

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comments on
the Heritage Impact Assessment
on Duddell Street Steps and Gas Lamps**

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has reviewed the findings set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment report for the upgrading / improvement (U/I) of the retaining wall (Feature No. 11SW-B/R93 (Sub-division 1)) adjacent to the Duddell Street Steps and Gas Lamps and has the following comments -

- a) AMO agrees that Option 2 (i.e. U/I by soil nailing) is the preferred design option for the proposed U/I works to the retaining wall, as it is less disruptive than other methods and shall have less adverse impact on the Duddell Street Steps and Gas Lamps.
- b) Due to technical concerns, it is understood that a new skin wall with masonry facing will need to be put in place on the existing retaining wall to enhance the structural stability by connecting all the proposed soil nails to form a complete structure and prevent weak brittle failure of the existing masonry wall.
- c) In addition to the mitigation measures devised in the HIA report, AMO would like to propose the following for further enhancement:
 - (i) It is noted that the vibration generated by the U/I works will be assessed during the course of the works. It is recommended that monitoring device should be put in place to keep track of the vibration level. The monitoring proposal should be submitted to the AMO for comment.
 - (ii) To further lessen the visual impact, the new masonry covering the concrete skin wall should match the masonry of the existing retaining wall with reference to the colour and size of the existing stone blocks and the method of bonding.

- (iii) The design of the new doors to the new skin wall should be submitted to the AMO for comment.
- (iv) The masonry spandrel walls and balustrading to the Stone Steps and Gas Lamps should be fully protected during the course of the U/I. The protection method should be submitted to the AMO for approval.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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