

AR Consultants, Inc.

Archaeological and Environmental Consulting
11020 Audelia Road, Suite C105, Dallas, TX 75243
Phone: (214) 368-0478
Fax: (214) 221-1519
E-mail: audelia@ar.com

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF THE PROPOSED
WEATHERFORD 12-INCH SEWER
PIPELINE ROUTE,
PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS

Texas Antiquities Permit Number 5006

Jesse Todd, MS, MA

Prepared for:

FREESE AND NICHOLS, INC.
4055 International Plaza, Suite 200
Fort Worth, Texas 76109-4895

Prepared by:

AR CONSULTANTS, INC.
11020 Audelia Road, Suite C105
Dallas, Texas 75243-9085

Cultural Resources Report 2008-65
August 29, 2008

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ABSTRACT

The City of Weatherford in Parker County, Texas intends to construct a 12-inch sewer pipeline route and a lift station south of US 20 and north of Tin Top Road. The approximately 4,180 feet long proposed 12-inch sewer pipeline begins at the existing Lift Station #8 and runs generally south and terminates at the proposed lift station northeast of and adjacent to Tin Top Road. The proposed pipeline route crosses Threemile Branch and parallels it for almost one-half the pipeline's length. During the later part of August of 2008, AR Consultants, Inc. conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the proposed pipeline route under the Texas Antiquities Permit Number 5006 for Freese and Nichols, Inc. which is managing the environmental permitting for the City of Weatherford. No cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface or uncovered in 10 shovel tests.

Based upon the absence of archaeological sites, AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that the City of Weatherford be allowed to proceed with construction of the pipeline route without the need for further cultural resource investigations. The Texas Historical Commission should be advised if buried cultural resources are uncovered during construction, and, if found, construction should cease immediately in that area until proper investigations can be carried out.

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Weatherford in Parker County, Texas intends to construct a 10-inch and a 12-inch sewer pipeline route and a lift station south of US 20 and north of Tin Top Road. After a project review by the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission, it was determined that only the 12-inch sewer pipeline needed to have an archaeological survey. The approximately 4,180 feet long proposed 12-inch sewer pipeline begins at the existing Lift Station #8 and runs generally south and terminates at the proposed lift station northeast of and adjacent to Tin Top Road (Figure 1). The proposed pipeline route crosses Threemile Branch and parallels it for almost one-half the pipeline's length.

During the later part of August of 2008, AR Consultants, Inc. conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the proposed 12-inch sewer pipeline route for Freese and Nichols, Inc. which is managing the environmental permitting for the City of Weatherford. The purpose of the archaeological survey was to determine if cultural materials older than 50 years were present, and, if so, make recommendations about their significance and how they might be impacted by construction.

The Antiquities Code of Texas applies since the City of Weatherford is a political entity of the State of Texas and antiquities permit number 5006 was issued by the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission. Since Threemile Branch contains Waters of the United States, relevant federal legislation may include the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL-96-515), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL-90-190), and the Archeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (PL-93-291).

This report was written in accordance with the guidelines for reports adopted by the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division, and developed by the Council of Texas Archeologists (ND). The following report contains a brief description of the natural environment and then a summary of previous archaeological investigations in the area as known from published sources. This is followed by the research design and the methodology. The description of the results of the field investigation constitutes the major part of the report. The last chapter presents recommendations that arise from the study. A list of references cited concludes the report.

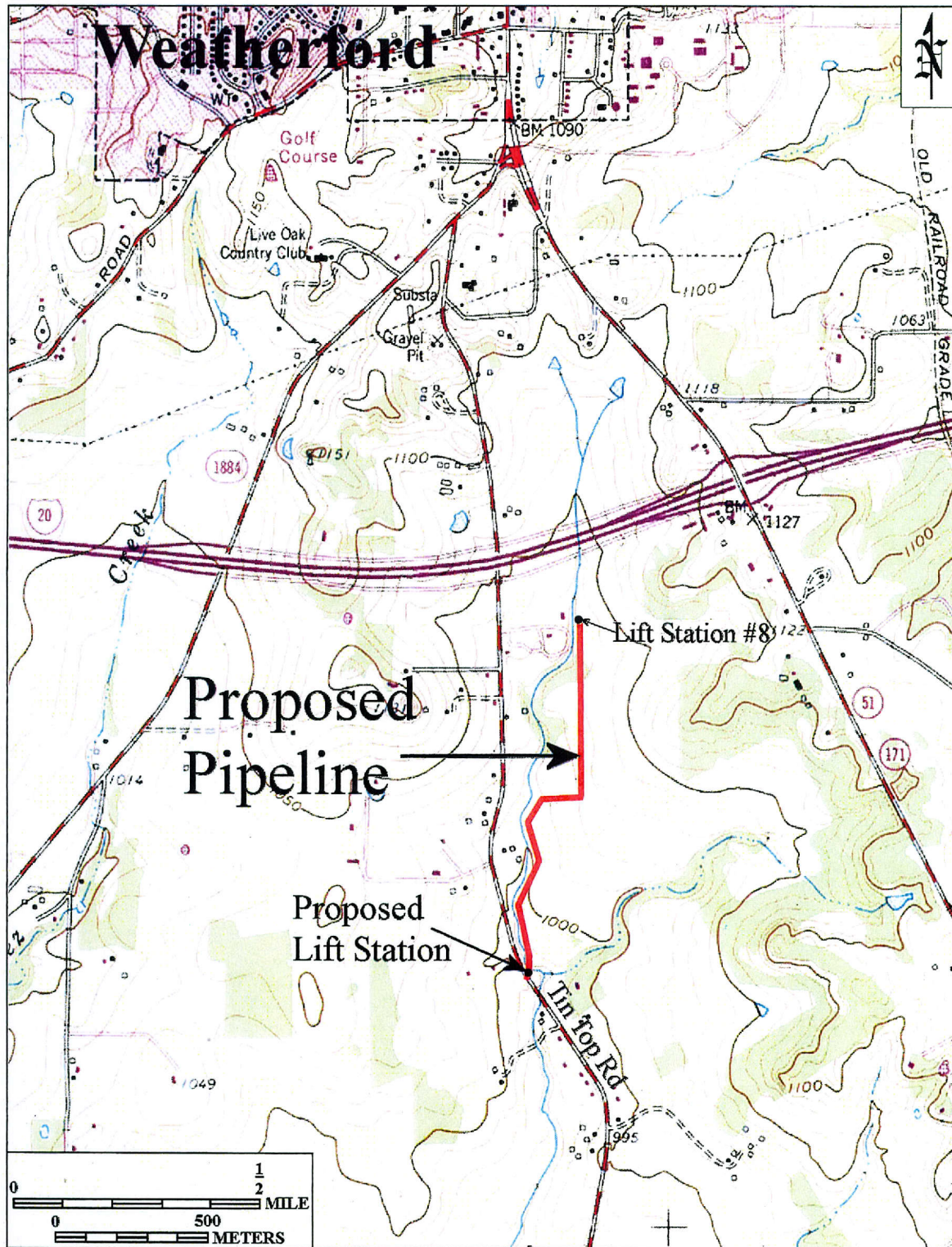


Figure 1. Proposed Weatherford 12-Inch Sewer Pipeline route plotted on a portion of the Weatherford South, Texas 7.5' USGS map.

Administrative Information

Sponsor: City of Weatherford with Freese and Nichols, Inc.
managing the environmental permitting

Review Agency: the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical
Commission and the Fort Worth District of the US Army
Corps of Engineers

Principal Investigator: Jesse Todd, MS, MA

Field Crew: Brett Lang and Todd

Field Day(s): August 25, 2008

Sites Recorded:
Prehistoric: None
Historic: None

Curation Facility: No artifacts collected

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Parker County is located in North Central Texas. The county consists mainly of undulating to hilly land and vegetation consists of tall grasses and various species of trees such as mesquite, elm, oak, pecan and walnut. The sandy loams in the Western Cross Timbers portion of the county, in which the study area lies, drain into the Clear Fork of the Trinity River and the Brazos River. The Grand Prairie, which includes the eastern and central portions of the county drains, into the upper tributaries of the Trinity River. The southern portions of the county drain into the Brazos River (Dyksterhuis 1948:Figure 1).

The underlying bedrock of the study area consists of the Lower Cretaceous-aged Paluxy Formation. The Paluxy consists mainly of sandstone, but limestone and mudstone beds are present (Bureau of Economic Geology 1972).

Soils in the study area belong to the Windhorst-Duffau-Weatherford association according to the Soil Conservation Service (Greenwade, Kelley and Hyde 1977:General Soils Map). These soils are gently sloping to sloping, deep, loamy or sandy and over weakly cemented sandstone or clay. Specific soils within the study area are Windthorst fine sandy loam with 1 to 3 percent slopes and Venus and Blanket clay loam with 1 to 3 percent slopes (Greenwade, Kelley, Hyde 1977:Sheet 43). The expected deepest depth to the B horizon is 16 inches (40 centimeters) bs (Greenwade, Kelley and Hyde 1977:12).

Brune (1981:352-353) lists several springs in the Weatherford area, but none are located within the study area. Threemile Branch is mapped as perennial on the USGS map but as intermittent on the 1977 Soil Map for Parker County, Texas.

Since the study area is in the Cross Timbers, trees such as oak and walnut were present along with abundant understory vegetation consisting of briars and various grasses. Animals hunted consisted of deer, squirrel and turkey which fed on the mast and other prey consisted of raccoon, turtle, mussels, fish and a variety of birds such as duck that lived either in or adjacent to perennial streams. Nearby prairies would have supported quail, rabbits, bison and antelope. The mast from the oak and walnut trees probably was used also by Native Americans to make seasoning as well as bread (Todd 2000).

CULTURAL HISTORY

Over the past several decades, cultural resources investigations in North Central Texas have varied due to the locations and types of projects carried out. Therefore, the database of information to which new projects can be compared is limited. The following culture history is derived from the monograph *Lower Elm Fork Prehistory* by Daniel J. Prikryl (1990). Prikryl's framework includes the six prehistoric periods, to which the historic Native American and European periods have been added.

Using Prikryl's time framework, the following paragraphs present a brief description of the culture history of the region.

Historic European	A.D. 1800 to Present
Historic Native American	A.D. 1600 to A.D. 1850
Late Prehistoric II	A.D. 1300 to A.D. 1600
Late Prehistoric I	A.D. 700 to A.D. 1300
Late Archaic	2,000 B.C. to A.D. 700
Middle Archaic	4,000 B.C. to 2,000 B.C.
Early Archaic	6,000 B.C. to 4,000 B.C.
Paleoindian	ca. 11,000 B.C. to 6,000 B.C.

The Paleoindian period is distinguished by distinctive projectile point styles attributed to this period (Meltzer and Bever 1995:Table 1). Many of the points are made of exotic cherts that are not native to North Central Texas. The Lewisville site (Crook and Harris 1957) and the Aubrey Clovis site (Ferring 2001) in Denton County are the only excavated Paleoindian sites in the region. The Frognot site (41COL165) in Collin County which is a Paleoindian/Early Archaic site has been tested (Crook 2007:1-10). Surface artifacts generally come from deposits on stream terraces above the level of the active floodplain. This was a period when large mammals became extinct, and their extinction is attributed in part to a general drying of the environment. According to Prewitt (1991:98 and 105), no Clovis or Folsom points have been recovered from Parker County.

During the Early Archaic, the general drying continued, and sites are found on stream terraces. There is a hint of population increase, and Lynott (1981:103) suggests that there was increased emphasis on the use of bottomland food resources. Prikryl (1990:71) can not confirm Lynott's suggestion, and in fact, he reports fewer bottomland sites than during the previous period. Middle Archaic sites are predominantly found on the first terrace above stream floodplains. As earlier, sites tend to be along the Elm Fork rather than along the smaller tributaries. It appears that population density continued to be low.

Late Archaic sites increase in number over the previous period, and sites are located both along the rivers and along tributaries. There appears to be a strong shift in site location to the tributary streams and a pronounced population explosion. Local Ogallala quartzite is being used prominently at this time, and this observation is taken by some authors as evidence of increased territorial restrictions (Prikryl 1990).

During the Late Prehistoric I period, the bow and arrow and pottery appear in artifact assemblages. Houses and probable evidence of agriculture first appear during this period, although none are known in the immediate area. Site locations mirror those of the Late Archaic, and quartzite continues as the common material used for chipped stone projectiles and tools. The West Fork Paleosol is dated to this period, and drying continued into the subsequent period (Peter and McGregor 1988; Ferring 1990).

The Late Prehistoric II is highlighted by the prominence of buffalo in archaeological sites and the appearance of tools normally expected to occur at sites on the High Plains of

West Texas. It also appears that sites are once again located on sandy terraces above the floodplains (Peter and McGregor 1988).

Beginning in the 1830s and continuing into the 1840s, according to some historical documents, the aboriginal inhabitants of North Central Texas continued to play an infamous if not important role in the history of that region. Very little archaeological evidence, however, of historic Native American occupation has been found in the North Central Texas. This is a pattern seen throughout much of Texas, and one which has been suggested is due to the inability of the Native Americans to adapt to the changing climate (Skinner 1988).

The 1830s and 1840s were decades of Anglo expansion into North Central Texas. Garrett (1972:24), a well-respected Fort Worth historian, has stated that "Indian hostilities almost depopulated North Texas [of Anglo settlers] after 1839. It dwindled to less than half". According to tradition, many Indians of several tribes roamed the region until well into the 1860s. Strategies for dealing with the illusive aboriginal population ranged from armed confrontation and pursuit to across-the-table dialogue. Rising from a domestic background of dealing with Indians, President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, realized rapprochement was preferable to direct confrontation. In the summer of 1843, a council with the Indians was called, and in September of that year ten tribes signed a treaty which was approved by the Senate the following January. The treaty provided the needed impetus for settlement of several counties in the North Central Texas area.

Parker County, in which most of the survey area lies, was controlled by Kiowas and Comanches in the late 1840s when the first European settlers arrived. The Texas state legislature formed Parker County from portions of Bosque and Navarro counties in 1855. By 1860, the economy was based on raising cattle and sheep and growing corn, wheat, rye, potatoes and sweet potatoes. In 1870, hogs began to be raised in the county. The Texas and Pacific Railway went through Weatherford in 1879 and the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe and the Weatherford, Mineral Wells and Northwestern railroads were established in the county by 1891. During the first part of the twentieth century, the cultivation of cotton was added to the growing economic base. By the 1950s however, raising peanuts and hay became major components of the county's economy, and by the 1950s, Parker County was one of the state's leading non-citrus fruit producers as well as vegetables and livestock. The construction of Interstate Highway 20 through Parker County allowed people to live in Parker County and work in Fort Worth; therefore, the county's population increased. The discovery of oil in 1966 also added to the county's growth spurt. By 1965, major economic pursuits consisted of the dairy industry, goat and sheep ranching and poultry production. Today, light industries are found in the county and the population is increasing steadily (Echeverria 2004).

Weatherford, the county seat of Parker County, was incorporated 1858, and the first post office was established in 1859. The Texas and Pacific Railway reached Weatherford in 1880, the Santa Fe came to Weatherford in 1887 and a local line, the Weatherford, Mineral Wells and Northwestern Railway was established in 1891, making Weatherford a shipping point for farmers and ranchers. Today, Weatherford still serves as an

agribusiness center which consists mainly of watermelons. Oil field businesses prosper in the area, and Weatherford today continues to be a shipping point for farmers and ranchers (Minor 2004:1).

Previous Investigations

The major archaeological survey conducted in Parker County was of the Texas Army National Guard's Fort Wolters Facility (Brownlow, Prikryl, Gustavson, Garner and Collins 1999; Brownlow 2001) and at Lake Mineral Wells State Park. During the survey, archaeological sites ranging from the Late Archaic to the Late Prehistoric as well historic sites, many related to the construction of Fort Wolters, were recorded. Testing at four sites revealed buried deposits containing stone-lined hearth features, dateable charcoal, and faunal remains from the Late Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods. Recent investigations by Johnny Byers (2007) for his thesis at the Carr site (4PR26) uncovered a prehistoric occupation that lasted from the late Paleoindian to Late Archaic periods. Also, a mammoth was recovered but was not associated with the site.

Very few archaeological surveys have been conducted in the general area south of Weatherford. AR Consultants (Skinner 1999) conducted an archaeological survey of several proposed pipeline routes for the Parker County Water Supply Corporation 8.89 miles southwest of the study area. The pipeline routes ranged from north of US 20 south almost to the Brazos River. Drainages crossed include Sanchez Creek, Little Grindstone Creek and Grindstone Creek. No archaeological sites were found. AR Consultants, Inc. (Todd 2004) conducted an archaeological survey of a 55-acre expansion of the Weatherford Landfill which is located 4.89 miles southwest of the study area. No archaeological sites were recorded during the survey. Approximately 2.87 miles southwest of where the proposed pipeline route terminates, AR Consultants, Inc., (Todd 2005) conducted a pipeline survey that crossed tributaries to East Sanchez Creek, and Sanchez Creek. No cultural materials older than 50 years were discovered.

According to the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (2008), no sites are recorded along or in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline route.

RESEARCH DESIGN & METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the research design outlined below was to insure that fieldwork made a contribution to the better understanding of prehistoric and historic settlement not only in Parker County, but Texas as well. The two research problems are presented below.

Since Threemile Branch is mapped as perennial, prehistoric sites may be present on its banks especially since edible vegetation probably was present such as mast.

Also,

Since the American settlers of Parker County were not attached to perennial water due to their use of cisterns and wells, historic sites may be found in a variety of settings. Also, through time, no doubt historic residences were occupied along historic transportation routes such as roadways which are present in the study area; therefore, we believe there is the potential to encounter a historic site.

An even more basic, research problem guided survey work; simply stated the question asked,

How did past people use the land, and what record of this use did they leave behind?

Most frequently, small-scale surveys of this type gather information in response to this more open-minded research question, which guides almost all archaeological surveys.

In order to address these questions, an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the proposed pipeline route was conducted. Shovel testing was done on a judgmental basis in the upland away from Threemile Branch but was conducted at approximately 100 meter intervals along the branch's banks as recommended by the Council of Texas Archeologists (2002). Shovel tests were excavated to various depths, depending on location and the sandy loam matrices were screened through a ¼-inch hardwire screen. The pit walls were visually examined for cultural materials. The clayey loam matrices were not screened but were manually broken and visually examined for cultural materials as were the pit walls. Notes on the soils, vegetation, land forms as well as photographs were made.

Backhoe trenching was not done due to the shallowness of the B horizon. The deepest B horizon is listed as being 16 inches (40 centimeters) bs (Greenwade et al. 1977:12).

RESULTS

In this chapter, the intensive pedestrian archaeological survey is described and the conclusions derived from the survey finish the chapter. Shovel tests are discussed generally in the text and the specific information is provided in Table 1. Shovel test locations are shown on Figure 2.

Survey

The proposed pipeline route was staked; therefore, easy to follow. Survey began north of Tin Top Road and went north. A forested area about 10 meters wide is located on both banks of Threemile Branch. Trees consist of eastern red cedar, hackberry, elm and oak. Understory vegetation include grape vine, saw greenbriar, johnson grass and other grass and bush species. Ground visibility ranged from less than 10 to 30 percent and eye-height visibility was good. Threemile Branch is approximately 2.5 meters deep and 2 meters

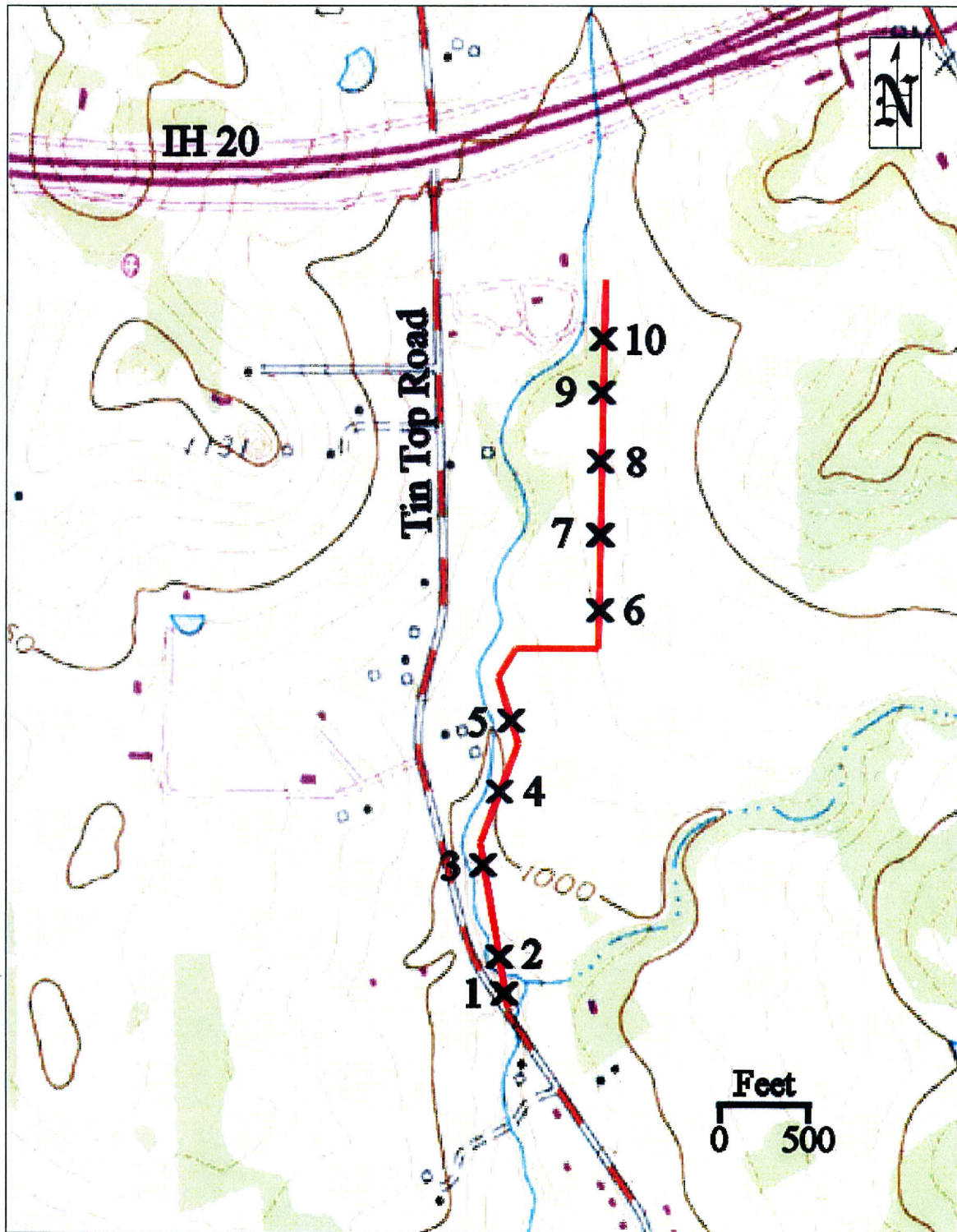


Figure 2. Shovel test locations plotted on a portion of the Weatherford South, Texas USGS map.

wide (Figure 3). The substrate consists of sandy loamy clay and water was ponded even after recent two to three inch rain. No knappable lithic resources were seen in the creek's channel and no buried cultural materials were found in the creek's vertical banks.



Figure 3. The proposed pipeline route crosses Threemile Branch at this location. View is to the southeast.

Shovel test 1 was excavated about 1.5 meters from the south bank and uncovered 37 cm of sandy loamy clay while Shovel test 2 was dug about 1.5 m from the north bank and encountered 38 cm of loamy clay. Both shovel tests were culturally sterile.

Northwest of the creek crossing, the pipeline route is to be placed in the center of a dirt two-track road that is sporadically covered with asphalt chunks and gravel (Figure 4) that parallels Threemile Branch. Shovel tests 3 and 4 and 5 were excavated along the road in areas deemed to be undisturbed. Shovel test 3 uncovered 41 cm of sandy clayey loam and Shovel test 4 encountered 38 cm of sandy clayey loam. The pipeline route crosses a caliche two-track road and then follows a semi-cleared area that parallels the creek. Shovel test 5 was excavated in this area and encountered 39 cm of loamy clay. All of the shovel tests were culturally sterile.

When the proposed pipeline turns east, it parallels an existing gas pipeline. In addition, the land had been terraced. No shovel tests were excavated due to the previous disturbance and no cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface.



Figure 4. The proposed pipeline route will be placed in the center of the dirt two-track road which is covered with asphalt chunks and gravel. Note stake marking pipeline route. View is to the northwest.

The pipeline route turns north and runs through unimproved pasture (Figure 5) that once was used as a tree farm. Ground visibility ranged from less than 5 to 50 percent. Eye-height visibility was fair. Although in an upland setting and away from the creek, five culturally sterile shovel tests (6 through 10) were excavated along this portion of the pipeline route. Shovel tests 6, 7 and 8 encountered sandy loam that extended to 45, 42 and 44 cm bs, respectively. Shovel test 9 encountered 39 cm of loamy clay and Shovel test 10 uncovered 38 cm of sandy clayey loam.

Approximately 100 meters south of the existing wastewater treatment plant, there is a heavily forested area (Figure 6). The trees are one to two inches in diameter and about a foot or less apart. This area contained an abundant amount of bull nettle. Ground visibility was less than 10 percent and eye-height visibility was about 5 meters. No shovel test was excavated at the 100 meter interval because of disturbance from construction of the wastewater treatment plant.

Conclusions

No cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface or uncovered in 10 shovel tests. The absence of prehistoric sites is probably due to the lack of perennial water and knappable lithic resources. Historic sites are not present probably due to, for the most part, the distance from the roadway and the closeness of the creek to the road.



Figure 5. Unimproved pasture that once was tree farm. View is to the north.



Figure 6. Forested area in which pipeline will be placed approximately 100 meters south of existing wastewater treatment plant. View is to the north.

Table 1. Shovel test information.

ST No.	Depth (cm)	Description*
1	0-37+	Brown (10YR4/3) sandy clayey loam
2	0-38+	Black (10YR2/1) loamy clay
3	0-41+	Dark grayish-brown (7.5YR4/2) sandy clayey loam
4	0-38+	Brown sandy clayey loam
5	0-39+	Black loamy clay
6	0-45+	Yellowish-brown (10YR5/4) sandy loam
7	0-42+	Yellowish-brown sandy loam
8	0-44+	Yellowish-brown sandy loam
9	0-39+	Very dark grayish-brown (10YR3/2) loamy clay
10	0-38+	Very dark-grayish-brown sandy clayey loam

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this investigation was to determine if significant cultural resources are present within the proposed Weatherford 12-Inch Sewer Pipeline route. No evidence of prehistoric or historic occupation was found during the intensive pedestrian archaeological survey or in 10 shovel tests.

Based upon the results of the archaeological survey, AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that the City of Weatherford be allowed to construct the proposed pipeline route without the need for further cultural resources investigations. We further recommend that construction supervisors be advised that if buried archaeological materials are uncovered during construction, work should immediately cease in that area and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission should be advised of the discovery.

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