

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of an Approximate 2.5-mile Future County Road and CR 404 Realignment Project (Sections 1 and 2), and the 2.85-mile Hutto Waterline Realignment, Williamson County, TX
County (ies) Williamson County
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Taylor, TX USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map
UTM Coordinates Zone 14 E 646779 N 3378189
Location 1.55 miles south of FM 3349 and US 79 intersection near Taylor, Texas.
Federal Involvement ☐ Yes ☒ No
Name of Federal Agency _____
Agency Representative _____

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Williamson County
Representative Bill Gravell Jr. (County Judge)
Address 710 South Main Street, Suite 101
City/State/Zip Georgetown, TX 78626
Telephone (include area code) 512-943-1150 Email Address ctyjudge@wilco.org

III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

Sponsor _____
Representative _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone (include area code) _____ Email Address _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name Chris Shelton
Affiliation SWCA Environmental Consultants
Address 4407 Monterey Oaks Blvd. Bldg 1, Ste 110
City/State/Zip Austin, TX 78748
Telephone (include area code) 512-476-0891 Email Address cshelton@swca.com

(OVER)

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork 2/28/2022
Requested Permit Duration 5 Years 0 Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) SWCA will conduct pedestrian survey of entire project area (see attached scope of work for additional details)

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility SWCA (Austin) lab
Permanent Curatorial Facility CAR at UTSA

IV. LAND OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Valerie Covey Presiding Officer, 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 Valerie Covey Date Feb 16, 2022

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, Chris Shelton, 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 Chris Shelton Date 2/10/2022

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 _____

Texas Historical Commission

Archeology Division

P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276

Phone 512-463-6096

thc.texas.gov



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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February 10, 2022

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

**Re: Request for Antiquities Permit to Conduct an Intensive Archaeological Investigation for the Proposed Future County Road and CR 404 Realignment Project, Williamson County, Texas
SWCA Project No. 59147-016.**

Dear Ms. Shelton:

This letter is a request for a Texas Antiquities Permit to conduct an intensive archaeological investigation for the proposed Future County Road (CR) and CR 404 Realignment Project (project), Williamson County, Texas. The proposed project has been divided into two contiguous sections (i.e., Sections 1 and 2). Section 1 being completed under Work Authorization (WA) 16, is proposed roadway approximately 1 mile (1.6 kilometers [km]) in length and encompasses approximately 20.7 acres. Section 2 being completed under WA 17, is proposed roadway approximately 1.5 miles (2.4 km) in length and encompasses approximately 33.0 acres. Additionally, WA 16 includes the Hutto Waterline Realignment, which is approximately 2.85 miles (4.6 km) in length and encompasses approximately 33.9 acres. The combined proposed project areas totals approximately 5.35 miles (8.6 km) in length and encompass approximately 87.6 acres.

As the project is proposed to occur on easement granted to 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). To comply with requirements of the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT), SWCA is proposing an intensive cultural resources survey with shovel testing of the project area.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (512) 476-0891 or cshelton@swca.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Shelton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "S" at the end.

Chris Shelton, M.A.
Principal Investigator

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK FOR AN INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF FUTURE COUNTY ROAD AND CR 404 REALIGNMENT PROJECT, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Project Landowner/Sponsor – Williamson County

Project Sponsor – HNTB Corporation

Project Consultant – SWCA Environmental Consultants

Principal Investigator – Chris Shelton, M.A.

Date – February 10, 2022

INTRODUCTION

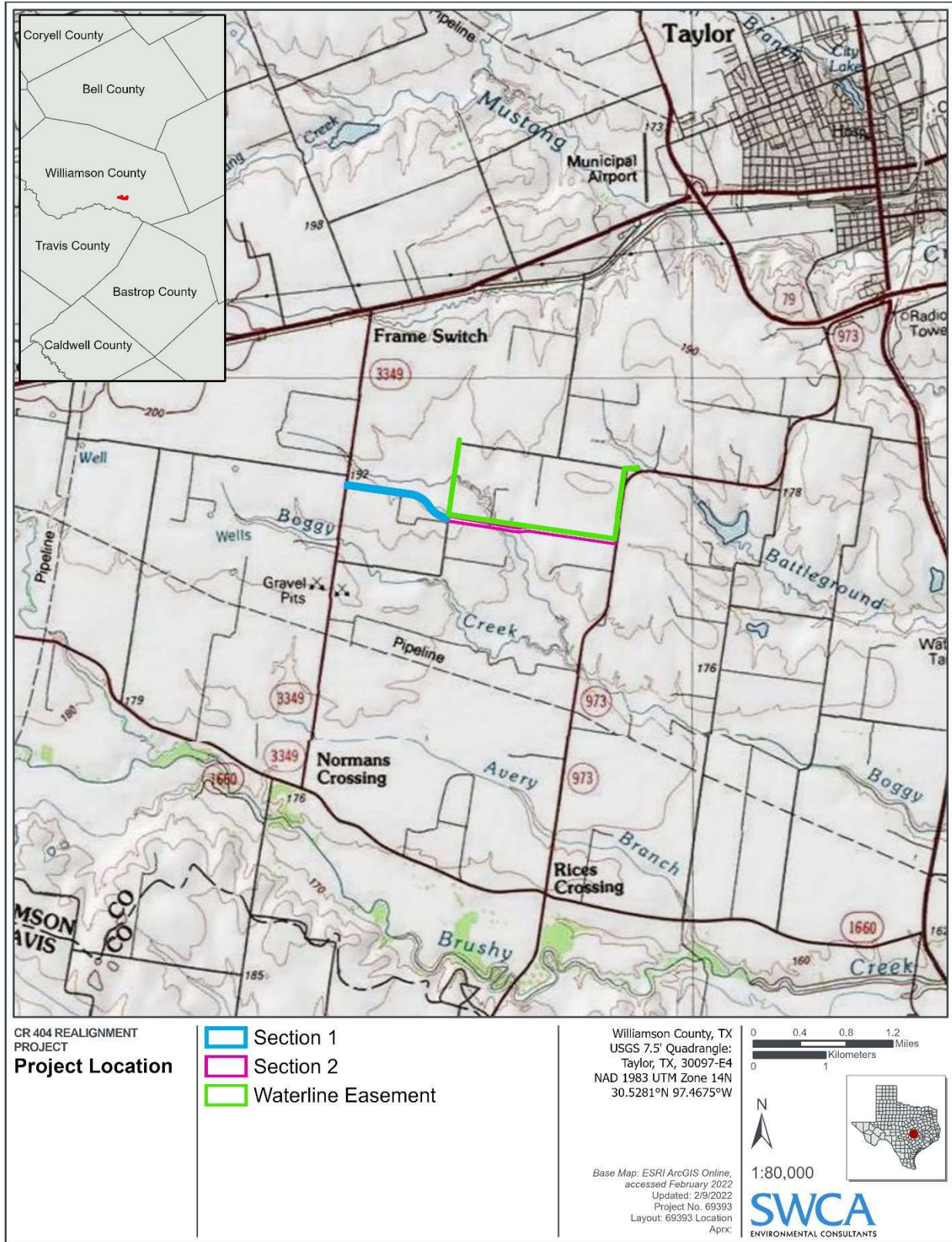
On behalf of Williamson County, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) will conduct a cultural resources survey for the proposed Future County Road (CR) and CR 404 Realignment Project (project) located approximately 4.3 miles (7 kilometers [km]) southwest of the City of Taylor in Williamson County, Texas (Figure 1). The proposed project has been divided into two contiguous sections (i.e., Sections 1 and 2) (Figure 2). Section 1 being completed under Work Authorization (WA) 16, is proposed roadway approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) in length, encompasses approximately 20.7 acres (8.4 hectares [ha]), and would connect existing Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 3349 to CR 404. Section 2 being completed under WA 17, is proposed roadway approximately 1.5 miles (2.4 km) in length, encompasses approximately 33.0 acres (13.4 ha), and would connect existing roadways CR 404 to FM 973. Additionally, WA 16 includes the Hutto Waterline Realignment, which is approximately 2.85 miles (4.6 km) in length, encompasses approximately 33.9 acres (13.7 ha), and lies parallel (north) to the Section 2 proposed roadway. The combined proposed project areas totals approximately 5.35 miles (8.6 km) in length and encompass approximately 87.6 acres (35.5 ha).

The project is proposed to occur on easement granted to Williamson County, a political subdivision of the state of Texas, and as such the project will require review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT). To comply with requirements of the ACT, SWCA is proposing an intensive cultural resources survey with shovel testing of the project area. This scope of work presents information on the project area; potential effects, known resources; and methods of the proposed survey, reporting, and curation.

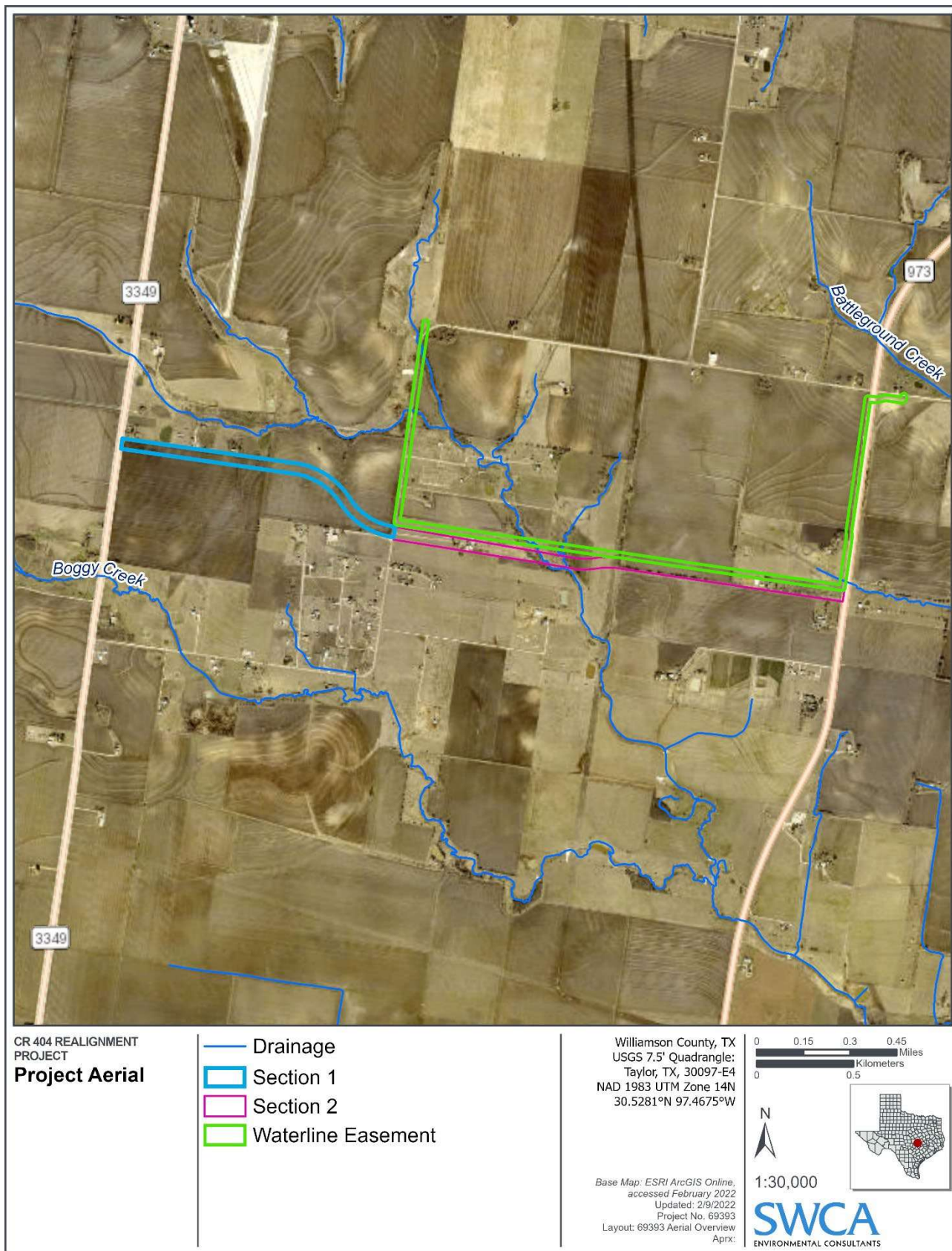
PROJECT SETTING

The Future County Road and CR 404 Realignment Project is located southwest of the City of Taylor from FM 3349 at the western extent to FM 973 on the eastern extent, for a length of approximately 2.5 miles (4 km) and a total footprint encompassing approximately 53.8 acres (21.7 ha). The project is divided into two sections, with the existing roadway CR 404 as the dividing point. The current project includes construction of an undivided four-lane roadway. The width of the proposed ROW is expected not to exceed 180 feet (54.9 meter [m]), and the construction impacts will not generally exceed three feet (0.9 m) in depth except at the locations of drilled bridge shafts, where depths of impact can extend up to 50 feet (15.2 m). Additionally, the current project includes a 2.85-mile (4.6-km)-long by 100-foot (30.5-meter [m])-wide waterline realignment which lies parallel (north) to the Section 2 proposed roadway and encompasses approximately 33.9 acres (13.7 ha). The waterline trench and bore depths will be a minimum of 4 feet (1.2 m) to maximum of 13 feet (4.0 m) below surface. Aerial imagery shows the project area is currently comprised of agricultural fields and rural residential properties, and is depicted on the *Taylor, Texas* U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (USGS 2022a) (see Figures 1 and 2).

Proposed Scope of Work for an Intensive Archaeological Investigation of the Future County Road and CR 404 Realignment Project, Williamson County, Texas



Proposed Scope of Work for an Intensive Archaeological Investigation of the Future County Road and CR 404
 Realignment Project, Williamson County, Texas



Geology

The recorded surface geology within the project area consists entirely of early Late Cretaceous-age Austin Chalk deposits, which consists of relatively thick massive chalk deposits with some interbeds of calcareous clay (USGS 2022b).

Soils

Seven soil types were identified as underlying the proposed project area (NRCS 2022) (Table 1; Figure 3). The majority of the project area (76.6 percent) is underlain by the Branyon and Burleson clay soil series. The Branyon clay series consists of moderately well-drained soils that are very deep and are formed from Pleistocene-aged mudstone on the treads of stream terraces (NRCS 2022). The Burleson clay series soils consist of moderately well-drained, deep to clayey alluvium. The series is formed from Pleistocene-aged calcareous clayey alluvium on treads of Pleistocene-aged stream terraces (NRCS 2022). Aligning the small, unnamed drainage that intersects the project corridor in Section 2 is the frequently flooded Tinn clay series. These deposits are characterized as very deep and moderately well drained soils formed in calcareous clayey alluvium occupying dissected flood plains of the Blackland Prairies (NRCS 2022).

Table 1. Project Area Soils

Soil Name	Acreage	Percent of Project Area
Branyon clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	41.8	47.7%
Burleson clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	19.3	22.0%
Burleson clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	6.0	6.9%
Heiden clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes, moderately eroded	5.7	6.5%
Tinn clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	5.5	6.3%
Lewisville-Altoga complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes	4.3	4.9%
Heiden clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	3.9	4.4%
Queeney-Sunev complex, 5 to 15 percent slopes	1.0	1.1%
Ferris-Heiden complex, 5 to 15 percent slopes, moderately eroded	0.2	0.2%
Total	87.7	100.0%

Source: NRCS (2022).

Proposed Scope of Work for an Intensive Archaeological Investigation of the Future County Road and CR 404 Realignment Project, Williamson County, Texas

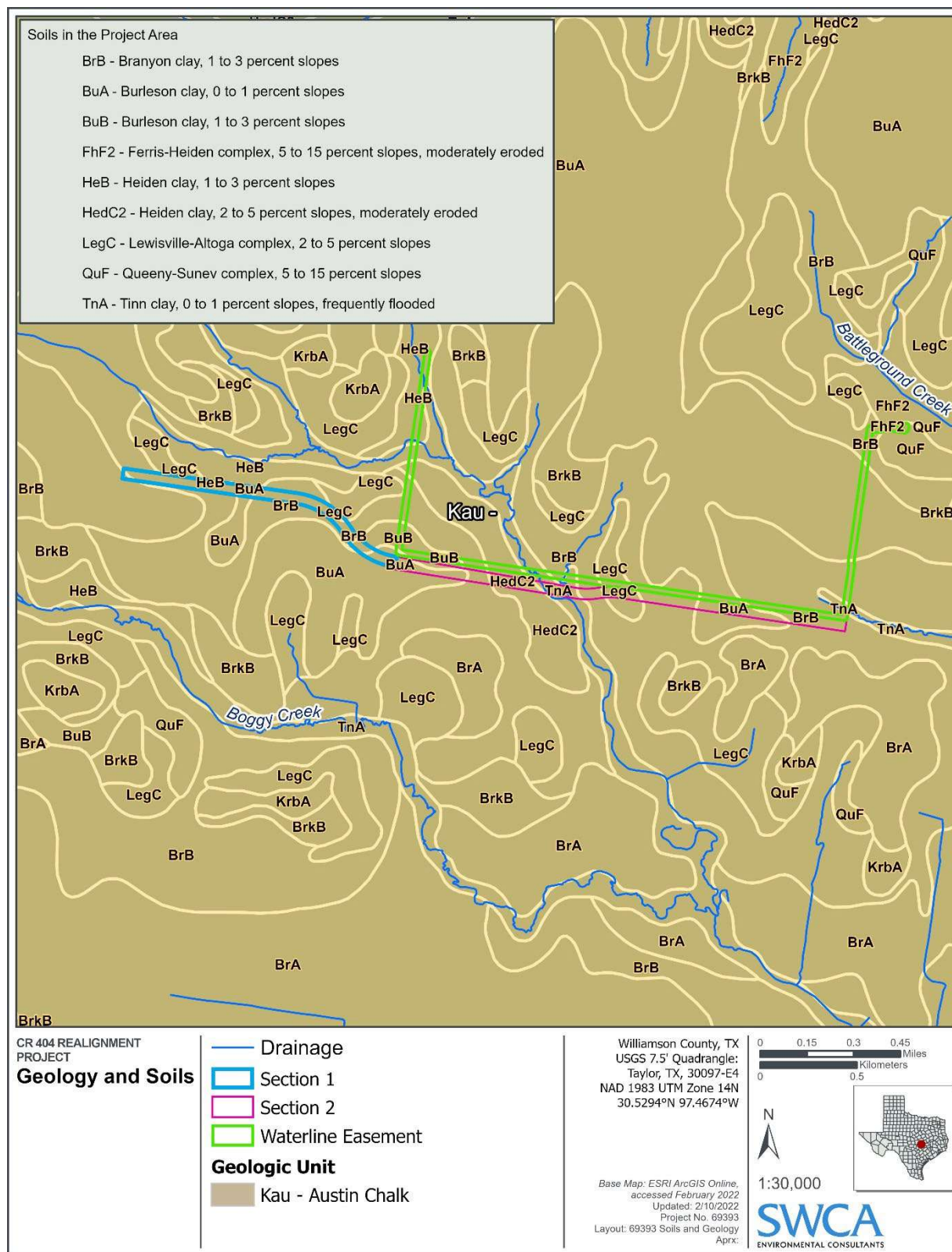


Figure 3. Project area soils map (Background Imagery: ESRI 2018).

BACKGROUND REVIEW

An SWCA archaeologist researched 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 recorded surveys and historic or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or within 1 km (0.6 mile) of the project area. In addition to identifying previously recorded archaeological sites, the Atlas review includes the following types of information: National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) districts and properties, State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHM), Registered Texas Historic Landmarks, cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. Listings in Atlas are limited to projects under purview of the ACT or the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966; therefore, all previous work conducted in an area may not be available. However, SWCA made a concerted effort to obtain reports for all previous cultural resources work conducted in the project area.

On February 9, 2022, SWCA completed a desktop review of the project. The review includes the approximately 87.7-acre (35.5-ha) project area and an additional 0.6-mile (1-km) radius around the project components (i.e., study area) (Figure 4). The review used the Atlas online database (THC 2022) to identify previously conducted surveys and known sites within the study area. The review also consulted historical topographic maps available through the USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer (USGS 2022a), the Texas Historic Overlay (Foster et al. 2006), and modern aerial imagery to identify land use practices that may indicate the potential for or presence of cultural resources within the project area.

Previous Cultural Resources Surveys

The file search and literature review identified five previous cultural resources surveys which all intersect near the eastern and western termini of the proposed project area. The Atlas does not provide much information about the surveys, except to note that the surveys date between 1982–1994 (THC 2022). However, survey data was reviewed regarding a transmission and waterline improvement investigation which parallels CR 404 in an east-west orientation near the eastern periphery of the study area. This survey was conducted by Integrated Environmental Solutions, Inc. in 2020 under ACT Permit No. 9197, no cultural resources were encountered during this investigation. No further information is available regarding these surveys (THC 2022).

Previously Recorded Cultural Resource Sites

A review of the study area determined there are two previously recorded archaeological sites within 0.6 mile (1 km) of the project area (i.e., 41WM1422 and 41WM1445). Site 41WM1445 is located approximately 0.3 mile (0.4 km) south of the eastern terminus of the project area and was recorded in 2021 by AmaTerra Environmental, Inc. (THC 2022). The site was described as the remnants of an early to mid-twentieth century farmstead. The site consists of a historical debris field with concrete building foundations and was recommended as ineligible for the NRHP. In August of 2021, the THC reviewed the site and concurred with the recommendation of the investigators (THC 2022).

Previously recorded site 41WM1422 is located approximately 0.5 mile (0.7 km) south of the eastern terminus of the project area and was recorded in 2020 by Cox McLain Environmental Consulting (THC 2022). The site was described as a brick well and metal well house surrounded by historical artifacts on the surface. The well and artifacts are thought to be associated with a homestead inhabited from the late nineteenth century to mid-twentieth century. Although the site has been determined to be ineligible for the NRHP within the surveyed ROW by the THC, the entirety of the site has yet to be surveyed and the NRHP eligibility remains undetermined (THC 2022).

Restricted Information
Not for Public Disclosure

Figure 4. Background review results map (Background Imagery: ESRI 2022).

Historical Map Review

The historical map review revealed the Camino Real de los Tejas historical trail is mapped within the project area, intersecting the western edge of the project (THC 2022). The Camino Real de los Tejas is a series of historical trails and roadways established by the Spanish, likely from preexisting Native American trails, in the early eighteenth century (Texas State Historical Association [TSHA] 2022). The roadway served as a vital artery for early Texas history for centuries; including, a supply line to Spanish missions, a route to connect centers of commerce, and as an immigration route from lands to the north and east (TSHA 2022). In 1915, the Texas legislature commissioned a study and survey to establish the likely position of the historic roadway and map the original route (TSHA 2022).

The historical map review consisted of historical maps dating to 1964 (Foster et al., 2006; USGS 2022a). The review identified a total of 107 potential historical standing structures within the 0.6-mile (1-km) study area; of those potentially historical structures, five are depicted within the project area and an additional 10 are depicted within 328 feet (100 meters [m]) of the project area (Foster et al., 2006; USGS 2022c) (Figure 5). Only one small complex of potential historical structures within the project area appear to be extant on modern aerial imagery, this homestead is located 0.2 mile east of CR 404 along the Section 2 route.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

Once an Antiquities Permit has been obtained, SWCA will implement field survey methods that comply with technical standards and requirements established by the THC and the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA). Two SWCA professional archaeologists will conduct a pedestrian survey of the project area using systematic transects spaced no more than 98.4 feet (30 m) apart. This procedure will examine visible ground surfaces for cultural materials and aboveground features. Visual examination will be supplemented through shovel tests hand-excavated within the property. Shovel testing will be conducted in areas that hold potential for intact, subsurface archaeological resources. Shovel tests will not be conducted and/or will be limited in areas within pre-existing utility ROWs, disturbed by modern homestead development, or in upland settings lacking soils or displaying bedrock exposures. Shovel tests will be excavated according to THC standards. Linear projects require at least one survey transect for every 98 feet (30 m) of corridor width, with at least one shovel test excavated per 328 linear feet (100 linear meters) on each transect. The main corridor of the currently proposed project (Sections 1 and 2) is approximately 180 feet (55 m) wide and 2.5 miles (4 km) long, which would require at least 80 shovel tests. The waterline is approximately 2.85 mile (4.6 km) long and 100 feet (30.5 m) wide and would require at least 46 shovel tests. SWCA will excavate shovel tests in 8 inch (20-centimeter [cm]) arbitrary levels to 31.5 inches (80 cm) in depth, impervious surfaces, groundwater, or to culturally sterile deposits, whichever comes first. The matrix will be screened through ¼-inch mesh. Archaeologists will plot each shovel test using a global positioning system (GPS) receiver and will record each test on appropriate project field forms. Areas with cultural resources will require additional shovel testing at closer spacing to delineate the boundaries of buried cultural materials.

The potential for deeply buried cultural deposits is interpreted as moderate to low based in part on the previously discussed soils and geology information. Additionally, the cutbanks for this crossing appear to be five feet (1.5 m) or less in height indicating that prominent alluvial terraces containing deeply buried cultural deposits is not probable. Accordingly, this crossing has a low potential to contain deeply buried cultural deposits and deep mechanical investigations is not warranted. The field assessment will further define the potential of a site and methods will be adjusted accordingly.

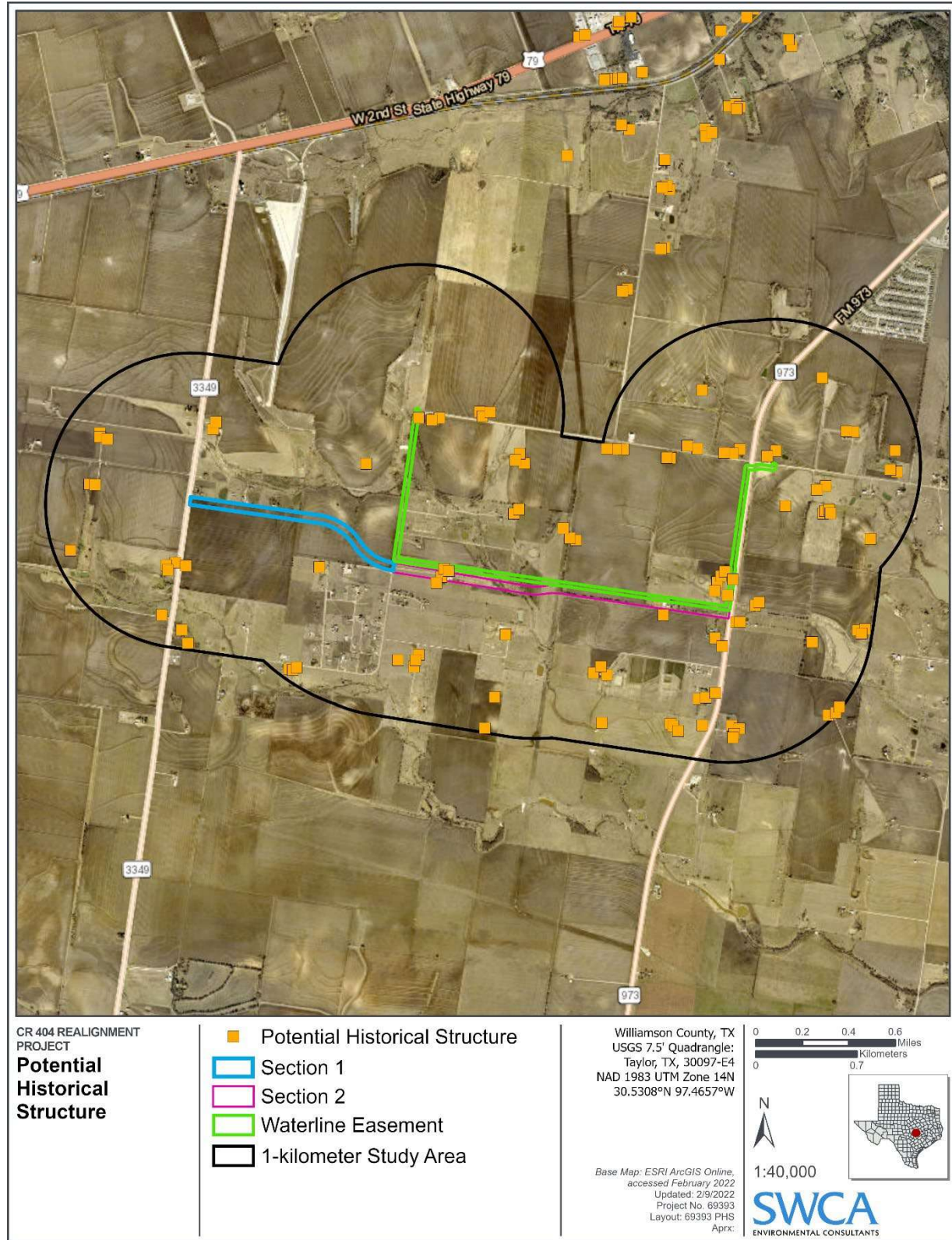


Figure 5. Potential historical structures within 1 km (0.6 mile) of the project area (Background Imagery: ESRI 2018).

Previously identified resources (e.g., Camino Real de los Tejas Historic Trail) as well as any newly identified archaeological sites will be explored as much as possible with consideration to the boundaries of the project. All discovered sites will be assessed regarding their potential significance, so that recommendations can be made for proper management (i.e., avoidance, non-avoidance, or further work), and will be assessed for SAL and NRHP eligibility. Shovel tests will be excavated per THC/CTA standards to define horizontal and vertical site boundaries.

Site Documentation

SWCA will complete appropriate State of Texas Archaeological Site Data Forms for each site discovered during the investigations. SWCA will produce a detailed plan map of each site and plot locations on USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles and relevant project maps. Unless otherwise required by the THC, SWCA will conduct a non-collection survey, where artifacts will be tabulated, analyzed, photographed, and documented in the field. Field notes will be kept at the SWCA Austin location. If the survey data allows, SWCA archaeologists will make a significance determination using the criteria listed in 36 CFR 60.4. If determined to be potentially significant and eligible for listing on the NRHP or as an SAL, additional work may be required to study or mitigate the resource prior to any construction.

During the survey, the field team will also plot, record, and photograph any buildings or structures within or directly adjacent to the area of potential effect that appear to be more than 45 years in age. These potential historical features will be evaluated by a U.S. Secretary of the Interior-qualified architectural historian to identify if they are potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP. The architectural evaluation will use standard industry-recognized methods in the analysis, including National Park Service National Register Bulletins 15 and 39. The report will include an evaluation of the resources using the NRHP criteria of evaluation (36 CFR 60.4)

Reporting and Curation

Once the cultural resources survey has been completed, SWCA will prepare a report for review by Williamson County and the THC. The report of the investigations will conform to the CTA and THC standards and guidelines. The report will include the results of the background review and the field survey. Specifically, the report will provide the methodology used in the investigations, the presence and condition of previously recorded sites located in the project area, photographs illustrating the environment and setting, a description of cultural resources encountered during the survey, recommendations for management of those cultural resources, and recommendations for additional investigations and the potential significance of the cultural resources regarding future development and SAL and NRHP status, if warranted.

SWCA will submit a draft digital copy of the report to Williamson County 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, complete an Abstracts in Texas Contract Archeology Summary form and abstract text on-line, and furnish 11 hard copies of the report (without site information, if any) to the university-based libraries and archaeological research facilities around the state. Field records and artifacts, if collected, 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.

UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

In the event of unexpected discovery of human remains or funerary objects/contexts during the survey, SWCA will comply with all applicable state laws (Texas Health and Safety Code Section 711 and the Texas Administrative Code Title 13, Chapter 22, Sections 22.1 through 22.6.), as well as taking into account the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's 2007 Policy Statement on the Treatment of Burial Sites. Any human skeletal remains that may be discovered will, at all times, be treated with dignity and respect. If human remains are uncovered during investigations, the following steps will be taken:

- SWCA will halt excavation of the remains and shall notify the Williamson County sheriff and the THC. The sheriff will be requested to contact the coroner/medical examiner. After examining the human remains, if the sheriff and coroner determine the remains are modern, then the sheriff or coroner will assume responsibility for the remains.
- Appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that the remains are protected and not disturbed prior to the conclusion of investigation by law enforcement and consultation with appropriate groups to determine next steps (if needed).
- Excavations (e.g., shovel testing) within 328 feet (100 m) of the find will be halted until the THC authorizes continued work in those areas; however, surveys will continue elsewhere in the project area.

If the county sheriff and coroner determine that the remains are not modern or a crime scene, thereby relinquishing their jurisdiction over the remains, SWCA will coordinate with the project and THC to determine the appropriate course of action and file *Notice of the Existence of a Cemetery*.

REFERENCES

ESRI

- 2022 *World Imagery by ESRI*. Online database available at https://services.arcgisonline.com/ArcGIS/rest/services/World_Imagery/MapServer. Accessed February 2022.

Foster, T. R., T. Summerville, and T. Brown

- 2006 *The Texas Historic Overlay: A Geographic Information System of Historic Map Images for Planning Transportation Projects in Texas*. Prepared for the Texas Department of Transportation by PBS&J, Austin.

Natural Resources Soil Service (NRCS)

- 2022 Web Soil Survey. Online database available at <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>. Accessed February 2022.

Texas Historical Commission

- 2022 Texas Archeological Sites Atlas restricted database, Texas Historical Commission. Available at: <http://atlas.thc.texas.gov>. Accessed February 2022.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- 2022a The National Geologic Map Database (TopoView). Historical topographic map collection. Available at: <http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/maps/TopoView/>. Accessed November 2021.
- 2022b Texas Geology Web Map Viewer. Available at: <https://txpub.usgs.gov/txgeology/>. Accessed February 2022.