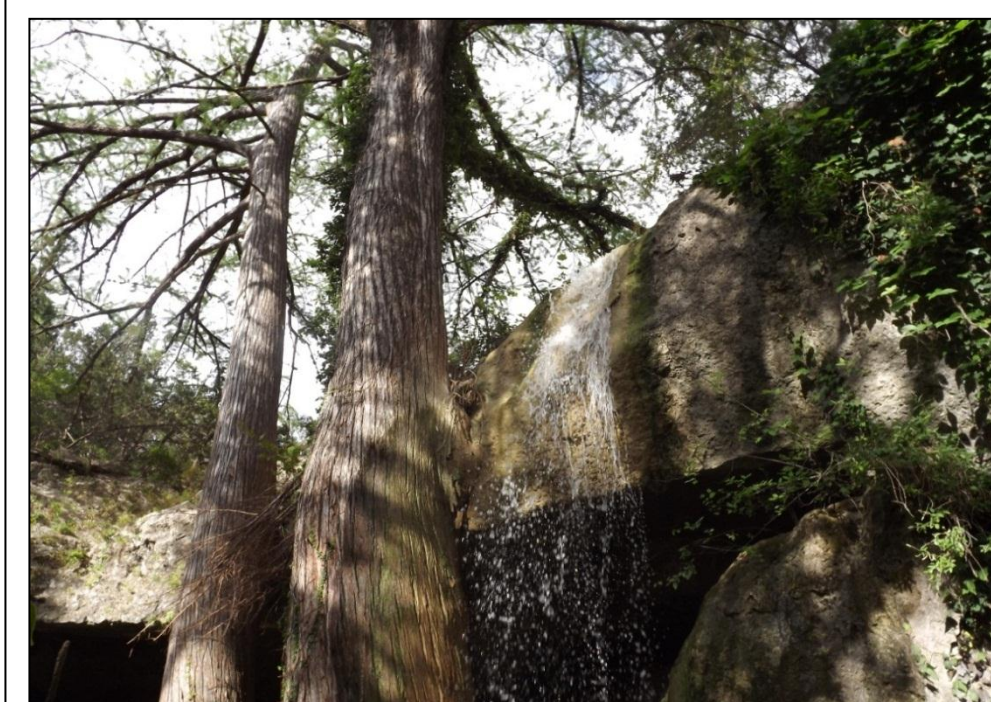


The Black Vulture Site

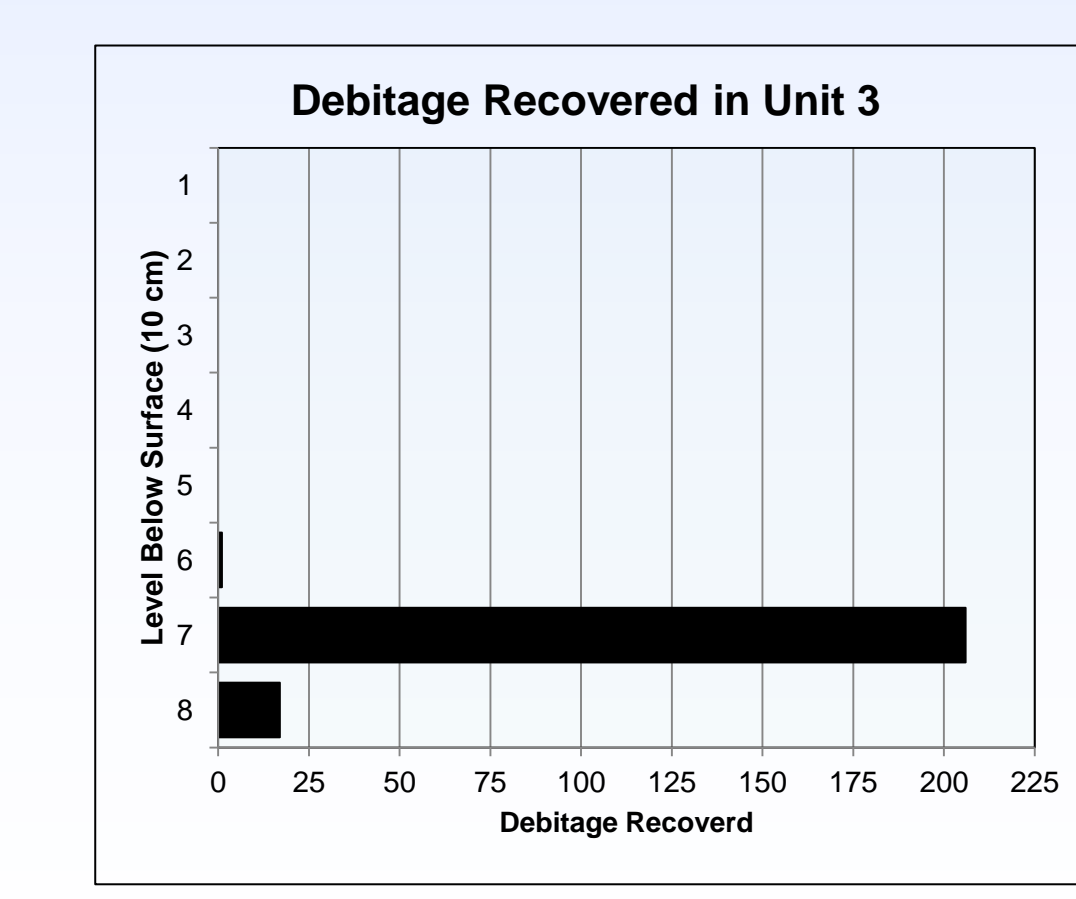
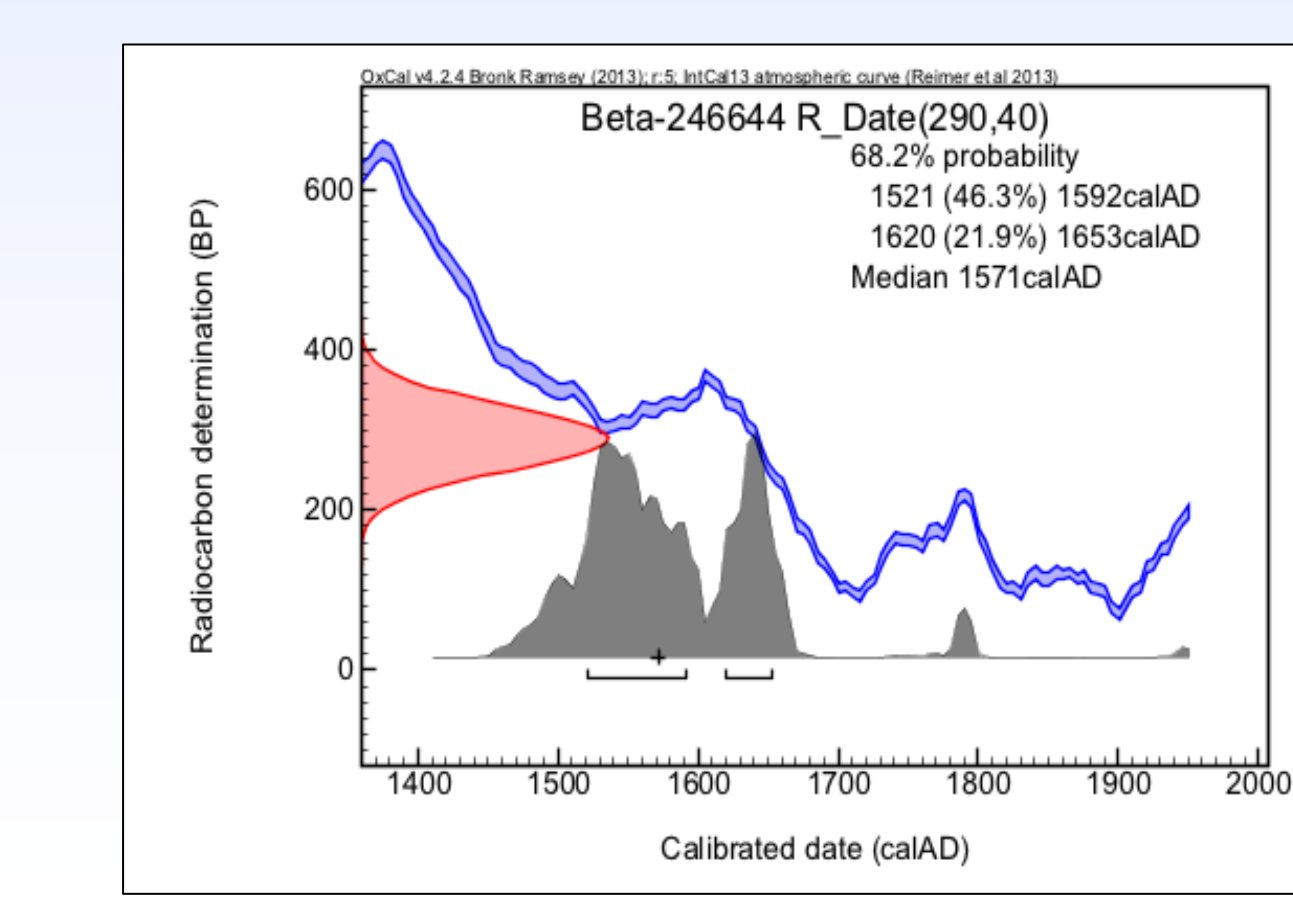
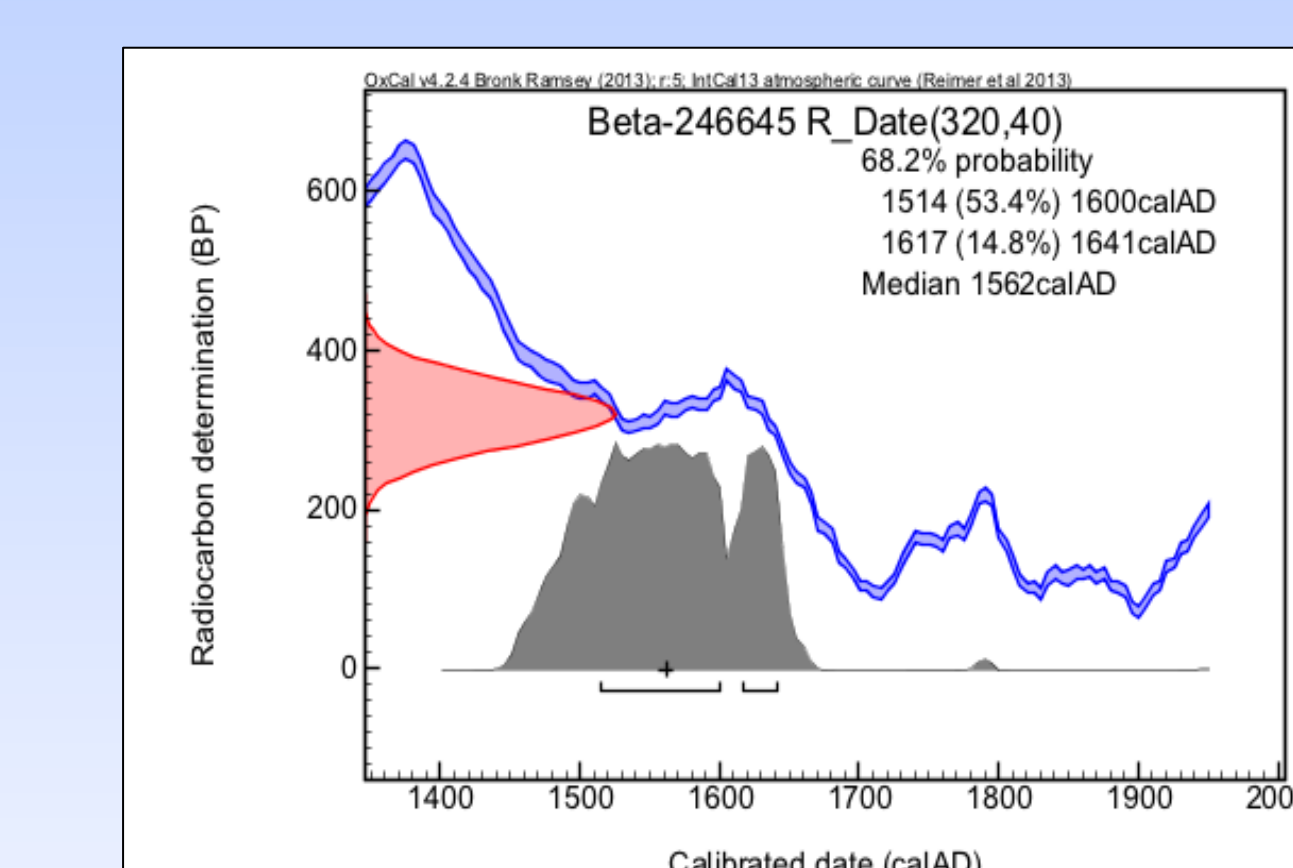
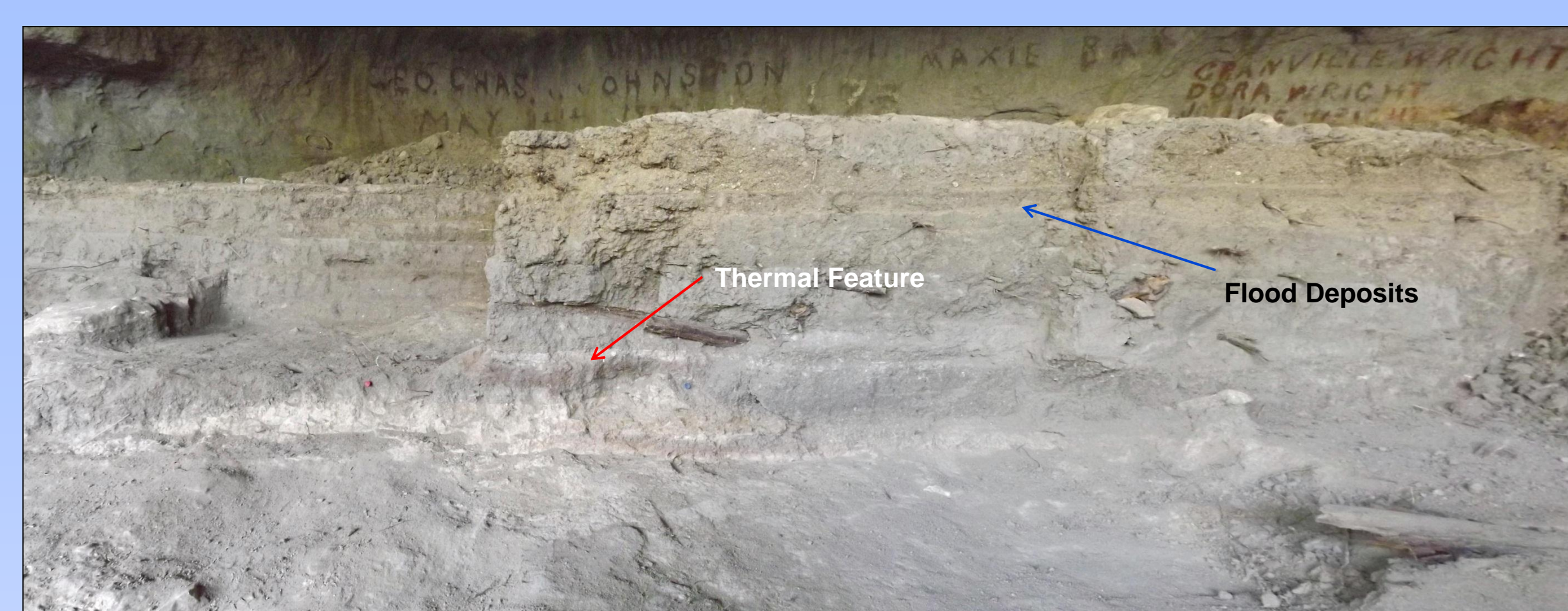
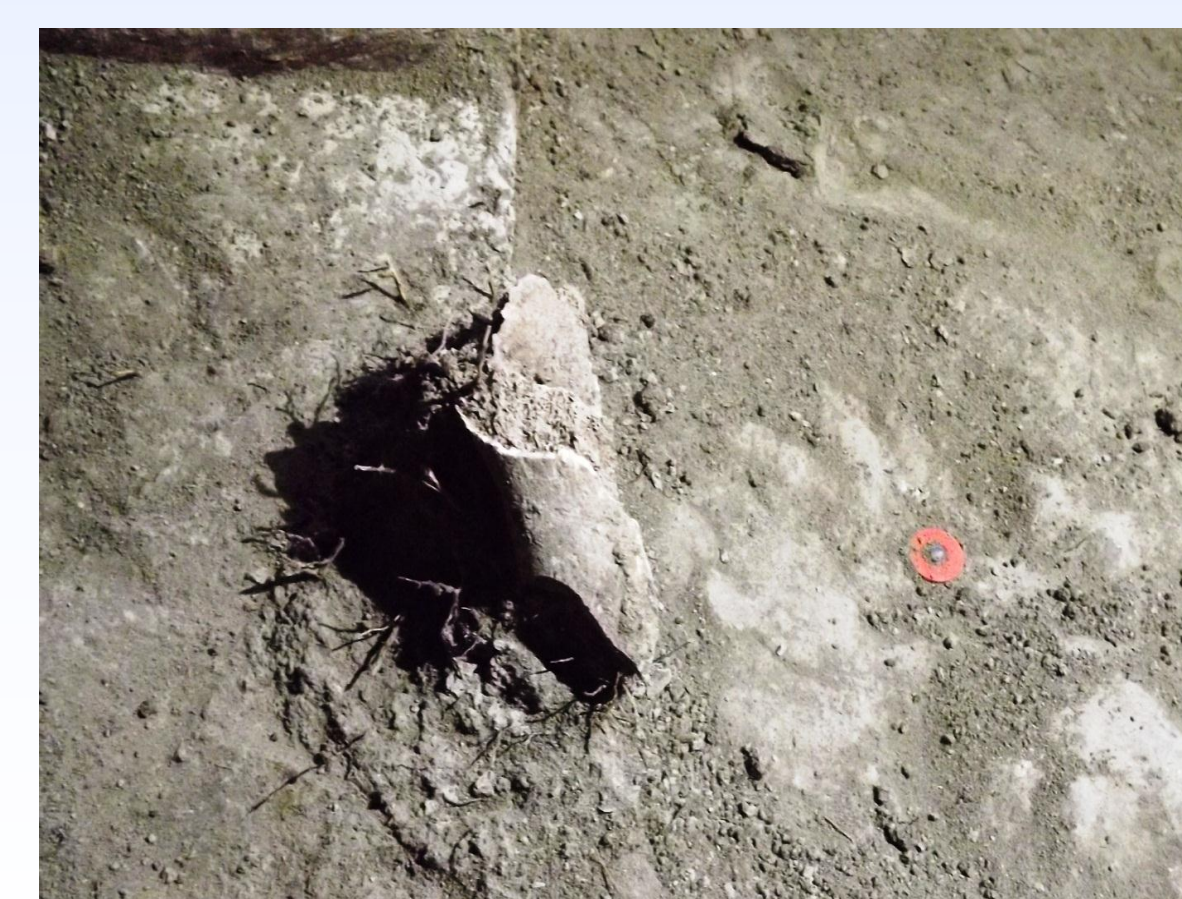
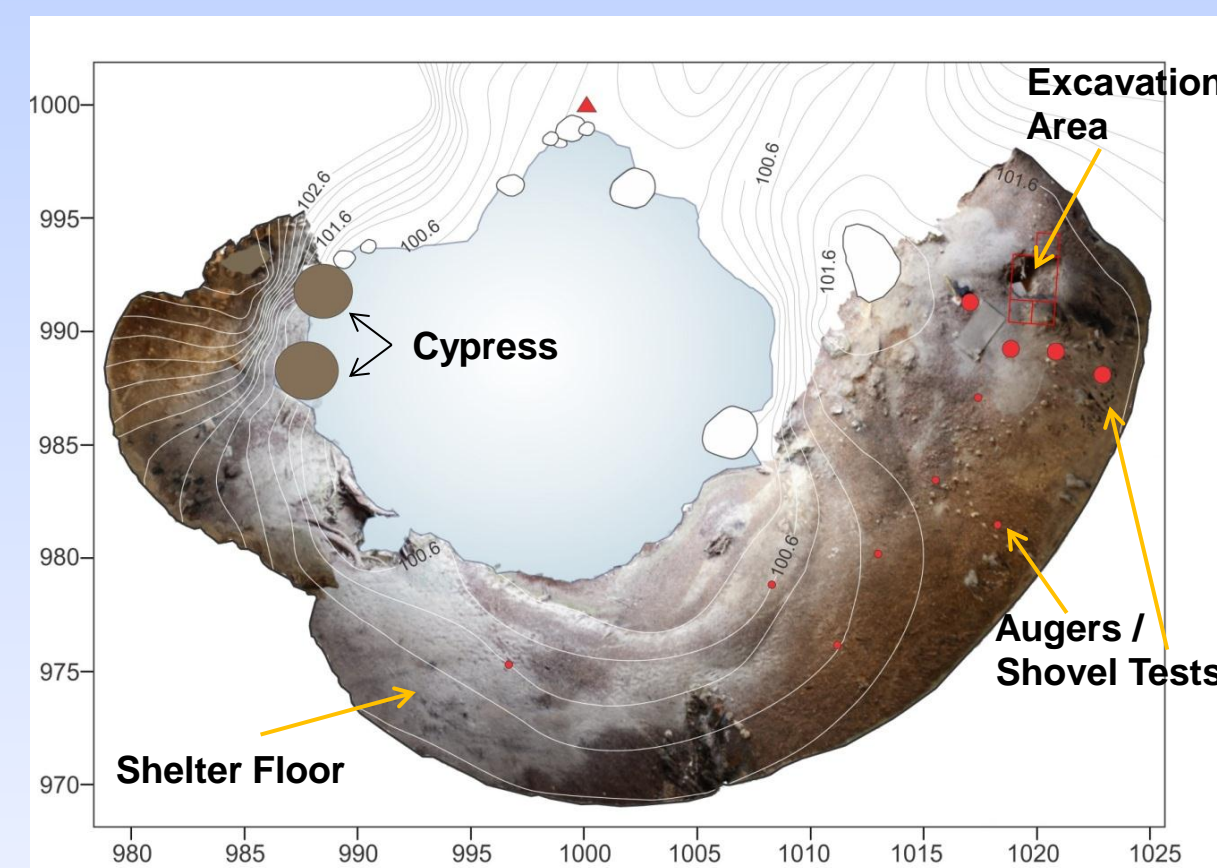
Originally tested by the Southern Texas Archaeological Association (STAA) in 2007- 2008, the site is roughly 120 meters from the Medina River in Bandera County. The limestone dominated shelter is frequently wet, and runoff from above and a series of springs creates a fluctuating but consistent source of water.



The STAA work, which consisted primarily of a 2 x 2 m block excavated to roof fall/ bedrock (ca. 79 cm below surface), recorded a substantial deposit, including a thermal feature, several bison ribs, arrow points, and several hundred pieces of debitage concentrated primarily in a single 10 cm level. CAR began excavation in 2014, building on the earlier STAA work.

Excavation Results from the Black Vulture Rock Shelter (41BN207), a Late Toyah Occupation on the Edwards Plateau.

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Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), Department of Anthropology, at UT San Antonio



The Black Vulture Site

41BN207 minimally reflects Late Prehistoric (ca. 1500-1650 AD) use, with a small (perhaps 1?) number of occupations present. There is minimal evidence of earlier use. A limited range of material culture has been recovered. There are no ceramics, and almost no formal tools other than 11 projectile points. The faunal material is primarily bison, with ribs accounting for almost all of the material. We have evidence of three thermal features, and possibly one pit feature, all within a roughly 10 cm range spread over a 16 m² area. Fieldwork is ongoing, and analysis has not begun. We hope to acquire more dates, including direct dates on the bison, and look in detail at the distribution of artifacts and features.



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