

**Supplemental Report Concerning The Kajewski Métis Cabin Site Survey:
filed as archaeological sites DjOo31, DjOo33, DjOo34, DjOo35, DjOo36.**

reported by

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June 20, 2010

This report follows my receipt of several site survey report copies, my June 3, 2010 e-mail titled *Cypress Hills Métis Cabin Site Reports*, and my visual inspection of cabins sites within the described Kajewski Métis winter camp locale May 26th & June 10th, 2010. Some deficiencies were found in the site survey reports.

I had been asked by the Miywasin Society in Medicine Hat to conduct interpretive tours at the Kajewski Métis winter camp as part of “The Hills Are Alive” 2010 festival in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. I requested copies of the site survey reports from the Dept. of Archaeology, University of Calgary, and the Archaeological Survey of Alberta in order to refamiliarize myself with the site locations for an onsite reconnaissance, and conduct the tours. I was also able to confirm that a catalogued collection of excavated Kajewski Métis Cabin Site artifacts (presumably from cabins B & E) are still available for study at the Department of Archaeology, University of Calgary. Overall, I am very grateful for the timely assistance and information provided by the staff at the agencies concerned.

There were two primary reporters for the original site surveys who located and reported what came to be known as the Kajewski Cabin Site(s) or the Kajewski Métis winter camp:

In 1967, Rob Bonnichsen (deceased) initially reported visible evidence (mounds, pits, wall outlines) for six historic cabins (designated A-F) located within site DjOo31 (previously known as DjOo120) and excavated cabin A. The subsequent published reference for this excavation is *Men and Mistresses: A Study of the Late Historic Period in the Cypress Hills*, Archaeological Society of Alberta Newsletter 15, by Rob Bonnichsen, 1967.

In 1969, this reporter excavated cabins B & E of site DjOo31. The subsequent published reference for these latter excavations is *Hivernant Archaeology in the Cypress Hills*, U. of Calgary MA thesis by Jack Elliott, 1971.

In 1969, this reporter also located and reported similar visible evidence for what appeared to be four more cabin sites, each also comprising a cluster of cabins, totaling thirteen more possible cabins in the winter camp locale (pp. 24 of my referenced thesis). Due to limitations of time and money, none of the additional cabins were tested by excavation.

Thus, the total Kajewski Métis winter camp of nineteen cabins was recorded as:

DjOo31 (formerly DjOo120) - cabins A, B, C, D, E, F (cabins A, B, E excavated).

DjOo33 (formerly DjOo122) - cabins A, B (none tested/excavated).

DjOo34 (formerly DjOo123) - cabins A, B, C, D, E (none tested/excavated).

DjOo35 (formerly DjOo124) - cabins A, B (none tested/excavated).

DjOo36 (formerly DjOo125) - cabins A, B, C, D (none tested/excavated).

Some winter camp cabins are located within the North 1/2, Sec.16, Twp.8, Rge.3, W. of the 4th. The NE 1/4 of Sec.16 was (and still is) owned by the Kajewski family and the NW 1/4 of Sec.16 was owned in 1969 by the Brown family. The South 1/2 of Sec. 16 is owned by the provincial government as part of Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and also contains some of the winter camp cabins. The report will show that the *east* headwater branch of Gros Ventre Creek (on the Kajewski property) and the east-west fence dividing the park from the two private properties in Sec.16 form the main landmark references for the cabin locations (see pp.5, Google satellite image marked with approximate cabin/site locations).

The cabins comprise an historic seasonal wintering camp of Métis (Hivernant) buffalo hide hunters. Identifiable ammunition types were the most sensitive date markers in the three excavated cabins and they indicate the camp was occupied no earlier than AD1860. Father Lestanc, reporting to the Bishop of St. Boniface in AD1870, (in *Wolf Willow*, by Wallace Stegner, 1966), indicated Hivernant families had moved into the Cypress Hills by AD1868. This particular Cypress Hills Hivernant winter camp was known historically as *Head of the Mountain* camp. The NWMP surgeon, Dr. John Kittson, reported in 1880 ... *At Head-of-the-Mountain, twenty-one miles west of Fort Walsh, some twenty and odd families gather there in the early fall to make their homes for the winter...* Kittson went on to describe the camp as the only one of the five *Half-Breed hamlets* in the Hills which escaped a typhoid epidemic that seasonally ravaged other Métis settlements and the NWMP at Ft. Walsh AD1876-1879 (in Elliott, 1971). *Head of the Mountain* camp was also described as being found abandoned by AD1879 by John English, an Indian Affairs farm instructor, who spent the AD1879-80 winter squatting in one of the cabins (in *Carry the Kettle first Nation Inquiry, Cypress Hills Claim*, Indian Claims Commission, July, 2000). English's attempt to start an Assiniboine reserve farm nearby in AD1880 was in turn abandoned that same year due to a crop failure.

As I reviewed the extant site survey report copies, it became obvious they contained deficiencies that needed correction and clarification for future use. I received 10 varying site survey reports for the 5 cabin clusters/sites comprising the winter camp. The causes for the report deficiencies are several: simplistic and poorly described directions and location data provided by the primary reporters, sites entered onto forms of the day requiring only forty acre location descriptions, original handwritten reports unavailable for primary cross-referencing -- only secondhand and thirdhand retyped and re-sketched report copies are extant, missing reports and missing parts of reports, and confusion in the use of the data by researchers apparently using better location

technology, but misusing available topographic landmarks, while attempting to more accurately describe site locations as these reports were copied and redrafted through time. The greatest error apparently arose from attempts to locate the DjOo31 cabin site near the *west branch* of Gros Ventre Creek, rather than near the *east branch* of Gros Ventre Creek where DjOo31 is actually situated. Last but not least, the forest cover and deadfall density have greatly increased over the past forty years, further obscuring visible evidence and making current site re-location in this locale much more difficult for all concerned.

With regard to the foregoing, this reporter respectfully notes:

DjOo31 (cabins A-F). Despite the published references, erroneous attempts were apparently made through the years to relocate cabins within this site near the west branch of Gros Ventre Creek. In fact, the cabins are mainly located on both sides of the *east branch* of Gros Ventre Creek (see pp.6, DjOo120 excavation area map -- Fig. 3 in referenced thesis). The creek orientation is clearly defined on the map. Also, cabins A, B & E were left open after excavation as per the landowner's instructions. Subsequent cattle activity, weathering and reforestation have erased the surface evidence for these particular cabins over the past forty years. Future investigators should refer to the above noted published references and particularly to the Fig. 3 excavation area map for cabins A, B, D, E locations and descriptions.

An attempt to inspect DjOo31 cabins C & F north & east of the *east branch* of Gros Ventre Creek (indirectly referenced on pp.6, Fig. 3 excavation area map) was moderately successful. Although the site survey report data for these cabins is missing, visible evidence for at least one of the two cabins was relocated with the advise and assistance of the current land owner Sheila Kajewski. Sheila's information came from her late father Lawrence. Both Bonnicksen and this reporter relied on Lawrence for assistance in originally locating many of the cabins, including the three excavated in 1967 & 1969. Test excavations are needed to confirm the visual evidence of cabins C, D & F.

Another, different DjOo31 site report was also sent to me, (see pps. 7-10, DjOo31/permit no. 2002-081 file and site map) classed as indigenous historic, but clearly described as a prehistoric site. This latter report is located near the west branch of Gros Ventre Creek, very near the prehistoric DjOo13 East Kajewski Site. The confusion appears to have arisen from the various earnest but erroneous attempts to locate DjOo31 near the west branch of Gros Ventre Creek, perhaps due to the variety of site report versions produced through time. This latter report may simply be an accidentally transposed site number, or part of DjOo13, or another prehistoric site near DjOo13.

The reporter recommends the provincial Archaeological Survey re-designate the preceding DjOo31 cabin site back to DjOo120. This would serve several purposes and resolve the administrative file duplication. Re-designating the DjOo31 cabin site as DjOo120 would maintain record-keeping continuity between the extant primary published references, catalogued artifacts and site survey reports for this particular cluster of cabins (A-F). At the same time, the different, second, latter report could remain filed & classed as a DjOo31 prehistoric site report, at

least until such time as future research accurately determines the file & map accuracy, provenance and description. At least then the existing 2002-081 site map would offer believable accuracy as drafted.

DjOo33 (cabins A-B). No attempt was made to inspect these cabins. The entire site survey report is missing, making relocation very difficult under present circumstances. My referenced thesis indicates the cabins are somewhere on the west branch of Gros Ventre Creek, 500 to 600 yards south of the Kajewski-Park boundary fence (inside the park).

DjOo34 (cabins A-E). The site was correctly located originally just inside the SW corner of the Kajewski quarter section property, but upon inspection appears to have been destroyed by a bulldozer cutting a fire guard along the south and west Kajewski boundary fences during the intervening time. The fire guard was cut approx. 10 m. wide x 30-50 cm. deep to the clay/gravel subsoil, with the spoil piled approx. 2 m. high x 10 m. dia. near the fence corner on/at the former site location. No artifacts or site features were found by this reporter.

DjOo35 (cabins A-B). The original site location is essentially correct, although directions for the site & cabins could be improved. Visual evidence for two cabins appears to be situated wholly within the Brown property approx. 10 yds. north of the east-west park boundary fence and approximately 250-300 yds. yards west from the intersecting Kajewski-Brown-Park fence corner (e.g. SW corner of the Kajewski property). Park I.D. signs along the east-west fence can be used as markers to estimate distances west to the two cabins. Other mounds and pits (not previously recorded) were also seen by this reporter near the fence in the area. Test excavations are needed to verify any and all of the visual evidence in this area as cabins.

DjOo36 (cabins A-D). The original reported descriptions and directions for this site are correct. The cabins are a short distance south of the east-west park boundary fence dividing Sec.16, and a short distance east of the north-south range fence along the west side of Sec.16. The site is protected by being in a remote location wholly within the park. The reporter also recalls the visual evidence originally reported as being relatively well-defined, identifiable and easy to see. Test excavations are again needed to verify the visual evidence as cabins.

The report ends with the hope the information provided is helpful in clarifying the cabin site locations. **The reporter recommends** that the permanent site survey files be amended as noted for future reference by researchers and others such as the land owner and the Miywasin Society. This reporter, for one, would appreciate receiving amended copies. The foregoing circumstances might also offer a case study for the cross-agency transfer and file management of site survey reports within the province. As such, **the reporter recommends** that provincial agencies who

maintain site survey report data should always keep original handwritten field notes and reports as part of the permanent site files, as a record management priority.

Distribution:

Jack Brink, Curator of Archaeology, Royal Alberta Museum

Joan Damkar, Archaeological survey

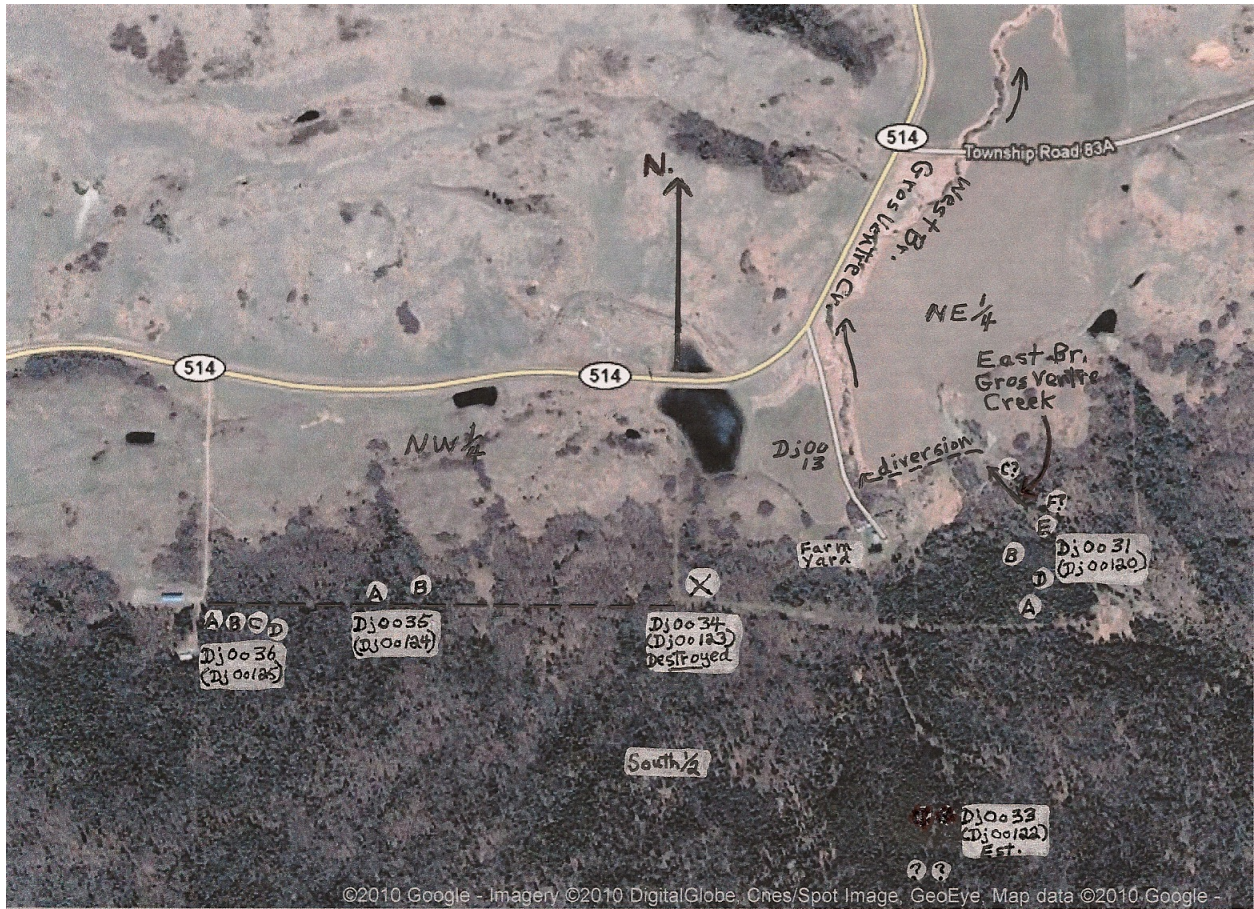
Martina Purdon, Archaeological survey

Gerald Oetalaar, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Calgary

Sheila Kajewski, Landowner

Jeannette Hansen, Executive Director, Miywasin Society of Medicine Hat

Guy L'Heureux, President, Local 2003, Métis Nation of Alberta



Kajewski Métis Cabin Sites
Sec. 16, Twp. 8, Rge. 3, W. of 4th.
Approx. Scale 1cm. = 60 yds.

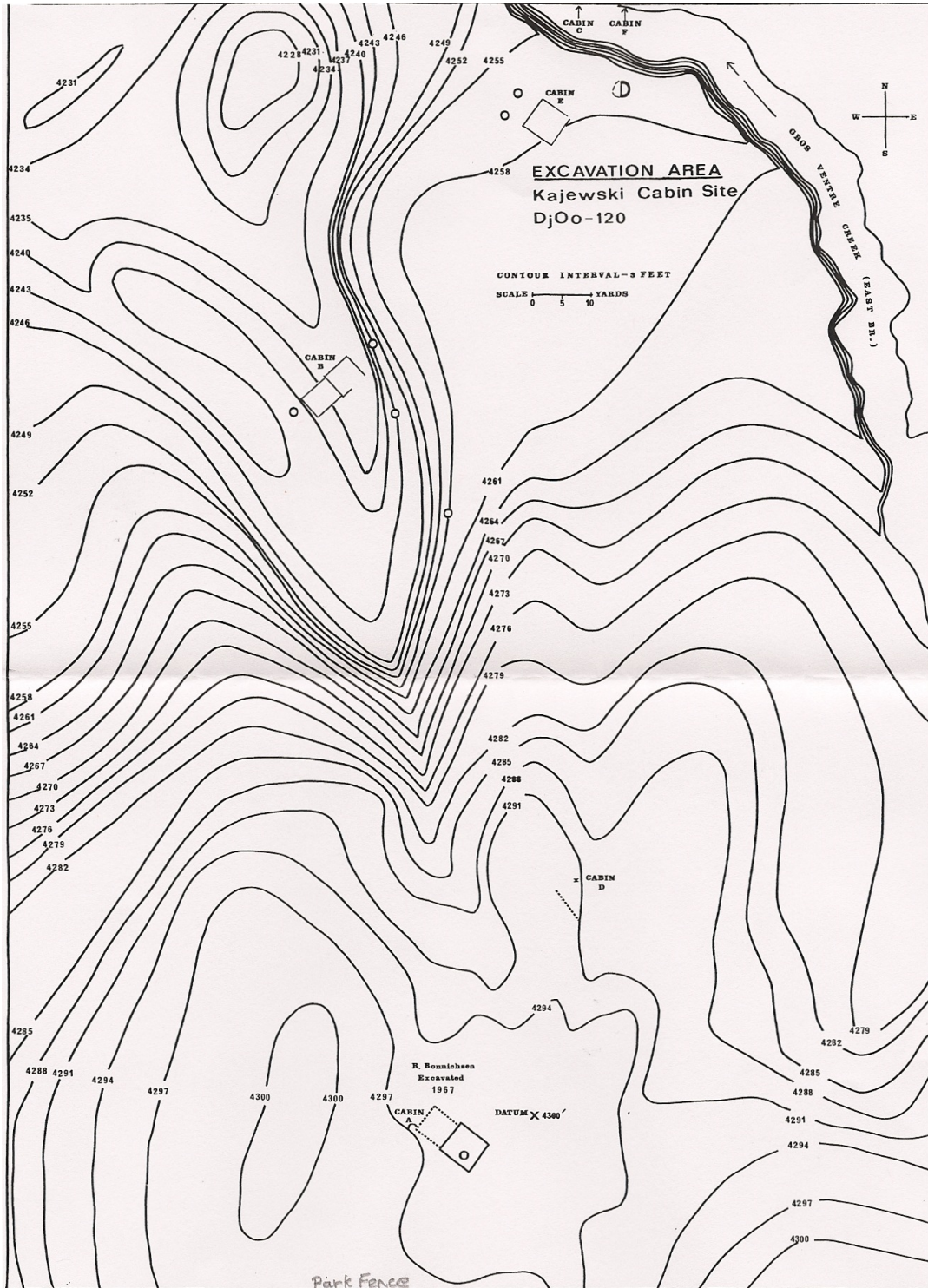


Figure 3.

ASA file

Same site ~~??~~
already assigned.



Archaeological Survey
Provincial Museum of Alberta

Borden No. DjOo-31
Permit No. 2002-081

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY DATA

Return to: Archaeological Inventory and Permit Coordinator
Archaeological Survey, 8820 - 112 St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2P8

Update/Revisit Date: 2002/07/04

1. Site Name Kajewski Cabin Site *Not correct* 2. Field No. Location J

3. Elevation 1215 masl 4. N.T.S. 1:50,000 Map No. & Name 72 E/9 Elkwater Lake

5. U.T.M. NAD 83 Zone 12U Easting 546942 Northing 5499822 GPS yes no
 U.T.M. NAD 27 Zone 12U Easting 547000 Northing 5499600

6. Legal Description: LSD 10 Section 16 Township 08 Range 03 W of 4 M

7. Land Owner Government of Canada Government of Alberta Municipal Government Freehold

Land Owner Name/Address Lawrence and Emma Kajewski
 Elkwater, Alberta
 T.O.J.1C0.....

8. Access (refer to highway, road number, trail, cardinal directions, landmarks, nearest settlement, distances)

Traveling south on Highway 41, turn east at Highway 514. Proceed approximately 7 km to the point where, after curving toward the south, Highway 514 begins to bear east again. The access road to the Kajewski ranch leads south from Highway 514 at this point. The stream which the site is described as being near appears to be located about 300 m along the access road, close to the Kajewski ranch house.

9. Site Environment/Setting (describe in terms of drainage, slope, aspect, vegetation, soil type, landforms)

The site was originally described as lying to the south of a small stream and about 30 yards above DjOo-13. This visit was restricted to the area associated with DjOo-13, a cultivated field lying to the north of the stream. This field is situated on the floor of the glacial meltwater channel that runs along the north side of the Cypress Hills. It remains under active cultivation, but the adjacent hills are vegetated with shortgrass species grading into aspen and spruce forest at higher elevations. In addition to the modern soil at the surface, the field has several buried dark bands that may represent previous episodes of soil formation in this location.

10. Site Class prehistoric indigenous historic historic contemporary undetermined

11. Sub Type surface subsurface underwater stratified undetermined single component multi component undetermined # components

12. Site Type isolated find quarry ranch school scatter (<10) rock art dwelling urban scatter (>10) burial trading post ceremonial/religious campsite palaeoenvironmental police post industrial stone feature settlement mine transportation killsite homestead trail Other... workshop farm mission

13. Features (frequencies if possible)

stone circle	medicine wheel	x	pit	x	structure	Other Features:
cairn	effigy	x	mound	x	foundation	
stone arc	pictograph	x	depression		cellar	
stone line	petroglyph	x	cabin		dump	
drive lane	x hearth		house		fence	

14. Description (spatial extent, patterning, density and variety of remains, diagnostics and exotic material, for historic archaeological sites provide details regarding site ownership, origins, function and context)

The original site form for DjOo-31 describes it as lying to the south of a small stream and about 30 yards above DjOo-13. However, this visit was restricted to the area that appears to be associated with DjOo-13, a prehistoric site that was identified in a cultivated field located further north. On this visit, the surface of the cultivated field contained scattered lithic debitage and fire broken rock. The field was also tested for subsurface material using an auger with a 9 cm diameter bucket head for sediment retrieval. Two auger tests were conducted and yielded a small quantity of fire cracked rock, lithic debitage and faunal material. Because no historic artifacts were found and no signs of the structures and pits associated with DjOo-31 were detected, it seems likely that the material observed and collected from the cultivated field during this visit is associated with DjOo-13. This patterning suggests that DjOo-13 extends further to the north and west than indicated by its original UTM coordinates, while DjOo-31, which shares these coordinates, may be focused further south, in the slightly more elevated terrain at the base of the adjacent hills.

NB

15. Materials observed /collected (frequencies if possible)

observed / collected	observed / collected	observed / collected
projectile points	faunal remains	shell
lithic tools	human remains	metal
lithic debitage	floral remains	glass
bone tools	tephra	other, specify
ceramics	soil samples	
fire cracked rock	macrofossils	
charcoal	wood	

16. Collection Remarks (formed tools, raw materials,)

Because the lithic debitage, fire cracked rock and faunal material observed on the surface and recovered by the auger tests in the cultivated field appear more likely to be associated with DjOo-13, it is reported in a revisit form for that site.

17. Collection Repository Provincial Museum of Alberta, Archaeological Survey Private collection Other...

Dispositions File No.

18. Photo/Images yes no Repository

19. Culture Early Prehistoric Late Prehistoric Historic Other...
 Middle Prehistoric Fur Trade/Contact Undetermined

Cultural Affiliation (Complexes, phases, traditions, projectile point types, ethnographic & ethnic groups)

No diagnostic artifacts associated with DjOo-31 were observed or collected.

20. Calendar Date (A.D./B.C.) N/A

21. Radiocarbon Dates N/A

22. Estimated Dimensions N-S m, E-W m, Depth m

23. Means of Estimating Dimensions surface inspection Other... No. of shovel tests
 erosion exposure auger tests No. of backhoe tests

24. Estimated Portion Intact %

25. Disturbance Factors (natural, human, current, potential)

Will current development impact site yes no unknown

Type of Disturbance

agriculture road/highway coal mine transmission line industrial area Other...
 pipeline gravel/sand pit oil sands reservoir vandalism
 wellsite residential area forestry recreation area erosion

Disturbance Factors Remarks

The construction of buildings associated with the Kajewski ranch, as well as the access road leading to the Kajewski ranch house, may have resulted in some disturbance to the site. Additionally, the fact that much of the surrounding area continues to be cultivated suggests that any portion of DjOo-31 falling within this cultivated area is likely to have been disturbed.

26. Researcher/Permit Holder Elizabeth C. Robertson Date (Y/M/D) 2002/05/16

27. Observed by Elizabeth C. Robertson Date (Y/M/D) 2002/06/28 to 07/04

28. Surface collected by Date (Y/M/D)

29. Tested/assessed by Elizabeth C. Robertson Date (Y/M/D) 2002/06/28 to 07/04

30. Excavated/mitigated by Date (Y/M/D)

31. Form completed by Elizabeth C. Robertson Date (Y/M/D) 2003/1/27

32. Project name/Report Title

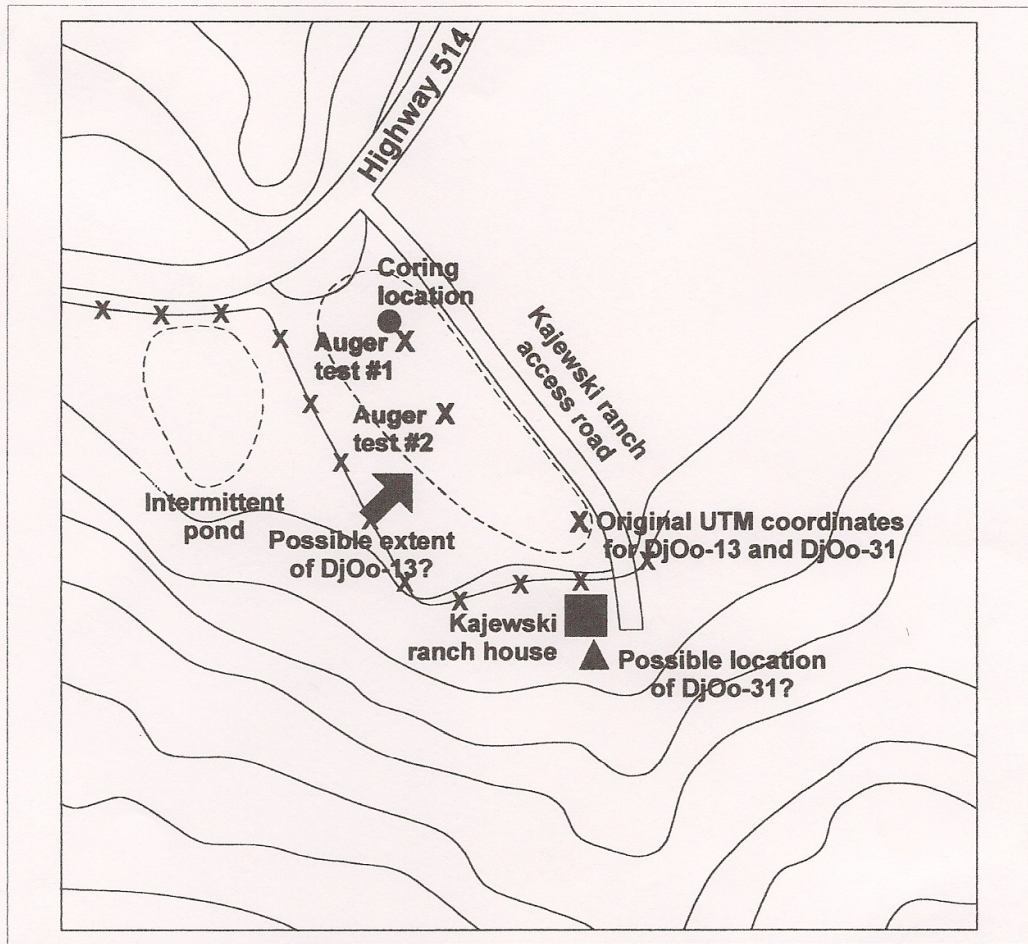
33. Site Significance/Recommendations no additional investigation required (justify):
 additional investigation required (specify):

The site area does not appear to be threatened by activities that will result in significant disturbance, suggesting that additional investigation is not necessary at this time.

34. Additional Remarks

Because the visit was restricted to the cultivated field which appears to be more closely associated with DjOo-13, it was not possible to look for, locate and assess the condition of DjOo-31. For this reason, the information provided in this form is not complete.

because DjOo 31 is not in this location!



N.T.S. 1:50,000 Map Inset

Map No.: 72 E/9 Elkwater Lake

Legend

