

**Brief on the Cultural Remains of Song-Yuan Period Unearthed by  
Archaeological Work at Sacred Hill (North) Study Area for  
Shatin to Central Link – Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section  
(SCL(TAW-HUH))**

**BACKGROUND**

The Shatin to Central Link rail project, initiated by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL), is a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) (Cap. 499). An archaeological survey-cum-excavation is being conducted at the Sacred Hill (North) Study Area (Figure 1) prior to the commencement of construction works as recommended by the approved EIA Report.

2. Dr Liu Wensuo, the archaeologist engaged by the consultant of MTRCL to carry out the survey-cum-excavation, was granted a licence in 2012 for the archaeological field project by the Antiquities Authority after assessment by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) and with the support of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB). The licence has been renewed to complete the remaining archaeological work.

3. Three briefs on the findings of the archaeological work were circulated to AAB members for information on 11 December 2012 (Annex A), 27 March 2013 (Annex B) and 24 September 2013 (Annex C).

**FURTHER DISCOVERIES OF CULTURAL REMAINS OF  
SONG-YUAN PERIOD**

4. The archaeological survey-cum-excavation has come to the final stage, with a view to be completed by end of November 2013 (Photo 1). Apart from the discoveries detailed in the above-mentioned briefs, a number of other archaeological features including remains of building structures, burials, wells and kilns have also been found. Details are illustrated in the following paragraphs.

### **Building structures**

5. Remains of three building structures of Song-Yuan period have been recovered, which can help estimate the size, shape, function and use of the buildings (Photo 2). Two complete incense burners have also been discovered below the ground surface of a building (Photo 3 – Photo 4). The containers are products of Longquan Kiln of late Southern Song to early Yuan dynasties.

### **Burials**

6. A total of more than 20 burials dated to Song-Yuan period have been identified, several of which are still under excavation (Photo 5). Apart from complete funerary pottery objects, such as typical four-lug jars (Photo 6) with plate/bowl covers, recently unearthed burials goods include Song coins, roof tiles and iron objects like nails, a knife, etc.

### **Wells**

7. Two wells have been found in the vicinity of the building structures, one is in round shape and the other one is in square shape (Photo 7). The round well has been continuously used over the years while the square one might have been used during the Song-Yuan period only.

### **Kiln remains**

8. Remains with compact layers of charcoal resulted from the use of fire have been found in the Song-Yuan cultural layers. One has been confirmed to be the remnant of a lime kiln (Photo 8) while the others are being studied with the hypotheses of being remnants of kilns.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DISCOVERIES**

9. Although the survey-cum-excavation is still going on, the archaeological materials unearthed so far would shed light on the past settlement of the Kowloon City area during the Song-Yuan period.

10. The high quality Longquan celadon, the large number of tea and wine vessel remains as well as tens of thousands of village ware, funerary objects, copper coins and iron weapons have provided important clues to trace the status of the inhabitants and the social and economic activities during the Song-Yuan period.

11. Although the archaeological survey-cum-excavation area has been seriously disturbed by the urban development since the early 20th century, the recovered archaeological remains strongly suggested the existence of a market settlement which once served the neighbouring villages during the Song-Yuan period. The archaeological discoveries have shown us abundant material evidence for further research to help reconstruct the history of this particular period of Hong Kong.

### **PRESERVATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND OBJECTS**

12. Since the archaeological survey-cum-excavation area has been seriously disturbed since the early 20th century, the archaeological features discovered are generally in fragmentary condition. Therefore recording by means of photography, drawing and written description is considered an appropriate way to preserve these features. As regards the movable artefacts, they will be collected from the site for study.

Antiquities and Monuments Office

November 2013

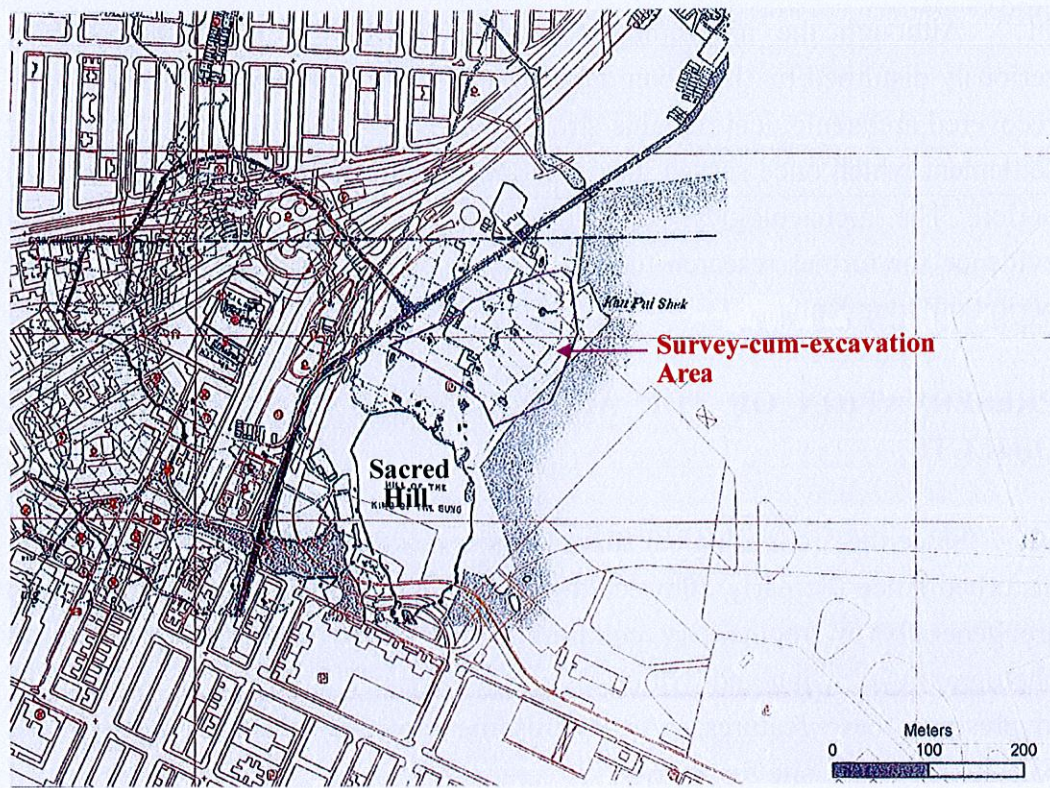


Figure 1: An archaeological survey-cum-excavation is being conducted at the Sacred Hill (North) Study Area as delineated in purple.

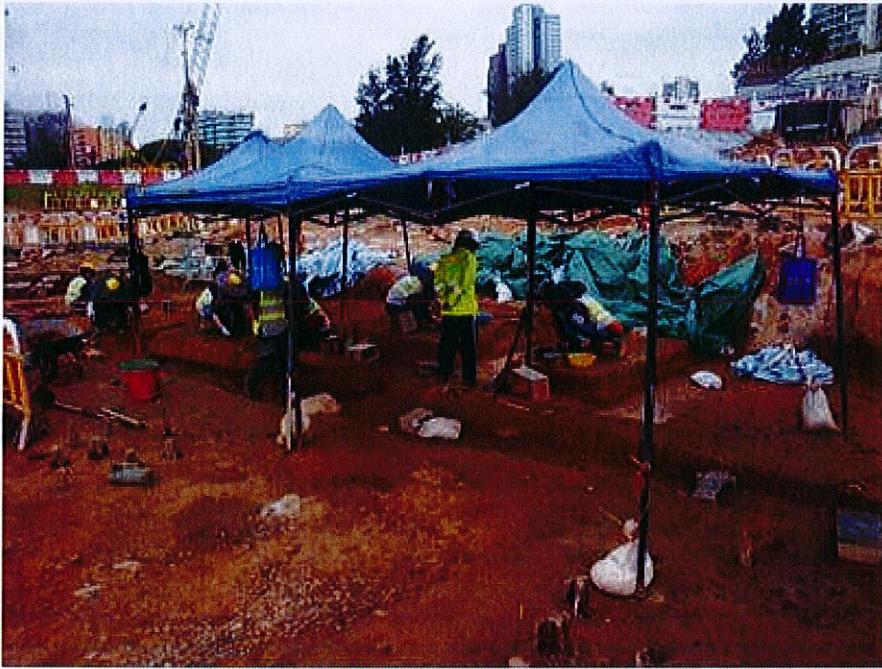


Photo 1: Archaeological excavation in progress.



Photo 2: Remains of building structures dated to Song-Yuan period (marked with white chalk).



Photo 3: Two incense burners unearthed from the site.



Photo 4: The two incense burners were collected and currently stored in on-site storage for further study.



Photo 5: A burial of Song-Yuan period under excavation.

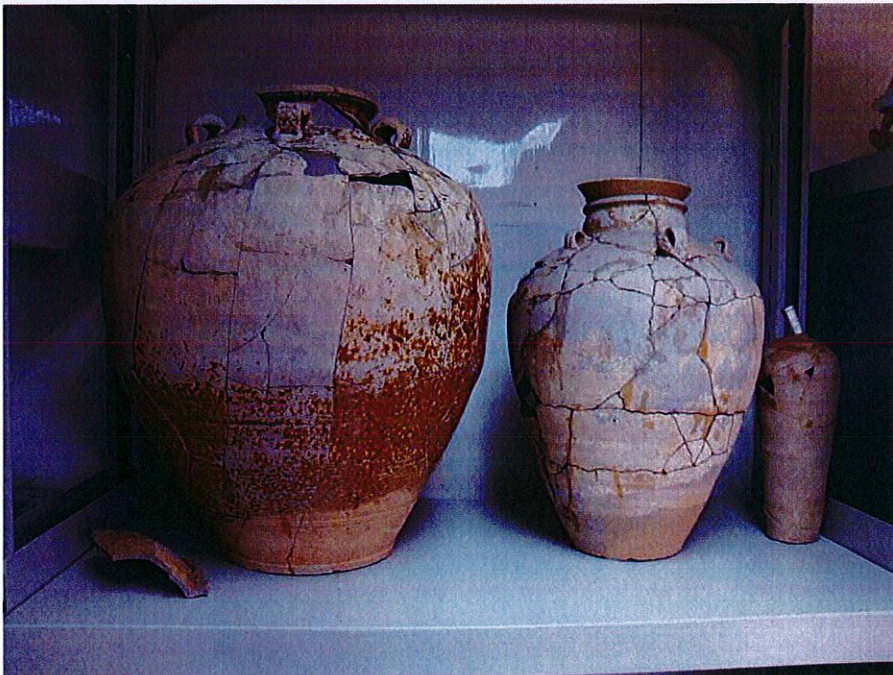


Photo 6: Some of the burial goods unearthed, a four-lug jar is placed in the middle.



Photo 7: A square well was found in vicinity of the remains of building structures.



Photo 8: Remnant of a lime kiln.