THE BALD KNOLL MINERAL LEASE SURVEY

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Utah State Project No. U-93-IG-497p

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This report documents the results of an archeological survey of 40 acres of land in the NW¼, NW¼ of Sec. 16, T40S, R5W in Kane Co., Utah. The survey was conducted by Intersearch, Inc. for Mr. Andrew Edwards of Kanab, who proposes to conduct a strip mining operation under the conditions of State Mineral Lease #45-962 (S/025/012), on private land owned by Trevor Kenneth and William Leech. Dr. Richard A. Thompson served as the Principal Investigator for the project, while Barbara A. Walling conducted the fieldwork on September 26, 1993, with the aid of Barry Frank. The survey was carried out under the authorization of Utah State Antiquities Permit and Project No. U-93-IG-497p.

Records searched conducted at the Utah State Historic Preservation Office indicated that one archeological survey conducted for Utah International in 1980 by Carl Hilbert overlapped the eastern edge of the present project area, and that two prehistoric sites, 42Ka2123 and 42Ka2124, might be located within the proposed mining area. In addition, 42Ka1318 was definitely located in the survey area, but no significant paleontological localities were recorded for the acreage.

The project area is located in the Upper Sonoran life zone and the elevation ranges from 6800 ft. to 6881 ft. Pinyon-juniper woodland and open sage areas make up the dominant vegetation, along with scrub oak also observed in the low ridge and small valley topography of the Skutumpah Terrace. The soil throughout the area was generally residual sand containing up to 20% gravels in some areas. In general, the area is undisturbed except for natural erosive forces and the location of dirt roads along the northern and western edges. Some previously conducted mining activities and road construction have minimally impacted the northern edge of the 40 acre parcel.

The project area was intensively surveyed by walking a series of 15 m. wide, contiguous, parallel transects from east to west. 42Ka1318 was relocated and rerecorded on an IMACS form, while 42Ka2123 and 42Ka2124 were not found within the project area. In addition, a new site, 42Ka3981, and four prehistoric isolates were also recorded.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS:

42KA1318: This site is a large, diffuse lithic and ground stone scatter covering a 14,287 sq. m. area at an average elevation of 6880 ft. It is located in the NW¼, NW¼, NW¼ of Sec. 16, T40S, R5W. The site is located in

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the pinyon-juniper woodland on a low ridge, and associated understory vegetation included low sage and scrub oak. A number of quartzite cobble and cobble fragment lithic tools, including abrading stones, scrapers, and edge pounders were noted along with biface fragments and tool fragments. Observed ground stone tools included a complete mano, a mano fragment and a complete tabular sandstone grinding slab.

The cultural debris suggests that this was a seasonally occupied camp site where food collecting and processing, lithic tool production and maintenance and hunting activities were occurring. The amount of material suggests that this site was repeatedly used during the prehistoric past, while the lack of diagnostics makes it impossible to assign a precise cultural affiliation. The generally sandy nature of the ridge soil may contain intact cultural deposits which could aid in answering questions about prehistoric use of the area, thus this site is judged to be significant, and eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

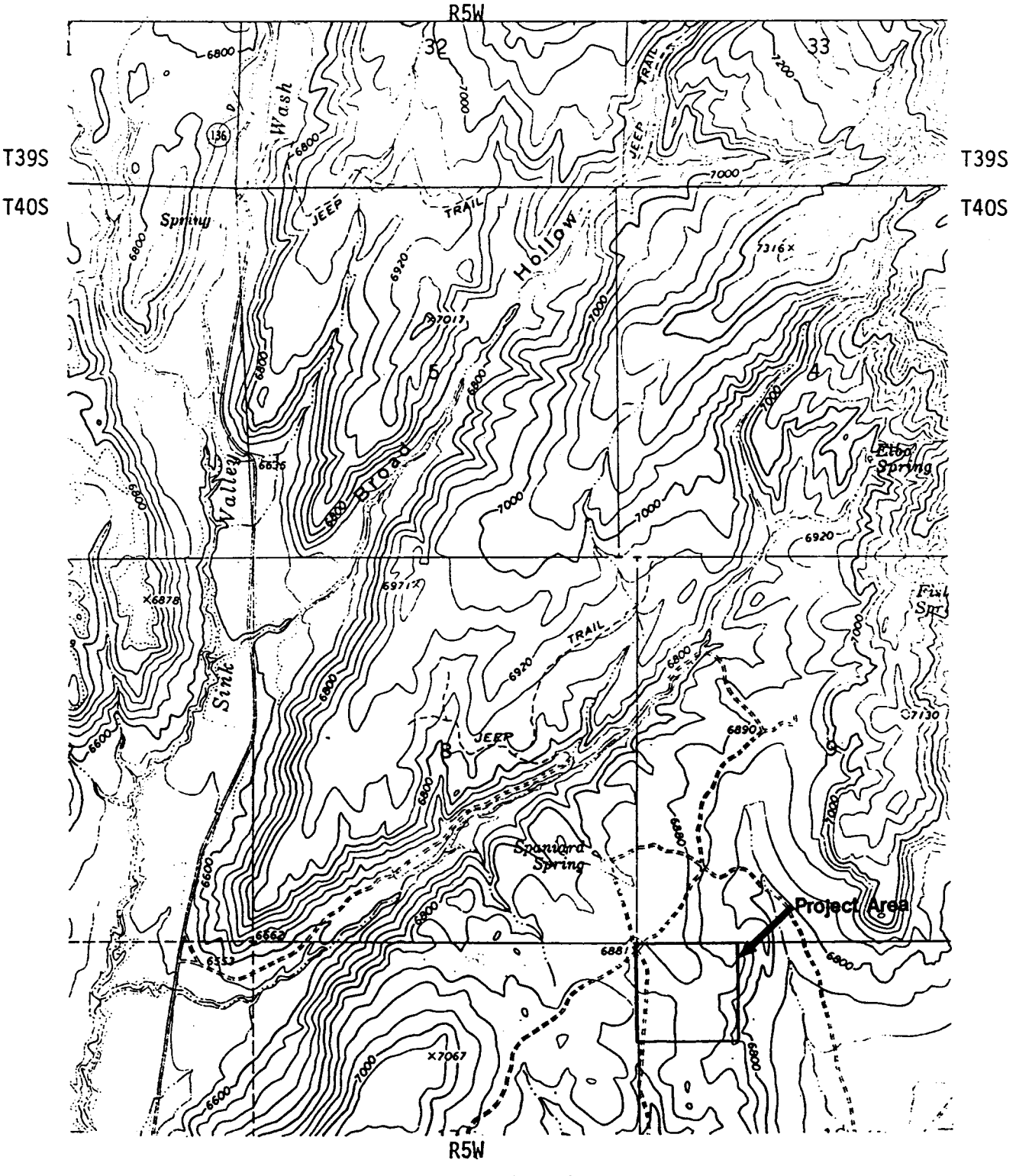
42Ka3981: This is a small dispersed lithic debitage scatter located on the southerly facing slope and base of a low ridge, at the edge of the pinyon-juniper forest. It is located in the NE¼, NW¼, NW¼ of Sec. 16, T40S, R5W at an average elevation of 6840 ft., and associated sparse understory vegetation was made up of low sage. The soil was generally sandy. The lithic debris consisted of mainly chert and jasper secondary and tertiary flakes, along with a few pieces of obsidian debitage. Lithic tools included a biface base fragment, an unifacially retouched flake, an abrading stone and a quartzite cobble fragment scraper.

The cultural debris suggests that this was a small seasonally occupied prehistoric camp site where tool production, maintenance and food processing activities were occurring. The generally sparse amount of material implies a limited, short duration, use by prehistoric inhabitants of the region, while the lack of diagnostic artifacts makes it impossible to place the site chronologically. The apparent surface nature of the site and the sparse concentration of cultural materials recommends it as a non-significant cultural resource, ineligible for inclusion in the National Register.

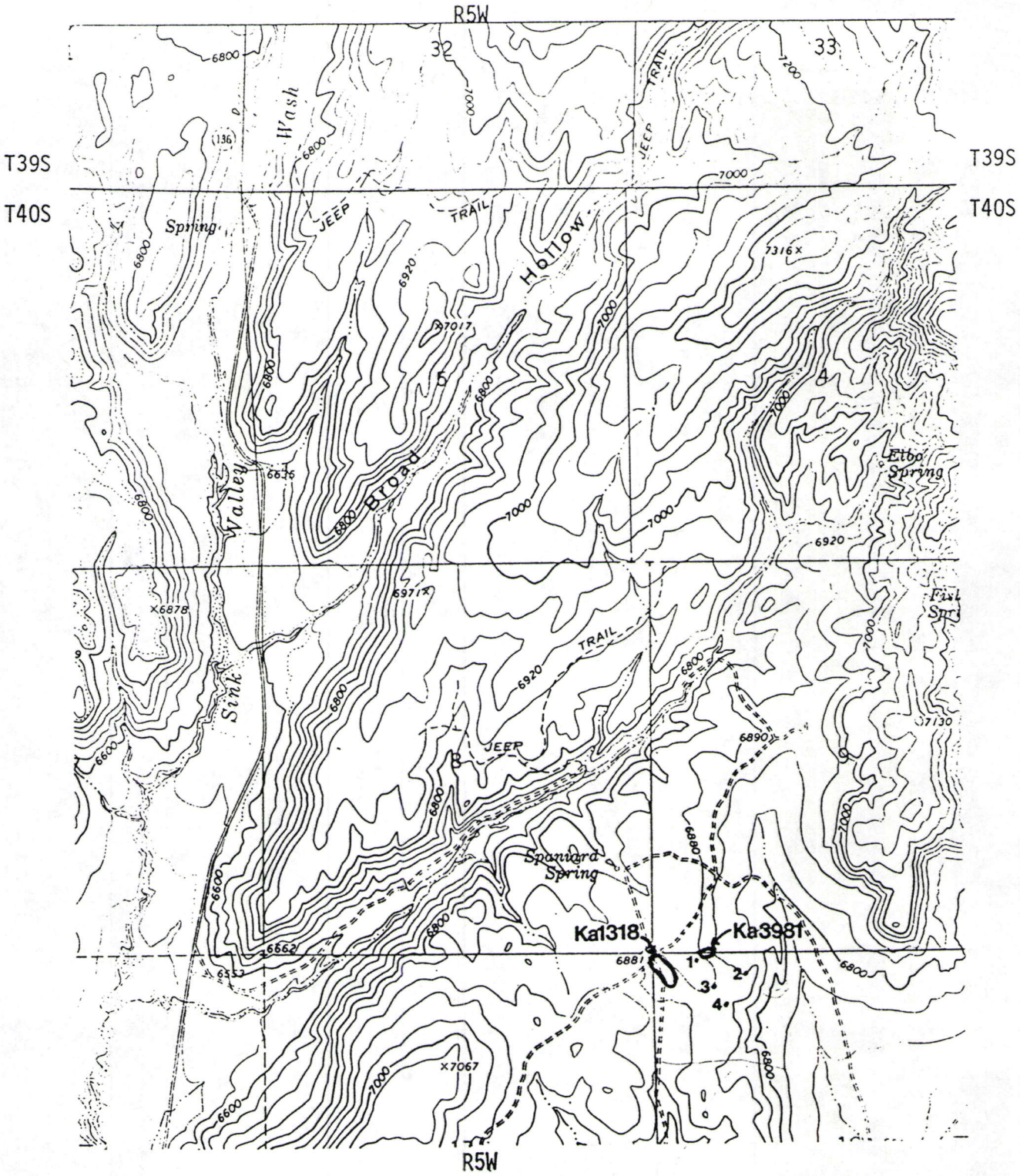
Four prehistoric isolates were also noted in the project area. Isolate #1 was a white chert secondary flake, Isolate #2 consisted of two white chert secondary flakes, Isolate #3 was a brown chert secondary flake, while Isolate #4 consists of three white chert secondary flakes seen in a 10 m. area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

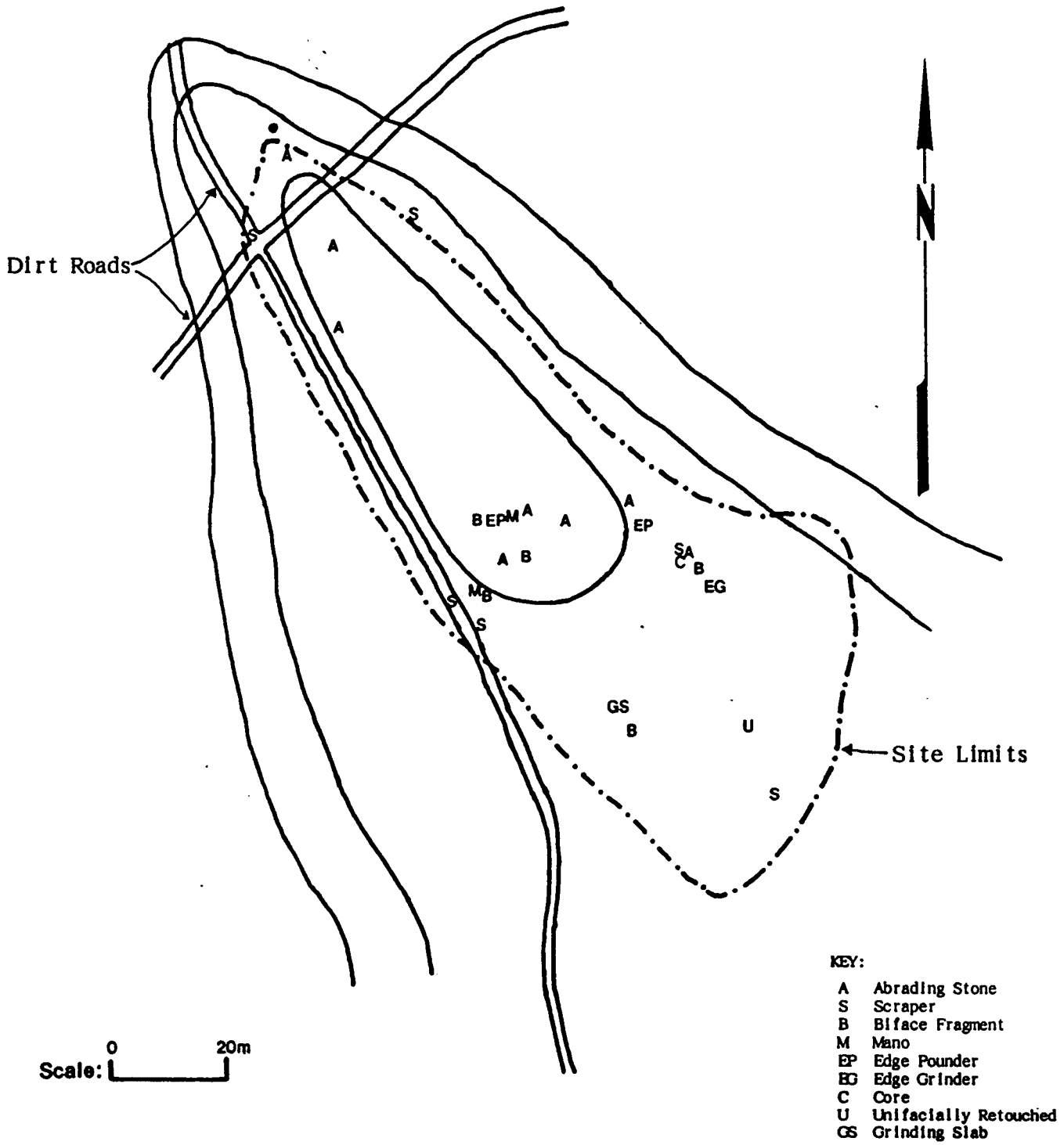
42Ka1318 has been judged to be a significant cultural resource, while 42Ka 3981 was deemed to be a non-significant site. A consultation with the contractor, Mr. Andrew Edwards, informed us that the majority of the strip mining activities would occur in the southern and southeastern part of the 40 acre project area, off the site areas. It was suggested that both sites, but particularly 42Ka1318, could be avoided by the mining operations, and to this end the site boundaries were flagged. Mr. Edwards agreed to this stipulation, and thus the project can proceed as planned without impacting the cultural resource base.



USGS Bald Knoll 7½' (1966)
Edwards-Bald Knoll Mineral Lease Project Area



USGS Bald Knoll 7½' (1966)
Edwards-Bald Knoll Mineral Lease Project
Site and Prehistoric Isolate Locations

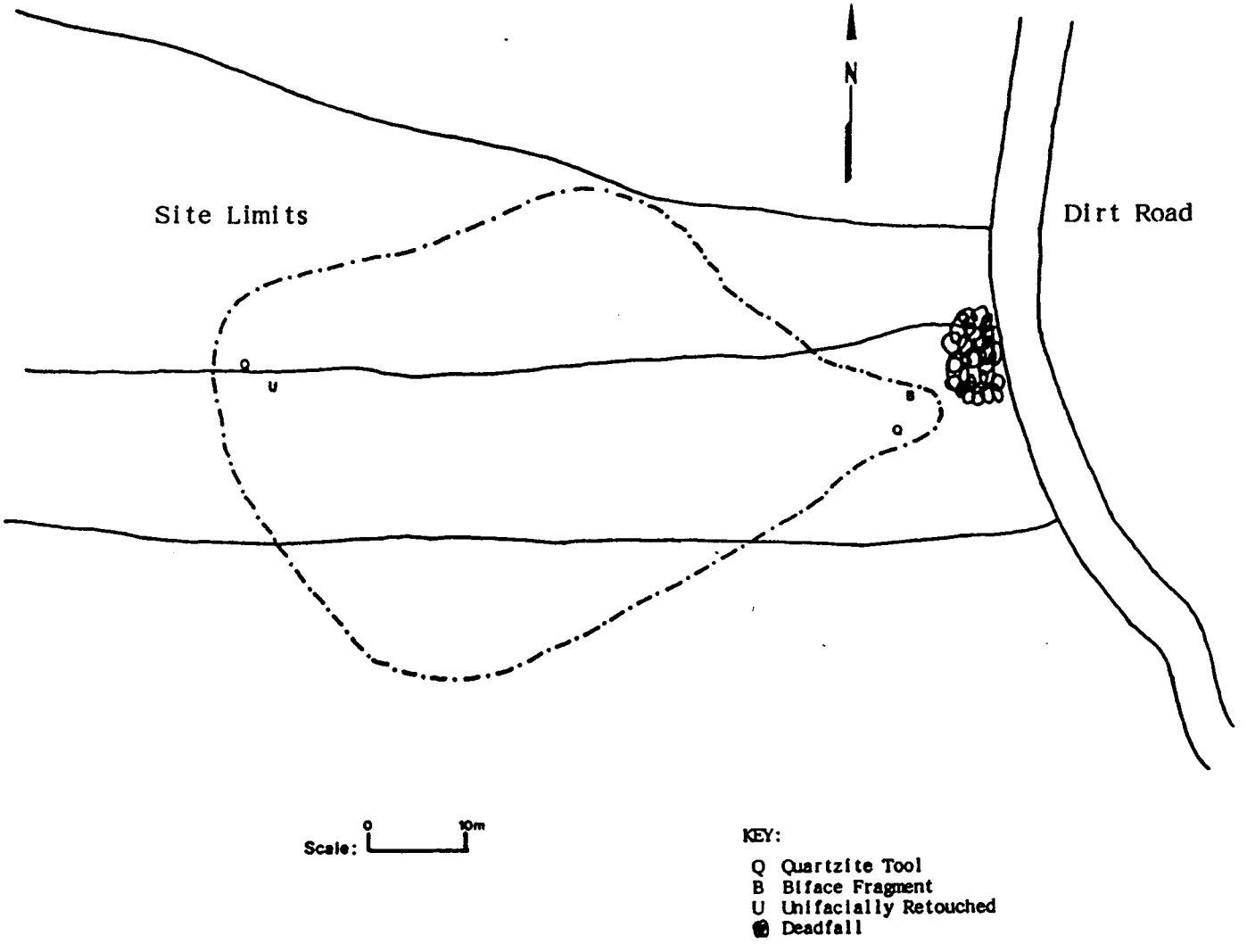


Scale Sketch Map of 42Ka1318

Facing SSE. Looking from the north end of the site, road on the right.

Facing NNW. From the central area of the site, looking north.

Facing SSW. Looking down the ridge slope, road is on the right.



Scale Sketch Map of 42Ka3981

Facing E. Overview of the site, looking at an open area.

Facing S. Overview of the site in the pinyon-juniper.