

2002

EPV 002 Canuto Field Notes 2002

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Notes 02-07-16

Cloudy and wet

HJR and SEM working around S-01

Began with EEB at Cafetal group (S-02)

GRID

Established 20 E of N (290-110 E-W) orientation.

D01 and D02 established along the N axis of S-02-M04 at roughly 40m

SETTLEMENT

Confirmed existence of surrounding sites on the Fash-Long map

NEW SETTLEMENT

Have concluded that the settlement surrounding the Cafetal group is somewhat more extensive than what the Long-Fash map suggested.

S-03 is NOT on the F-L map - there is more settlement than what was recorded on the F-L map

This settlement is proving to be located mostly to the NW of the main plaza - extending along a southern alluvial terrace of the Q. Ocote.

RECINTO SETTLEMENT

It remains unlikely, however, that more such settlement should be found to the N of the same quebrada since that area lies between both the Ocote to the S and the Rosario to the N. The area is pure alluvium and may have:

- (1) been completely buried by alluvium and other river activity
- (2) been utterly destroyed by river activity
- (3) never had any settlement originally.

AFTERNOON

Worked on mapping in the afternoon - D0 and D1 were set and mapped in - D0-to-D1 was set to 290

Topo taken in afternoon

LOS NARANJITOS

Notes 02-07-17

Morning
Cloudy, rainy

Began with HJR, EEB, and SEM establishing the internal circuit of S-02. This circuit consists of 4 points - D00, D01, S004, S002.

Later, EEB and I will continue with an external circuit that will encircle all of S-02 as well as provide access for the mapping of the surrounding settlement.

Owners of the land on and around S-02:
Ismail Pinto
Concepción Mendez
Ruperta Uyoa

IP did not get a letter from the Alcaldia - will have to get Lito to speak to the Mayor

Spoke w/ IP owner and he has agreed that if we need to cut some of his coffee plants to take points, it is warranted.

He also mentioned the existence of another site to the E of S-02-M01. Went to site w/ IP and discovered that it is another patio group - to be called S-05.

Concepción "Calaguala" Hernandez - mayor of EP who had S-01 destroyed/bulldozed

Afternoon
Rainy

EEB and I mapped the SE corner of S-02's plaza - w/in the modern coffee field. Reached the S facade of S-02. Mapped M03 and parts of M02.

M02 is attached to the S facade of M01. There seems to be another mound at the edge of the coffee finca to the E of M02/03.

With arrival of Lito and Eldman, work slowed.

Notes 02-07-18

Morning
Sunny

Began working w/ full crew on topo mapping to the E of S-02 - we are outside of the plaza heading toward S-05.

Today we should verify the extent of settlement along the 1st alluvial terrace to the E of S-02.

What remains entirely unknown is the extent of settlement to the S of S-02.

After backsight on S006, I noticed another mound that most likely belongs to S-02, though it seems smaller than the others from S-02. Perhaps it belongs to a smaller set of mounds that were aggregates to the main structures of S-02.

S008 was placed on/near S-05.

S009 was placed to S of S007.

S010 was placed to N of S007.

S011 was placed to S of S009.

S012 was placed to S of S011.

By S-012 another site was encountered - a series of low platforms that have been plowed and planted. This site - S-06 - consists of 2 (maybe 3) mounds. On initial inspection, though, I found no artifacts. Later, 2 possible pieces were recovered.

AFTERNOON

Cloudy

HJR and SEM have left for Entrada/Copan

EEB and I are continuing the mapping to the N slowly forming the S-02-extcirc.

Will have to record GPS points at S-05, 06, 07

S013-to-S014

Angle 20 23 10

N 310.01

E 301.62

Z 999.99

HOME:

- 1) Check for line level
- 2) Download pts.
- 3) Print map of S-2 w/ site and station info
- 4) Download JPEG of S-02 to Handera

S-06 might not be a site after all . . . Unsure - at the moment we will consider it a site. It has been decided that it is NOT a site

SEM and HJR say that there is another site to the E of S011 - this potential site will remain without designation until confirmation.

“SITIO LITO ”

In speaking with Lito in the afternoon, we discovered the possibility of a 3rd large site in this valley.

Mention of the possibility of another site along the N entrance to the valley sparked Lito's memory. He mentioned that on the road N leading to Q, there is a fork in the road.

To the W, the road leads to LAS FLORES. To the N, the road goes to LA PLAYONA. On this latter road, heading N to LA SARDINA lies a large group of “cerritos”. We will have explore this area.

Notes 02-07-19

Morning
Partly cloudy

EEB and I working on the topo map of the Recinto area. Should reach as far N as the Ocote. Will turn W at river to square out the survey region and then turn the circuit back S (i.e. toward S-02).

WORKERS:

Misael Ramirez
Carlos Humberto Ramirez
Fcliberto Jesus Gutierrez
Santo Saul Gutierrez

WALKABOUT

After completing the mapping of the area around S014, EEB and I went on a walkabout to define the precise parameters of our circuit.

During this walkabout, we encountered a group of men working in a milpa. The milpa is located along a 2-3m terrace. Scattered throughout the terraced portion of the milpa were located artifacts that we partially collected.

We also asked the workers in the milpa to help us with the collection - especially while they weeded the field.

The results of this surface collection led us to the conclusion that this is in fact the location of a site - S-06.

S-06 DETAILS

Richard Arturo Castillo milpa
Artifact scatter located on alluvial terrace
NW of S-02
Multiple ceramics - CONER, w/ an obvious MASICA rim.
Prismatic obsidian
Pachuca obsidian (! !)
Basalt ground stone
Green stone (jade?) - reported, not found

NW CORNER OF CIRCUIT

Notes 02-07-20

Partly cloudy

EEB and I mapping the NW corner of the external circuit.

LITO'S COUSIN

Father of cousin "Fernando"

He claims there exist "cerritos" along the route from EP to Copan that runs through La Cumbre.

Moreover, in his field near S-04, he has found arrowheads. This fact proves a previously unknown Postclassic component for the site.

Is it therefore possible that the Pachuca obsidian from S-06 is indicating a Postclassic occupation as well, rather than an EC one?

CASTILLO VISIT

Richard (Arturo) passed by today to show us a polished greenstone. We were not sure whether it was jade or not. It exhibited a small flaked crack which is rare for jade. Maybe an impurer form?

S-02-M01 CERAMIC

At lunchtime, Lito brought a sherd found by the workers on Str. 1. It was a comma-rim dish/plate. This ceramic sherd shares characteristics with those from the Seibito and Chabij phases in Copan.

Misael reports finding this sherd on the summit of S-02-M01 - this means that the large structure might date back to the Late Formative.

RIVER TERRACE AND SETTLEMENT

Notes 02-07-22

Partly cloudy

SUNDAY SUMMARY

Our excursion was partially successful. We undertook 3 tasks: 1) record the collection of archeological materials located in Arita's shop, 2) go to the "cerritos" near the Sardina turn-off, 3) see if there are any site near the town of Flores.

ILLNESS

Bad day - not feeling well

Will try to last until Jorge and/or Santiago arrive, then I will go home to rest.

At roughly 10am, Santiago arrived and I returned home. I am resting the rest of the day.

CIRCUIT CLOSURE

GOALS AND SCHEDULING

Notes 02-07-23

Partly cloudy

Feeling much better, though, I am not ready to call out victory just yet. It is going to be a long day and time will only tell. But so far so good.

Full crew today (yay) working on mapping the milpas to the W of S-02. These fields contains sites within them - we will try to map them as well as get as much topography as possible. The milpas are pretty high now.

S-07 (AKA SITIO LOS NARANJOS)

EEB, SEM, and HJR are on the machine setting stakes and beginning topo. I am working on placing colored flags on the corners of the various structures of S-07. It is becoming apparent that the site is much larger than the L-F map. I will make another sketch before continuing with flag-placement.

Upon further revision, the site is roughly 50% larger than previously noted. The readily visible structures in the milpa are accompanied by another patio group located farther west and partially obstructed by the flanking cafetal. Some of the mounds have been partially sacked though not irreparably.

All in all the site contains 14 structures (rather than the original 8 noted) in two main patio groups. There are some scattered structures that belong to neither group. Moreover, these are not small structures - they range up to roughly 10m in length and perhaps 4m in height (elevations are hard to approximate given the nature of the vegetation).

This site is becoming part of a larger sustaining population of S-02. Surface finds are suggesting an LC occupation phase. A Tasu-fluted Surlo, Sepulturas, Cementerio, and probably some common Casaca-like jar forms. Much ground stone, some BJ but no obsidian (?).

Patio 1 of S-07 exhibits certain dimensions that appear quite peculiar for a domestic space. Mounds 2 and 3 are only 8m apart while Mounds 1 and 12 are more than 20m apart. Such a long axis coupled with a short one suggests the dimensions of a BC. The "sloping" structures do not readily align though. HJR agrees w/ the possibility.

SCHOOL GROUP

During my initial sketching of S-07, Lito sent a school group to learn of our work. Given that I am working alone, I was chosen to give the students a quick intro and lecture on the site and our work.

EEB, HJR, and SEM are mapping the milpa of S-07. SEM with the help of Misael began placing flags on structure corners. EEB on the gun and HJR began mapping the various points.

Showed the students the main site, the nature of the structures, our equipment, our work. Before having them leave, moreover, we put them to work by surface collecting the milpa of S-07! They aligned in the furrows of the corn field and walked N-S in a long survey line. The recovered ceramics and ground stone.

RADIO EP

Spoke on the radio at midday. Discussed the nature of our work, who the Maya were, and what they had achieved at El Paraiso. The whole interview lasted roughly 40 minutes.

Touchy topics like a "parque arqueológico" were avoided successfully. Overall, though, the interview was a success.

S-09

EEB and SEM mapping in the milpa to the N of S-07. They have located the mounds that compose S-09 - a small residential group situated half-way between S-02 and the northern limits of S-07. The milpa is quite thick and high so the structure ID was not certain. This site should be remapped during the dry season.

This site belongs to a growing number of "Cafetal complex" sites: S-02, S-05, S-06, S-07, S-08, S-09, S-10.

MAPPING, TOPO, AND SITES

Upon finishing the topo map for the day, some of the larger macro-topographical formations became clear. We have all noticed several alluvial terraces running roughly E-W to the N of S-02. The 1st alluvial terrace is located only 50m S of the Ocote. The 2nd terrace is located roughly 300m S of the Ocote and 150m N of S-02. All the sites composing the "Cafetal complex" are located to the S of this 2nd terrace.

Most likely, all prehispanic settlement was located on this terrace b/c it was originally the river's 1st terrace. In other words, the Ocote's original course was farther to the S than it is today, and therefore closer to S-02. Over time, the river has slipped farther northward. Given the course of the modern riverbed, and that of the modern 1st alluvial terrace, it is likely that this 2nd terrace jogs somewhat northward as it passes E-W through the area that is now covered by the coffee finca to the N of S-02.

Notes 02-07-24

Partly cloudy

MAPPING SOUTH OF S-02

NEW SITE - S-10

ERRORS W/ STATIONS

S-11 - EARTHEN MOUND

S-04 - EL GUAYABAL

Notes 2002-07-25

Cloudy
Santiago's birthday

COMMENCING MAPPING

HJR and I are at the gun while EEB and SEM traverse the cafetal. The goal here will be to reach the milpa to the N that contains S-03 and then move NE to include S-06 and map in the 2nd alluvial terrace.

CANDELERO

Mesitas
Jose Cupertino
near Q. Rosario by gas station.

S-03

Artifacts - obsidian flakes, ceramics (none immediately diagnostic), chert
Lance point - obsidian - found by Santiago while he was taking topo points.
Late morning spent in topo in the S-03 milpa - this field is littered w/ artifacts. I am not sure that they all associate w/ S-03.

S-08 AND SETTLEMENT

At SE edge of the S-03 milpa, SEM and I found the remains of S-08 - also located on the F-L map. Some other mounds SE of S-03-M01 were also located in the milpa. It is difficult to see a sharp distinction between S-03 and S-08, as they are defined at the moment.

There seems to be continuous settlement throughout this milpa heading from S-07 to NW along the 2nd terrace to S-03 and beyond. The only clear distinction remains the earthen nature of some of the mounds.

GUAYABAL AND S-03

The earthen nature of some of the mounds in this milpa seems indicative of the Guayabal complex. It is likely that we have incorrectly assigned site numbers to the settlement here.

REDEFINITION OF SITES

S-03 - Patio group across road from S043 - Cafetal complex.

S-12 - Cobble masonry structures to E of S043 - Cafetal complex.

S-11 - also part of Guayabal complex - is composed of the 1 earthen mound in Chon Mendez's milpa.

Notes 02-07-26

Overcast, partly sunny

EEB and I in Castillo milpa attempting today to complete the topo to the Ocote w/in the confines of the Juntas-Cumbre roads.

MAPPING GOALS

S-06 SURFACE COLLECTION

Many children

Greenstone

LC ceramics: utilitarian

SCHOOL GROUPS

It has become commonplace to have school children visit us working. As of now we have been able to use their labor to help us surface collect.

2ND ALLUVIAL TERRACE

Notes 02-07-27

EEB and I filling in some lacunae that remain in the map. Most of these represent thick cafetales.

We will also close the first circuit.

Tiring day - finished w/ some sections along the Juntas road. Rain has cut this day short.

Notes 02-07-29

LOOTING AT S-02

We were informed on 02-07-28 (Sunday) that S-02 had been heavily visited and somewhat altered by some who had decided to dig into some the mounds.

None of the “holes” made have debilitated research at this site, however if this behavior continues, S-02 will rapidly be irretrievably destroyed.

Photos of the various holes were taken for the record. Plans were made to contact the mayor in the hopes that such activity can be prevented.

Ismael Pinto also came to visit to inform us about the uncontrolled digging the previous day. He also mentioned that the increased human traffic is causing damage to both the crops and fences.

OPERATION 02

Off-architecture test excavations at S-02

Using S-02 GRID N to locate units

Grid: 290-to-270; i.e. D00-to-D01 is 270 rather than 290

Placement of 4 units: 02/01, 02, 03, 04

Grid co-ordinates of the 4 excavation units recorded in survey book.

MAYOR'S VISIT

By mid-morning the mayor had arrived to assess the damage and future risk to the site. He has unilaterally decided to pay for 2 guards to protect S-02 starting tomorrow.

Lito also came and suggested making signs so that “visitors” could understand their responsibilities as guests and caretakers of the site.

MAPPING SOUTH OF S-02-M04

Notes 02-07-30

GUAYABAL TRAVERSE

Mapping of S-04

No topo taken on the way to S-04

Placement of D03, S050, S051 near S-04

Triangulation made among D03, S050, S051 for backchecking purposes

OPERATION 03

Test excavation program at S-04-M01

Using magN grid to place units

Placement of 4 units - 03/01, 02, 03, 04

Units placed along E edge of M01

S-04 MOUND 01

Oblong, oriented E-W

Base measures roughly 40m E-W

measures 9m in height

possible ramps on E and W sides

no discernible structures on summit

Late Formative?

S-04 SETTLEMENT

There appears to be continuous settlement that runs roughly E-W ca. 500m NW of S-02.

It appears to form a very large oblong plaza (Plaza de las Loras) at the W end of which lies S-02-M01. It remains unclear how the axis of M01 aligns w/ the central axis of the plaza.

All structures that compose Guayabal Complex (S-04) - ca. 15 - are earthen.

Roughly 200m to the E of S-04-M01 there lies a series of low lying mounds that MIGHT form a Ballcourt.

The larger mounds form the E edge of the plaza.

Notes 02-07-31

SEM and I are mapping w/in Guayabal

PEDRO OCHOA

Angry about our un-announced presence on his property. We soothed his fears and received his permission.

STATIONS (LACK OF SURVEY BOOK)

S053 - bad stake, might not last long, in the guayabo field

Angle: 88 53 59 (S051-to-S053)

N: 334.80

E: -469.83

Z: 991.10

S054 - on top of S-04-M10

Angle: 20 42 19 (S048-to-S054)

N: 376.00

E: -317.65

Z: 994.78

S055 - on top of S-04-P01

Angle: 88 53 59 (S048-to-S055)

N: 263.06

E: -369.71

Z: 995.12