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## PVC Op 52 Excavation Report

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## Operation 52

Operation 52 consists of 30 constructions located immediate east of El Coyote's monumental site core. These buildings occupy an eastern projection of the high terrace that supports most of El Coyote, the ground dropping off precipitously to the south, east, and north. In fact, much of the Op. 52 architecture was mapped as terraces located along the edge of the upper slope's descent. No clear patio groups were identified while mapping in Op. 52. The ground here rises up relatively steeply from all sides, save the west, to the terrace's summit. From there the terrain ascends more gradually from east to west, leveling out beneath the center's monumental core. Seven constructions were excavated here from March 29-April 27, 2004 under the direction of A. Haas. Fully 147m<sup>2</sup> was cleared in the course of this work. Digging in Op. 52 rarely reached greater depths than 0.28m below modern ground surface due to the presence of culturally sterile soils close to that surface.

## Structure 301

Structure 301 overlooks the precipitous descent on the terrace's south edge, 5m west of Str. 304 and 2.6m southeast of Str. 302. Fully 43m<sup>2</sup> was excavated here in Suboperations 52AA, AD, AG, and AH, resulting in the clearing of all of Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup> and its immediate environs. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.15m below modern ground surface; architectural fill was not investigated. One building phase 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. 301-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-8	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

## Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in the environs of Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup> was the deposition of at least 0.07m of a hard-compacted, reddish-brown soil containing a high density of small white flecks (S.2; the base of this layer was not encountered). Stratum 2 rises 0.05m over 1.6m west to east in the area it was exposed west of Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup>. This stratum seems to be part of a rocky soil that underlies the terrace summit and architecture; it looks to be culturally sterile wherever it is found.

## Time Span 2

Structure 301-1<sup>st</sup> is a 0.17-0.23m-tall platform that is defined by stone facings (U.1-4) on all sides, its top capped with a stone floor (U.8). It appears that the building's summit slopes up 0.16m from southwest to northeast across the 3.08m width of Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest face (U.1). There is no sign of any built-in furniture on the platform's summit nor does it look as though U.8 was enclosed by superstructure walls. Structure 301-1<sup>st</sup>'s northeast facing (U.4) runs at a different orientation (352

degrees) than do the other basal walls (339 degrees, U.2 on the southwest). As a result, the platform's width narrows from 3.08m across on the northwest (U.1) to 2.1m on the southeast (U.3). A stone-paved portico (U.5) is appended to Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup>'s northeast side. Unit 5 projects 1.75m northeast from the platform's east corner and measures 1.6m across northwest-southeast. The portico's northwest edge intersects U.4 at a point 1.8m south of the platform's north corner. Given the divergent orientation of U.4, the portico narrows to 0.95m across on its northwest margin. The construction of U.5 gives Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup> an 'L-shape,' the portico forming the figure's leg projecting to the northeast from the stem made up of the core platform. A stone-paved surface (U.6) extends 2m northeast of Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup>'s north corner. A gap of as much as 1.6m then intervenes between this prepared surface and another (U.7) lying to the northeast. Units 6 and 7 do not run parallel to each other. The former's northeast edge is aligned ca. 149 degrees while the southwest margin of U.7 is oriented roughly 117 degrees. These two flanks of U.6 and 7 meet in a point 2.6m northeast of Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup>'s north corner. They then diverge from each other for the 3.5m U.7 was traced and 2.5m U.6 was followed before digging ceased. By their southeast-most exposed points, U.6 and 7 are separated by 1.9m of unpaved, earthen surface.

As TS.2 drew to a close, Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced and –surfaced platform that stood 0.17-0.23m tall, measured 2.1-3.08m across (narrowing from northwest to southeast) by 3.35m northwest-southeast, and was aligned ca. 352 degrees (on the northeast) to 339 degrees (on the southwest). The summit was innocent of any built-in furniture, such as benches, and seems to have been left open on all sides. A stone-surfaced portico extends 0.95-1.75m northeast from the platform's east corner and covers 1.6m northwest-southeast. This construction narrows from southeast to northwest. A stone pavement was noted extending at least 2m northeast of Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup>'s north corner. Another stone surface lies northeast of this floor, the two constructions being oriented 149 and 117 degrees. The floors join at a point 2.6m northeast of the platform, progressively diverging from each other to the southeast. The full extents of these pavements were not determined. All of the constructions raised now were made primarily of cobbles set in a mud mortar. The rocks facing these walls generally have their flatter aspects directed outwards.

### Time Span 3

Following Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.15m of a moderately-fine-textured, dark brown sandy soil that contains numerous pebbles (S.1) was laid down. Embedded in S.1 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that fell from final-phase architecture.

### Structure 302

Structure 302 is 2.6m northwest of Str. 301 and 1.5m south of Str. 303 in the center of a cluster of diminutive constructions that covers 12x15m. These buildings are north and back from the steep southern descent from the upper terrace that supports most of El Coyote. Excavations here in Subop. 52AE uncovered 16m<sup>2</sup> in the course of clearing all of the building. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.25m below modern ground surface outside architecture. One construction phase was recognized in the course of this work.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 302-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-7	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

### Time Span 1

No more than 0.06m of a dark brown soil filled with small rocks (S.2) was uncovered in the base of excavation. Stratum 2's base was not found. This layer seems to be part of the pervasive rocky soil that is found at shallow depths throughout Op. 52.

### Time Span 2

Structure 302-1<sup>st</sup> is a quadrilateral platform with a deep, apparently intentional, indentation in its northwest face. The basal facings (U.1-4) ascend 0.2-0.35m to the summit. The latter is paved with stones (U.7) and was apparently left open on all sides. The aforementioned indentation (U.5) is 1.2m wide at its northwest terminus and 0.6m across at its southeast margin which is near the building's center, 1.5m southeast of the northwest facing (U.4). This narrowing is effected primarily by stepping in (northeast) U.5's southwest wall 0.6m at a point 0.45m southeast of the U.4 northwest facing. The creation of U.5 gave Str. 302-1<sup>st</sup> a 'U-shape,' U.5 breaching the northwest basal wall and comprising the open element. A stone pavement (U.6) joins Str. 302-1<sup>st</sup>'s southwest flank (U.3) at a point 0.15m southeast of the edifice's west corner, continuing 2.45m southward. Unit 6 projects 0.75m to 1.25m southwest of U.3, narrowing from southeast to northwest.

Structure 302-1<sup>st</sup> is a stone-faced and –surfaced platform that stands 0.2-0.35m tall, encompasses 2.8x3.24m (measured across its center), and is oriented roughly 343 degrees. The summit lacked built-in furniture and was probably left open. A 1.2m-wide by 1.5m deep indentation (U.5) penetrates the building's northwest face giving Str. 302-1<sup>st</sup> a 'U-shape.' Unit 5 narrows to 0.6m across at its base (southeast edge), in large part because the indentation's southwest side steps in (northeast) 0.6m slightly less than half way along U.5's northwest-southeast length. A stone surface adjoins the edifice's southwest flank (U.3). This floor extends for nearly the full length of the building's southwest side, measuring 2.45m northwest-southeast by 0.75-1.25m wide. All constructions raised during TS.2 were fashioned mostly of rounded river stones though a few angular rocks were noted scattered throughout the platform's facings. There was a tendency to direct outwards the flatter aspects of the rocks that are used to face these walls. All of the stones are set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 3

After Str. 302-1<sup>st</sup> was abandoned, 0.2m of a dark brown earth (S.1) was laid down over S.2 and much of Str. 302-1<sup>st</sup>'s architecture. A few scattered rocks that likely fell from the latter construction (F.1) were embedded in S.1.

### Structure 302A

Structure 302A is 0.25m northwest of Str. 302 and 0.6m west of Str. 303. This construction was not clearly distinct from either of its near neighbors when it was originally mapped and was included within Str. 302. After clearing 10m<sup>2</sup> in Subop. 52AJ, an extension of the excavations devoted to exposing Str. 303, it became apparent that what we had called Str. 302 actually consisted of two buildings. The northern member of the dyad was designated Str. 302A. Digging here revealed all of Str. 302A-1<sup>st</sup> and reached a maximum depth of 0.26m below modern ground surface outside architecture. One major building phase was noted in the course of these investigations.

### Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 302A-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-4	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The earliest activity documented in Str. 302A-1<sup>st</sup>'s vicinity is the deposition of at least 0.06m of a dark brown soil (S.2) that contains a high density of small rocks (S.2's base was not exposed). Stratum 2 maintained a relatively level upper surface over the 1.85m it was exposed running north-south under TS.2 architecture.

### Time Span 2

Structure 302A-1<sup>st</sup> has a roughly triangular shape with a blunted apex on the northeast. The 'leg' of this triangle (U.2) is the northwest basal wall. It is 3.1m long, oriented ca. 29 degrees. The base, U.3, extends 2.2m from its corner with U.2 at an angle of about 295 degrees; it terminates 0.1m shy of U.1, the 'hypotenuse'. The latter extends 2.45m along an azimuth of 353 degrees terminating on the northwest in U.4. This facing is the 'blunt apex' of the triangle, running 1m between U.1 and 2. These basal facings are 0.2m tall, their widths varying as follows: 0.35m (U.1), 1.1m (U.4), 0.65m (U.2), and 0.4m (U.3). Units 1-4 surround a central element (U.5) composed of densely packed rocks that are not integrated into the bordering walls. All of these constructions are made of about equal parts river-rounded stones and angular rocks. One faced block was found in TS.2 construction. The rocks are set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 3

Following Str. 302A-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment as much as 0.24m of a fine-textured, dark brown soil (S.1) was laid down atop S.2, covering most of final-phase architecture. Stratum 1 contains notably fewer stones than does S.2. A light concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely originated as parts of TS.2 construction was found incorporated in S.1.

### Structure 303

Structure 303 is 0.6m east of Str. 302A and 1.5m north of Str. 302. The land over which this building was raised is relatively flat, the steep descents to the Rio Cacaupala on the east and the lower terrace on the south are considerable distances away. The 13m<sup>2</sup> excavated in Subop. 52AJ cleared all of the edifice, digging being pursued to a maximum depth of 0.26m below modern ground surface outside architecture. One building phase was recorded in the course of this work.

### Time Span

<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. 303-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-8	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

### Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.06m of a dark brown soil that contains numerous small rocks (S.2) was laid down. It maintains a relatively level upper surface over the 1.85m it was revealed running north-south.

### Time Span 2

Structure 303-1<sup>st</sup> is a stone-faced platform that is bordered on all sides by basal walls (U.1, 3-6) that ascend 0.3m to the summit. The building's top is paved with stones (U.8). Units 4 and 5 delimit the building's northeast and southwest flanks. The southeast side is defined by U.1 and 3, these two wall segments separated by a 0.8m-wide (northeast-southwest) by 1.15m-deep (northwest-southeast) indentation (U.2) that nearly cuts through the platform's entire northwest-southeast width. One consequence of U.2's construction is to give Str. 303-1<sup>st</sup> a 'U-shape,' the figure being open to the southeast. On the northwest, the basal facing (U.6) is integrated with two 0.3m-high walls (U.7 and 9) that project 1.15m (U.7) and 0.35m (U.9) northwest of U.6. The space between U.7 and 9 is 0.7m. Unit 9 intersects U.6 at a point 0.6m northeast of the building's west corner. Unit 9 joins U.6 at a point

0.95m southwest of Str. 303-1<sup>st</sup>'s north corner. One effect of U.7 and 9's construction is to create another indentation, in this case located directly northwest and across the 0.55m of the platform's summit from U.2.

Structure 303-1<sup>st</sup> was, by the conclusion of TS.2, A 0.3m-tall stone-faced and –surfaced platform that covers 1.85m (measured across its widest point) by 3.1m, and is aligned roughly 33 degrees. The building's overall form is a 'U' open to the southeast. That configuration was achieved by creating a 0.8m wide indentation that cuts 1.15m into the body of the platform leaving only 0.55m of the building's summit to connect the northeast (0.8m northeast-southwest by 1.7m northwest-southeast) and southwest segments (1.5m northeast-southwest by 1.85m northwest-southeast) of Str. 303-1<sup>st</sup>. Directly across from the southeast inset, two 0.3m-high walls project 0.35m and 1.15m northwest of the building. These constructions are spaced 0.7m apart. All architecture raised now was fashioned mostly of rounded river cobbles among which are interspersed some angular rocks. All of the stones are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 303-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.26m of a dark brown, fine-textured soil (S.1) was laid down atop S.2. Embedded in S.1 is a light concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely tumbled from TS.2 architecture.

Structure 304

Structure 304 is 5m east of Str. 302 and 7.8m southwest of Str. 402. The latter building, like Str. 304, consists of terraces that overlook the steep descent from the river terrace's summit down to the Rio Cacaupala to the east. Digging here cleared 12m<sup>2</sup> in Subop. 52AC, excavations being pursued to a maximum depth of 0.2m below modern ground surface outside construction. One building phase was identified in the course of these investigations.

<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. 304-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-5	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.08m of a yellow clay that contains numerous rocks (S.2) was laid down east and downslope from Str. 304-1<sup>st</sup> (exposed east of U.1; S.2's base was not found). Stratum 2 ascended 0.12m over the 0.95m it was uncovered here, underlying U.1. Stratum 2 likely represents the

surface of the terrace crest above which Str. 304-1<sup>st</sup> was erected. There is no evidence of a human occupation in the area while S.2 was being deposited.

### Time Span 2

Structure 304-1<sup>st</sup> consists of a series of stone-faced terraces built into the upper reaches of the river terrace's eastern crest. Unit 1 is a, maximally, 0.4m-tall terrace facing that looks east over the steep eastern descent. It was followed for 4.25m along an azimuth of 347 degrees. Its southern terminus was established though we did not identify its north end. A 0.2m-tall wall (U.5) projects 1.05m east from a point 0.65m north of U.1's south end. On the east, U.5 joins another terrace facing (U.4) that terminates 0.85m north of this intersection and continues for 1m to the south at an orientation of approximately 344 degrees. Unit 3, another retention wall, extends 3m from its junction with U.4. Unit 3 follows the northeast-southwest contour of the natural terrace here, being aligned ca. 230 degrees. A stone pavement (U.2) was uncovered running at least 2.2m back and west from U.1. Unit 2 slopes up 0.12m over this distance from east to west. Most likely, U.2 is the eastern continuation of Str. 301-1<sup>st</sup>'s U.7 the southwestern edge of which is a scant 1.1m west of U.2's westernmost exposed segment.

Together, the exposed portions of terraces and pavement that constitute Str. 304-1<sup>st</sup> cover 4x6m, its component facings being generally oriented northwest-southeast (U.1 and 4 are oriented 347 and 344 degrees, respectively) and standing 0.2-0.4m tall. Besides slowing erosion down the steep eastern high terrace slope, the construction of U.1, 3-5 may have served to provide relatively level work surfaces at least part of which was paved with stones (U.2). Constructions raised now were fashioned from cobbles set in a mud mortar. Some of these rocks were quite large; an example from U.1 measures 0.4m thick by 0.77m long east-west.

### Time Span 3

Following Str. 304-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.12m of a moderately fine-textured, dark brown soil that contains numerous pebbles (S.1) was laid down. A few small rocks (F.1) are embedded in S.1, most found downslope east and southeast of the terraces. The F.1 rocks probably fell from final-phase architecture.

### Structure 402

Structure 402 is 7.8m northeast of Str. 304 and 15m northeast of Str. 301. Like Str. 304, Str. 402 occupies the crest of the high river terrace's east face, the ground dropping off steeply immediately northeast of the building. Digging here within Subop. 52AB and AF uncovered 30m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to a maximum depth of 0.28m below modern ground surface outside architectural fill. One construction phase was recognized in the course of this work.

### Time Spans

Time	Construction				
Span	Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates

1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 402-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-5	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the environs of Str. 402-1<sup>st</sup> was the deposition of at least 0.17m of a hard-compacted, olive-brown (2.5Y 4/4), gravel-rich soil (S.2; its base was not encountered). This soil rises 0.52m over 4m northeast to southwest. Structure 402-1<sup>st</sup>'s architecture is set 0.1m into, and rises above, S.2.

### Time Span 2

Structure 402-1<sup>st</sup> consists of a system of terraces to the southwest of which was raised what looks to have been a surface-level building. The basal northeast terrace (U.3) is preserved to a height of 0.25m and lies 1.65m northeast, and 0.2m downslope from, the next ascending riser, U.1. The latter stands 0.33m tall and, unlike U.2 which was exposed for only 1m running northwest-southeast, U.1 was followed for a total distance of 4.1m. The northern leg of U.1 runs for 2.35m at an azimuth of 137 degrees. It then projects 0.35m to the northeast before resuming its southeastern course for 1.6m over which distance it is oriented ca. 149 degrees. Unit 2, standing 0.41m tall, corners with U.1's south end, heading 1.95m to the southwest along an azimuth of 214 degrees. The land levels out southwest of U.1, the uppermost exposed terrace, and it is on this relatively flat surface that U.4 and 5 were erected. The former is a wall that is 0.26m tall by 0.2m wide. Unit 4 is 1.4m southwest of U.1 and was followed for 2m over which extent it was oriented approximately 322 degrees. The northwest limit of this construction was not clearly identified. On the southeast U.4 forms a right angle corner with U.5, a comparable wall that was traced for 0.65m to the southwest before digging ceased. Units 4 and 5 likely were foundations that delimited the margins of a building that was erected directly on ancient ground surface. The full dimensions of this earthen-floored edifice were not determined.

In general, as TS.2 came to a close, Str. 402-1<sup>st</sup> consists of at least two stone faced terraces that ascend in increments of 0.25m and 0.33m from northeast to southwest up the crest of the high river terrace that supports most of the site of El Coyote. The distance between the basal and upper terrace is 1.65m and they are both oriented roughly 137 degrees. A single, 0.41m-tall terrace corners with the upper member of the northeast-facing set, running at least 1.95m to the southwest at an azimuth of 214 degrees. Together, these stone-faced risers likely slowed erosion down the steep slopes of the river terrace, preserving a relatively even ground surface to their southwest and northwest. On that flat terrain what seems to have been a surface-level building was erected. This construction had an earthen floor bounded by stone foundations on the northeast and southeast that are 0.26m tall by 0.2m wide. The uncovered portion of the edifice encompasses 0.65x2m and it is aligned ca. 322 degrees. The entirety of the building was not revealed. All constructions raised now were built primarily from

cobbles; angular rocks comprise a minority of the stones used here. A faced stone block was used to create the corner between the U.1 and 2 terraces. All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 3

Following Str. 402-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, 0.03-0.15m of a dark brown-to-black (2.5Y 2.5/1) fine-textured soil (S.1) was laid down atop S.2. There are many fewer rocks included in S.1 than was the case for S.2. Embedded in S.1 was moderately light concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from TS.2 architecture.

### Structure 407

Structure 407 is in the southwest corner of Op. 52, 32m southwest of Str. 301 and 27.5m in the same direction from Str. 302. The land here is relatively flat though the precipitous descent off the upper river terrace begins immediately to the south. Excavations within Subop. 52A1 cleared 23m<sup>2</sup>, digging being pursued to a maximum depth of 0.22m below modern ground surface outside of construction. One building phase was identified in the course of this work.

### Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 407-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-9	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The deposition of a dark brown soil containing numerous small rocks (S.2) is the earliest recorded event in Str. 407-1<sup>st</sup>'s environs. The many stones found in S.2 likely derive from what appears to be the bedrock that was uncovered at the base of excavation immediately west of U.3, the platform's west basal wall. Stratum 2 runs relatively flat for the 5m it was exposed east-west.

### Time Span 2

Structure 407-1<sup>st</sup> is a platform that is bounded on all sides by vertical stone facings (U.1-4). Units 1-4 stand 0.3m tall and lead directly to a summit that is surfaced with stone (U.7). No built-in furniture was recorded atop the building and it is likely that the summit was not enclosed by the perishable walls of a superstructure. A 0.14m-high stone-faced portico (U.8) projects 0.63m east from the platform's east basal facing (U.1). Unit 8 measures 0.8m across north-south, its south side intersecting U.1 at a point 0.45m north of Str. 407-1<sup>st</sup>'s southeast corner.

Structure 407-1<sup>str</sup>'s southwest corner was not clearly recognized. The southern basal facing (U.4) extends 2.1m west of the building's southeast corner at which point it intersects U.5. This construction is about the same height as U.4 and projects at least 1.55m south from its junction with the latter (U.5's south end was not found). An indentation, measuring 0.3m north-south extends 0.75m west into the body of U.5 creating a niche located 0.2m south of the U.3/5 junction. The architectural significance of U.5 is uncertain. It appears that Str. 407-1<sup>st</sup> was joined to additional architecture to the south, the form and dimensions of this putative southern construction remaining unclear. Unit 3, the western basal facing, runs 1.15m south from Str. 407-1<sup>str</sup>'s northwest corner before encountering U.9. This wall, roughly the same height as U.3, extends 0.7m west from the latter wall to the point where it encounters U.6. Unit 6 was followed for 2.95m over which distance it backs U.5 by 0.6-1.5m and is aligned ca. 155 degrees. The northwest and southeast ends of U.6 were not found. It may be that this wall is the northeast facing of a construction that continues to the southwest and onto which Str. 407-1<sup>st</sup> was appended to the northeast. We did not have the chance to test this interpretation.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 407-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced and –surfaced platform that stood 0.3m tall, measured 2.3x3.09, and was oriented approximately 258 degrees. The featureless stone-paved summit was apparently left open. A 0.14m-tall portico projects 0.63m east from the platform's east facing. This construction encompasses 0.8m north-south and its south flank intersects Str. 407-1<sup>st</sup> at a point 0.45m north of the latter's southeast corner. Structure 407-1<sup>st</sup> was seemingly integrated into poorly understood architecture on the south and west. One element of that construction (U.5) extends at least 1.55m south of the platform and contains a niche measuring 0.3m across north-south by 0.75m deep east-west. What may have been the northeast basal facing (U.6) of a building that continues to the southwest runs at an angle of ca. 155 degrees immediately west/southwest of Str. 407-1<sup>st</sup>. The latter was joined to the former via a 0.7m-long wall connecting U.3, Str. 407-1<sup>str</sup>'s western basal wall, to U.6. All constructions raised now were made primarily of river cobbles among which are mixed a few angular rocks; all of the stones are set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 3

After Str. 407-1<sup>str</sup>'s abandonment, 0.16m of a dark brown, fine-textured soil (S.1) was laid down. Stratum 1 contains many fewer rocks than does its predecessor. Embedded in S.1 are a few rocks (F.1) that likely fell from TS.2 construction.

### Summary

The diminutive sizes and varied forms of the elevated surfaces recorded in Op. 52 suggest that they were less domiciles than free-standing benches or work stations. There is no evidence that Strs. 301-1<sup>st</sup>, 302-1<sup>st</sup>, 302A-1<sup>st</sup>, and 303-1<sup>st</sup> were surrounded by perishable walls though they might have been roofed. Structure 407-1<sup>st</sup> seems to have been appended to buildings to the south and southwest. Even if that was the case, the former construction still appears to have been largely free-standing, not surrounded by foundations for perishable walls. Structures 304-1<sup>st</sup> and 402-1<sup>st</sup>, in contrast, are composed of terraces that might have functioned to slow downslope erosion while also creating relatively flat work surfaces behind them. The number and extent of extramural stone pavements is

also notable for this area. Whatever happened here seemingly benefitted from being performed on stone-surfaces, whether they were elevated or on ground level.