

World Monuments Fund Progress Report on Phnom Bakheng Conservation Project

January 27, 2009

Activities at Phnom Bakheng during the last months have been focused on detailed surveys of existing conditions, project planning with regard to project scheduling, staffing, and site mobilization.

The unit by unit condition survey documenting the existing conditions of the temple's East elevation walls, stone shrines, paving and surrounding areas has been completed for the following areas: (please see attached plan)

- All levels (A-G) of the East elevation including walls, stone shrines and adjacent walls of the North and South corners
- All levels (A-G) of East side and adjacent sections of North and South floor plans documenting existing pavers
- The temple complex area within the outer enclosure laterite wall documenting existing conditions (preparation of archaeological floor plan)



Fig 1: condition survey of walls (East Elevation)



Fig 2: condition survey of paving



Fig 3: condition survey of walls (North-East corner)



Fig 4: archaeological condition survey

Based on data collected during on-site condition surveys detailed technical drawings of floor plans, elevations, and cross sections have been prepared in AutoCAD. This information will document existing conditions before intervention, and will help the project team plan conservation activities in terms of sequence, appropriate methods and required materials.

In addition, the signboards were updated and the existing workshop was repaired.



Fig 5: preparation of new signboard



Fig 6: new signboard at the bottom of PB



Fig 7: updated signboard

The WMF consultancy team has worked on options for appropriate stone handling and rigging systems and has identified potential solutions. It is anticipated that we will use a tower crane to facilitate the dismantling and reassembling of larger portions of the East Elevation, and localized scaffoldings for smaller interventions. Details of installation and transportation to the site have been finalized and discussed with the National APSARA Authority.

The project engineer has worked on fine tuning proposed interventions for emergency stabilization measures and on required modifications to the existing bridges as part of the repair of the pathway.

After submission of the technical project proposal to the APSARA Authority in early November 2008 (see attachment for your reference) several on-site meetings with APSARA technical staff took place to discuss various subjects related to work phases and technical details. In particular, issues related to the planned repair of the pathway up to Phnom Bakheng to facilitate transport of material and equipment, proposed areas for emergency stabilization measures, and required preparation measures related to site mobilization were discussed.



Fig 8: On-site meeting with APSARA Authority technical staff to discuss repair of pathway up to PB

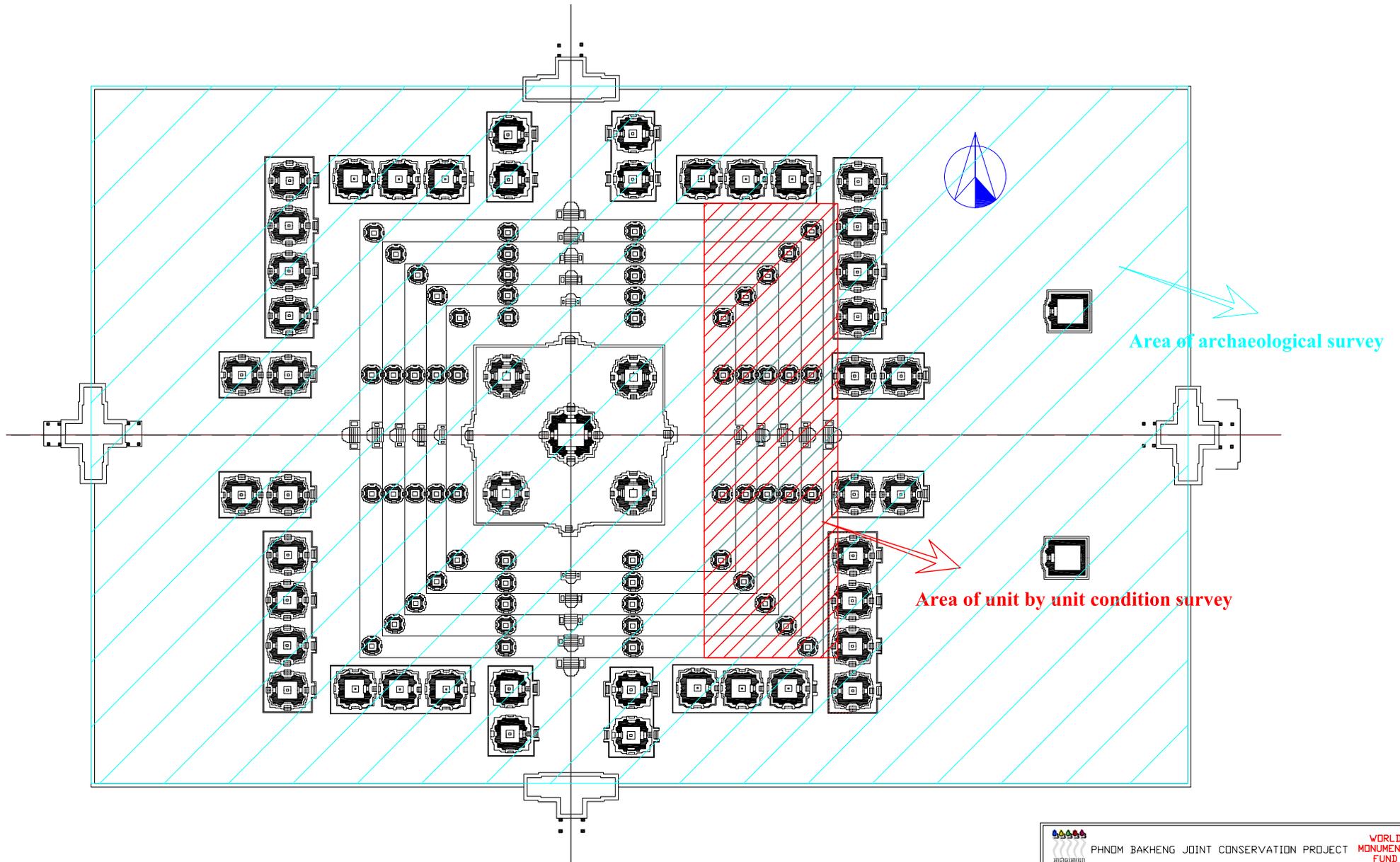


Fig 9: On-site meeting with APSARA Authority technical staff to discuss site mobilization

As a result WMF has now received the official approval letter from H.E. Bun Narith, Director General of the APSARA Authority, and is preparing begin work this week. This first phase of work will include the following activities:

1. Repair of pathway and bridges (February – April 2009)
2. Emergency stabilization measures (February – April 2009)
3. Clearing of work area: organize stone fragments (February – March 2009)
4. Archaeological excavation to remove soil ramp in front of East Elevation South (February –May 2009)

A complete updated project schedule is included as an attachment to this report.



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	LOCATION		
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