

**ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting**  
**on Thursday, 29 May 2014 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**in Conference Room, Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre**  
**Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon**

Present: Mr Andrew Lam Siu-lo, JP (Chairman)  
Mr Stephen Chan Chit-kwai, BBS, JP  
Mr Chan Ka-kui, BBS, JP  
Prof Chung Po-yin  
Prof Ho Puay-peng, JP  
Prof Ho Pui-yin  
Mr Tim Ko Tim-keung  
Mr Kenny Lin Ching-pui  
Prof Tracey Lu Lie-dan  
Mr Joseph Luc Ngai  
Ms Janet Pau Heng-ting  
Ms Karen Tang Shuk-tak  
Ms Ava Tse Suk-ying, SBS  
Sr Wong Bay

Mr Asa Lee (Secretary)  
Senior Executive Officer (Antiquities and Monuments)  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Absent with Apologies:

Prof Rebecca Chiu Lai-har, JP  
Mr Tony Lam Chung-wai  
Ms Lilian Law Suk-kwan, JP  
Mr Philip Liao Yi-kang  
Ms Yvonne Shing Mo-han, JP  
Prof Billy So Kee-long  
Dr Winnie Tang Shuk-ming, JP  
Dr Joseph Ting Sun-pao

Mr Conrad Wong Tin-cheung, BBS, JP

In Attendance:

Development Bureau

Mr Albert Lam

Deputy Secretary (Works)1

Miss Vivian Ko

Commissioner for Heritage

Mr Ricky Wong

Assistant Secretary (Heritage Conservation)2

Ms Queenie Lee

Assistant Secretary (Heritage Conservation)3

Mr Eddie Wong

Chief Executive Officer (Heritage Conservation)1

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty Fung

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Ms Cynthia Liu

Deputy Director (Culture)

Dr Louis Ng

Assistant Director (Heritage and Museums)

Mr Tom Ming

Executive Secretary (Antiquities and Monuments)

Mrs Ada Yau

Curator (Archaeology)

Mr Ray Ma

Assistant Curator I (Archaeological Preservation)2

Ms Anita Leung  
Chief Information Officer

Ms Veta Wong  
Principal Information Officer (Cultural Services)

Planning Department

Miss Paulina Kwan  
Senior Town Planner / Metro & Urban Renewal

Highways Department

Mr Yeung Kong-sang  
Chief Engineer / Railway Development 1-3

Mr Stephen Wong  
Senior Engineer / Shatin to Central Link 2

MTRCL Representatives and Contractor

Mr Peter Ip  
Construction Manager

Dr Liu Wensuo  
Licence Holder

Ms Peggy Wong  
Principal Consultant

Dr Jin Zhi-wei  
Experienced Archaeologist

Mr Raymond Ng  
Experienced Archaeologist

**Opening Remarks**

The Chairman thanked Members and representatives from government

bureau and departments for attending the meeting.

**Item 1 Archaeological work at Sacred Hill area for Shatin to Central Link – Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section  
(Board paper AAB/32/2013-14)**

2. Dr Liu Wensuo briefed Members on the latest progress of the archaeological work. He mentioned that detailed records had been kept for all the archaeological findings. A more thorough study of the data would be conducted after the completion of all archaeological fieldworks.

3. In reply to the enquiry of Prof Ho Puay-peng and Ms Ava Tse, Dr Liu Wensuo and Mr Raymond Ng referred Members to the relevant maps and pointed out the locations of recent archaeological discoveries, including the T1 area and the ventilation area, and the areas where archaeological work had been completed.

4. On the enquiry of Prof Ho Puay-peng and Prof Tracey Lu about the dating of the latest archaeological finds, Dr Liu Wensuo and Dr Jin Zhi-wei gave a brief description of the archaeological features unearthed, adding that while the second cultural layer belonged to the late Qing dynasty – Republic of China period, the third cultural layer, i.e. the period of Song – Yuan dynasties, could only be preliminarily identified pending the completion of further excavation work.

5. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, Mr Raymond Ng said that after removing the fill layer of late Qing Dynasty – Republic of China period, the archaeological team was unearthing a stratum known as 'remnants of collapsed building structures', which could possibly be dated back to Song–Yuan Dynasties. Further deliberation on follow-up, including the need for excavation of a deeper layer and the handling of the unearthed archaeological finds, would be required after completion of the excavation of the 'remnants of collapsed building structures'.

6. In response to Mr Stephen Chan's enquiry, Mr Tom Ming said that the area covered by the licence for the Phase 3 archaeological work was a bit larger than the construction area currently required by MTRCL. It was so designed to cope with possible future needs.

7. In response to Prof Ho Pui-yin's enquiry, Dr Liu Wensuo pointed out that the archaeological findings discovered in the T1 area and its vicinity should have correlation as they were in fact located in the same site and a clearer description of the situation would be set out in the final report.

8. Dr Liu Wensuo further reported that a pair of pits was discovered in the T6 area. For research purpose and site safety, the twin pits were dissected and a wooden structure was discovered inside the left pit. The nature and function of the pits had to be confirmed after further investigation.

9. In response to the enquiries from Prof Ho Puay-peng and Prof Tracey Lu, Dr Liu Wensuo and Dr Jin Zhi-wei explained that the twin pits were not interconnected. Some pottery sherds dated to Song–Yuan Dynasties were found inside the pits. The wooden structure discovered at the left pit had been taken out for conservation treatment.

10. In response to Mr Stephen Chan's enquiry regarding the preservation of the wooden structure, Mr Tom Ming pointed out that it was not suitable to leave any organic or metal discoveries on site once they were exposed. The wooden structure, together with the white soil surrounding it, had been put inside a metal case and moved to the laboratory of the Central Conservation Office for proper treatment. Any organic or metal discoveries unearthed in future would be preserved in the same manner.

11. Mr Yeung Kong-sang reported that the departments concerned, including Buildings Department, had vetted the sheet piling proposal submitted by MTRCL and considered the proposal satisfactory and feasible in protecting the archaeological discoveries in the T1 area. The proposal would facilitate the protection of the exposed archaeological features and the continuation of construction works in the Launching Shaft Area (LSA). Highways Department and other departments concerned would closely monitor the sheet pile works to ensure that the archaeological discoveries in the T1 area would not be affected.

12. Mr Peter Ip elaborated on the details of the sheet piling works for T1 area and addressed the concerns and questions of Prof Ho Puay-peng, Mr Chan Ka-kui and Prof Tracey Lu as follows:

- (i) The sheet pile wall was proposed to be located on the south side of the

existing bored pile wall and 1.8 meter away from the square-shaped well. MTRCL had thoroughly considered the suggestion of relocating the sheet pile wall to the other side of the bored pile wall, yet they could not identify a better location other than the current one, in terms of the protection provided by the sheet pile wall and potential adverse impact.

- (ii) MTRCL would ensure that the sheet piling works would not affect the archaeological discoveries in the T1 area, including the square-shaped well, by taking the following measures:
- The Giken silent piler method to be adopted would have minimal impact on the T1 area, in terms of vibration and ground movement to the surrounding areas.
  - The sheet piling works would start at a point 17-18 meters away from the well.
  - The ground settlement and vibration of the T1 area would be closely monitored throughout the whole installation process.
  - The installation of sheet piles would be stopped once the settlement and vibration had exceeded the permissible level and the works method would be adjusted accordingly.
  - The square-shaped well would be backfilled before commencement of the works to prevent distortion during pile installation.
- (iii) The same silent piler method had already been adopted for the sheet piling works close to a Grade 3 historic building, 60 meters away from the LSA.
- (iv) The suggestion of shifting the location of the launching shaft (shifting eastwards by 23 meters) might involve re-planning and preparation of another EIA report, and a very long time would be required for preparing a fresh feasibility study and design.

13. In response to Ms Ava Tse's enquiry, Mr Yeung Kong-sang explained that if the T1 area was to be preserved permanently, the To Kwa Wan Station, including the plant room and ventilation facilities, might need to be re-designed.

14. In response to the enquiry of the Chairman and Mr Kenny Lin, Mr Peter Ip

pointed out that water pumping facilities had already been installed to prevent flooding; and the sheet piling works would last for about two weeks. Mr Yeung Kong-sang added that the proposed sheet piling works could effectively protect the T1 area from soil erosion due to rainfall, and the works concerned should be carried out immediately, as the current temporary protection measures (using tents and sand bags) was not sufficient for protecting the T1 area in the rainy season.

15. Prof Tracey Lu agreed that in view of the current situation of the square-shaped well, it was necessary to carry out the protection works as soon as possible. It was also important to adopt measures to strengthen the well structure during the sheet piling works. Mr Peter Ip responded that protective measures would be carried out for the square-shaped well before commencement of sheet piling works, including filling up the well with sand and surrounding the well with sand bags. In addition, the sheet piling works would also be closely monitored by professionals and archaeologists.

16. In response to the enquiry of Prof Ho Pui-yin, Mr Peter Ip explained that the sheet piling works, which was a temporary protective measure, would not contradict with the permanent preservation of the archaeological findings in the T1 area. The sheet pile wall could be removed if needed.

17. The Chairman pointed out that in view of AAB's great concerns over the preservation of the archaeological discoveries within the construction site of the To Kwa Wan Station area, the relevant construction party and the departments concerned had been requested to keep AAB informed of the archaeological findings and to consult AAB for significant issues. Mr Albert Lam supplemented that under the relevant legislation, the Antiquities Authority i.e. the Secretary for Development, should consider the advice of AAB. When archaeological work was completed in the third quarter of this year, AAB would then have an overall picture of the archaeological site and advise appropriate preservation proposals and measures for the consideration of the Antiquities Authority.

18. Ms Janet Pau enquired whether cost estimation of different design proposals would be available. Mr Albert Lam explained that the cost estimation was not yet available at this stage and it would hinge on the final archaeological report and comments of AAB on the preservation options.

19. Mr Stephen Chan questioned whether the monitoring by AAB or the public on the archaeological work could be strengthened. While echoing the views of Mr Stephen Chan, Mr Tim Ko questioned whether AMO had their own archaeologists to monitor the excavation and what the role of AAB was.

20. The Chairman said that the existing notification system on archaeological discoveries was strengthened after a section of the sea wall was discovered at the MTRCL construction site in Admiralty. With the discovery of the archaeological finds at Sacred Hill, the existing notification system had in fact been further strengthened. He stressed that AAB was only an advisory body and should not take over the archaeological and administrative work of AMO.

21. Mr Tom Ming emphasized that AMO fully respected the advisory role of AAB and had regularly reported to AAB the progress of archaeological work. During the first phase of the archaeological work at To Kwa Wan Station, 4 briefs had been provided to AAB for reference. AAB Members were also arranged to visit the site in November 2013, followed by a thorough discussion on preservation of the archaeological discoveries in the AAB meeting on 4 December 2013. Subsequent to the commencement of the second phase, briefs, site visit and special meeting had been arranged as well. Mr Tom Ming reiterated that:

- (i) AMO would continue to report to AAB periodically to provide timely information on the archaeological work.
- (ii) The archaeological work was led by a team of archaeologists with professional training. Academic discussion based on the findings was welcome.
- (iii) AMO had assigned 3 officers (out of a total of 7 officers each with at least a master degree in archaeology) to monitor the archaeological work at To Kwa Wan Station. They had been conducting weekly inspections to closely monitor the progress and exchange views with the archaeologists if and when necessary.

22. Mr Albert Lam pointed out that under the relevant legislation, a license was required for conducting archaeological excavation in Hong Kong and the Secretary for Development would consult AAB before the issue of any licence. Documents relevant to the license applications for archaeological excavation at To Kwa Wan Station had been passed to AAB Members for reference before the licenses were granted and the Secretary for Development would continue to take

heed of the views of AAB in this respect. Furthermore, under the enhanced notification system as advised by the Secretary for Development, a monthly brief to AAB, which would capture the latest progress of the archaeological work at To Kwa Wan Station, regardless of any significant discoveries were unearthed, had also been in place.

23. Sr Wong Bay proposed that the distance between the square-shaped well and the sheet pile wall should be maximized so as to provide for a larger buffer zone.

24. Prof Tracey Lu opined that AAB should play the following roles in the field of archaeology, taken into account of the prevailing legislation:

- (i) To give advice on the applications for licences to conduct archaeological excavation.
- (ii) To keep in view the excavation work and since AAB Members were drawn from different sectors of the community, AMO had to play a very important role in assisting AAB to oversee and monitor the work progress.
- (iii) To give advice to the Government on the preservation and management of archaeological discoveries.

25. Mr Joseph Ngai expressed that a consensus on the possible mitigation measures for the archaeological discoveries would need to be reached at a later stage after taking into account all the relevant factors. It would be an opportunity for public education and there were trade-off costs in preserving archaeological discoveries.

26. With regard to the sheet piling proposal, the Chairman said that AAB might not be able to give a concrete view at this stage, after listening to the views expressed by individual Members.

27. Prof Ho Puay-peng expressed that AAB would not be in the position to accept the proposal or not. Based on the earlier discussion, the advice of AAB might include the following:

- (i) The archaeological discoveries, including the square-shaped well, had to be protected as soon as possible to avoid soil erosion.

- (ii) The proposed 1.8 meter distance between the sheet pile wall and square-shaped well was not sufficient. It would be better to increase the distance.
- (iii) The best solution would be shifting the launching shaft eastwards by 23 meters.
- (iv) The discussion on preservation of the archaeological discoveries should be conducted after completion of all archaeological work.

28. In response to the enquiry of the Chairman, Dr Liu Wensuo and Dr Jin Zhi-wei opined that given the current site conditions, it was necessary to carry out the protective works as soon as possible.

29. In response to the enquiry of Mr Kenny Lin, Dr Liu Wensuo and Dr Jin Zhi-wei replied that they did not possess the professional knowledge to determine the suitable distance between the square-shaped well and sheet pile wall, but agreed that since the proposed method was to start sheet piling from the furthest corner of T1 area before moving progressively closer to the well, there should be ample time to fine tune the construction method in case movement or vibration was greater than anticipated.

30. The Chairman and Prof Tracey Lu enquired if MTRCL had alternative protection plans if negative impact was detected when the sheet piling works was in progress and requested MTRCL to provide details of each alternative plan and the respective consequences. Prof Ho Puay-peng also enquired about the tolerance limit for the settlement and vibration levels. Mr Peter Ip explained to Members that the scaling of the monitoring figures and the monitoring threshold were classified into 'alert', 'action' and 'alarm'. Besides, the current proposal was considered the best among various options, and if any negative impact was detected when the sheet piling works was in progress, MTRCL would slow down the works to minimize the impact.

31. Mr Yeung Kong-sang reiterated the importance of commencing the sheet piling works as soon as possible to avoid soil erosion in the rainy season. Besides, as mentioned by MTRCL, the settlement and vibration level readings would be closely monitored.

32. In response to the enquiry of Sr Wong Bay, Mr Peter Ip informed the meeting that tents and sand bags had been used to protect the temporary cut slope

surface, while water pumping facilities had been installed at the excavation site to prevent flooding.

33. In response to the enquiry of Mr Stephen Chan regarding the monitoring of the archaeological site by the public, Mr Tom Ming explained that it was inappropriate for too many visitors to tread on the site, which would damage the archaeological findings. In order to enhance the understanding of the public on the subject, information about archaeology and the archaeological findings at To Kwa Wan Station had been uploaded onto AMO's website. Lectures on relevant topics would also be organized.

34. To conclude, the Chairman summarized that

- (i) In view of public concerns, it was necessary to inform the public of the latest progress through various means, including uploading information onto the website and organizing discussion forums.
- (ii) There was an urgent need to carry out protection work for the T1 area. As Members still had reservations on the current proposal, Development Bureau should explore with Highways Department and MTRCL alternatives for protecting the archaeological discoveries.

35. Mr Albert Lam said that apart from submitting regular reports to AAB, information in layman terms and illustrations would be uploaded onto AMO's website to facilitate public understanding of the progress of the archaeological work. The briefs for AAB were similarly available in AMO's website for public viewing. After the archaeological work was completed in the third quarter of this year and the final report was available, a more comprehensive and concrete conclusion could then be drawn regarding the extent and condition of the archaeological remains as well as their overall heritage value, and appropriate preservation proposals and measures would be formulated accordingly. In response to media enquiry, the Development Bureau had been providing supplementary information as far as possible and the recent media briefing on 15 May 2014 after briefing to AAB also attracted appropriate media coverage.

36. In response to the enquiry of Prof Ho Puay-peng, Mr Peter Ip mentioned that the sheet piling work could commence at any time and it was anticipated to be completed in two weeks.

37. In response to the enquiry of Mr Stephen Chan, the Chairman emphasized that being an advisory body, AAB could not take over the role of responsible parties, particularly MTRCL, to explain the works details to the public. AAB should continue with its efforts in urging for enhanced monitoring and transparency.

( Ms Ava Tse left the meeting at 12:00 p.m., quorum of the meeting could not be met after this juncture.)

38. Upon enquiry of Mr Chan Ka-kui, Mr Tom Ming said that when the sheet piling works commenced, AAB would be informed of the monitoring data when available. The Chairman supplemented that in view of the public concerns on the progress of the construction works, it would be desirable for the Development Bureau and AMO to better coordinate with the relevant parties in the dissemination of information.

**Item 2 Any Other Business**

39. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Antiquities and Monuments Office  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
September 2014

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