

**For discussion
on 8 September 2016**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/34/2015-16**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**BUILDING REMAINS AT THE SITE OF COCHRANE STREET AND
RELATED CONSERVATION PROPOSAL**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the latest position with regard to the building remains at the site of Cochrane Street (Building Remains), solicits Members' views on the conservation proposal of the H18 redevelopment project (which includes the Building Remains) by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), and seeks Members' advice on whether grading assessment should be carried out for the Building Remains.

BACKGROUND

2. Since October 2015, the Central and Western Concern Group (Concern Group) has provided the Board / Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) with its views on the discoveries and preservation of three items within / near the project area of the H18 redevelopment, namely (a) the stone channels along Graham Street and Peel Street; (b) the signboard of “英記堅炭” embedded in the façade of No. 21 Peel Street; and (c) the Building Remains. As the signboard of “英記堅炭” has been salvaged and will be reinstated in the future redevelopment, and that the stone channels fall outside the redevelopment boundary, AMO only proceeded to conduct a preliminary assessment on the heritage value of the Building Remains in accordance with the established practice. In response to the enquiry of the Chairman under “Any Other Business” at the Board meeting on 3 March 2016, AMO reported the latest research findings of the Building Remains to Members. Given the dilapidated condition of the Building Remains and having assessed the Building Remains against the six prevailing grading assessment criteria, the

Board decided not to proceed with the grading assessment of the Building Remains but requested URA to explore the technical feasibility to salvage and incorporate the Building Remains in the future redevelopment.

3. Shortly before the Board meeting on 18 April 2016, new information on the Building Remains was received from the Concern Group. The Chairman therefore suggested and Members agreed to invite AMO to conduct further research on the Building Remains in the light of the newly received information and report its findings to the Board. In response to Members' concerns on the preservation of the Building Remains, the Chairman also suggested to invite URA to brief Members on details of the conservation plan of the Building Remains.

4. AMO has been liaising with the Concern Group since the last Board meeting and has received various batches of materials on the Building Remains in April and May 2016. These have been duly forwarded to Members for reference. Subsequently, at the request of the Concern Group and with the consent of the Chairman, the Concern Group was invited to present its own findings in respect of the Building Remains to Members at an informal session on 15 August 2016. The Chairman and five Members attended the informal meeting. The Concern Group also took the opportunity to present its initial proposals in conserving the Building Remains.

5. AMO has taken the past few months to critically examine all the materials submitted by the Concern Group. An updated heritage appraisal of the Building Remains has been sent to Members before the meeting. Meanwhile, URA has prepared conservation proposal for the H18 redevelopment project which includes the Building Remains, and will present to Members at the subject Board meeting.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to:

- (a) note the latest position as regards the Building Remains;
- (b) comment on the conservation proposal of the H18 redevelopment project by URA; and

- (c) advise whether grading assessment should be carried out for the Building Remains.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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