-brown sandy loam	None
			30-40+	Reddish-brown compact sandy clay loam	None

WP = waypoint  
 ST = shovel test  
 cmbs = centimeters below surface