

Archeological Investigations at Cummins Creek

Colorado County, Yoakum District

Cummins Creek at FM 109

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Yoakum District is dedicated to improving mobility and traffic throughout the region. The proposed project is for a bridge replacement at Cummins Creek on FM 109 in Colorado County, Texas. TxDOT is currently documenting the existing social, economic, and environmental conditions, and assessing the project's impact to natural and cultural resources. Archeologists recently surveyed the project area and found many artifacts buried beneath the surface.



Piece of a biface fragment

PROJECT INFORMATION

The proposed project would occur outside the City of Columbus and includes the replacement of the bridge and approaches on FM 109 at Cummins Creek and Cummins Creek Relief structure. The project is approximately 0.9 mile long and would require additional right-of-way (ROW) on both sides of Cummins Creek. This project would require 1.3 acres of new ROW to increase the current ROW width from 120-160 feet to 170-210 feet.

ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Archeologists surveyed .89 mile (4,762 feet) on either side of the Cummins Creek bridge. A review of historic aerials indicate that the project area once consisted of rural range land, with two small agricultural parcels. Research revealed that there were no previously recorded archeological sites within 1 kilometer of the project area. After conducting a pedestrian survey, 65 shovel tests, and six bakhoe trenches, the team of archeologists recorded two sites. Further work is recommended for both 41CD169 and 41CD170. In the case of 41CD169, data recovery excavations are recommended to mitigate the adverse effect of the bridge expansion. For 41CD170, test excavations are recommended to determine the presence of the cultural deposits and to record any cultural features that may be present within the project area.

Read more about the stories TxDOT has uncovered along the road.

Visit www.txdot.gov,
Keyword: "Archeology."

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Overview of Site 41CD169

Site 41CD169

A total of 969 artifacts were recovered from 15 shovel tests. While no diagnostic artifacts or features were encountered during shovel testing, the sheer volume of material encountered is impressive. The recovery of a large mammal bone fragment (deeply buried) and a biface fragment, plus scattered bits of charcoal and density of fire-cracked rock and lithic shatter, further suggests a rich occupation and site history. It is likely there are buried, intact features between the excavated shovel tests within 41CD169!

Site 41CD170

The site is very small within the APE, only measuring about 25 meters from southwest to northeast and about 15 meters from northwest to southeast. The artifacts from 41CD170 consist of debitage, thermally shattered chert, and fire-cracked rock. Though the cultural material from 41CD170 is fewer in number than 41CD169, it contains a higher proportion of debitage relative to shatter.