

# Mitigating at Mill Creek

Austin County, Yoakum District

## Mill Creek Bridge Investigations

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Yoakum District is dedicated to improving and enhancing mobility and traffic throughout the region. The proposed project is the replacement of the existing bridge on Mill Creek Road over Mill Creek.

TxDOT is currently documenting the existing social, economic, and environmental conditions, and assessing the project's impact to natural and cultural resources. Portions of the project area are located on private property and would be acquired by TxDOT to complete the project.



Bone fragments and core/chopper tool

### PROJECT INFORMATION

The proposed project would replace the existing bridge on Mill Creek Road over Mill Creek. The project would require 1.59 acres of additional right-of-way (ROW), which would increase current widths from 40-65 feet to approximately 180 feet in some locations.

### ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Archeologists researched the project area prior to survey and found no previously recorded archeological sites. Approximately 45 shovel tests, and six backhoe trenches were excavated during the pedestrian survey. One archeological site was recorded during the survey. Site 41AU103 is a deeply buried prehistoric occupation with a dense lens of freshwater mussel shell and prehistoric artifacts. Given the presence of the dense mussel shell, in addition to the burned materials and sample of artifacts, archeologists believe this site is a small prehistoric campsite.

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

Visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov),  
Keyword: "Archeology."

### ARCHEOLOGY CONTACTS:

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Mussel shells from Site 41AU103

### Next Steps

Austin County is a relatively under-studied region in Texas archeology. Site 41AU103 appears to contain well preserved archeological materials, include prehistoric components. These artifacts may yield valuable information on the lifeways of prehistoric peoples in the region.

Data recovery excavations are recommended for a portion of this site to determine the number of components, preservation, and age of the components. The total extent of data recovery excavations at the site will depend on how much good information is generated during initial work.