

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN RESPECT OF
SITE FORMATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS FOR
PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AT MA ON SHAN TSUEN ROAD –
INVESTIGATION, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' views on the findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment ("HIA") in respect of Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Public Housing Developments at Ma On Shan Tsuen Road – Investigation, Design and Construction by the Civil Engineering and Development Department ("CEDD").

HIA MECHANISM

2. The HIA in respect of the Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Public Housing Developments at Ma On Shan Tsuen Road – Investigation, Design and Construction was conducted in accordance with the HIA mechanism introduced by the Development Bureau vide Technical Circular (Works) No. 1/2022. Since its implementation in 2008, the HIA mechanism for capital works projects emphasises that every effort should be made to avoid or minimise adverse impact on "heritage sites"¹. In the submission to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council, the works agent is required to include a "Heritage Implications" paragraph to be cleared by the Antiquities and Monuments Office ("AMO"), stating clearly whether the project will affect any "heritage sites" and if so, the necessary mitigation measures, as endorsed by the Antiquities Advisory Board ("AAB"), to be implemented.

¹ Heritage sites include :

1. all declared monuments;
2. all proposed monuments;
3. all sites and buildings / structures graded by AAB;
4. all sites, buildings / structures in the list of new items pending for grading assessment by AAB;
5. all sites of archaeological interest; and
6. Government sites identified by AMO.

THE PROJECT

3. The project is proposed by CEDD for provision of essential infrastructures and the formation of sites allowing for the spatial layout (including residential blocks and other facilities) and development parameters supporting the future public housing development by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (“HKHA”) at a later stage.

4. Three graded historic buildings are in the vicinity of the project area, namely, (i) Site Structures at Mining Settlement, Ma On Shan Iron Mine, Sha Tin, N.T. (Grade 3 Historic Building); (ii) Exterior walls of 110 ML and 240 ML, Ma On Shan Iron Mine, Sha Tin, N.T. (Grade 2 Historic Building); and (iii) Mineral Preparation Plant, Ma On Shan Iron Mine, Sha Tin, N.T. (Grade 3 Historic Building).

5. The mining operation at Ma On Shan is considered one of four major historical mining operations undertaken within the 20th century in Hong Kong. The Ma On Shan mining operation commenced in 1906 by Paul Chater’s Hong Kong Iron Mining Company Limited as a small-scale opencast mine located on the west facing mid-slopes of Ma On Shan.

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6. CEDD has submitted the HIA report on the Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Public Housing Developments at Ma On Shan Tsuen Road based on the preliminary Master Layout Plan agreed with the HKHA. Given the graded historic buildings in close vicinity of the project area will be preserved in-situ, AMO considers the works proposal agreeable from the heritage conservation perspective. The salient points of the HIA report and AMO’s comments are set out in **Annexes A and B** respectively. The full HIA report can be accessed via the link: https://www.aab.gov.hk/filemanager/aab/common/202meeting/HIA_Report_MOSTR.pdf.

7. Representatives of CEDD and its project and heritage consultants will present the HIA report at the meeting. They will further refine the proposal in the light of Members’ comments.

ADVICE SOUGHT

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

Antiquities and Monuments Office

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