

# An Intensive Pedestrian Archaeological Survey in Gold Canyon Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

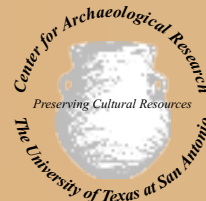


by  
Sarah Wigley, Cynthia Moore Munoz, and Stephen Smith

Principal Investigator  
Raymond P. Mauldin

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 6826

Non-Restricted



Prepared for:  
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12000 Crownpoint Drive, Suite 120  
San Antonio, Texas 78233

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Center for Archaeological Research  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
One UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, Texas 78249  
Archaeological Report, No. 440



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## **Abstract:**

In April 2014, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) conducted an archaeological survey of a proposed trail system located on a 17-hectare section of Gold Canyon Park. The survey was performed for Adams Environmental, Inc. on behalf of the City of San Antonio (COSA). The survey, conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Antiquities Code, was performed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 6826 with Dr. Raymond P. Mauldin serving as Principal Investigator and Stephen Smith serving as Project Archaeologist. The work was conducted in advance of the proposed improvements.

Pedestrian reconnaissance with shovel tests was used to search for cultural resources on the project area. One previously recorded archaeological site (41BX455) was revisited, and one new site (41BX2006) was identified. Both sites are defined by shallowly buried cultural material and surface scatters of debitage, edge-modified flakes, bifaces, and burned rock. No features or temporally diagnostic artifacts were recorded in either site. The majority of the cultural material is on the surface or in shallow deposits. The lack of sediments, shallow depth of deposits, and the low density of buried prehistoric material on both sites suggest that they possess little potential for future research. Therefore, the CAR recommends that both sites be listed as ineligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The CAR recommends that construction of the proposed park improvements proceed as planned. In a letter dated June 24, 2014, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) agreed with these recommendations. The COSA Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) also concurred with the CAR's recommendations.

Artifacts collected and records generated during this project were prepared for curation according to Texas Historical Commission guidelines and are permanently curated at the CAR at UTSA.



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## **Acknowledgements:**

The archaeological survey was conducted by Preston Beecher, Colt Dresser, Alex McBride, Sarah Wigley, Cynthia Moore Munoz, and Stephen Smith, all of the Center for Archaeological Research at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Stephen Smith directed the fieldwork and was the Project Archaeologist, Cynthia Moore Munoz served as Project Manager, and Dr. Raymond Mauldin served as the Principal Investigator. Thanks are extended to Cynthia Moore Munoz for her helpful comments on a draft of this report. Under the direction of Laboratory Coordinator Melissa Eiring, Alex McBride and Sarah Wigley processed and catalogued the artifacts. Laura Carbajal produced the maps, Rick Young drafted report figures, and Kelly Harris edited the final manuscript. Special thanks to Sable Kitchen and the staff of Adams Environmental, Inc. for project details and the opportunity to work on the project. Thanks also to Kay Hinderes of the COSA Office of Historic Preservation and Mark Denton of the Texas Historical Commission for their help with the project.

## Chapter 1: Introduction and Project Summary

In March 2014, Adams Environmental, Inc. subcontracted with the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas at San Antonio to provide archaeological services to the City of San Antonio (COSA) for a proposed 1-km trail system on 17 hectares of Gold Canyon Park located in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1-1). The project area is located on the USGS Longhorn 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The proposed improvements to the park include two trails, one trailhead, four trail interpretive and rest areas, and an expanded parking area. The CAR

completed a 100% pedestrian reconnaissance survey with shovel testing to identify and record archaeological resources within the project area that could be impacted by the proposed park improvements.

Because the project area is owned by the COSA, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, the project must comply with State Historic Preservation laws and the mandates of the Antiquities Code of Texas. The work

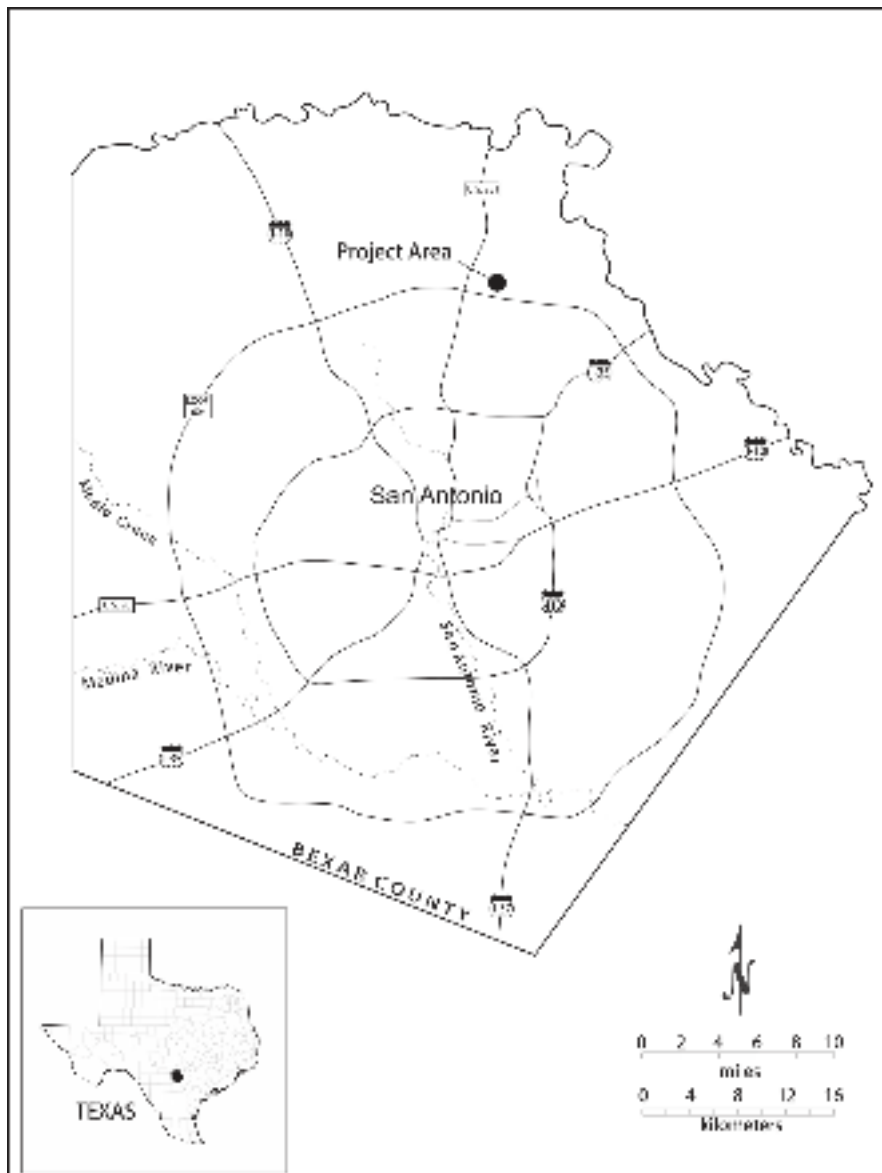


Figure 1-1. Map of Bexar County showing the location of the project area.

was also coordinated through the COSA Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) in compliance with the COSA Unified Development Code Chapter 35. The archaeological survey was performed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 6826 with Dr. Raymond P. Mauldin, CAR Acting Director, serving as Principal Investigator and Stephen Smith serving as Project Archaeologist.

This document presents the results of these investigations. Following this introduction, the chapter summarizes the work conducted at Gold Canyon Park for this project. Chapter 2 gives an overview of the environmental setting of the project and reviews the previous archaeological investigations in the area. Chapter 3 outlines the laboratory and field methods followed by the CAR during the completion of this project. Chapter 4 provides the results of the field investigations. Chapter 5 summarizes the project and offers recommendations based on the results.

## **Project Summary**

The CAR archaeologists systematically walked the entire project area on transects spaced 30 m apart to record historic and prehistoric cultural material. Nineteen

locations with surface artifacts were recorded. To establish the site boundaries of previously recorded site 41BX455 and explore subsurface deposits, 45 shovel tests were excavated within the project area. Of the 45 shovel tests, 11 were positive for cultural material. No diagnostic artifacts or features were identified.

Site 41BX455 was originally recorded as a lithic scatter during a survey of the upper Salado Creek watershed (Hester et al. 1974). No subsurface testing was conducted in 1974. Based on the distribution of positive shovel tests (n=4) and surface artifacts, the CAR recommends an expansion of the site from the original 5,200 m<sup>2</sup> to approximately 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Prehistoric material consisting of debitage and edge modified flakes were recovered from the surface to 30 cm below the surface (cmbs) in some areas. Site 41BX2006 was identified on the western portion of the project area. Cultural material, including debitage, a core, and a biface, was concentrated from the surface to 40 cmbs. The lack of sediments, shallow depth of deposits, and the low density of buried prehistoric material on both sites suggest that they possess little potential for future research. Therefore, the CAR recommends that construction of the proposed trail proceed as planned. Both the THC and COSA OHP agree with these recommendations. Recommendations are discussed in detail in Chapter 5.

## Chapter 2: Project Setting

This chapter presents a brief discussion of the environment and culture history of the project area. A summary of previous archaeological work completed near the project area concludes the chapter.

### Environmental Setting

Gold Canyon Park is located in north-central San Antonio in Bexar County, Texas. The 17-hectare project area is encircled by residential developments. A power line easement lies along its southern margin. West Elm Creek, a tributary of Salado Creek, cuts through the park west to east. The stream courses, described as rough and bordered with heavy vegetation, have terraces with potential for buried archaeological resources (Figure 2-1; Hester et al. 1974:21).

West Elm Creek is part of the upper Salado watershed. Elm Creek is described as a “first-order” stream of the system, i.e. a stream fed completely by runoff from surrounding landforms (Potter et al. 1995:7). The Upper Salado is characterized as

having a relatively steep gradient in comparison to the rest of the system, and in prehistoric times this portion of the Salado system likely experienced fast, turbulent flooding, creating a deposit of poorly sorted coarse sediments consisting of pebbles, cobbles, and boulders (Potter et al. 1995:8-9). The subregion of Edwards Plateau that the Upper Salado occupies is described as the “Balcones Canyonlands” due to its heavy dissection from stream erosion and its pronounced relief (Diamond et al. 1987).

The biological community in the region is described as a “mosaic” due to sharp differences in topography and moisture (Potter et al. 1995:9). The brushy vegetation of the uplands is dominated by juniper, scrub oak, and mesquite. It has been impacted by the introduction of grazing animals to the area. Fluvial plant communities consist of an oak-hackberry-bluestem assemblage located on deeper soils with greater moisture (Potter et al. 1995:10). The subtropical-subhumid climate in Bexar County is characterized by mild winters and hot summers. The average annual rainfall is 31 inches. The growing season is approximately 265 days (Long 2010).



Figure 2-1. Stream terrace on the southwest corner of the project area. The red circle displayed in the inset represents the location within the project area.



The majority of the project area consists of Eckrant Cobbly Clay soils, which are hard, shallow soils generally not exceeding 50 cm in depth. This soil series generally consists of two A horizons of clay, clay loam, or silty clay overlaying limestone bedrock (National Cooperative Soil Survey

[NCSS] 2014c). Chert cobbles are present (Figures 2-2 and 2-3). A small section in the northern project area consists of Crawford and Bexar stony soils, which are deeper and contain A and B horizons above limestone bedrock (Figures 2-4 and 2-5; NCSS 2014a, NCSS 2014b).



Figure 2-2. Shallow, cobbly sediments on the southeast corner of the project area. The red circle displayed in the inset represents the location within the project area.



Figure 2-3. Shallow, cobbly sediments on the northwest portion of the project area. The red circle displayed in the inset represents the location within the project area.



Figure 2-4. Crawford and Bexar stony soils on the north edge of the project area. The red circle displayed in the inset represents the location within the project area.

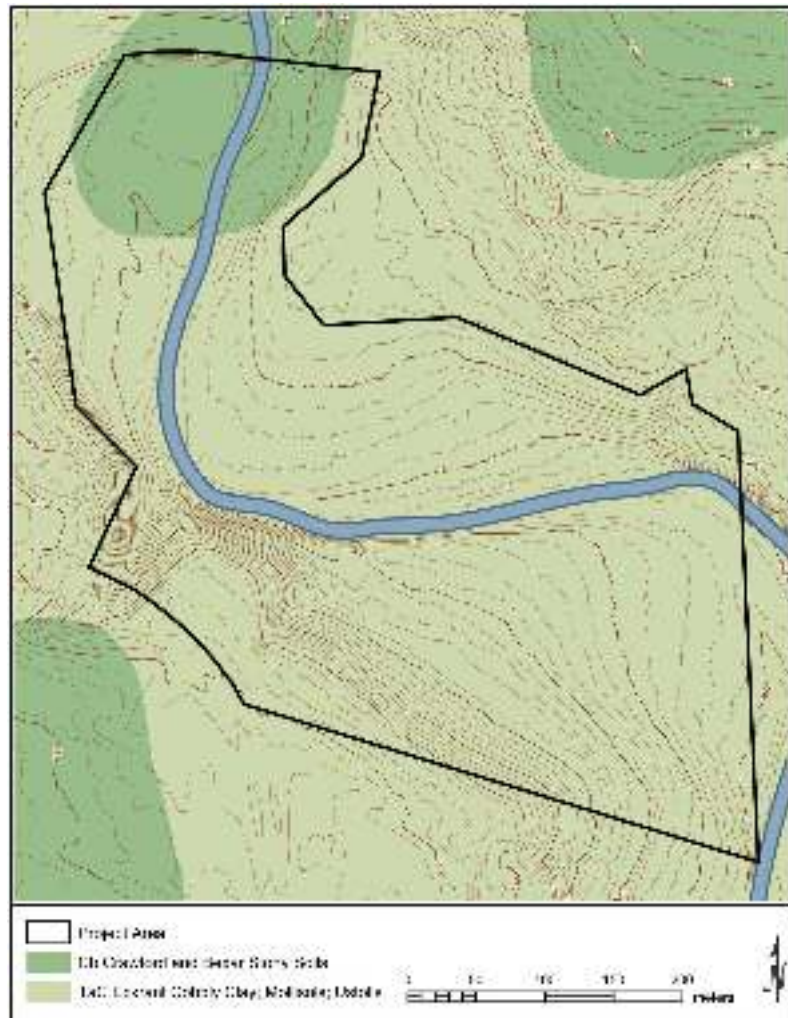


Figure 2-5. Soil map of the project area.



## Cultural History

The prehistory of central and south Texas is generally discussed in terms of three broad periods: the Paleoindian period, the Archaic period, and the Late Prehistoric period. These periods are further distinguished through differences in material culture and subsistence. While no evidence recovered during the course of this investigation links either site on the project area (previously recorded site 41BX455 or newly recorded site 41BX2006) with a specific temporal period, a general culture history of south and central Texas is provided.

### Paleoindian Period

The Paleoindian period spans 11,500-8,800 BP. This period represents the earliest evidence of human activity in central and south Texas. The period begins around the end of the Pleistocene, during a period when the climate was significantly cooler and moister than the present environment. Paleoindian components in Texas are often identified by surface material rather than by buried materials. Traditionally, subsistence in the Paleoindian period is described as focused on big game hunting; however, more recent investigations, especially in the field of zooarchaeology, suggest more diversified subsistence strategies (Waguespack and Surovell 2003). Projectile point typologies play a significant role in identification and interpretation of Paleoindian sites in Texas. Folsom and Clovis points, characterized by fluting, are diagnostic of early Paleoindian cultural material, with Folsom occurring slightly later than Clovis. Greater diversity in point forms occurs later in the Paleoindian period. Golondrina, St. Mary's Hall, Wilson, St. Patrice, Berclair, and Big Sandy point types all date to this period (Bousman et al. 2004; Collins 2004). Archaeological sites within Bexar County with Paleoindian components include 41BX452 (Pavo Real) and 41BX229 (St. Mary's Hall; Collins et al. 2003; Figueroa and Frederick 2008; Hester 1977).

### Archaic Period

The Archaic period (8800-1200 BP) is characterized by heightened intensity in hunting and gathering of local resources and greater diversity in cultural material. The use of heated rocks in the form of hearths, middens, and other cultural features increases during this period. The climate became drier and megafauna, such as bison, became more scarce, which may have prompted this broadening of subsistence strategy. The early part of the Archaic is characterized by Guadalupe tools and Angostura, early splitstem, and Martindale/Uvalde projectile point styles. Most researchers suggest that the population increased during the Middle Archaic in central and south Texas. This subperiod is defined by Nolan-Travis projectile points and

Bell-Andice-Calf Creek and Taylor bifaces. During the Late Archaic, a wide variety of dart point styles were present, including Bulverde, Pedernales, Montell, Castroville, Frio, and Ensor. Corner-tanged knives and cylindrical stone pipes were also common. Bison were present in the area during this period. Large cemeteries, such as site 41BX1, also became more prevalent (Collins 2004; Lukowski et al. 1988). Many Archaic sites have been recorded in Bexar County, including 41BX1888 that was recorded by the CAR along the San Antonio River (Munoz and DiVito 2012).

### Late Prehistoric Period

The Late Prehistoric period in Central Texas (1200-350 BP) is characterized by a shift towards the use of bow and arrow technology and the use of pottery. The initial interval of this period, the Austin phase, is distinguished by Scallorn and Edwards points, and the latter subperiod, the Toyah phase, is characterized by Perdiz dart points, pottery, large thin bifaces, and prismatic blades. Material culture associated with this period suggests increasing complexity in technology and subsistence strategies (Collins 2004).

### Historic Period

The Historic period in central Texas begins with the arrival of Europeans in the late seventeenth century. Early accounts document infrequent interactions between Europeans and Native Americans; however, population shifts had already occurred due to Spanish occupation in the south, Apache incursions in the north, and hostilities between the French and the Spanish. In addition, European-introduced diseases increased the mortality rates in Native American populations. Later in the period, many of the remaining native groups sought refuge in missions that had been established by the Spanish. Displacement, mortality from disease, and the mission system significantly affected the Native American way of life (Collins 2004).

## Previous Archaeological Investigations

One previously recorded site (41BX455) lies within the project area, and three (41BX427, 41BX456, and 41BX457) are within a half kilometer of the project area. Site 41BX456 is located 135 m to the east of 41BX455, and sites 41BX457 and 41BX427 are approximately 275 and 450 m to the southeast, respectively. All are prehistoric sites on terraces of West Elm Creek. These sites were recorded during a 1974 archaeological survey conducted by the CAR in the watershed of upper Salado Creek before construction of a series of floodwater retaining structures by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (Hester et al. 1974).



Site 41BX455 was identified as a 40-x-130-m occupation site containing a lithic scatter and burned rock. Although no subsurface testing was conducted, the possibility of buried cultural material was noted (Hester et al. 1974; THC 2014).

Site 41BX456, a quarry and occupation site, consisted of a surface scatter of flakes, exhausted cores, burned rock, and one large chopper (Hester et al. 1974; THC 2014). No subsurface testing was conducted on the 30-x-60-m site, but further surface survey and collection was recommended.

Site 41BX457, a lithic scatter containing flakes, cores, burned rock, and a possible hearth, was described as a small occupation site. No subsurface testing was conducted, and no further work was recommended (Hester et al. 1974).

Site 41BX427 was identified in 1974 as a 15-x-50-m occupation and chipping site containing a lithic scatter, burned rock, and an unidentified point (THC 2014). At the time, heavy vegetation hindered assessment of the site (Hester et al. 1974). In 1977, a surface collection and shovel testing was conducted by Brown et al. (1977) at the site in advance of dam construction activities. The site was determined to span 220-x-130 m. Projectile points, including Bulverde, Pedernales, Montell, Lange, and a possible Travis (n=13), bifaces (n=57), a Guadalupe tool, utilized flakes (n=257), retouched flakes (n=4), cores (n=8), and preforms were collected from the surface. Two of five shovel tests were positive with debitage (n=7). Brown et al. (1977) concluded that the site was occupied during the Pre-Archaic, Early, Middle, and Late Archaic periods.



## **Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods**

### **Field Methods**

CAR archaeologists conducted the initial pedestrian reconnaissance of the project area by walking transects spaced 30 m apart and recording historic and prehistoric surface artifacts with a GPS unit. No diagnostic artifacts were recorded during the reconnaissance. No surface finds were collected. Previously recorded site 41BX455 was revisited, and surface material was recorded using a GPS unit and plotted on an aerial map in order to establish site boundaries. Boundaries based on the extent of surface material on newly

recorded site 41BX2006 were also recorded with a GPS unit and plotted on an aerial map. Datums were established near the center of each site. Surface artifacts not associated with an archaeological site (n=1) were recorded as isolated finds.

Following the initial pedestrian survey, 21 shovel tests were excavated across the project area at a minimum density of one shovel test per two acres. Eleven additional shovel tests were placed on 41BX455 to establish the previously recorded site's boundaries, and 13 were dug to delineate the boundary of a concentration of lithic material (new site 41BX2006). In

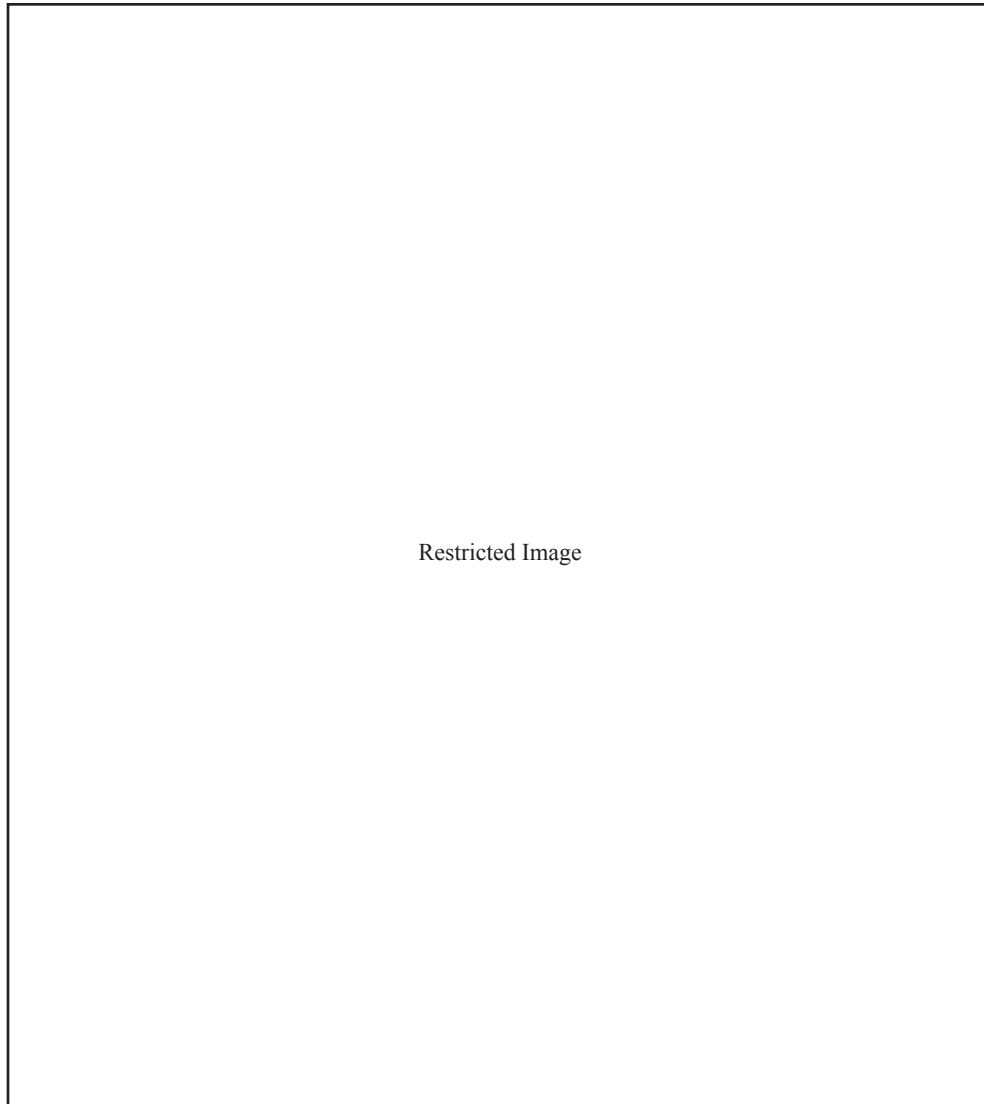


Figure 3-1. *Distribution of shovel tests (n=45) within the project area.*

all, 24 additional shovel tests were excavated to define the extent of these two sites, resulting in 45 excavated shovel tests over the course of the project (Figure 3-1). Of the 45 shovel tests, 11 were positive for cultural material.

Shovel tests were 30 cm in diameter and excavated to a depth of 60 cmbs when possible. Due to the shallow, rocky soil found within the project area, 42 (93%) did not reach this depth, and 30 (67%) were terminated at 30 cmbs or less due to bedrock or some other obstruction. Shovel tests were excavated in 10-cm increments, and all soil from each level was screened through quarter-inch hardware cloth. A shovel test form, including final excavation depth, a tally of all materials collected from each level, and a brief soil description, was completed for each shovel test excavated. The location of each shovel test was recorded using a GPS unit and sketched onto an aerial map as backup.

For the purposes of this survey an archaeological site was defined as containing (1) five or more surface artifacts observed within a 15-m radius; (2) a single cultural feature, such as a hearth, identified on the surface or exposed during shovel testing; (3) a positive shovel test containing at least three artifacts within a given 10-cm level; (4) a positive shovel test containing at least five total artifacts; or (5) two positive shovel tests located within 30 m of each other. A minimum of six shovel tests were excavated to determine the boundaries of each site.

## **Laboratory Methods**

All cultural materials and records obtained and/or generated during the project were prepared in accordance with 36 CFR part 79 and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Artifacts processed in the CAR laboratory were washed, air-dried, and stored in 4-mm, zip-locking, archival-quality bags. Acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each label contains provenience information and a corresponding lot number written in archival ink, with pencil, or by laser printer. A small sample of unmodified debitage from each lot was labeled with the appropriate provenience data. Artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper, labeled with archivally appropriate materials, and placed in archival-quality sleeves. All field forms were complete with pencil.

The materials recovered during this survey were entered into an Access® database and Excel® spreadsheet to aid in data exploration and to serve as a catalog of all artifacts associated with the project. Subsequent to laboratory processing, all materials incorrectly identified as cultural were discarded. These materials consisted of naturally fractured or weathered chert cobbles identified as cultural in the field. Following laboratory processing and analysis, and in consultation with THC, all sediment samples were discarded. This discard was in conformance with THC guidelines. All other collected materials are permanently housed at the CAR.

## **Chapter 4: Results of Field Investigations**

In April 2014, an intensive pedestrian survey was conducted at Gold Canyon Park. Forty-five shovel tests (STs) were excavated in the of the 17-hectare project area. Of the 45, 24 were excavated to delineate the boundaries of previously recorded archaeological site 41BX455 or to identify and define the boundaries of new site 41BX2006. This chapter discusses the results of both the surface inspection and subsequent subsurface testing.

To identify potential sites and isolated cultural material, the CAR personnel walked 17 transects spaced evenly across the project area. Thirty-two points containing a single lithic artifact or multiple lithics were recorded (Figure 4-1). The surface artifacts consisted of debitage, cores, edge-modified

flakes, bifaces, tested cobbles, and burned rock. No surface artifacts were collected. Large concentrations of unmodified chert cobbles noted on the project area suggest an unlimited availability of lithic material in the area. No historic artifacts were identified. Twelve of the locations were recorded on previously recorded site 41BX455, 19 were concentrated on the western side of the project area, and one was determined to be an isolated artifact. Based on the CAR’s site definition (see Chapter 3), the western concentration of lithic artifacts represents a site (41BX2006).

Of the 21 shovel tests initially excavated on the project area, three (STs 5, 9, and 15) were positive for cultural material. Eight of the 24 shovel tests subsequently excavated to define

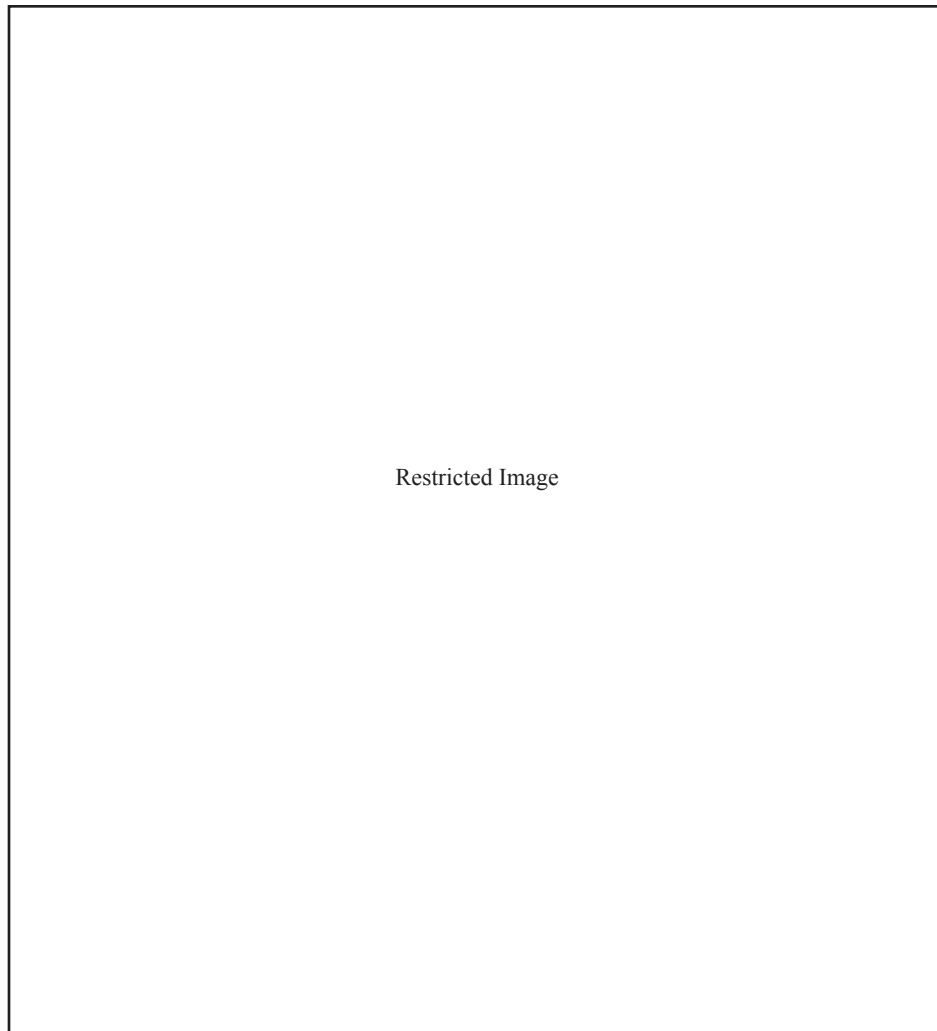


Figure 4-1. *Distribution of shovel tests and surface artifacts within the project area.*

41BX455 and 41BX2006 (STs 24, 25, 26, 31, 33, 37, 39, and 42) were positive (see Figure 4-1). Except for three pieces of debitage (ST 9, 30-40 cmbs, and ST 25, 30-40 cmbs) and 63 gm burned rock (ST 24, 40-50 cmbs), all cultural material was recovered in the upper 30 cm of soil. The soil in the majority of the project area was rocky and shallow. Of the 45 shovel tests, 3 (7%) reached the target depth of 60 cmbs, and 30 (67%) were terminated at or above 30 cmbs upon the exposure of bedrock or some other obstruction (Table 4-1).

### Site Revisit - 41BX455

Site 41BX455, previously described as a 40-x-130-m occupation site containing a lithic scatter and burned rock (Hester 1974 et al.), is located near the eastern boundary of the

project area. West Elm Creek crosses the northern portion of the site. Four shovel tests located within the boundaries of the site, STs 5, 37, 39, and 42, were positive for cultural material, including debitage (n=5) and burned rock (5.9 gm; Table 4-2). The artifacts were all recovered in the upper 30 cm of sediment. Debitage and edge-modified flakes were observed and recorded on the surface (Figure 4-2). No temporally diagnostic artifacts or cultural features were identified by the CAR on the site. Based on the distribution of positive shovel tests, the CAR recommends an expansion of the site from the original 5,200 m<sup>2</sup> to approximately 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The lack of depth and the low density of buried cultural material suggest that the site possesses little potential for future research. Therefore, the CAR recommends that 41BX455 be listed as ineligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Table 4-1. Termination Depths of Shovel Tests on Gold Canyon Park

ST	Cultural Material Present	Termination Depth (cmbs)	Reason for Termination	ST	Cultural Material Present	Termination Depth (cmbs)	Reason for Termination
1	No	18	Bedrock	24	Yes	56	Bedrock
2	No	16	Bedrock	25	Yes	35	Bedrock
3	No	45	Bedrock	26	Yes	30	Bedrock
4	No	55	Large Rock	27	No	27	Bedrock
5	Yes	9	Bedrock	28	No	21	Bedrock
6	No	20	Bedrock	29	No	34	Bedrock
7	No	7	Bedrock	30	No	30	Bedrock
8	No	28	Bedrock	31	Yes	24	Bedrock
9	Yes	60	Complete	32	No	29	Bedrock
10	No	51	Large Rock	33	Yes	30	Bedrock
11	No	28	Bedrock	34	No	20	Bedrock
12	No	7	Bedrock	35	No	18	Bedrock
13	No	35	Bedrock	36	No	30	Bedrock
14	No	27	Bedrock	37	Yes	40	Bedrock
15	Yes	20	Bedrock	38	No	37	Bedrock
16	No	25	Bedrock	39	Yes	60	Complete
17	No	39	Bedrock	40	No	20	Bedrock
18	No	27	Bedrock	41	No	25	Large Roots
19	No	60	Complete	42	Yes	58	Bedrock
20	No	27	Bedrock	43	No	20	Bedrock
21	No	30	Cobbles	44	No	40	Bedrock
22	No	30	Bedrock	45	No	30	Bedrock
23	No	19	Bedrock				

Table 4-2. Artifacts Recovered from 41BX455

Level	Depth (cmbs)	ST 5	ST 37	ST 39	ST 42
1	0-10	1 D			
2	10-20	not excavated	1 D	1 D	
3	20-30	not excavated	BR (6 gm)	1 D	1 D
4	30-40	not excavated			
5	40-50	not excavated	not excavated		
6	50-60	not excavated	not excavated		

Key: D = debitage, BR = burned rock (gm)

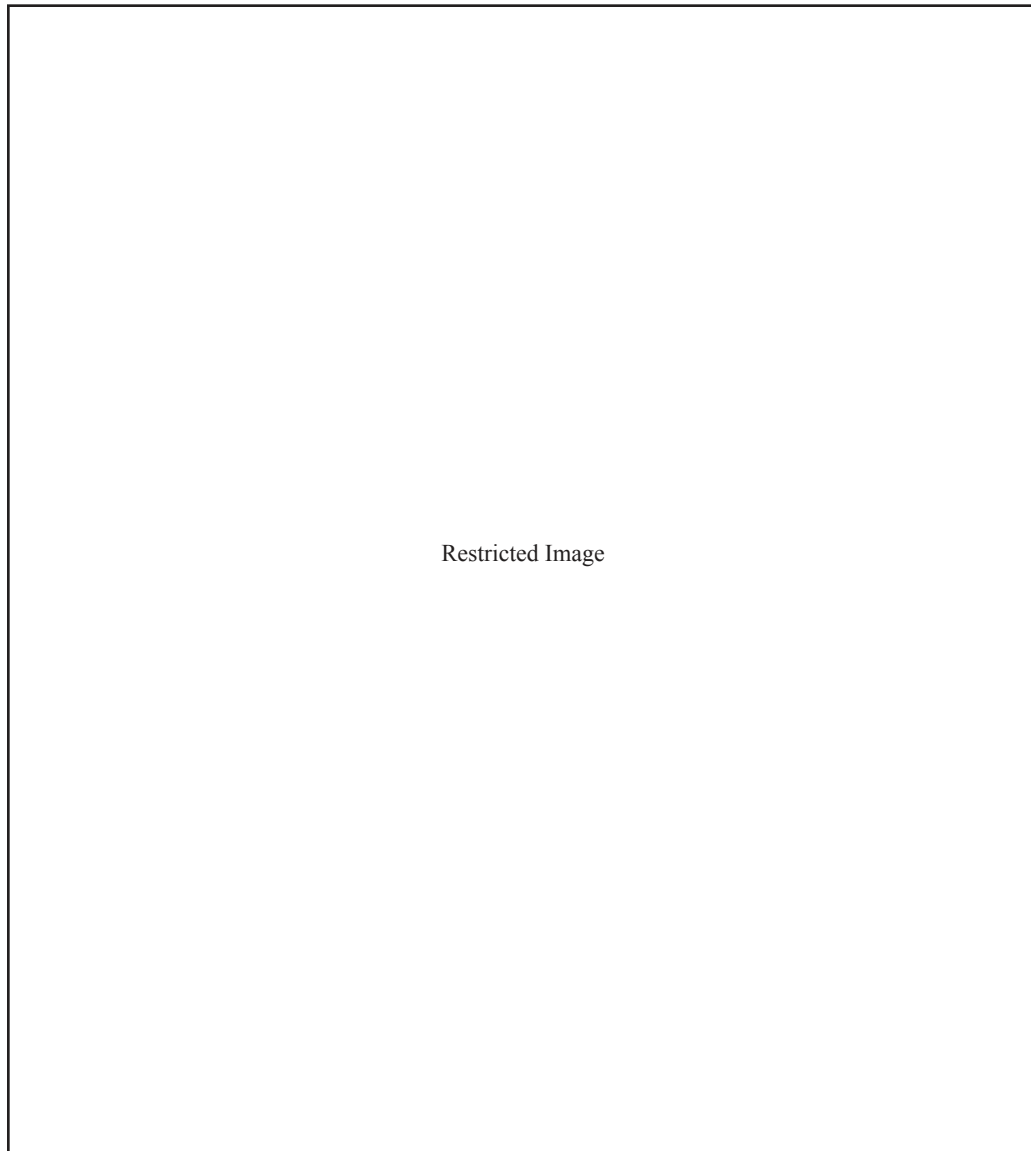


Figure 4-2. Revisited site 41BX455.

### 41BX2006

41BX2006 is a large prehistoric site (approximately 18,740 m<sup>2</sup>) located to the north and east of West Elm Creek within a bend in the waterway. Seven shovel tests located within the boundaries of the site (STs 9, 15, 24, 25, 26, 31, and 33) were positive for cultural material (Figure 4-3 and Table 4-3). Artifacts recovered consist of debitage (n=12) and burned rock (123 gm). Of the seven positive tests, STs 9 and 24 contained sediments to the target depth (60 cmbs). The others were terminated from 20-35 cmbs due to the exposure

of bedrock. Artifacts were present to 40 cmbs and burned rock to 50 cmbs. In addition to the subsurface artifacts, debitage, cores, tested cobbles, bifaces, and burned rock were observed on the surface (Figures 4-4 and 4-5). No cultural features or temporally diagnostic artifacts were noted on the site. Although cultural deposits extended somewhat deeper here than at 41BX455, the low density of artifacts and the overall shallowness of sediments on the site (average of 29.6 cm) indicates that the site possesses little potential for future research. Therefore, the CAR recommends that 41BX2006 be listed as ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

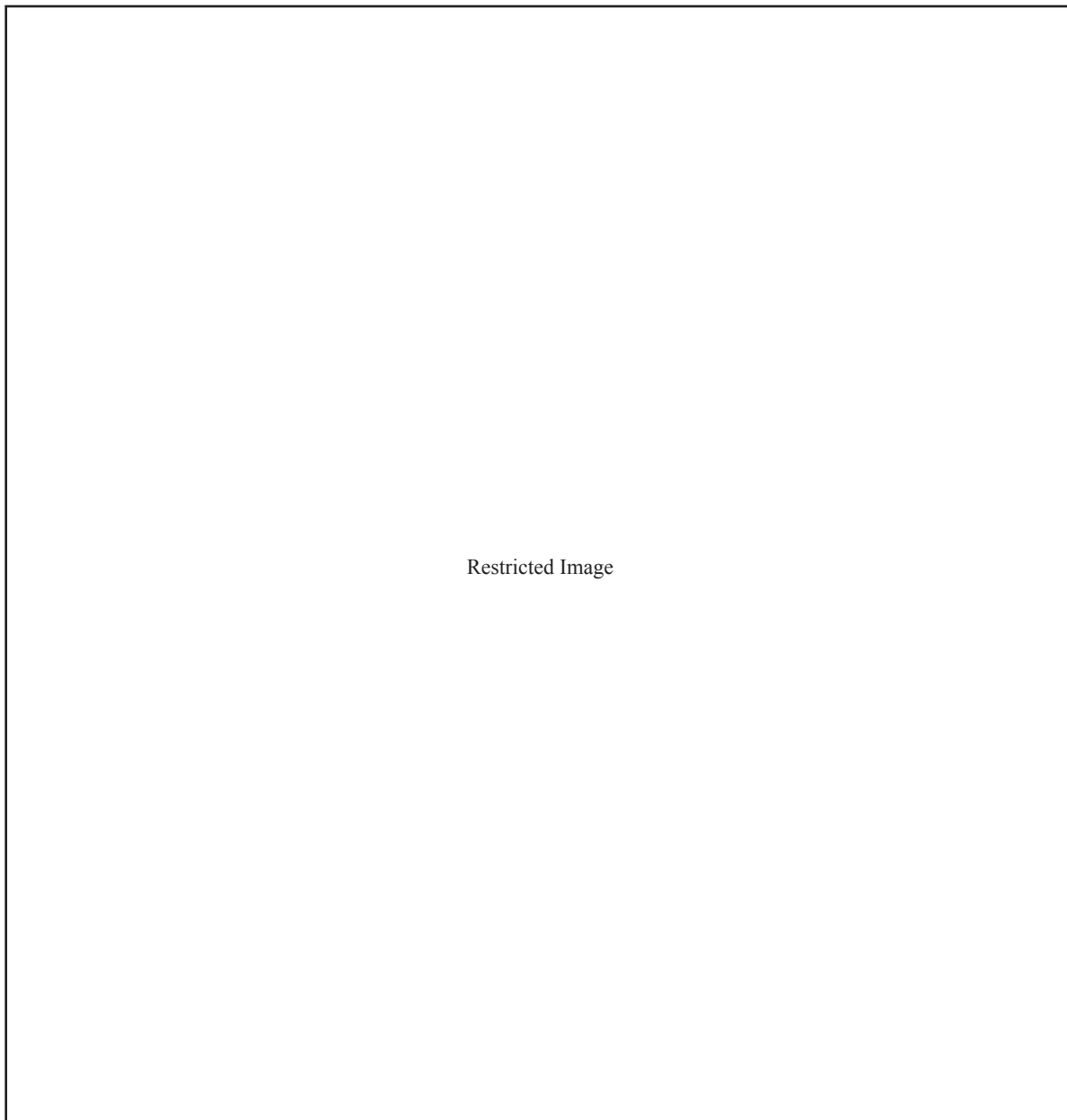


Figure 4-3. Site 41BX2006.



Table 4-3. Artifacts Recovered from 41BX2006

Level	Depth (cmbs)	ST 9	ST 15	ST 24	ST 25	ST 26	ST 31	ST 33
1	0-10	3 D, BR (5 gm)				4 D, (4 gm)		
2	10-20	BR (25 gm)	1 D	BR (1gm)		1 D, BR (20 gm)	1 D	1 D
3	20-30		not excavated	1 D, BR (5 gm)	1 D			
4	30-40	2 D	not excavated		1 D	not excavated	not excavated	not excavated
5	40-50		not excavated	BR (63 gm)	not excavated	not excavated	not excavated	not excavated
6	50-60		not excavated		not excavated	not excavated	not excavated	not excavated

Key: D = debitage, BR = burned rock (gm)



Figure 4-4. Biface recorded, but not collected, on the surface of 41BX2006.

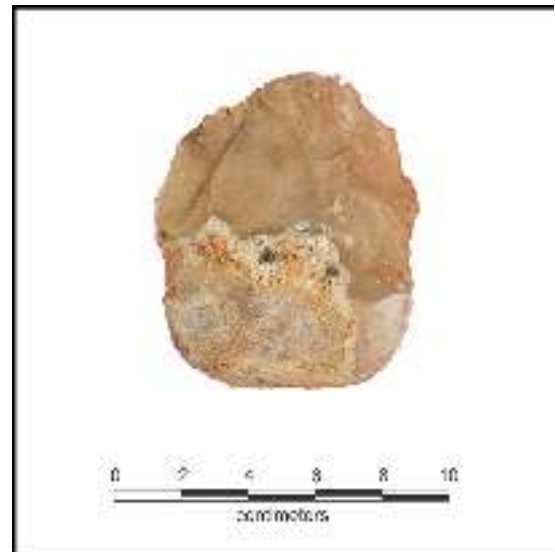


Figure 4-5. Biface recorded, but not collected, on the surface of 41BX2006.

### Summary

Site 41BX455 was initially identified as a 5,200 m<sup>2</sup> occupational site defined by a scatter of flakes and burned rock (Hester et al. 1974). The current survey confirms Hester’s assessment, but shallowly buried deposits of lithic artifacts (5 specimens of debitage and 6 gm of burned rock) and a more extensive distribution of surface artifacts suggest

that the site covers approximately 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>. One new site, 41BX2006, was recorded within a bend in West Elm Creek. It is defined by a scatter of lithic material on the surface and buried cultural material (16 pieces of debitage and 123 gm of burned rock) extending to 50 cmbs. The presence of burned rock suggests that 41BX2006 may also have been an occupational site. Large amounts of unmodified chert cobbles on the project area indicate that the sites were located within an area of readily available raw material.



## **Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations**

In April 2014, the Center for Archaeological Research conducted a pedestrian survey of a proposed trail system on 17 hectares of Gold Canyon Park located in Bexar County, Texas, for Adams Environmental, Inc. on behalf of the City of San Antonio. This survey entailed a 100% pedestrian reconnaissance with shovel testing and a revisit to one previously recorded site on the project area. The purpose of the survey was to determine whether the project area contained buried archaeological material, to record any sites encountered, and to assess the impact of the proposed park improvements on the previously recorded archaeological site.

Forty-five shovel tests were excavated within the 17-hectare area resulting in the removal of 0.99 m<sup>3</sup> of sediment. The

survey recorded one new archaeological site (41BX2006) and revisited one previously recorded site (41BX455). Both sites contained shallowly buried deposits and surface scatters of lithic artifacts. No temporally diagnostic artifacts or features were identified on the project area. The low density of buried artifacts and the shallow soil deposition suggest that the potential for future research is low on both sites. Therefore, the CAR recommends sites 41BX455 and 41BX2006 be listed as ineligible for listing on the NRHP and recommends no further testing. The CAR further recommends that construction of the proposed park improvements proceed as planned. In a letter dated June 24, 2014, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) agreed with these recommendations. The COSA Office of Historic Preservation also concurred with the CAR's recommendations.



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