

**AMO's Comments on  
Heritage Impact Assessment for  
Transformation of the Former Police Married Quarters Site on Hollywood Road  
into a Creative Industries Landmark**

AMO has reviewed the findings set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report for the transformation of the Former Police Married Quarters (PMQ) Site on Hollywood Road into a creative industries landmark and has the following comments:

- a) We note that the proposal has adopted the principles of minimum intervention and reversibility such that any disturbance to the remains of the Former Central School and the buildings at the Former Police Married Quarters Buildings would be kept to the minimum. As such, the proposal is agreeable;
- b) We note that the proposal has the merit of providing an underground interpretation area (UIA) for public appreciation of the underground remnants of the Former Central School. The UIA will be constructed at a suitable location that would allow the display of as much investigated remnants underground as possible, yet without creating any unnecessary adverse impact on the remnants.
- c) We note that, as confirmed by the HIA, the proposal has devised the necessary and appropriate measures for mitigating any unavoidable impact of the revitalisation works on the existing buildings and underground remains.
- d) We note that the HIA has appropriately recommended cartographic and photographic surveys and records to ensure proper documentation of the existing features.
- e) We note that the proposal has responded to public views over the reuse of the top floor of Block B. Through integration with innovative new architecture finished by glass enclosure for the roof-top restaurant and by setting back the restaurant from elevation, the current proposal will preserve the façades and protect the integrity of the elevation of the building.
- f) We agree with the observation in the HIA that the proposal will meet its primary objectives of properly preserving the three historic buildings and the remnants of the Former Central School at the PMQ site while providing sufficient facilities for a creative industries landmark through

revitalisation.

- g) In addition to the mitigation measures devised by the project proponent, we would like to propose the following technical suggestions to further enhance them -
- (i) We recommend that the wall of the “I-Cube” should be constructed with transparent material to maintain the openness of the existing courtyard and reduce the visual impact on the existing Quarters buildings and the courtyard.
  - (ii) The ductings for the building services facilities to be installed for the new use should be located in less prominent locations so as not to bring any adverse visual impact on the historic remains of the Former Central School and the Quarters buildings. The fixings/openings required for the building services routings should be kept to the minimum.
  - (iii) If upgrading works for the balustrades at the existing flights of granite steps are required to suit modern day requirements, such works should be designed to minimise any disturbance to the granite surface of the flights of granite steps.
  - (iv) It is noted that a portion of the area required for the construction of the UIA has not been excavated in the site investigation conducted in 2007. We recommend that before the construction of the UIA, an archaeological investigation should be conducted at the potentially impacted, undisturbed and unexcavated areas, with a view to preserving the residual archaeological interest as appropriate. An archaeological action plan (AAP) should be prepared to demonstrate the extent of the archaeological investigation, work programme schedule, methodology, etc. A conservation plan, detailing the sequence and method of the construction of the UIA and temporary protection measures for the underground remains in the area, should be formulated in order to ensure good protection of the archaeological features during the construction stage. The AAP and the conservation plan should be submitted to AMO for endorsement;
  - (v) The HIA’s recommendation for an AAP for any necessary archaeological investigation or archaeological watching brief for other ground works (such as passenger lifts, new staircases, underground utilities and landscaping works at the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> plateaux that may involve soil excavation) is supported.

Arrangements should be detailed in the aforesaid AAP which should be submitted to AMO for endorsement; and

- (vi) The finalised HIA report should be accompanied with plans, sections, elevations and/or photomontages, showing clearly the proposed alteration/ addition works to the historic buildings.

Antiquities and Monuments Office  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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