

Part 357 for Cathy's blog

Monday 25th May 2026. (part one)

Temple Day : the Baphuon

We did a quick ride past the Bayon (and the Baphuon tucked in behind it), past the Elephant Terrace and in to Palilay Temple.



We saw the truck arrive with the scaffolding last week and we went to see what was being worked on. It turns out, tree branch lopping.

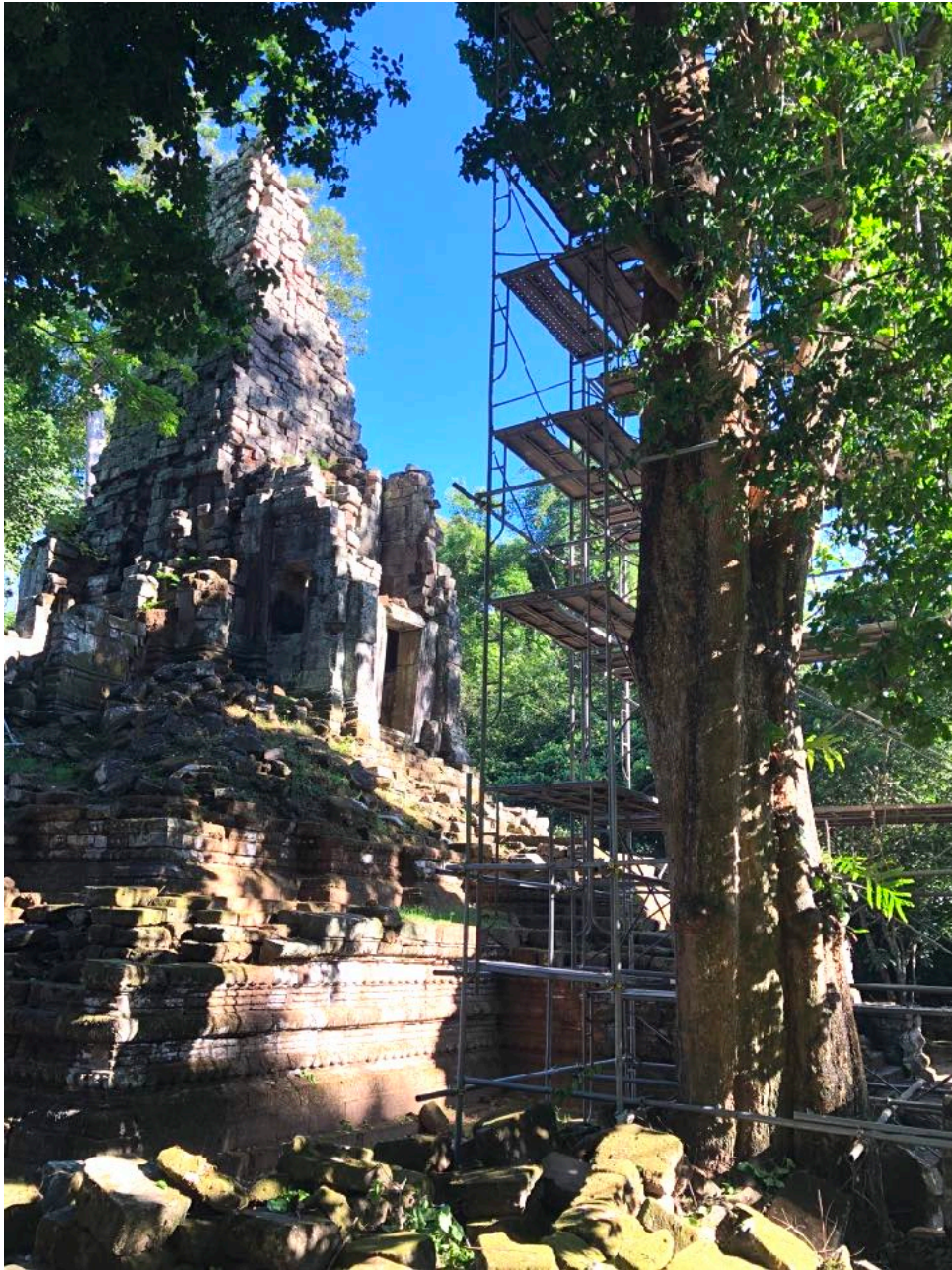


You can see the rope and the scaffolding and the central tower of Palilay partly hidden / partly shaded in the early morning sun.



That is a tall tree house.

The temple is 19 m tall. The tree is taller.



Then it was back to the Bayon, where we found the hornbill pair feeding their young ones.



A woman selling bananas sets up roadside near the Bayon.

We parked to the (west) side of the Bayon and walked across into the grounds housing the loose blocks of the Baphuon.

The Baphuon is a big, grey sandstone temple. There is some discrepancy as to when it was actually built (originally thought to be built by Udayadityavarman II around 1050, it was later determined to have been built by Suryavarman I (his father, who ruled 1002 to 1050).

In the Baphuon was a stele (a written tablet) which recorded all the previous rulers of the Angkorian Kingdom (this stele is now in a museum in Bangkok).

Around 1430, the west wall of the temple was “rebuilt” in the shape of a reclining Buddha.

Prior to 1970, much of the temple has collapsed and most of the rest was dismantled. The blocks were all numbered.

However, the civil unrest and the Pol Pot regime came along, and the plans for the building were lost. It has since been rebuilt.



The Baphuon rising above the east gopura lintel. You can see how much the sun has moved from the equinox.



Part of the walkway and the first tier and entrance gopura on the first level of the temple.



A bathing pool and blocks, seen from the first level of the temple.



More steps further up the temple.

It is hot in the sun!



Here you can see some tourists making their way up to the second level.



Wooden stairs built for “easy” access.



View to the south.



At ground level. This it the first level of the temple.



Naga, waiting to be replaced. I think they will be sitting here for a while.

There are so many interesting finds in these blocks. I will continue our visit to the Baphuon in Part 358.

