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## PVN Op 602-Excavation Report

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## Site 602

Site 602 occupies the edge of a high terrace overlooking the Rio Chamelecon about 0.5m to the south. Site 202 (Las Canoas) is 2.75km to the northeast. Overall, Site 602 encompasses about 5,000m<sup>2</sup> and consists of 22 surface-visible platforms ranging in height from 0.5m to 4m. The largest edifices (Strs. 602-1, 12, 15, and 22) surround Plaza 1, an open area that measures 338m<sup>2</sup> and which they enclose on all sides. Plaza2, encompassing 182m<sup>2</sup>, lies immediately east of Str. 602-15, this one bordered by Strs. 602-3, 4, 19, 20, and 15. The remaining buildings are scattered north, west, and south off these patio focused groups. Digging here from April 13-29, 2004 under the direction of A. Novotny resulted in the clearing of 22m<sup>2</sup> on and around Strs. 602-1 through -5. Because of time limitations, these investigations were limited primarily to uncovering the basal facings on one or two sides of each edifice in order to secure artifacts clearly associated with the building's use. It was hoped that these materials would be helpful in providing at least preliminary dates for the final construction phase and the some idea of the activities pursued in the environs of each structure.

### Structure 602-1

Structure 602-1 is a sizable platform the closes off the south side of Plaza 1. Structure 602-22, which borders the patio on the west, is 5.5m to the northwest while Str. 602-15, on the plaza's east side, is 13.5m to the northeast. Digging here within Subop 602A near the center of the edifice's east side uncovered 4m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to 1.05m<sup>2</sup> below modern ground surface. One major construction stage was recognized in the course of this work.

### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 602-1-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1	-	-	
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 602-1-1<sup>st</sup>'s vicinity is the deposition of a reddish orange soil that contains numerous stones (S.2). No cultural materials were retrieved from S.2.

### Time Span 2

The sole element of Str. 602-1-1<sup>st</sup> that was uncovered is its east basal wall (U.1). Unit 1 is a 0.29m-tall facing that was exposed for 1m over which distance it was aligned ca. 16 degrees. The wall was constructed of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Most likely this construction fronted a terrace or set of terraces that ascended to the summit further to the west. Those putative risers were not exposed in the course of our research.

### Time Span 3

Following Str. 602-1-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment it was largely covered by the deposition of a dark brown soil (S.1). Embedded in S.1 was a dense collection of rocks (F.1) that fell from final-phase architecture. Feature 1 was especially concentrated within 1m of U.1, thereby adding to the difficulty experienced in recognizing that wall.

### Structure 602-2

Structure 602-2 is 4m south/southeast of Str. 602-1, just off the southeast corner of Plaza 1. Digging here near the center of the building's north side within Subop. 602C uncovered 4m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to maximum depths of 1.1m and 0.66m below modern ground surface within and beyond architecture, respectively. One construction phase was recognized in the course of this work.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	-	-	S.3	F.2	
3	-	-	S.2	-	
4	Str. 602-2-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-5	-	-	
5	-	-	S.1	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The first activity revealed in Subop. 602C is the laying down of at least 0.13m of a dark yellow-brown (10YR 4/4) soil (S.4) that is culturally sterile. Stratum 4's base was not encountered. This earth was exposed in a 1x1m area north of Str. 602-2-1<sup>st</sup> over which distance it maintained a relatively flat upper surface.

### Time Span 2

Stratum 4 was buried now by 0.05-0.12m of a light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4 to 10YR 5/4) coarse-textured, sandy soil (S.3). Possibly associated with S.3's deposition is what seems to have been a trash deposit (F.2) that contains a high concentration of artifacts set in a matrix that closely resembles S.3. Feature 2 was revealed beneath TS.4 architecture (U.1-5) where it rises 0.26m over an observed distance of 1.74m from north-to-south. Though F.2 and S.3 were not connected during excavations, the similarity of their soils and comparable stratigraphic positions suggests that they are roughly contemporary. If this interpretation is correct, it appears that what would become the site of Str. 602-2-1<sup>st</sup> was originally used as a dumping ground for debris that likely accumulated nearby, possibly in Plaza 1.

### Time Span 3

During this interval 0.14-0.22m of a brown (10YR 4/3) soil containing pebbles (S.2) was laid down atop S.3. Cultural material continued to be found in S.2, suggesting that human occupation in the area persisted from TS.2. The relation of S.2 to F.2 was apparently disrupted by the construction of Str. 602-2-1<sup>st</sup> during the succeeding period.

### Time Span 4

The north face of Str. 602-2-1<sup>st</sup> was ascended by four stone-faced, earth-surfaced terraces (U.1-4). Unit 1, the basal riser, is 0.16m high by 0.6m wide. It terminates on the south at U.2 which projects a scant 0.07m above U.1. Unit 2 runs 0.74m back to the south where it ends in U.3. The latter stands 0.16m tall and measures 0.63m across. The final ascent identified in Subop. 602C is U.4, a 0.17m-high riser that gives way to an inferred earthen surface that continues for at least 1.11m to the south. Most likely this latter surface is Str. 602-2-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit. The aforementioned risers are underlain by a fill composed of a soil (U.5) that is identical to that recorded for S.3. Most likely the latter earth was the source for U.5.

By the end of TS.4, Str. 602-2-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood 0.56m tall on the north and was aligned about 105 degrees. The north face was ascended by four stone-faced terraces that rose in increments of 0.07-0.17 to an earthen-floored summit. The terraces are 0.6-0.74m wide. All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river cobbles that are set in a mud mortar. The basal riser, U.1, was made using stone slabs.

### Time Span 5

Following Str. 602-2-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment as much as 0.21m of a brown (10YR 4/3) hard-compacted, fine-textured, sandy soil (S.1) formed atop S.2. Stratum 1 covered all of the construction uncovered in Subop. 602C. Embedded in S.1 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture.

### Structure 602-3

Structure 602-3 is a relatively small building that is about 16m east of Str. 602-2 and about 3m south of Str. 602-15, the large platform that is shared by Plazas 1 and 2. Together with Str. 602-4, which lies 4m to the east, Str. 602-3 closes off the south side of Plaza 2. Digging here in Subop. 602D on the building's west side cleared 5m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to a maximum depth of 1.04m below modern ground surface. One construction episode was identified in the course of this research.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	

2	Str. 602-3-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1	-	-
3	-	-	S.1-2	F.1

Time Span 1

During this interval a reddish-orange soil containing numerous small rocks (S.3) was laid down. No cultural materials were retrieved from this earth nor was its base encountered.

Time Span 2

What appears to have been the northwest basal riser (U.1) of Str. 602-3-1<sup>st</sup> was uncovered in Subop. 602D. Unit 1 was preserved to a height of 0.29m and was oriented approximately 40 degrees. This wall, fashioned of large river cobbles, likely originally gave way to risers leading towards the summit. The latter were not revealed. It appeared from the large number of stones that had fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1, TS.3) that constructions above U.1 were not well preserved. Unit 1's rocks were set in a mud mortar and had their flatter aspects directed outwards to the northwest.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 602-3-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment the building was largely submerged beneath the deposition of a dark brown soil (S.2). Stratum 2 was, in turn, covered by about 0.1m of a lighter brown humus horizon. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a dense concentration of rocks, almost exclusively river cobbles (F.1), that almost certainly tumbled from TS.2 construction.

Structure 602-4

Structure 602-4 is 4m east of Str. 602-3 and 4m southwest of Str. 602-20, which closes off the southeast corner of Plaza 2. Structures 602-3 and -4 define the south side of Plaza 2. The building was investigated by excavating 4m<sup>2</sup> within Subop 602E against the building's east side. Digging reached a maximum depth of 0.69m below modern ground surface east of construction. One building episode, along with evidence of a construction (Str. 602-Sub1) that was not identified prior to excavation, were recorded in the course of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.3	-	
2	Str. 602-4-1 <sup>st</sup> Str. 602-Sub1	U.1 U.2	-	-	
3	-	-	S.1-2	F.1	

### Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.34m of a hard-compacted, dark yellow-brown (10YR 4/4) soil that contains many small white rock fragments (S.3) was laid down (its base was not encountered). Stratum 3 was exposed in two discontinuous segments spaced 2m apart. Putting the evidence from these observations together, S.3 rose 0.28m over 2.2m from east-to-west. No cultural materials were retrieved from this stratum.

### Time Span 2

At this time Str. 602-4-1<sup>st</sup> was faced on the east by a basal riser (U.1) that stood 0.47m tall and was oriented ca. 330 degrees. The exposed 1m of U.1 was composed of about equal parts river cobbles and roughly shaped white tuff stones. All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar and their flatter aspects are directed outwards. Most likely this wall was the first in a sequence leading to Str. 602-4-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit. We did not expose these putative upper constructions.

Structure 602-Sub1 is 2.76m east of U.1 and is represented by a grouping of river cobbles set in an arc (U.2) that is open to the west towards Str. 602-4-1<sup>st</sup>. Unit 2 is 0.15m (one stone) high by 0.46m wide and measures 1m across its exposed western open face. The arc's interior is 0.35m deep (from west-to-east) at its widest exposed point where it measures 1m across north-south. Excavation was not pursued deeply enough on the west to determine if U.2 was originally part of a complete circle. If it was, that circle would have measured about 1.5m across. Structure 602-Sub1 rests on S.3. In fact, it seems that S.3 was cut into about 0.1m to accommodate the U.2 rocks which are set directly on that soil. Two large fragments of rims from ceramic vessels were found in the area delimited by U.2, one of the sherds showing signs of reheating. It may be that U.2 was part of a facility for firing ceramics, using the aforementioned rims as potstands that would have supported vessels during the heating process. The exposed portion of S.3 might have provided a hard surface that could have withstood the high temperatures reached in the firing process.

### Time Span 3

Following the abandonment of Strs. 602-4-1<sup>st</sup> and 602-Sub1, 0.28-0.44m of a coarse-textured, brown (7/5YR 4/4) soil containing numerous small white and orange inclusions (S.2) accumulated atop S.3, U.1 and 2. A moderately fine-textured, soft-compacted, brown (10YR 4/3) humus (S.1) formed atop S.2 to a thickness of 0.04-0.08m. Embedded in S.1, and especially S.2, is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that fell from Str. 602-4-1<sup>st</sup>'s TS.2 architecture.

### Structure 602-5

Structure 602-5 is 4m southwest of Str. 602-2, 9.5m south of Str. 602-1 on the crest of the river terrace which drops off markedly to the south towards the Rio Chamelecon. Suboperation 602F was divided into two distinct segments, a 1x3m trench that exposed the platform's east basal wall while 2m to the west a 1x2m segment of the suboperation uncovered its western facing (5m<sup>2</sup> cleared in all).

Digging here reached a maximum depth of 0.57m below modern ground surface beyond architecture. One principal building episode was identified in the course of this work.

### Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.3	-	
2	-	-	S.2	-	
3	Str. 602-5-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-4	-	-	
4	-	-	S.1-2	F.1	

### Time Span 1

Stratum 3, a brown (10YR 4/3 to 7.5YR 4/3) soil that contains a high concentration of small orange, white, and blue-tinged rocks, accumulated to a depth of at least 0.18m during this interval. The base of this layer was not encountered. No cultural materials were retrieved from S.3.

### Time Span 2

About 0.14m of a moderately fine-textured, brown (10YR 4/3-10YR 4/2) soil (S.2) was laid down now atop S.3. As S.2 continued to accumulate in TS.4 it is difficult to determine how much of this earth was deposited during this episode. The estimate given here is based on the disposition of TS.3 architecture and debris that fell from those constructions (F.1, TS.4).

### Time Span 3

Structure 602-5-1<sup>st</sup> is a 0.4m-tall platform that is oriented roughly north-south and measured 3.5m east-west. The building is delimited on the east by a stone-faced riser (U.2) that ascend 0.4m directly to the summit. Unit 1, a 0.2m-tall wall, projects 0.62m east of U.2 and likely was a step or terrace that fronted the building on this side. The surface of this terrace is covered with a white plaster floor that is underlain by a cobble subfloor (all include in U.3). Unit 3 is as much as 0.14m thick; U.2 protrudes at least 0.15m above U.3. On the west, Str. 602-5-1<sup>st</sup> is fronted by a 0.15m-tall riser (U.4). Unit 4 is at least 0.6m wide east-west. We do not know how the building's west flank was faced above this point. Units 1 and 4 were fashioned primarily of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The 1m-wide portion of U.2 that we uncovered was made almost entirely of faced stones, most likely tuff. All the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 4

Stratum 2 resumed accumulating after Str. 602-5-1<sup>st</sup> was abandoned, roughly 0.13m of this earth being laid down now. A 0.02-0.24m-thick layer of coarse-textured, loosely compacted, very dark gray-brown (10YR 3/2) soil (S.1) formed atop S.2 in the course of this interval. Embedded in S.1 and 2 are a few rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase construction as the building gradually fell apart.