

**Brief on the Cultural Remains of Song-Yuan Period Unearthed by  
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 Mass Transit Railway 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](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 the support of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), granted a licence to Dr Liu for the archaeological work on 29 October 2012. Dr Liu has started the archaeological work since 12 November 2012. A plan showing the archaeological survey-cum-excavation area is at Figure 1.

4. The survey-cum-excavation area was divided into three areas (IIA, IIB and III). A plan showing the three areas is at Figure 2. Granite structures of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and wooden piles were discovered in Areas IIA and III. The progress of the above-mentioned archaeological work and the findings were reported to the AAB via email on 11 December 2012 and Progress Report AAB/1/2013-14.

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

5. Recently, the archaeologist informed AMO that remains of recent building structures, cultivated fields, wells and ponds were unearthed in Area III. The remains of cultivated fields, wells and ponds (Photo 1) were in association with the agricultural activities in late Qing to republican period. Their heritage value is relatively low.

6. The archaeologist also discovered archaeological deposits, including a truncated burial (Photo 2), remnant of a collapsed building of Yuan dynasty and Song-Yuan ceramics (Photos 3 - 5) in a cultural layer dated to Yuan dynasty. AMO invited Professor Peter Lam of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to examine the unearthed features and ceramic sherds on site on 18 March 2013 (Photo 6). Professor Lam confirmed that those unearthed ceramics can be dated to Yuan dynasty and further suggested the burial jar (Photo 7) was produced in Cizao 磁灶 of Fujian province.

7. In order to reveal the full archaeological records of the Song-Yuan cultural deposits at the site, the archaeologist has suggested removing the recent structures. It was considered that the recent building structures, wells and ponds are of relatively low heritage value and their clearance after detailed recording can make way for the maximum exposure of more Song-Yuan cultural remains.

8. 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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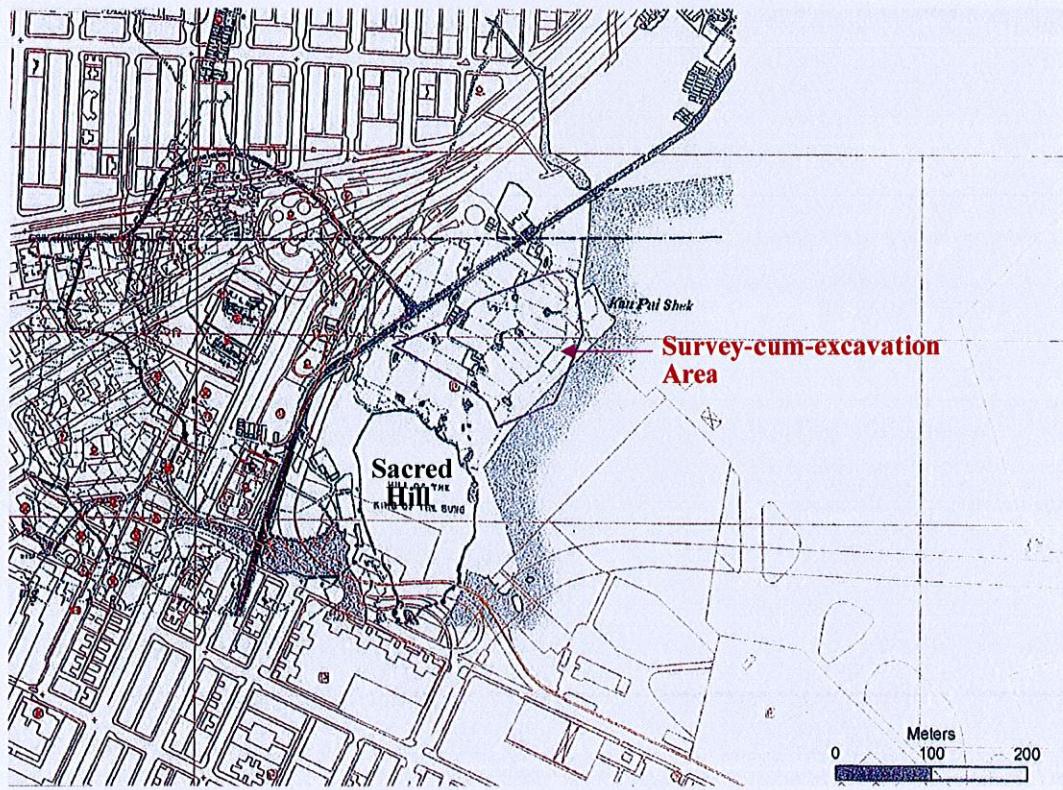


Figure 1: An archaeological survey-cum-excavation is being conducted at the Sacred Hill (North) Study Area as delineated in red

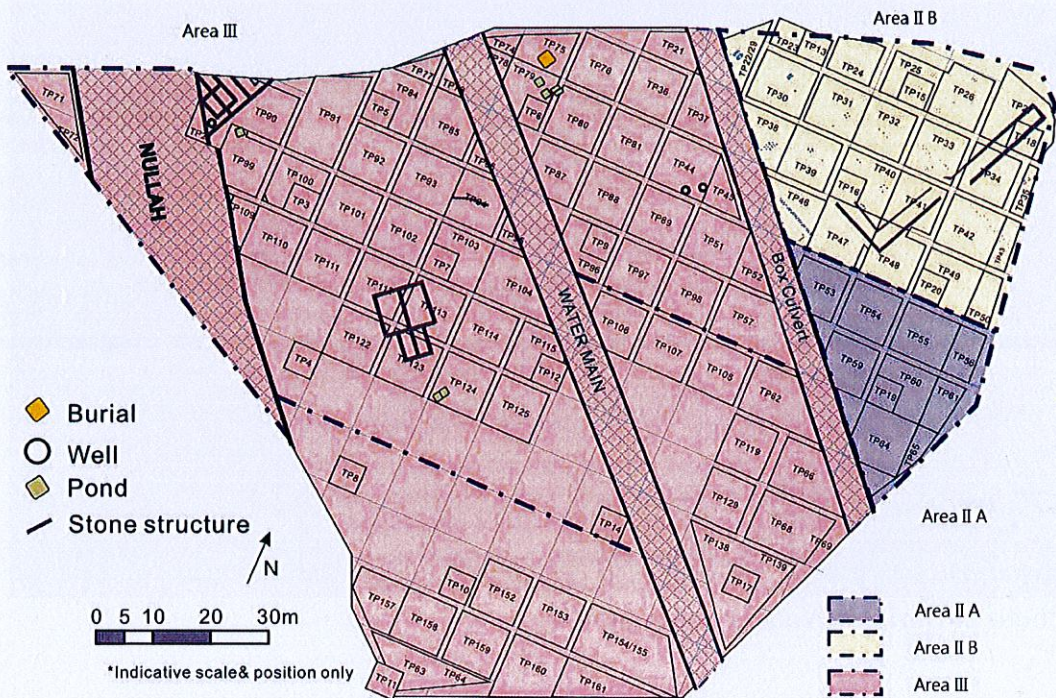


Figure 2: Three areas in the survey-cum-excavation

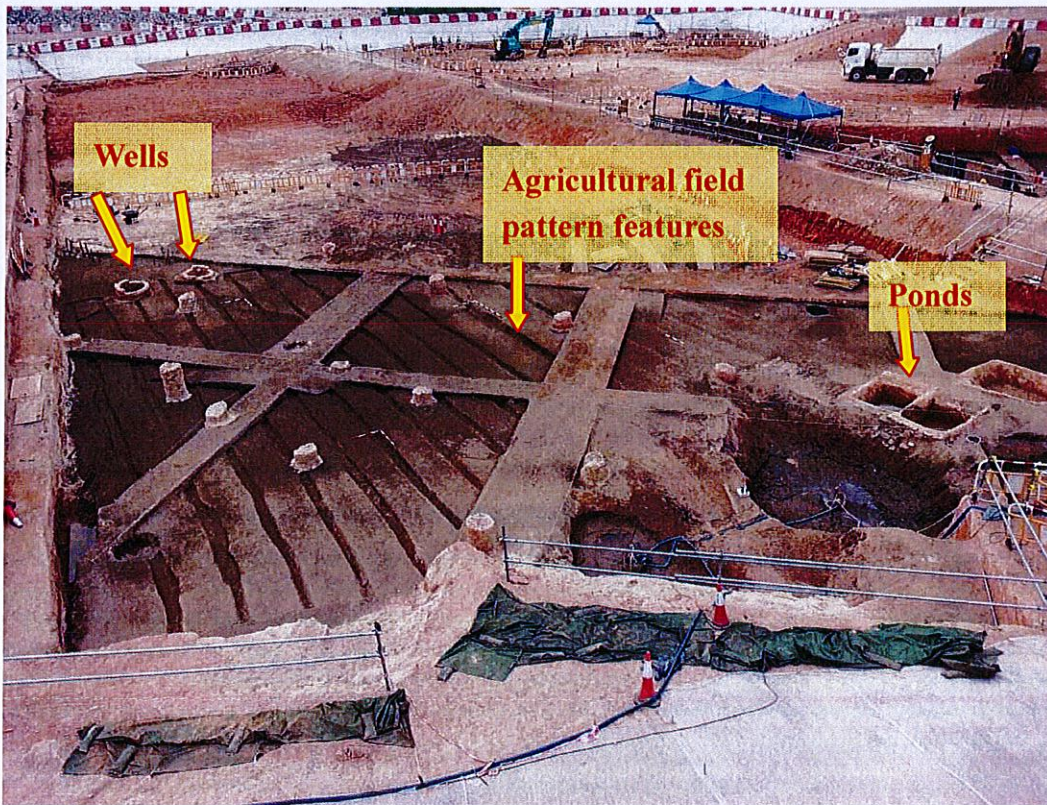


Photo 1: Remains of recent building structures, cultivated fields, wells as well as ponds were unearthed in Area III

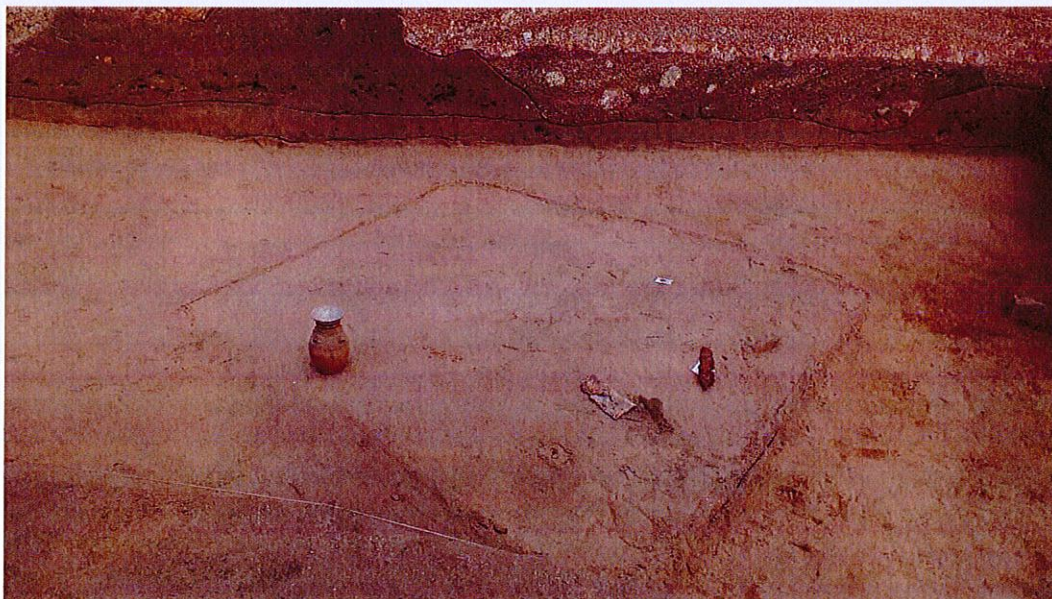


Photo 2: Burial of Yuan dynasty in TP75

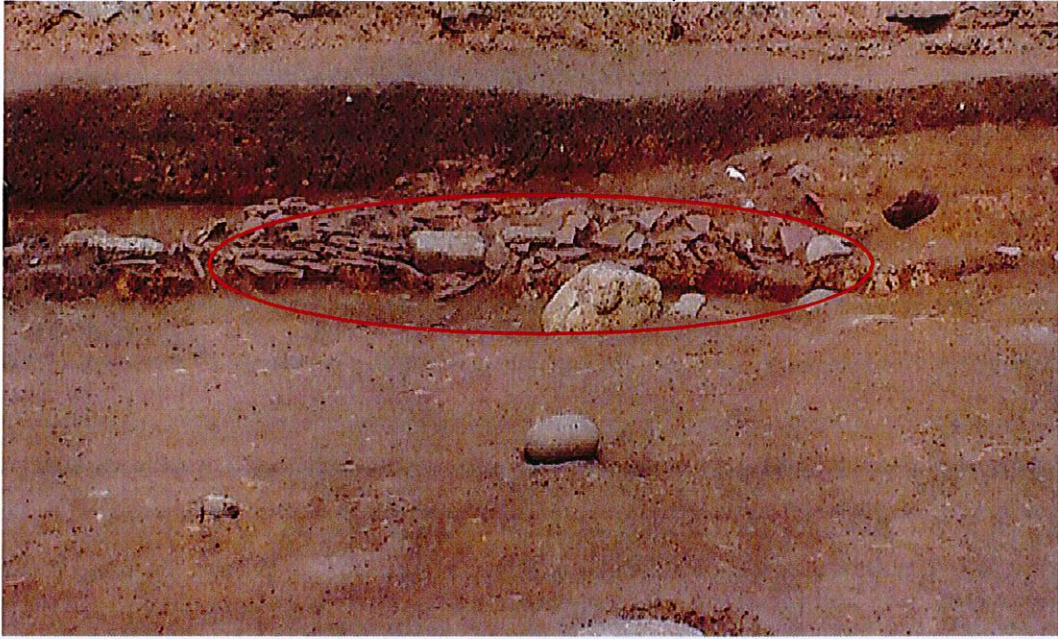


Photo 3: Remnant of a collapsed building in a Yuan dynasty cultural layer as delineated in red



Photo 4: Song ceramic sherd found in the cultural layer of Yuan dynasty

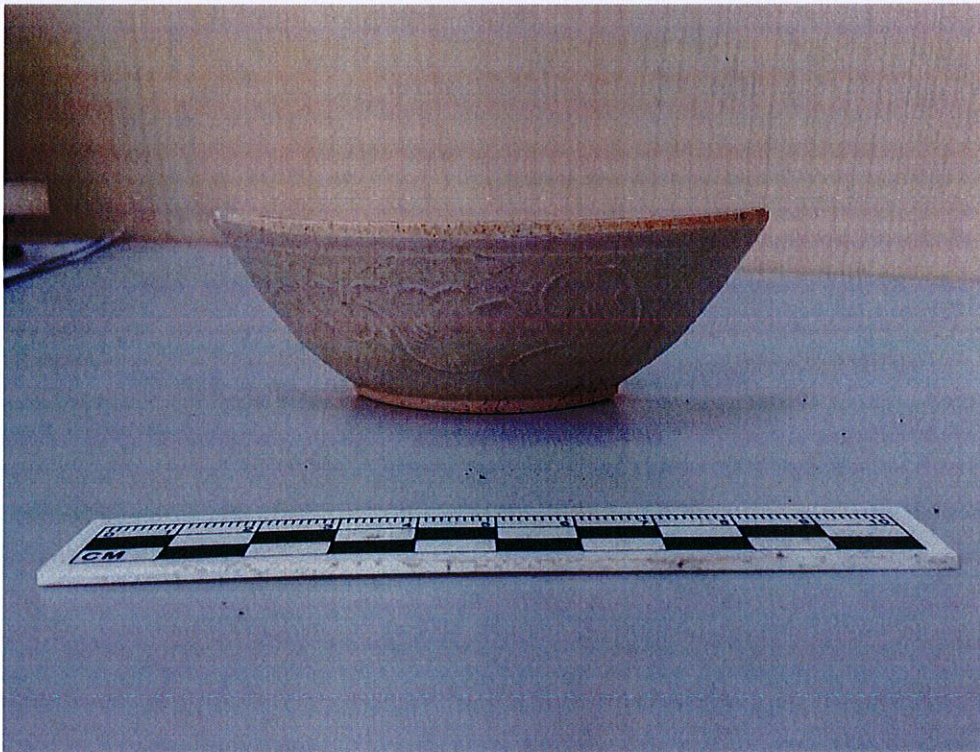


Photo 5: Yuan ceramic sherd

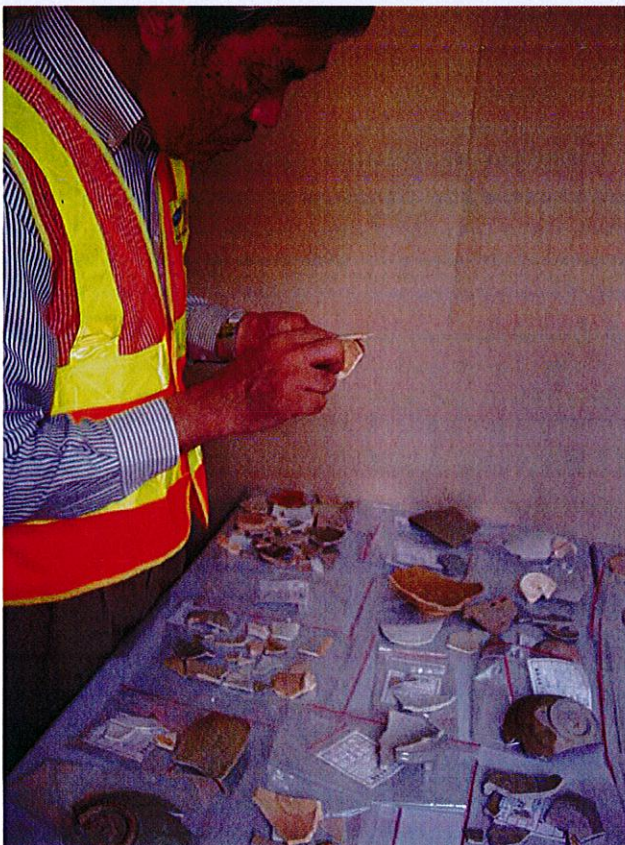


Photo 6: Professor Peter Lam of CUHK examining the unearthed Song-Yuan ceramic shreds

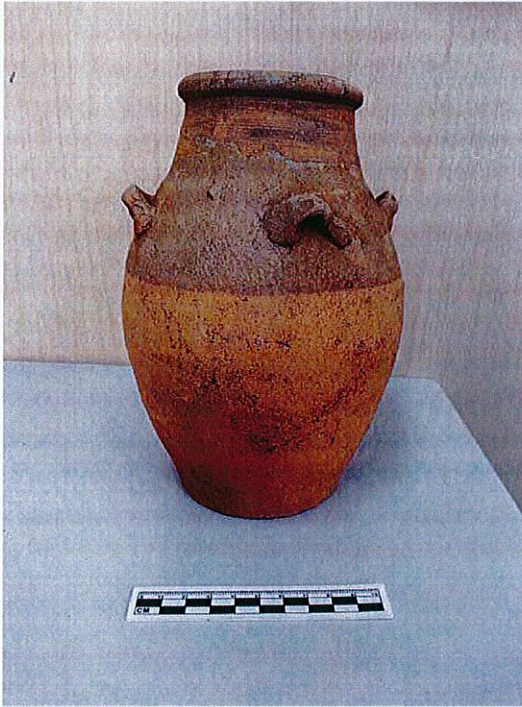


Photo 7: Burial jar of Yuan dynasty produced in Cizao 磁灶, Fujian province

