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A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF A PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER PIPELINE ROUTE ACROSS LORCH PARK, CEDAR HILL, TEXAS

Texas Antiquities Permit Number 3389

by

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Prepared for

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November 17, 2004
Cultural Resources Report 2004-42

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ABSTRACT

In early April, 2004, AR Consultants, Inc. conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of a proposed 800 foot sanitary sewer pipeline route that is to be constructed in Lorch Park for Mote & Associates, Inc. Lorch Park is located in the City of Cedar Hill in Dallas County, Texas. The survey was done under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 3389. No cultural materials were found during the survey or in 8 shovel tests. AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that further cultural resource evaluations are unwarranted. However, if cultural materials are encountered during construction, work should stop in that area and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission shoud be notified.

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rarc: Lorch Park

INTRODUCTION

On April 4, 2004, AR Consultants, Inc. conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of a proposed 800 foot sanitary sewer pipeline route that is to be constructed in Lorch Park. The fact that Lorch Park is part of Cedar Hill which is a political entity of Texas necessitates the Texas Antiquities Permit Number 3389. The proposed pipeline route is located approximately 1 mile (1.65 kilometers) west of State Highway 67 and approximately 230 meters north of Texas Plume Road in Cedar Hill which is located in southwestern Dallas County, Texas (Figure 1).

Background

The underlying bedrock of the study area is Upper Cretaceous-aged Austin Chalk (Bureau of Economic Geology 1972). The general soil association is Eddy-Stephen-Austin which are very shallow to moderately deep loamy and clayey upland soils that slope gently to moderately steeply (Coffee, Hill and Ressel 1980:General Soils Map). Specific soils within the study area are Austin-Lewisville complex with 5 to 8 percent slopes, Eddy clay loam with 3 to 8 percent slopes and Stephen silty clay with 3 to 5 percent slopes (Coffee, Hill and Ressel 1980:Sheet 64). The B-horizon for the Austin-Lewisville complex should be encountered at 10 inches below the ground surface and the deepest C-horizon for the Eddy clay loam and Stephen silty clay should be uncovered at 11 inches below the ground surface.

According to the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (2004), site 41DL137 was recorded by Forrest Kirkland in 1941. The site consisted of a skeleton with no associated artifacts, but several arrowheads and blades were found in the vicinity. It was Kirkland's belief that the site had been destroyed by construction of the once private lake that now is a part of Lorch Park. The Dallas Archeological Society revisited the site in 1988 and recovered Archaic points, Late Prehistoric arrow heads, bone beads, bone tools, defleshed deer bones and a piece of pottery (Hartig 1988). These items were found in piles of dirt left by a grader on the side of a hill. Their conclusion mirrored Kirkland's in that they believed site had been destroyed by construction of the lake.

AR Consultants (Skinner 1998) conducted a pedestrian archaeological survey of 600 acres of Sunset Ranch which is south of the study area and south of and adjacent to Texas Plume Road. Five prehistoric sites and five historic sites were discovered. The prehistoric sites were probable seasonal family camps located where water was available in dry seasons. The historic sites consisted of two late 1800s farmsteads and two 1900s farmsteads. The fifth historic site was a rock, rectangular feature of unknown function.

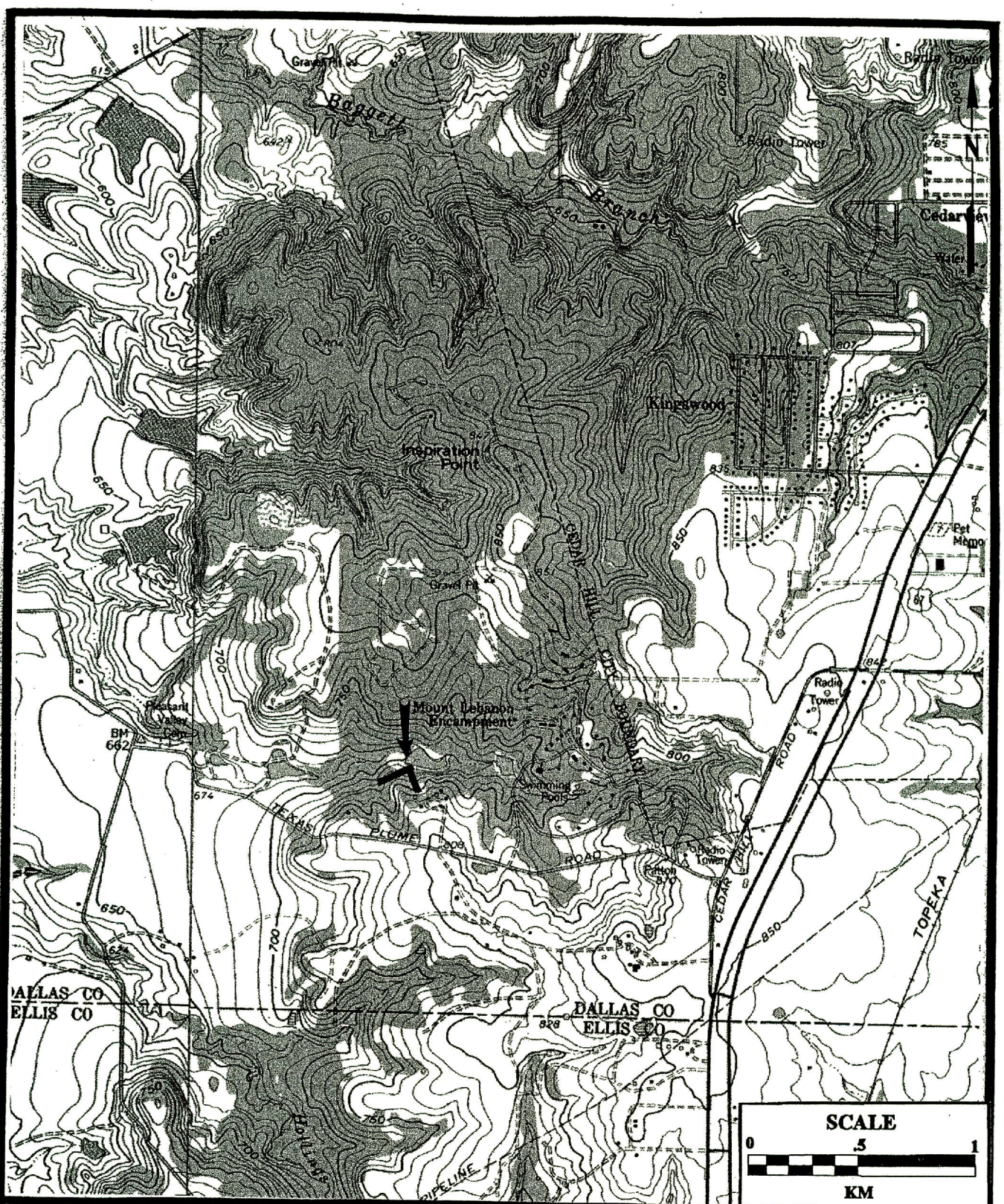

Figure 1. Location of proposed sanitary sewer pipeline route shown on a portion of the Cedar Hill, Texas 7.5' USGS map.

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METHODOLOGY

As previously mentioned, only one archaeological site, 41DL137, was discovered in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline route according to the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas. The proposed pipeline route was walked from its beginning in the upland to where it terminates along a terrace. Although a portion of the pipeline route is to be placed in an upland setting, shovel testing was done every 100 meters.

RESULTS

During the discussion of the survey, shovel tests are discussed generally, but specific information is provided in Table 1 and shovel test locations are shown on Figure 2.

The Survey Area

The proposed pipeline route runs south from the top of ridge downslope to a terrace where it turns and goes west and terminated adjacent to a concrete parking lot (Figure 1). The slope is approximately 30 degrees. Vegetation includes juniper and oak trees with understory of saw greenbriar, grape vine and native grasses and shrubs. Snail species consist of *Rabdotus dealbatus* and *Helicina orbiculata*. The pipeline route parallels an existing dirt trail downslope and an asphalt road on the terrace. The pipeline route is approximately 20 meters north of the asphalt road. Ground visibility ranged from 20 to 90 percent while eye-height visibility was excellent.

The Survey

Survey began at the top of the hill where shovel test 1 was placed (Figure 2). The shovel test uncovered 11 centimeters of sterile loamy clay overlying limestone bedrock. The pipeline route then runs north downhill. A concrete road was encountered 16 meters north of shovel test 1 and extended for 21 meters.

Shovel test 2 was placed on a terrace 55 meters north of shovel test 1 (Figure 2). The shovel test encountered 33 centimeters of brown loamy clay that contained snail shells in the upper 20 centimeters. *Helicina orbiculata* was one of the snail species recovered which indicated that permanent vegetation was present once in the study area. Below the brown clay was dark yellowish brown loamy clay that contained calcium carbonate nodules. The shovel test was terminated at 92 centimeters below the surface and no cultural materials were found.

Another terrace area existed approximately 33 meters north of shovel test 2, and the proposed pipeline route turns west and follows this terrace. Shovel test 3 was placed at the bend in the pipeline route although ground visibility was 90 percent and uncovered 28 centimeters of the same loamy clay in shovel test 2 as well as the same yellowish brown loamy clay as in shovel test 2. The shovel test was terminated at 75 centimeters below the surface. No cultural materials were discovered.

Shovel tests 4 through 7 were placed west along the sloping terrace that the proposed pipeline route follows at approximately 33 meter intervals (Figure 2). The shovel tests either encountered limestone or light olive brown clay containing calcium carbonate nodules/pebbles at varying depths. No cultural materials were found.

Figure 2. Shovel test locations shown on an enlarged (1000%) section of the Cedar Hill, Texas 7.5' USGS map.

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Shovel test 8 was placed in a forested area approximately 20 meters west of shovel test 7 and 15 meters east of the concrete parking lot. It uncovered 14 centimeters of sterile, loamy clay overlying the sterile, light olive brown clay containing at least 50 percent calcium carbonate nodules/pebbles.

Conclusions

No cultural materials were discovered during the pedestrian survey of the 800 foot proposed sanitary sewer line or in 8 shovel tests. One reason is that part of the slope was too steep. The other reason may be that, after examining the topography of the area, the terrace area was too far from the intermittent drainage and may have sloped too much to be suitable for occupation. The area where site 41DL137 is located was adjacent to the drainage and might have once been level, therefore, a suitable place for occupation.

Table 1. Shovel test descriptions.

ST No.	Depth (cm.)	Description *	Comments
1	0 – 11 11+	Brown (10YR4/3) loamy clay Limestone bedrock	
2	0 – 33 33 – 92+	Brown (7.5YR4/2) loamy clay Dark yellowish-brown (10YR4/4) loamy clay	Snails present in upper 20 cm. Calcium carbonate pebbles below 66 cm.
3	0 – 28 28 – 75+	Brown loamy clay Dark yellowish-brown loamy clay	Snails present in upper 20 cm., Limestone gravel from surface
4	0 – 37 37+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) clay Limestone bedrock	Limestone gravel from surface, 50% by 22 cm.
5	0 – 52 52 – 63+	Dark brown loamy clay Light olive brown (2.5Y5/4) clay	Limestone gravel from surface Calcium carbonated nodules present
6	0 – 21 21+	Dark brown loamy clay Limestone bedrock	
7	0 – 7 7+	Dark brown loamy clay Limestone bedrock	
8	0 – 14 14 – 32+	Dark brown loamy clay Light olive brown clay	50% calcium carbonate nodules

* Note: Munsell color chart numbers listed only the first time used.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the absence of significant cultural materials, AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that further cultural resource evaluations are unwarranted. However, if cultural materials are encountered during construction, work should stop in that area and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission shoud be notified.

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