

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM  
ARCHEOLOGY**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION**

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) CR 175 Reconstruction Project  
County (ies) Williamson  
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Leander (30097-E7)  
UTM Coordinates Zone 14 E 615657 m N 3384149 m  
Location The project is located along existing right of way of CR 175 from South of Creek Meadow Drive to RM 2243  
Federal Involvement  Yes  No  
Name of Federal Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Representative \_\_\_\_\_

**II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)**

Owner Williamson County  
Representative County Judge Steven Snell  
Address 710 South Main St., Suite 101  
City/State/Zip Georgetown, TX 78626  
Telephone (include area code) 512-943-1550 Email Address ctyjudge@wilco.org

**III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)**

Sponsor Same as owner  
Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)**

Name Joey O'Keefe, M.A.  
Affiliation SWCA Environmental Consulting  
Address 4407 Monterey Oaks Boulevard, Suite 110, Bldg. 1  
City/State/Zip Austin, Texas 78749  
Telephone (include area code) 512-476-0891, ext. 111236 Email Address joey.okeefe@swca.com

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork Jan 2026
Requested Permit Duration 5 Years Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) See attached scope of work

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility SWCA on-site facilities, Austin, Texas
Permanent Curatorial Facility Center for Archaeological Research at UT in San Antonio

IV. LAND OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, County Judge Steven Snell, as legal representative of the Land Owner, Williamson County, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Owner, Sponsor, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of the permit.

Signature Date

V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, as legal representative of the Sponsor, do certify that I have review the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Sponsor, Owner, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Signature Date

VI. INVESTIGATOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, Joey O'Keefe, as Principal Investigator employed by SWCA Environmental Consultants (Investigative Firm), do certify that I will execute this project according to the submitted plans and research design, and will not conduct any work prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Principal Investigator (and the Investigative Firm), as well as the Owner and Sponsor, are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Signature Date 12/19/2025

Principal Investigator must attach a research design, a copy of the USGS quadrangle showing project boundaries, and any additional pertinent information. Curriculum vita must be on file with the Archeology Division.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reviewer Date Permit Issues
Permit Number Permit Expiration Date
Type of Permit Date Received for Data Entry



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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www.swca.com

December 19, 2025

Rebecca Shelton  
Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

**Re: Request for Antiquities Permit to Conduct Cultural Resources Investigations for the County Road (CR) 175 Reconstruction Project, Williamson County, Texas / SWCA Project No. 87699.002**

Dear Rebecca Shelton:

This letter is a request for a Texas Antiquities Permit to conduct cultural resources investigations for the County Road (CR) 175 Reconstruction Project in Williamson County, Texas (project). The project consists of ground-disturbing activities associated with the reconstruction and widening of approximately 2.2 miles (3.5 kilometers [km]) of CR 175 within project corridors that range from 100 to 300 feet (30.5–91.4 meters [m]) wide, totaling an estimated 45.8 acres (18.6 hectares [ha]) in area. As the proposed project is being undertaken by Williamson County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, a Texas Antiquities Permit is required in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resource Code, Title 9, Chapter 191) and accompanying Rules of Practice and Procedure (Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Chapter 26).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (512) 476-0891, extension 111236, or [joey.okeefe@swca.com](mailto:joey.okeefe@swca.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joey O'Keefe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joey O'Keefe, M.A.  
Principal Investigator

## **PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE COUNTY ROAD (CR) 175 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

*Project Landowner and Sponsor – Williamson County*

*Project Sponsor – Aguirre & Fields LLC*

*Project Consultant – SWCA Environmental Consultants*

*Principal Investigator – Joey O’Keefe, M.A.*

*Architectural Historian – Katharine Sheldon, M.A.*

*Date – December 19, 2025*

### **INTRODUCTION**

On behalf of the Williamson County (County), Aguirre & Fields, LP (Aguirre & Fields), has retained SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to conduct an intensive archaeological survey in support of the County Road (CR) 175 Reconstruction Project (project) within Williamson County, Texas (Figure 1). The project consists of ground-disturbing activities associated with the reconstruction and widening of approximately 2.2 miles (3.5 kilometers [km]) of CR 175 within project corridors that range from 100 to 300 feet (30.5–91.4 meters [m]) wide, totaling an estimated 45.8 acres (18.5 hectare [ha]) in area (project area) (Figure 2).

As the proposed project is being undertaken by the County, a subdivision of the state, the project will be subject to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT), and the archaeological field investigation will require a Texas Antiquities Permit. At this time, there is no federal nexus for the project; therefore, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 United States Code 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800) are not applicable to these investigations.

SWCA proposes to conduct an intensive archaeological pedestrian survey with systematic shovel testing of the 2.2-mile-long (3.5-km-long), approximately 45.8-acre (18.6-ha) project area (see Figure 2). The goal of the work will be to identify any previously recorded prehistoric and historic-age archaeological sites in the project area; locate any previously undiscovered archaeological sites; establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries, as appropriate with regard to the project area; and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site recorded for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL). All work will be conducted in accordance with the ACT.

### **Project Description**

The project area appears on the Leander, Texas (30097-E7), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The proposed project parallels the existing right-of-way (ROW) of CR 175 from east to west in the southern portion of the project area and consists of new ROW through undeveloped land in the northern portion connecting to Ranch-to-Market Road (RM) 2243 in Leander, Texas. The project area is within both semi-rural and residentially developed settings in the western extent of Williamson County, Texas (see Figures 1 and 2). The project area ranges from 880 feet (268 m) above mean sea level at the southern extent to 925 feet (282 m) above mean sea level at the northern extent.

Proposed Scope of Work for Cultural Resources Investigations for the CR 175 Reconstruction Project, Williamson County, Texas

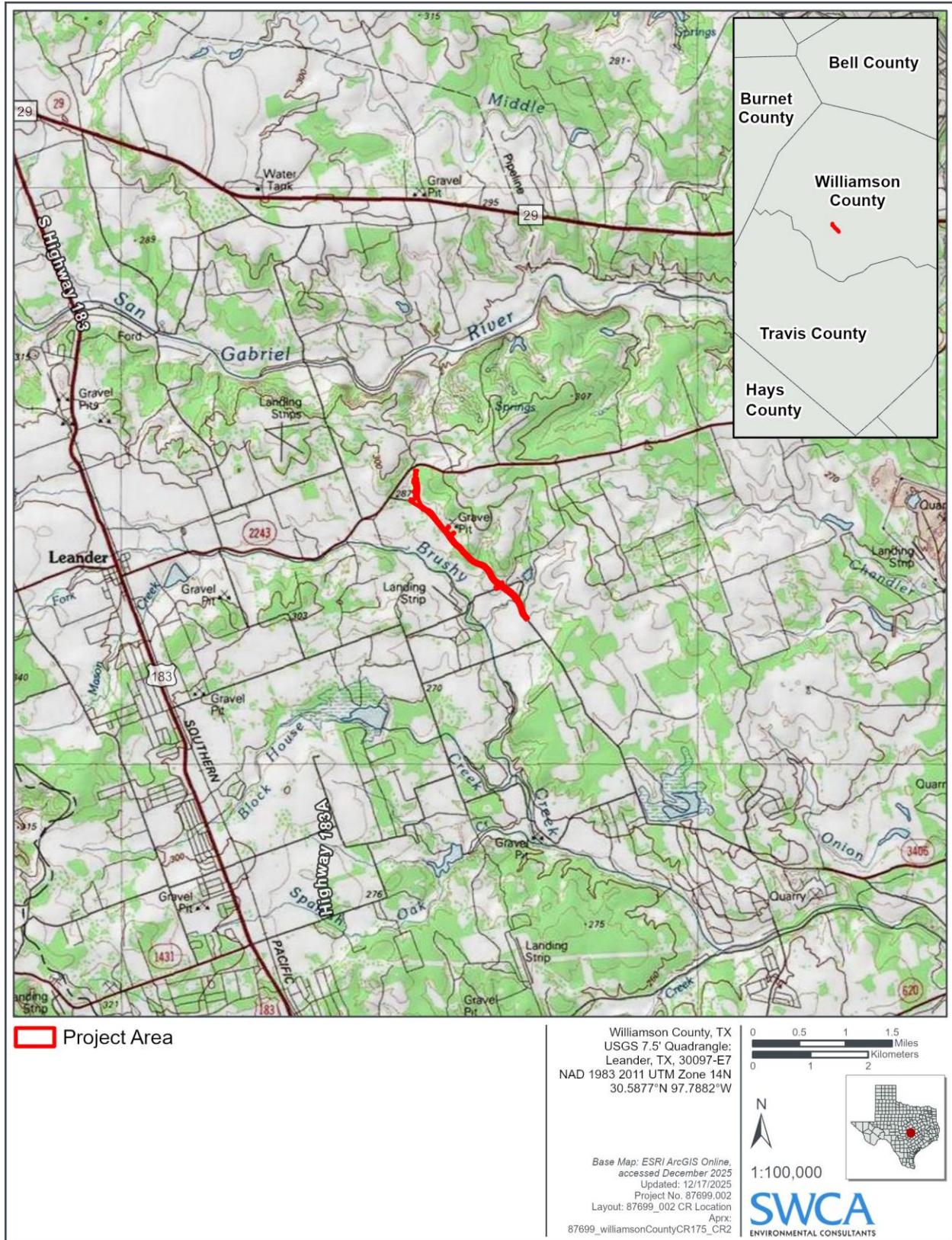


Figure 1. Project location.

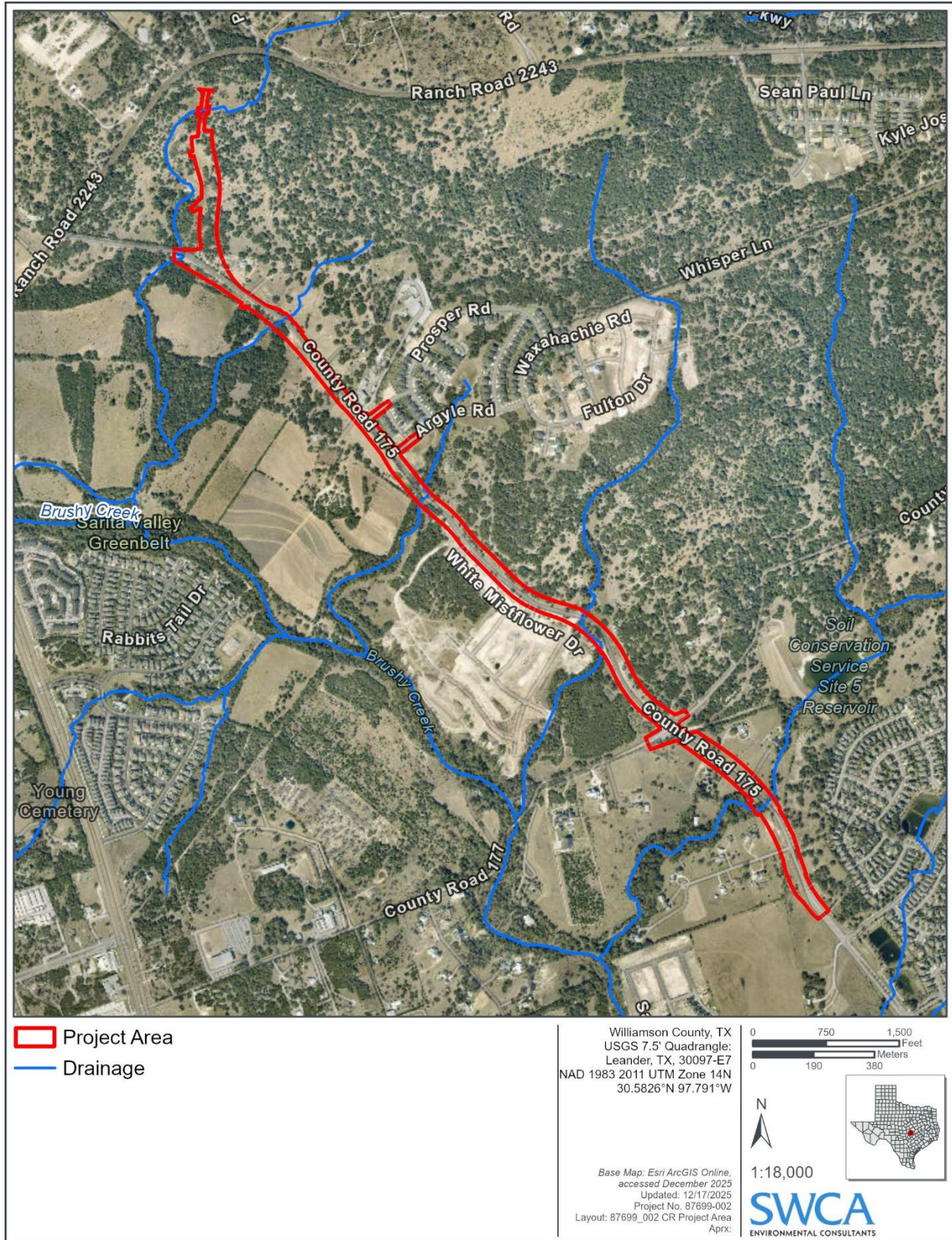


Figure 2. Project area overview.

## PROJECT SETTING

The project area crosses the Balcones Canyonlands subregion within the Edwards Plateau ecoregion (Griffith et al. 2007). The physiography of the area is generally described as highly dissected through the solution of springs, streams, and rivers working both above and below ground to create canyons, sinkholes, and caverns. This escarpment ecoregion is distinctive because its broken topography discourages intensive human development and supports diverse habitats, high species diversity and wildlife numbers, and refugia for endemics and endangered species. Assemblages of both plant and animal species have evolved to specific conditions characteristic of the limestone substrate (Griffith et al. 2007:61).

## Geology

The underlying geology of the project area consists of two Early Cretaceous-age formations (Barnes et al. 1974; USGS 2025b) composed predominantly of limestone, dolostone, and shale ranging from 80 to 175 feet (24.3–53.3 m) thick (Table 1, Figure 3).

**Table 1. Geology in the Project Area (listed in order of Prevalence)**

Symbol	Name	Period	Epoch or Series	Group	Acres within Project Area	Percentage of Project Area
Kkv	Keys Valley Marl	Early Cretaceous	Comanchean	Fredericksburg Group	44.6	97
Kc	Comanche Peaks Limestone	Early Cretaceous	Comanchean	Fredericksburg Group	1.1	3
<b>Total</b>					45.7	100.0

Sources: Barnes et al. (1974); USGS (2025b)

## Soils

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (2019), six soil series are mapped within the project area (Table 2; see Figure 3). Each of the soils are derived from limestone and calcareous materials and have recorded A horizons that terminate between 6 and 22 inches (15.2–56 centimeters [cm]) below surface. The soils and geologic data together suggest the project area has a low to moderate potential to contain buried cultural materials.

The most prevalent of the mapped soils is the Eckrant cobbly clay (EaD), 1 to 8 percent slopes, and is present within 61.9% (28.3 acres [11.5 ha]) of the project area (see Table 2). In general, the Eckrant series consists of well-drained, moderately slowly permeable soils that are very shallow to shallow over indurated limestone bedrock. These nearly level to very steep soils formed in residuum derived from limestone and occur on summits, shoulders, and backslopes of ridges on dissected plateaus (NRCS 2019). Other soils mapped in the project area are presented in Table 2.

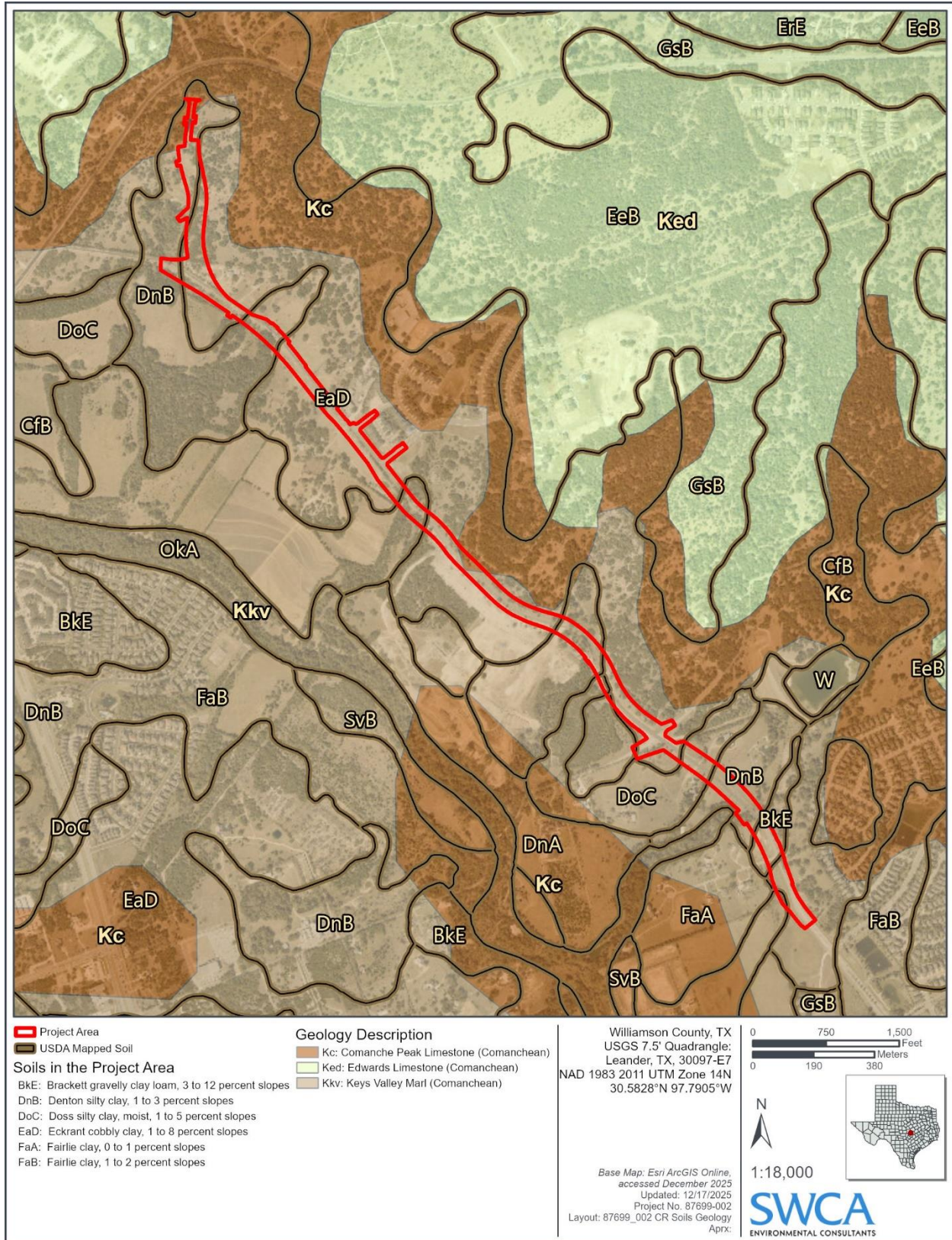


Figure 3. Geology and soils in the project area.

**Table 2. Soils in the Project Area (Listed in Order of Prevalence)**

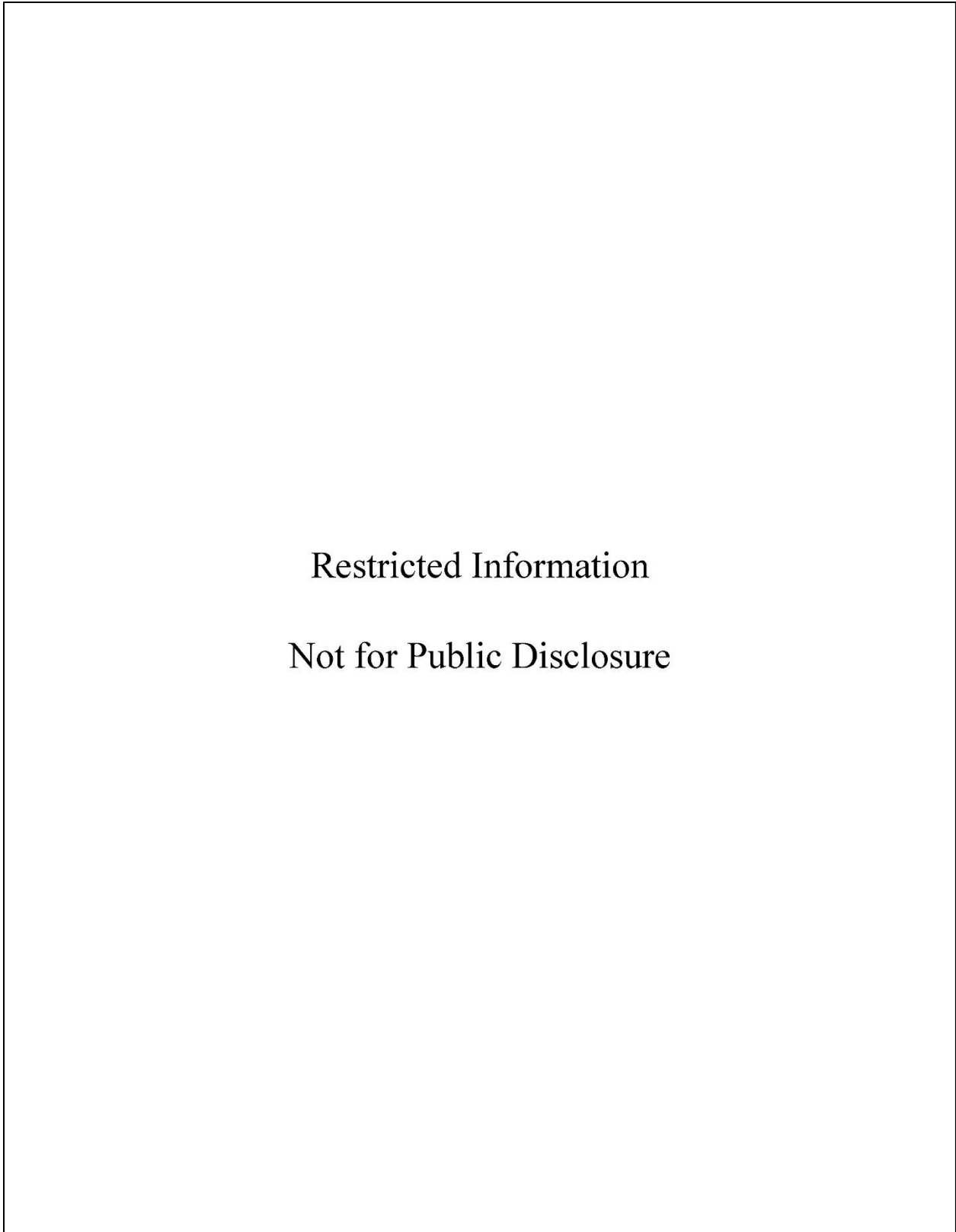
Symbol	Name	Age/Formation/Parent Material	Acres within Project Area	Percentage of Project Area
EaD	Eckrant cobbly clay, 1 to 8 percent slopes	Limestone	28.3	61.9
DnB	Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	Cretaceous	9.3	20.3
FaB	Fairlie clay, 1 to 2 percent slopes	Cretaceous	4.2	9.1
DoC	Doss silty clay, moist, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Clayey residuum from marls and limestone	2.0	4.5
BkE	Brackett gravelly clay loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes	Cretaceous/Glen Rose	1.8	4.0
FaB	Fairlie clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Cretaceous	0.1	0.3
Total			45.7	100.0

Source: NRCS (2019)

## BACKGROUND REVIEW

An SWCA archaeologist performed a background review in December 2025 of cultural resources within a 0.6-mile (1.0-km) buffer surrounding the project area, referred to as the study area (Figure 4). SWCA reviewed the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas), a restricted, online database maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, for any previously conducted archaeological surveys and previously recorded historic-age or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or near the project area (THC 2025). The Atlas also provides data on NRHP properties and districts, SALs, Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs), cemeteries, historic trails, and local neighborhood surveys. Listings are limited to projects under purview of the ACT or the NHPA of 1966; therefore, all previous work conducted in an area may not be available.

The background review included a review of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Aggregator (Aggregator), which maps properties and districts determined eligible for the NRHP, National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), and local historic districts (TxDOT 2025). The Aggregator also has a data set for the 1936 Texas Centennial Markers, which are eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for Social History in the Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial Multiple Property Submission Documentation Form (TxDOT 2025; Wilson and Smith 2018). SWCA also reviewed the project and study areas for cemetery locations on Find a Grave’s online database and relevant locations in the Texas Freedom Colonies Project (Find A Grave 2025a; Texas Freedom Colonies Project 2025).



**Figure 4. Cultural resources background review results map.**

As part of the review, SWCA also examined the TxDOT Historic Overlay, a mapping/geographic information system (GIS) data set with historical maps and resource information covering most portions of the state (Foster et al. 2006), historical USGS quadrangle maps available on the USGS TopoView website (USGS 2025b), and historical aerial photography contained on the Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Historic Aerials website to determine if any historic-age resources such as potential historical aboveground resources (PHRs) or features are within the project and study areas (NETR 2025).

The review determined that 16 previously conducted cultural resources investigations, 12 previously recorded archaeological sites, and one RTHL are within the study area (see Figure 4). Four cultural resources surveys intersect the project area (Table 3). Twelve Protected Areas of the United States (PAD-US) are within the study area. Additionally, a total of 47 PHRs are within the study area. None of the PHRs intersect the project area, but a total of 13 are within 300 feet (91.4 m).

No cemeteries, SALs, NHLs, OTHMs, local historic districts, recorded freedom colonies, or Family Land Heritage (FLH) Centennial Farms were identified within the project or study areas (see Figure 4).

### Previous Cultural Resources Surveys

The background review determined 16 previously conducted archaeological surveys have been conducted within the study area (Table 3) (THC 2025). Four cultural resources investigations, conducted between 2007 and 2021, intersect the project area (see Figure 4) (THC 2025). All surveys were conducted between 2002 and 2021 (see Table 3).

**Table 3. Previous Cultural Resources Investigations within the Study Area**

Atlas No.	Year	TAC Permit Number	Project	Investigator	Agency / Sponsor	Proximity to project area
8500011602	2005	3245	No data	HDR and PAI	Texas Department of Transportation	Within 0.6 mile
8500013897	2007	4395	No data	SWCA Environmental Consultants	City of Cedar Park	Within 0.6 mile
8500014054	2007	No data	Stanley Consultants, Inc Austin Tx	Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.	Corps of Engineers-Fort Worth District	Intersects project area
8500015285	2008	4912	The City of Cedar Park	SWCA Environmental Consultants	City of Cedar Park	Within 0.6 mile
8500015300	2007	4484	Leander I.S.D.	PBS&J	U. S. Department of Education	Within 0.6 mile
8500015492	2008	4497	Williamson County	SWCA Environmental Consultants	Williamson County	Intersects project area
8500018289	2010	5644	Leander ISD	PBS&J	U. S. Department of Education	Intersects project area
8500035358	2013	No data	Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.	Horizon Environmental Services	Corps of Engineers - Fort Worth District	Within 0.6 mile
8500061451	2002	2753	No data	Archaeological and Cultural Sciences Group	Athabasca Consulting Inc.	Within 0.6 mile

Atlas No.	Year	TAC Permit Number	Project	Investigator	Agency / Sponsor	Proximity to project area
8500063837	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	Within 0.6 mile
8500080336	2015	7531	No data	LCRA	LCRA	Within 0.6 mile
8500080611	2014	7028	Cambrian Environmental	SWCA Environmental Consultants	City of Georgetown	Within 0.6 mile
8500080716	2016	7718	Prime Strategies, Inc.	SWCA Environmental Consultants	Williamson County	Within 0.6 mile
8500083179	2021	30313	TxDOT and Williamson County	AmaTerra Environmental, Inc.	TxDOT	Intersects project area
8500011602	2002	No data	No data	Archaeological and Cultural Sciences Group	Williamson County	Within 0.6 mile
8500013897	2002	No data	No data	Archaeological and Cultural Sciences Group	Williamson County	Within 0.6 mile

Sources: THC (2025); TxDOT (2025a)

### Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites

A total of 12 archaeological sites (i.e., 41WM1040, 41WM1041, 41WM1043, 41WM1100, 41WM1168, 41WM1198, 41WM1202, 41WM1255, 41WM1279, 41WM1333, 41WM1375, and 41WM1578) are within the study area; however, none are within 300 feet (91.4 m) of the project area (see Figure 4) (THC 2025). Of the 12 sites, three remain undetermined for NRHP eligibility, three are determined ineligible within ROW, and six are determined ineligible for NRHP listing (Table 4). While they are all outside the currently defined project area, it should be noted that all sites with undetermined NRHP eligibility warrant avoidance or further investigations.

**Table 3. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within the Study Area**

Trinomial	Relative Age	Type(s)	Time Period	NRHP / Other Status	Project
41WM1040	Prehistoric	Lithic and FCR scatter	Archaic– late prehistoric	Ineligible	Parmer Lane extension and improvement from FM 1431 to FM 2243
41WM1041	Prehistoric	Lithic and FCR scatter	Archaic	Ineligible	Parmer Lane extension and improvement from FM 1431 to FM 2243
41WM1043	Historic	Artifact scatter and well	Twentieth century	Ineligible	Parmer Lane extension and improvement from FM 1431 to FM 2243
41WM1100	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown prehistoric	Ineligible within ROW	Leander Ranch-to-Market Road 2243 widening
41WM1168	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown prehistoric	Ineligible	Winding Creek Tract Survey
41WM1198	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter and procurement	Unknown prehistoric	Ineligible within ROW	Escalera Elevated Tank Storage

<b>Trinomial</b>	<b>Relative Age</b>	<b>Type(s)</b>	<b>Time Period</b>	<b>NRHP / Other Status</b>	<b>Project</b>
41WM1202	Prehistoric	Burned rock midden	Unknown prehistoric	Undetermined	North Brushy Creek Interceptor Project
41WM1255	Historic	Farmstead	Late nineteenth to late twentieth century	Ineligible	Sarita Valley School Project
41WM1279	Prehistoric	Lithic procurement	Unknown prehistoric	Undetermined	Garey Park Development
41WM1333	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Unknown prehistoric	Ineligible within ROW	S2-6 Substation
41WM1375	Multicomponent	Lithic scatter and historic artifact scatter	Unknown prehistoric/ Unknown historic	Undetermined	Williamson County Reconnaissance
41WM1578	Historic	No data	Unknown historic	Ineligible	No data

Source: THC (2025).

### **Recorded Texas Historic Landmark**

One RTHL is within the study area but outside of the project area. The A.M. Brown Cabin is the remains of a nineteenth-century log cabin in Garey Park north of the proposed project (THC 2025). All that remains of the cabin is a stone chimney and various historic-age surficial scatter associated with the cabin (Ford 2023). The proposed project would have no impact to the RTHL.

### **Historical Map Review**

Archaeologists reviewed historical maps and aerials dating from 1893 to 1980 to determine if any historical resources are within the project area (Foster et al. 2006; NETR 2025; USGS 2025b). SWCA identified 47 PHRs within the study area, none of which are within the project area; 13 PHRs are within 300 feet (91.4 m) of the project area (Figure 5). Of the 47 PHRs identified, a total of 34 remain extant within the study area. The PHR inventory consists of 25 buildings, four stock ponds, three gravel pits, one dam (Dam No. 5), and one spillway.

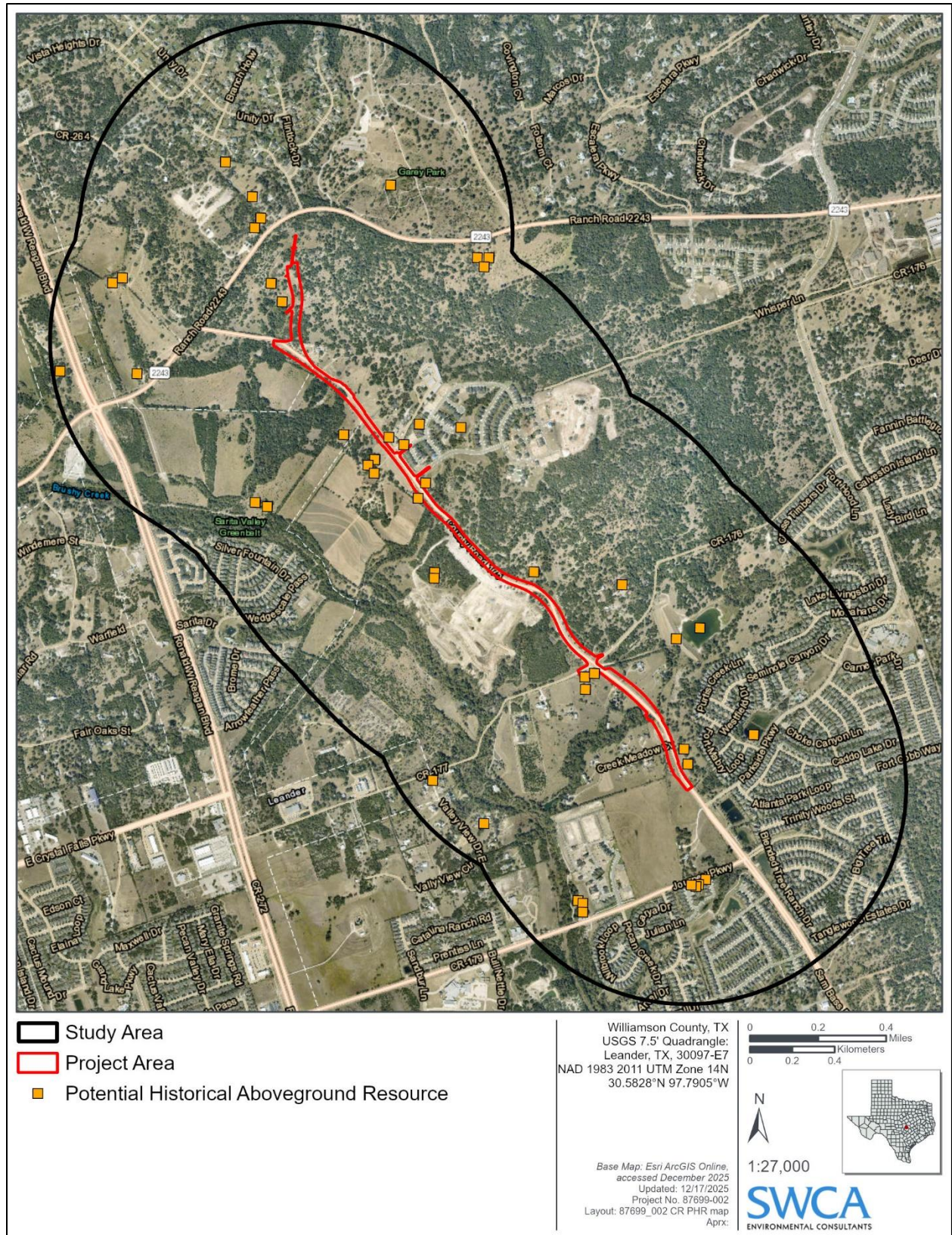


Figure 5. Potential historical aboveground resources overview map.

## **PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK**

### **Intensive Archaeological Survey**

Once an Antiquities Permit has been obtained, SWCA will conduct an archaeological field survey of the 2.2-mile-long (3.5-km-long), approximately 45.8-acre (18.6-ha) project area. The field survey will be performed by a team of three SWCA archaeologists walking the project area. SWCA archaeologists will survey 100-foot-wide (30.5-m-wide) transects along the project area, examining the ground surface for artifacts and features. The survey will be of sufficient intensity to determine the nature, extent, and, if possible, potential significance of any cultural resources within the proposed project area. Subsurface explorations will be accomplished through shovel testing. The placement and quantity of these excavations will depend on the level of disturbance within the proposed project boundary and the nature of the soils, geology, and topography.

Shovel tests will be approximately 12 inches (30 cm) in diameter and excavated in arbitrary 8-inch (20-cm) levels to 31 inches (80 cm) below surface unless the bottom of Holocene deposits in depositional areas, subsoil in upland areas, or bedrock are encountered before reaching that depth. The matrix will be screened through ¼-inch mesh. The location of each shovel test will be plotted using a submeter accurate GPS receiver, and each test will be recorded on appropriate project field forms. Shovel tests will be excavated according to Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA) standards promulgated by the THC (CTA 2020). For linear projects, the THC and CTA fieldwork standards require a minimum of 16 shovel tests per 100-foot-wide (30.5-m-wide) survey corridor, equating to no fewer than 105 shovel tests within the proposed survey area. Areas with previously recorded sites or other cultural resources revealed in the archival research will require additional shovel testing to explore the nature of the cultural deposits, per CTA standards (CTA 2020).

### **Potential Deep Testing Area Review**

SWCA geoarchaeologist, Josh Keene, Ph.D., reviewed the project area to determine if deep mechanical investigations (i.e., backhoe trenching) are warranted and, if so, to what extent. The soils, geology, and lack of significant terrace development along the adjacent first-order creek in the project area precludes the likelihood of intact, deeply buried cultural deposits; therefore, deep testing investigations are not warranted within the project area, as currently defined. In the event that shovel test excavations determine the potential for cultural deposits deeper than 31 inches (80 cm) below surface, SWCA will make recommendations for any areas that require deep testing (i.e., backhoe trenching). If deep testing is determined to be necessary, an ACT permit amendment detailing this proposed methodology will be submitted to the THC for review and approval.

### **Site Documentation**

If an archaeological site is encountered during the investigation, it will be explored as much as possible with consideration to land access constraints. All recorded sites will be mapped in detail and plotted on USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps with a handheld, submeter-accurate GPS unit and appropriate project maps for planning purposes. All identified sites will be assessed regarding potential significance so that recommendations can be made for property management (i.e., avoidance, non-avoidance, or further work). Existing standing structures more than 45 years in age in the project area will be photographed and documented. A review of historical aerial maps will be conducted, and a preliminary assessment of the structures will be conducted by a Secretary of the Interior-qualified architectural historian to determine their potential significance and age. The analysis will follow National Park Service guidelines (Little et al. 2000; National Park Service 1983).

All identified cultural resources will be delineated and recorded following CTA standards promulgated by the THC (CTA 2020). Upon encountering an archaeological site in the proposed project area, it will be explored as much as possible with consideration of land access constraints. An archaeological site is defined as physical evidence of human activity that is at least 50 years old and contain, or are characterized, by one or more of the following criteria:

- Ten or more artifacts (of any class and type) within a 100-foot (30.5-m) diameter area. Fire-cracked rock or artifacts that all appear to originate from a single source (e.g., one ceramic pot drop, one broken glass bottle) are not considered a site; however, discrete, single knapping episodes (activity areas) are also treated as a site.
- One or more datable archaeological features (with or without associated artifacts).
- Two or more undatable archaeological features within 100 feet (30.5 m) of each other.
- A single undatable feature with associated artifacts.

If an archaeological site is identified during the investigation, SWCA will delineate the site according to CTA standards (CTA 2020). Cultural manifestations observed greater than 100 feet (30.5 m) apart will be considered spatially unrelated, and cultural materials that do not fit within the archaeological site criteria will be considered Isolated Occurrences. As such, occurrences will be recorded noting the type and quantity of materials, as well as the size and shape of any features, architectural/construction details, possible function, and any potential relationship to nearby cultural materials. Additionally, guidelines set forth by the THC's Guidance for Studying Late nineteenth-Century and Early twentieth-Century Sites (THC 2025b) will be followed for any historic-age sites documented within the project area.

SWCA proposes a non-collection survey. Artifacts will be tabulated, analyzed, and documented in the field but not collected. Temporally diagnostic artifacts will be described in detail and photographed in the field. This policy will reduce curation costs once the fieldwork is concluded; however, as per the stipulations of the Antiquities Permit, all paperwork and photographs generated during the field investigation must be curated at an approved repository.

The following procedures will be initiated in the event unanticipated human remains are discovered. Should human remains be encountered during construction, work in the immediate area will cease, and the archaeological survey crew and Principal Investigator will evaluate the finding(s) and provide recommendations for how to manage the resource under Texas Health and Safety Code and Chapter 49 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Upon discovery of human remains by the Principal Investigator, the appropriate law enforcement officials, representatives from Williamson County, and the THC will be notified immediately. In all cases, the location will be immediately secured with all work to cease within the project area and a buffer zone of at least a 100-foot (30.5-m) radius from the discovery. Any human remains will be carefully covered with muslin fabric, geotextile and lightweight plastic sheeting, and reburied under a shallow blanket of soil to prevent unnecessary exposure. Care will be taken to prevent any disturbance of the potential human remains during removal of vehicles and equipment. Until appropriate consultation has occurred, the discovery shall remain protected from any disturbance, such that no human remains, or associated artifacts are touched, moved, or collected. Until consultation is complete, and a removal strategy is defined, the human remains will remain in place (in the ground), protected from natural forces, vandalism, and looting. Construction in the area of discovery may resume only upon approval and/or clearance by the THC (and law enforcement, if applicable).

## **Historic Resources Survey**

At this time, the proposed project does not have federal funding, nor does it have funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT); therefore Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act does not apply to this

effort. SWCA architectural historians who meet the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualifications (36 CFR 61) for Architectural History and/or History will complete a reconnaissance-level historic resources survey for the proposed project according to National Park Service (NPS) and THC documentation standards (Denton 1999; NPS 1983, 1997).

### **Resource Documentation**

SWCA architectural historians will document all historic-age resources within the APE built in or before 1981. Resources will include any districts, buildings, structures, objects, and sites identified in the APE. Resource documentation will adhere to the following parameters:

- Resources are numbered sequentially from north to south in accordance with TxDOT documentation standards. Historic-age resources were numbered with the first alpha-number (i.e., 7A, 7B). Nonhistoric-age resources were included on the primary ‘A’ record and were assigned alpha-numbers after historic-age resources (i.e., 7C, etc.)
- Each historic-age resource will be documented on an inventory form with at least two photographs (Appendix B). Photographs have a minimum resolution of 1200 x 1600. A front façade and oblique photograph of each historic-age resource will be captioned with photographic direction.
- Agricultural complexes with at least one historic-age domestic work zone and one historic-age agricultural work zone were documented according to the *Agricultural Theme Study for Central Texas* (Moore et al. 2013).
- If a resource is not visible from the ROW, oblique and orthographic aerial imagery will be used to supplement documentation of the resource (i.e., Bing, ESRI, NETR, etc.) (Bing 2025; ESRI 2025; NETR 2025).

SWCA has preliminary identified approximately five survey locations with historic-age resources. SWCA anticipates the historic-age resources within the APE to have associations with agriculture and domestic historical uses. SWCA will summarize each documented historic-age resource with a brief architectural description, research findings, integrity assessment, and an NRHP evaluation. SWCA will use the following literature review to guide documentation and evaluation efforts:

- *A Field Guide to American Houses (Revised): The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture* by Virginia Savage McAlester (McAlester 2013)
- *Agricultural Theme Study for Central Texas* by David W. Moore, Jr., Martha Freeman, and Maryellen Russo (Moore et al. 2013).
- *Archaeology and Historic Preservation; Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines* by the NPS (1983).
- *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* by NPS Cultural Resources (NPS 1997)
- *Guidance for Studying Late 19th-Century and Early 20th-Century Sites and Dealing with Late-19<sup>th</sup> and Early-20<sup>th</sup>-Century Sites* (Denton 1999)

- *A.M. Brown Cabin Intensive-Level Historic Resources Survey Letter Report* (Ford 2023)

SWCA architectural historians will supplement archival research with these additional tools:

- Archival records available on Ancestry.com subscription service (Ancestry 2025).
- Williamson Central Appraisal District (CAD) and Williamson County Clerk records (Williamson CAD 2025; Williamson County Clerk 2025).
- Historical aerial imagery and USGS topographic maps available from the NETR Historic Aerials database (NETR 2025).
- Newspaper articles from the Newspapers.com subscription service and historical newspapers available on *The Portal to Texas History*.

SWCA architectural historians may also complete in-person research at Williamson County public libraries in Liberty Hill and Georgetown.

## **Reporting and Curation**

SWCA will prepare a draft report of the investigation detailing the results of the archaeological survey. The report will conform to THC and CTA reporting standards (CTA 2025). The report will document the general nature of the project area, the methodology used in the investigation, the presence and condition of any previously recorded sites revealed in the records review, the general nature and extent of cultural resources encountered during the archaeological survey, recommendations on the need for further work, and the potential significance of the cultural resources regarding future development and NRHP/SAL status.

SWCA will submit a digital draft copy of the report to the County, Aguirre & Fields, and the THC for review and comment. Once this has been accomplished, SWCA will incorporate any appropriate edits and will submit a final draft report to the THC for review and comment. As part of completing Antiquities Permit requirements, SWCA will furnish two electronic copies of the final report on a tagged PDF formatted CD, as well as project area shapefiles, to the THC, and complete an Abstracts in Texas Contract Archeology Summary form and abstract text online. Field records will be curated at an approved curatorial facility which, in this case, is the Center for Archaeological Research at The University of Texas at San Antonio, per requirements of the ACT.

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