

BEACH EXPLORATION, INC.

OIL AND GAS OPERATORS
P. O. BOX 3669
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79702

RECEIVED

JUN 30 1989

June 23, 1989

OIL CONSERVATION DIV.
SANTA FE

Michael Stogner
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Case 9723

RE: Exxon A Federal Lease
Well No. 3
2410' FNL & 1930' FWL
Sec.18,T16S,T29E
Eddy Co., New Mexico

Dear Mr. Stogner:

Per our telephone conversation, please find enclosed a copy of the Archaeological Clearance Report for the above referenced well. After Dr. Haskell made his survey, we called the OCD, and talked with Jerry Sexton for approval. As I have stated, Beach would have liked for this location to be a standard location, but due to the findings by Dr. Haskell, the BLM requested we move the location to the south.

If you should need any further information, please feel free to contact us.

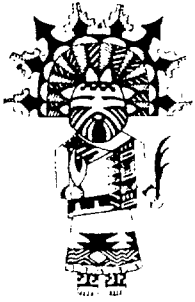
Yours truly,

BEACH EXPLORATION, INC.

Barbara Watson

Barbara Watson
Production & Exploration

Enc.



NMAS
New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 1341
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-1341
(505) 887-7646

22 April 1989

Reconnaissance
Excavation
Analysis
Explanation
Curation

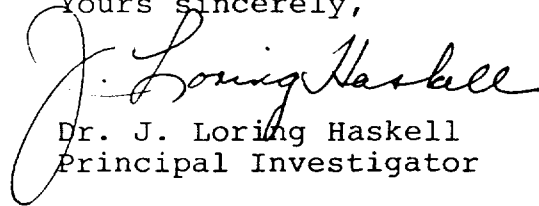
Ms. Barbara Watson
BEACH EXPLORATION, INCORPORATED
800 North Marienfeld-Suite 200
Midland, Texas 79701

Dear Ms. Watson:

Enclosed please find NMAS' Archaeological Clearance Report for BEACH EXPLORATION, INCORPORATED's proposed Exxon Federal "A" Well No. 3 and its associated access road in Eddy County, New Mexico. one archaeological site (NMAS 5910) was recorded during this survey. NMAS is suggesting clearance for this project provided the archaeological site is avoided.

If you have any questions pertaining to this report, please call my office. Thank you for asking NMAS to do this survey.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. J. Loring Haskell
Principal Investigator

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Mark Calamia, BLM, Carlsbad

as

Archaeological Clearance Report
for

BEACH EXPLORATION, INCORPORATED

Exxon Feddeal "A" Well No. 3
and access road

Prepared

By

Dr. J. Loring Haskell

Submitted

By

Dr. J. Loring Haskell
Principal Investigator
New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc.
Carlsbad, New Mexico

22 April 1989

Permit Number: 14-2920-89-I

Report Number: NMAS-1989-16-A

ABSTRACT

New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., representing BEACH EXPLORATION, INCORPORATED, undertook a Class III survey of Bureau of Land Management land scheduled to be impacted by the construction of a drill location and its associated access road. Field work was conducted under clear, sunny and calm conditions during mid- and late- afternoon on 14 April and similar conditions during mid-afternoon on 19 April. The proposed location will measure 250 X 400 ft (actual area surveyed 6.69 acres). The access road will measure 100 X 1350 ft (actual area surveyed 3.10 acres). Total surveyed acreage 9.79 acres. They will be situated in Section 18, T16S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico. One archaeological site (NMAS 5910) was recorded during this survey. Clearance is suggested provided the archaeological site is avoided.

Introduction

On 14 and 19 April 1989, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, (Permit Number: 14-2920-89-I), undertook for BEACH EXPLORATION, INCORPORATED, an archaeological survey of federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Eddy County, New Mexico. The reconnoitered area will be impacted by the construction of a drill location and access road. These surveys were undertaken by Dr. Haskell.

Survey Technique

For these investigations, BEACH EXPLORATION's proposed location was reconnoitered for evidence of man's past activities by walking it in a series of 8.0 m wide, close intervals (15° or less), zigzag transects. In addition, an added zone extending 20 ft on each side of the staked 400 X 400 ft location, and lying outside the bounds of the proposed work area, was reconnoitered by a similar means. The access road was walked in two, 15 m wide transects. Flags are considered to be the center of the proposed road. Methodologically, this procedure served to promote optimal conditions for the visual examination of the area to be impacted by construction related activities. Field work was conducted under clear, sunny and calm conditions during mid- and late- afternoon on 14 April and similar conditions during mid-afternoon on 19 April. Ground visibility ranges between 70 and 90%. Field time 3½ hours.

Exxon Federal "A" Well No. 3

Location

The proposed location will measure 250 X 400 ft (actual area surveyed 6.69 acres) on federal land and will be situated 2310 ft

from the north line and 1832 ft from the west line.

Section 18, T16S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM

Thus it will be situated in the:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 18, T16S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM

The associated access road will measure approximately 100 X 1350 ft (actual area surveyed 3.10 acres) and will be situated in the:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 18, T16S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 18, T16S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM

Map Reference: USGS BASIN WELL QUADRANGLE, 7.5 Minute Series, 1953.

Level of Previous Impact

The sites of the proposed location and access road have not been previously impacted by mechanical means.

Environmental Setting

BEACH EXPLORATION, INCORPORATED's proposed location will be situated within an extensive polje, a linear-shaped fissure resulting from deep-seated structural collapse. Overall, this feature is flanked by prominent escarpments on the east and west. Pavo Mesa crenelates the horizon on the southwest. Surficial deposits, for the most part, are the product of mass wasting of Permian-aged limestones. A caliche scree, ranging from light to moderate, mantles the contemporary surface. To the north, the escarpment is characterized by highly weathered limestone outcroppings and an associated thin deposit of silt loams. Occasional chert and quartzite cobbles and gravels are associated with this degrading surface. Elevation is 3619 ft. Slope is 3°. Aspect is west and south (100°). Owing the Karst landform drainage is of an interior

nature. Runoff, however, collects for lengthy periods of time in basinal depressions of the polje, viz., Flat Lake, Jahie Lake and Nakee Ishee Lake. Additionally, seeps occur along the base of the polje's escarpments. Soil individuals are assignable to the Typic Paleorthid and Typic Calciorthid subgroups. Deposit- ionally, the entire surface is the object of strong colluvial forces. The mixed scrub- grassland formation is made up of mesquite, creosote bush, javelina bush, desert holly, prickleleaf dogweed, broom snake- weed, Englemann prickly pear, can cholla, six weeks grama, bush muhly, poverty threeawn and fluff grass.

Cultural Resources

Prefield: 13 April 1989, Section 18, T16S, R29E, no archae- ological sites, Arita K. Slate.

During the course of this survey, one archaeological site (NMA5 5910) was recorded.

NMA5 5910 Category No. 2

Location: SW¼NW¼SW¼NE¼; SE¼NE¼SE¼NW¼; NE¼SE¼SE¼NW¼; NW¼SE¼SE¼NW¼;
SW¼NE¼SE¼NW¼, Section 18, T16S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County,
NM

UTM: Not Available

Map Reference: USGS BASIN WELL QUADRANGLE, 7.5 Minute Series,
1953.

Ownership: Bureau of Land Management

Dimension of Resources: 60 X 213 m

Typological Designation: Occupation Zone

Authorship/Temporality: Unknown

Nature of Cultural Resources: NMA5 5910, a large occupation

zone, is situated on the shoulder of a prominent escarpment which flanks the east side of an extensive north-south oriented

polje. Subject to strong sheetwash, drainage is locally to the southwest and thence into the interior portion of the polje. Surficial deposits are uniformly derived from limestone parent material. Overall, the coeval surface is distinguished by a dense scree of highly weathered limestone and occasional chert and quartzite cobbles and gravels. Elevation is 3640 ft. Aspect is west and south. The scrub formation is made up of creosote bush, javelina bush, pricklyleaf dogweed, poverty threawn and fluff grass.

Observed cultural properties include chert and quartzite primary- secondary- decortication flakes, tested chert and quartzite cores, chert and quartzite multidirectional cores, chert and quartzite angular debris and quartzite hammerstones. No diagnostic artifacts were noted; consequently, authorship and temporality cannot be established at this time. Occupancy of the site appears to have occurred on a number of occasions owing to the extensive distribution of artifacts. There is no evidence of overnight usage as fire-cracked caliche is altogether lacking. Activities here focused on the testing- and roughing- out of stone tools. Finished work, however, does not appear to have been carried out here. This site has been termed an occupation zone as the material cultural remains occur as a light, discontinuous, but extensive scatter. While several minor concentrations were noted, they are very localized. Densities at these loci range from six to nine pieces per three meters square. Elsewhere, density of remains runs from one- to two- pieces per ten meters square.

Cherts occurring here include yellowish gray- and dusky yellow- cryptocrystalline varieties. Quartzite is limited to a grainy, light, brownish- gray and the more common very dark red, granular variety.

NMAS 5910 has not been impacted by mechanical means. The site is previously unrecorded; no collection was made. Although cultural properties occur as a surface scatter, there is a high probability of some burial of artifacts owing to colluvial processes. This is particularly true on the north-east where a gully has formed. Movement of artifacts elsewhere in the site's universe appears to be minimal.

NAMS 5910 is recommended for inclusion in The National Register. Firstly, the site is important owing to its size and the scope of its assemblage. Secondly, the site has not been impacted and hence is notable for having maintained its integrity. The site, therefore, is important for scientific reasons as it should illuminate the technological aspects of local chipped- stone production, the testing for lithic suitability and the actual selection of quarryable lithic material.

Recommendations

NMAS suggests clearance for BEACH EXPLORATION, INCORPORATED's proposed Exxon Federal "A" Well No. 3 provided the archaeological site (NMA 5910) is avoided (Fig. 1). This can be accomplished by shifting the location 100 ft to the south and 100 ft to the east, i.e., 2410' FNL, 1932' FWL, Section 18, T16S, R29E, (Fig. 2). *As proposed, the location will extend 50 ft north of center, 200 ft*

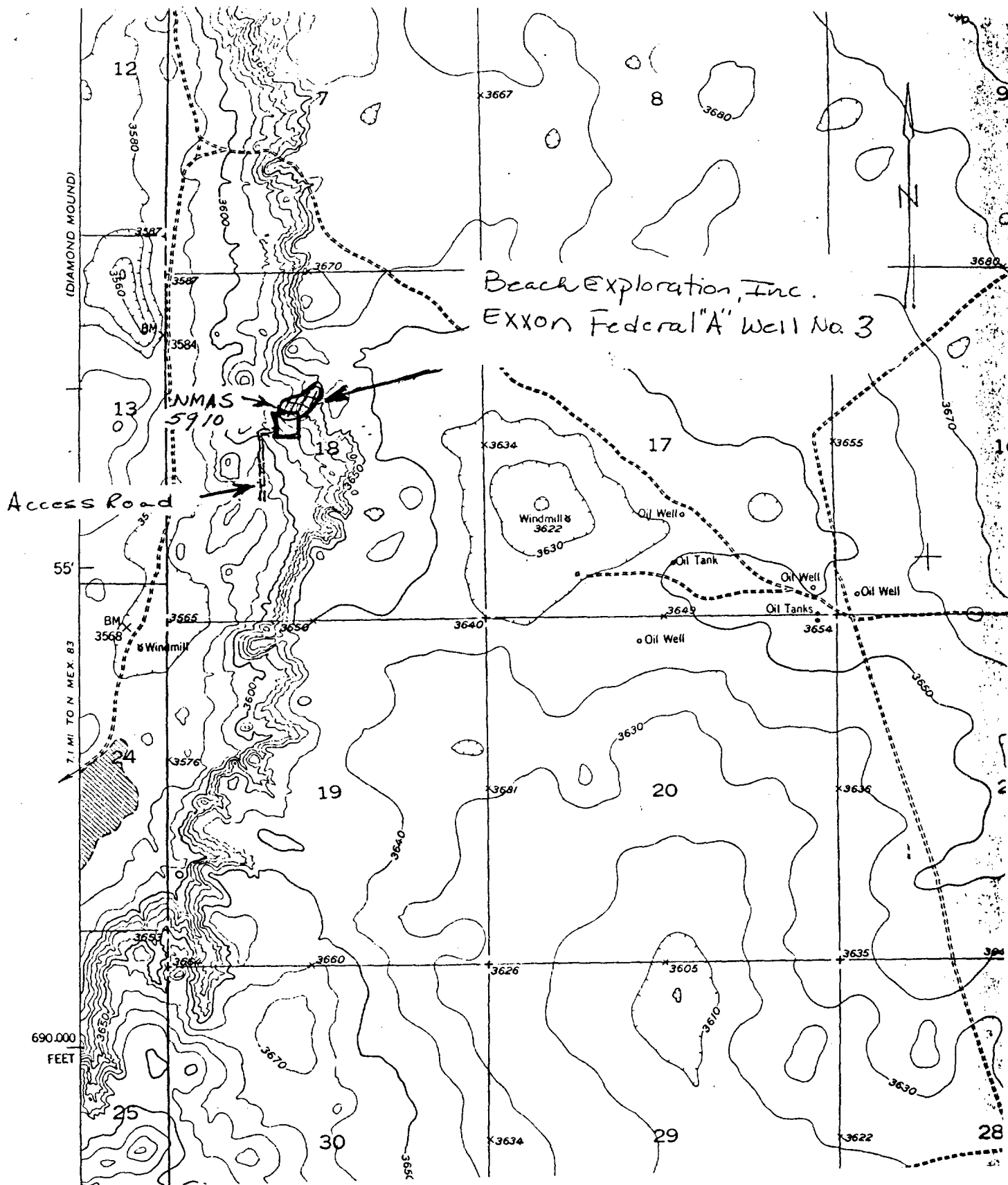


Fig. 1. USGS BASIN WELL QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1953, showing BEACH EXPLORATION, INCORPORATED's proposed Exxon Federal "A" Well NO. 3, 2310' FNL, 1832' FWL, and access road, Section 18, T16S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, vis a vis NMAS 5910.

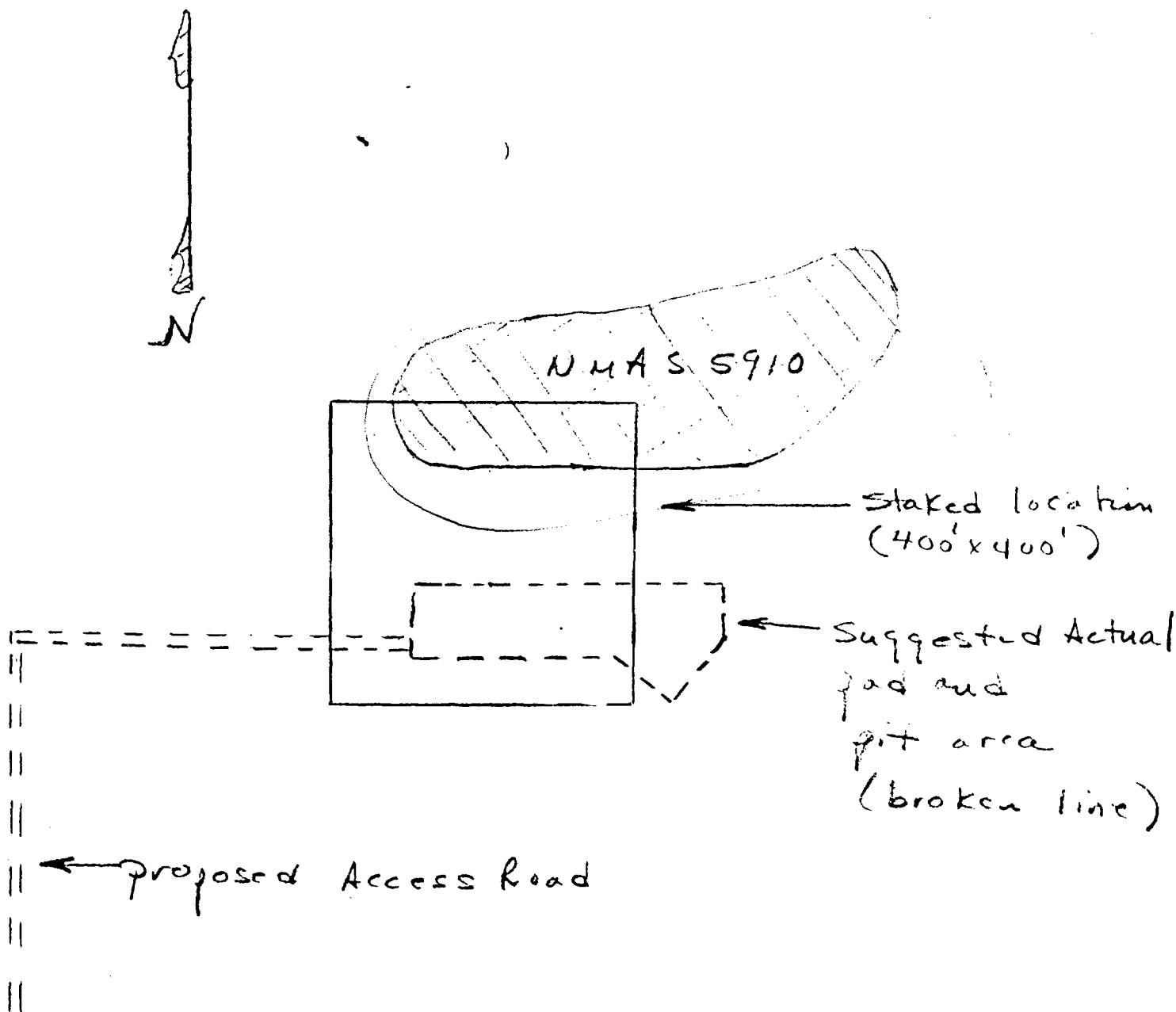


Fig. 2. Schematic representation showing BEACH EXPLORATION, INCORPORATED's proposed Exxon Federal "A" Well No. 3 vis à vis NMA S 5910 and its suggested re-location to 2410' FNL, 1932' FWL, Section 18, T16S, R29E. As proposed, the pad will extend 50 ft north of center, 200 ft east and west of center and 25 ft south of center. The pits will be oriented to the southeast.

east and west of center and 25 ft south of center. (The pits will be oriented to the southeast.) The proposed pad area, therefore, will be situated 150 ft south of the nearest archaeological remains. Men and materiel are to avoid the archaeologically sensitive area altogether during all phases of work; men are to refrain from the illicit collection of artifacts. Clearance, of course, is granted by the Bureau of Land Management.