

**For discussion  
on 27 June 2013**

**BOARD PAPER  
AAB/12/2013-14**

**MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
ON DUDELL STREET STEPS AND GAS LAMPS**

**PURPOSE**

This paper presents to Members the preliminary findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on Duddell Street Steps and Gas Lamps.

**HIA MECHANISM**

2. The HIA was conducted in accordance with the HIA Mechanism introduced by the Development Bureau vide Technical Circular (Works) No. 6/2009. Implemented from 1 January 2008, the HIA mechanism for capital works projects emphasises that every effort should be made to avoid or minimize adverse impact by the proposed work arising from Government's capital works projects on "heritage sites"<sup>1</sup>. If there is any adverse impact, the project proponent / works agent should introduce mitigation measures and engage the public in particular the AAB.

**THE PROJECT**

3. The Highways Department (HyD) has proposed upgrading / improvement (U/I) works to the retaining wall (Feature No. 11SW-B/R93 (Sub-division 1)) adjacent to the Duddell Street Steps and Gas Lamps, a

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<sup>1</sup> Heritage sites include:

- (i) all declared monuments;
- (ii) all proposed monuments;
- (iii) all sites and buildings graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB);
- (iv) all recorded sites of archaeological interest; and
- (v) Government historic sites identified by AMO.

declared monument, in order to enhance the stability of the retaining wall. The proposed U/I works will involve installation of soil nails, construction of skin walls, installation of masonry facing and landscaping works.

## **The HIA**

4. In view of the possible visual impact of the proposed U/I works on the declared monument and interference such as vibration caused during the course of the works, the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) considers that an HIA for the U/I works is necessary. HyD has therefore engaged a consultant to conduct an HIA which aims to examine to what extent the U/I works would affect the monument and to devise mitigation measures if adverse impact is unavoidable.

5. HyD has submitted an HIA report to the AMO. Given that the potential impact of the proposed U/I works on the declared monument can be reasonably mitigated, AMO considers that the proposed U/I works acceptable. Salient points of the HIA report are summarised at **Annex A** and AMO's comments are set out at **Annex B**. The full HIA report can be accessed via the link [http://www.amo.gov.hk/form/HIA\\_Report\\_Duddell\\_Street.pdf](http://www.amo.gov.hk/form/HIA_Report_Duddell_Street.pdf).

6. Representatives of the HyD as well as their consultant, Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited, will present the HIA report at the meeting. They will further refine the proposed U/I works with reference to Members' comments.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

7. Members are invited to comment and advise on the findings of the HIA.

Antiquities and Monuments Office  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
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