

**Brief on the Archaeological Work at Sacred Hill (North) Study Area for
Shatin to Central Link (SCL) – Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section
(SCL(TAW-HUH))**

BACKGROUND

The project of SCL, initiated by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL), is a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) (Cap. 499). MTRCL had to prepare an environmental impact assessment (EIA) Report.

2. During the course of preparing the EIA Report, MTRCL commissioned an archaeologist to conduct an archaeological impact assessment for the project. An area north of Sacred Hill, where the large inscribed boulder (宋王臺) was once situated, was excavated in 2008 and a large assemblage of Song Dynasty pottery was revealed. As the Sacred Hill (North) Study Area had undergone reclamation, it is anticipated that the archaeological potential for the fill material would be low and only the original soil layer is considered to have archaeological potential. In this connection, it is recommended in the approved EIA report that an archaeological survey-cum-excavation at the Sacred Hill (North) Study Area is required prior to the commencement of construction works. The EIA Report of SCL(TAW-HUH) (Register No. AEIAR-167/2012) was approved by the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) in February 2012, which can be found at http://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/register/report/eiareport/eia_2002011/index.htm.

3. In accordance with the Environmental Permit (EP) (EP-438/2012/B) approved by DEP in October 2012, MTRCL submitted an Archaeological Action Plan to the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) in September 2012 for the survey-cum-excavation at Sacred Hill (North) Study Area. Subsequently, Dr Liu Wensuo, the archaeologist engaged by the consultant of MTRCL to carry out the survey-cum-excavation, submitted a licence application to AMO in September 2012. The Antiquities Authority, after assessment by AMO and with support of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), granted a licence to Dr Liu for the archaeological work on 29 October 2012. A plan showing the archaeological survey-cum-excavation area is at Figure 1.

FINDINGS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

4. The survey-cum-excavation commenced in mid-November 2012. Recently, the archaeologist informed AMO that granite structures were discovered from three test pits (Figure 2). According to the preliminary research of the archaeologist and AMO, the granite structures may be building remains of early 20th century. The granite structures seem to be an enclosing wall of a building. Since only segments of granite structures were exposed (Photo 1), the archaeologist will conduct further study to confirm the dating of the granite structures as well as its function.

5. If the structures are confirmed to be of low heritage value, AMO will require the archaeologist to conduct a full recording and measurement of the features by photography, drawing and written description.

6. Other than the above structures, some modern ceramic sherds and fragments were unearthed from the test pits (Photo 2). Artefacts with research value will be handed over to AMO after completion of the excavation.

7. The survey-cum-excavation is still going on and is expected to be completed in mid 2013. Construction works will start after completion of the archaeological work. AMO will continue to closely monitor the archaeological work and report to AAB if and when necessary.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
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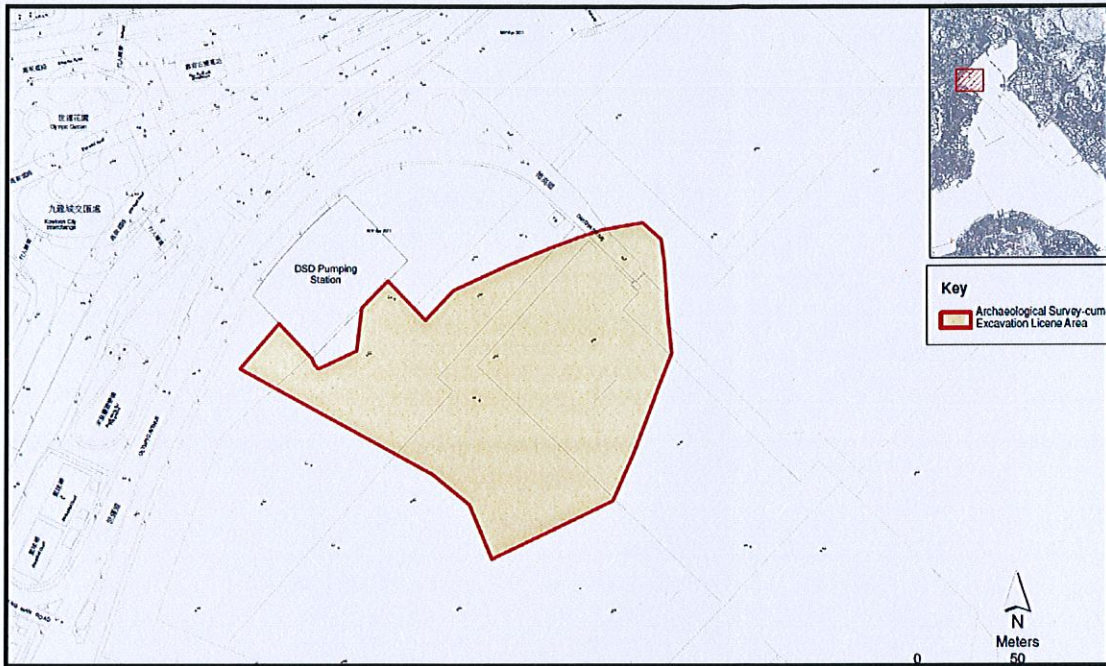


Figure 1: Licenced Area of the archaeological-survey-cum-excavation (hedged in red)

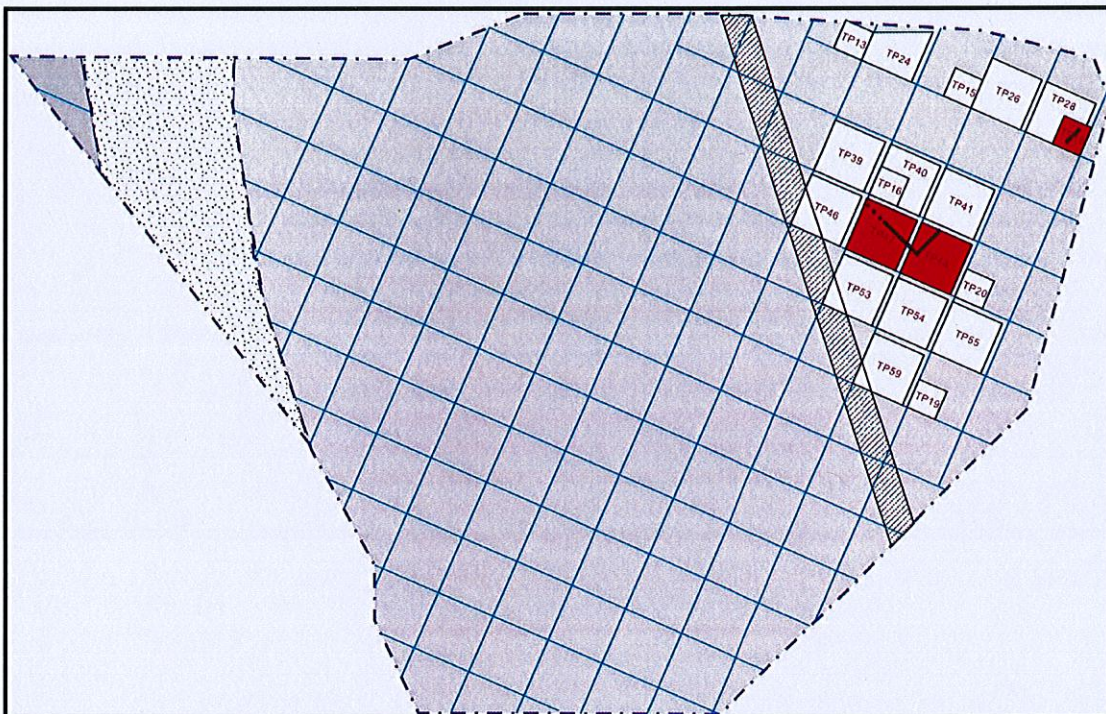


Figure 2: The opened test pits and the identified granite structures (in red)



Photo 1: A segment of the granite structure identified during the survey-cum-excavation



Photo 2: Modern ceramic sherds and fragments unearthed during the survey-cum-excavation