

**Brief on the Progress of the Archaeological Watching Brief at the  
To Kwa Wan Station Area of the  
Shatin to Central Link – Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section**

**BACKGROUND**

Further to the brief dated 18 August 2014 on the progress of the archaeological watching brief (AWB) at the To Kwa Wan Station area of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL), a further update on the progress since the last brief is provided below for Members' information.

**PROGRESS OF THE EXPANDED AWB**

a) Water channel system

2. Further fieldwork and assessment of the well structure were conducted. During the detailed study of the ceramic sherds of Song-Yuan period from the T1 area, it was found that some of them share a number of similarities in typology with those found in the fill layer of Well J2 (Photo 1). Further excavation outside Well J2 was conducted with a view to understanding the construction sequence by exposing a full elevation. The findings indicate that Well J2 may be originally a Song-Yuan structure but adaptively reused in the 20<sup>th</sup> century since the majority portion of the well was constructed at the same time while the top southwest portion was truncated by a pit containing decomposed granite stones (Photo 2), which was connected to a water channel built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with granite and cement. At the moment, the use of the water channel and how the water collected was diverted still remain unknown.

b) Adit C area

3. Excavation continued in the southern end of Adit C which is at the riverbank of the former Ma Tau Chung. Stone foundations and compact surfaces of building structures of Song-Yuan period were found (Photo 3). Excavation is in progress.

c) Area between Ventilation Shaft and Adit C (Zone D)

4. Besides the Song-Yuan layer with cultural remains associated with those found in the Ventilation Shaft and Adit C, a well of Qing to Republican periods was discovered (Photo 4). Excavation is underway.

d) New trenches to the north of the To Kwa Wan Station area

5. Building remains and more broken tiles and ceramic sherds were unearthed in the Song-Yuan layer (Figure A and Photo 5). During the excavation of the baulk of TP23, a pit with wooden structure was found (Photo 6), and archaeological work is still on-going to find out more details. The Central Conservation Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department has examined the wooden structure and will provide technical advice on its conservation.

6. Regarding the round-shaped brick structure discovered, detailed examination reveals that the structure is divided into three sub-sections. The upper section was constructed with grooved red bricks with cement as bonding agent. The middle part was constructed with mixture of small rocks and cement. The lower part was built with granite blocks with no mortar in between. The evidence suggests that the brick structure is a modern well (Photo 7).

e) Areas with no archaeological discoveries

7. Archaeological remains ranging from the Song-Yuan period to the 20<sup>th</sup> century were discovered in the green areas (Figure B) with the exception of two areas where only sterile layer was found under the modern fill layer. Construction work may be resumed in these two areas due to their zero archaeological potential. A plan showing the two areas is at Figure B.

f) Study on the coral remains

8. The coral remains found in the Song-Yuan features were examined by the specialists of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Photo 8). The examination reveals that the coral remains generally belong to the genera that have massive growth form and are common in shallow waters of Hong Kong. No remains of red coral were identified.

9. Archaeological field work is expected to be completed by the end of September 2014. The Antiquities and Monuments Office will continue to closely monitor the AWB and update the Antiquities Advisory Board on the progress when necessary.

Antiquities and Monuments Office  
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Photo 1: Pottery sherd (left) and celadon sherd (right) found in the fill layer of well J2 are similar to those of Song-Yuan period unearthed from the T1 area.



Photo 2: The top southwest portion of well J2 was truncated by a pit containing decomposed granite stones.



Photo 3: Stone foundations and compact surfaces of building structures of Song-Yuan structures were found at Adit C area.



Photo 4: A well of Qing to Republican periods was discovered in the area between Ventilation Shaft and Adit C (Zone D).



Figure A: Approximate location of stone foundation of building structures and broken tiles and ceramic sherds



Photo 5: Building remains and more broken tiles and ceramics sherds were unearthed in the Song-Yuan layer



Photo 6: A pit with wooden structure was discovered in the baulk of TP23.

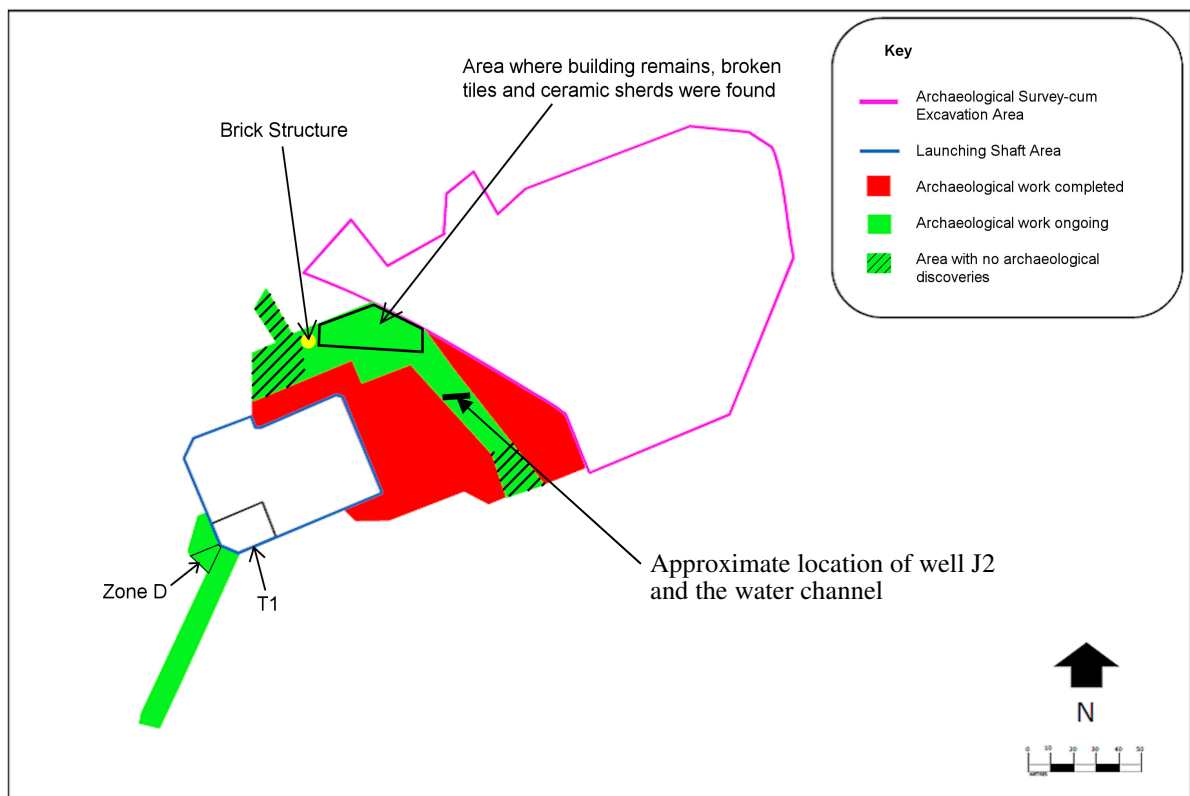


Figure B: Areas with no archaeological discoveries are hatched in black.



Photo 7: Base of the brick structure.



Photo 8: The coral remains found in the Song-Yuan features were examined by the specialists of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.