

**Brief on the Progress of the Archaeological Watching Brief at the
East of the Launching Shaft for Construction of
To Kwa Wan Station of the
Shatin to Central Link – Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section
(SCL(TAW-HUH))**

BACKGROUND

Further to the discovery of living features of Song-Yuan period in T1 of the Launching Shaft Area (LSA), the archaeological watching brief (AWB) was expanded to include all other areas of the To Kwa Wan Station under construction as initiated by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) and agreed by the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRCL). A plan showing the different phases of the archaeological work is attached at Annex A.

2. AAB visited T1 of the LSA on 2 May 2014 to inspect the archaeological findings. Members were also informed of the progress of the archaeological work and related protective measures for the findings at the AAB Briefing on 15 May 2014, special AAB Meeting on 29 May 2014 and AAB Meeting on 4 June 2014.

PROGRESS OF THE EXPANDED AWB

3. So far, archaeological deposits in relation to the living features already identified in T1 of the LSA have also been unearthed at the ventilation area (Photo 1) and Adit C area (Photo 2). On the other hand, five trenches (TP1, TP7 to TP10) have been excavated at the east of the LSA (Photo 3). The aim of the trench excavation is to ascertain the footprint of the former Sacred Hill as well as the alignment of a nullah built during the Japanese Occupation. Only two layers (fill layer and sterile layer) were identified in all these trenches. Within TP10, archaeological remains of a water channel system, probably constructed in 1920s, has been discovered below the modern fill layer (Figure 1, Photo 4 and Photo 5). The water channel system includes a water channel and a well/water tank which was just discovered on 12 June 2014 (Photo 6 – Photo 8). Boulders were used to build the upper part of the well/water tank forming a circular opening at the top while stone slabs were applied to form a square base

towards the bottom. The date and function of the water channel and the well/water tank is still being studied.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE FINDINGS IN T1

4. Temporary measures with canvas, tents and sand bags have been applied in T1 to protect the archaeological features against the unstable weather. To better preserve the exposed features and cultural relics, MTRCL submitted a sheet piling proposal including shoring systems for protecting T1 within the launching shaft, ventilation area and Adit C for discussion at the AAB meeting on 29 May 2014. MTRCL will submit another paper to the AAB responding to the comments of Members received at the meeting on 29 May 2014.

WAY FORWARD

5. The archaeological work over the past few weeks has identified the approximate location of the former Sacred Hill and the nullah alignment built during the Japanese Occupation. The archaeologist is conducting further fieldwork to find out the details of the water channel system so as to assess its archaeological significance. AMO will continue to closely monitor the progress and report to AAB regularly.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
12 June 2014

Annex A

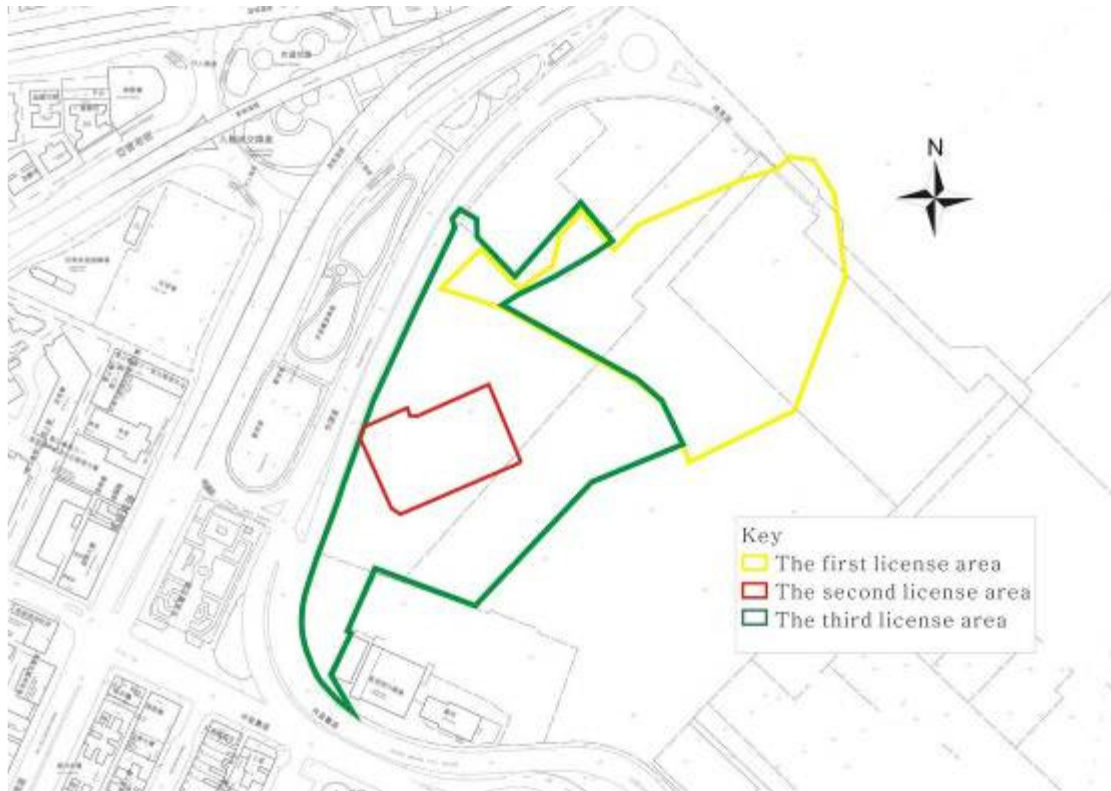




Photo 1: Archeological deposits unearthed at the ventilation area.



Photo 2: A top shot on Adit C (from northeast to southwest)



Photo 3: A general view of TP1, TP7-TP10 after excavation



Photo 4: Section of the former drainage nullah found below the fill layer.

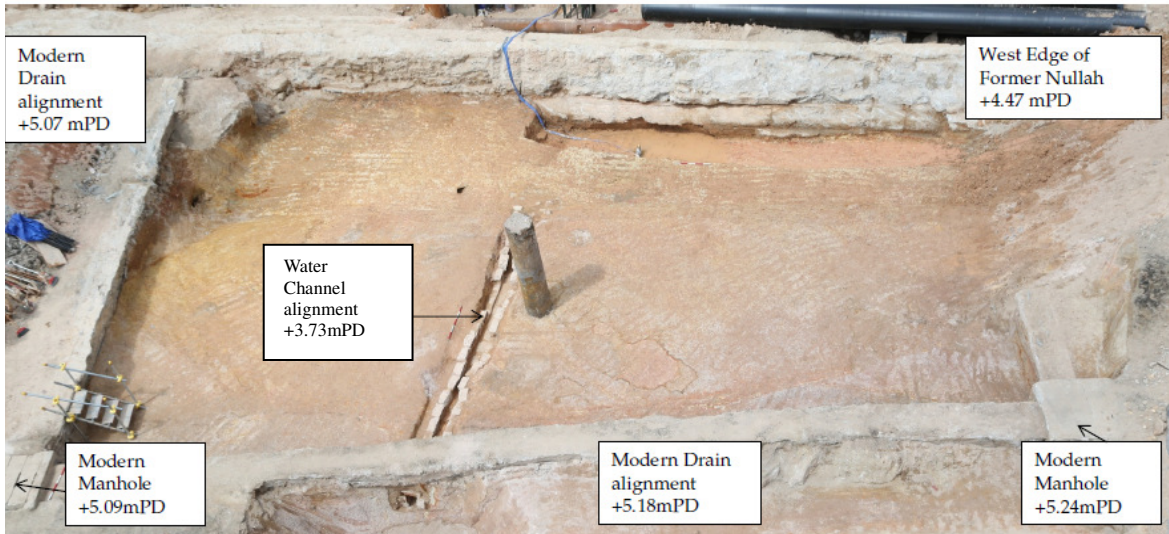


Photo 5: Modern manholes and modern drain unearthed in fill soil layer within TP10

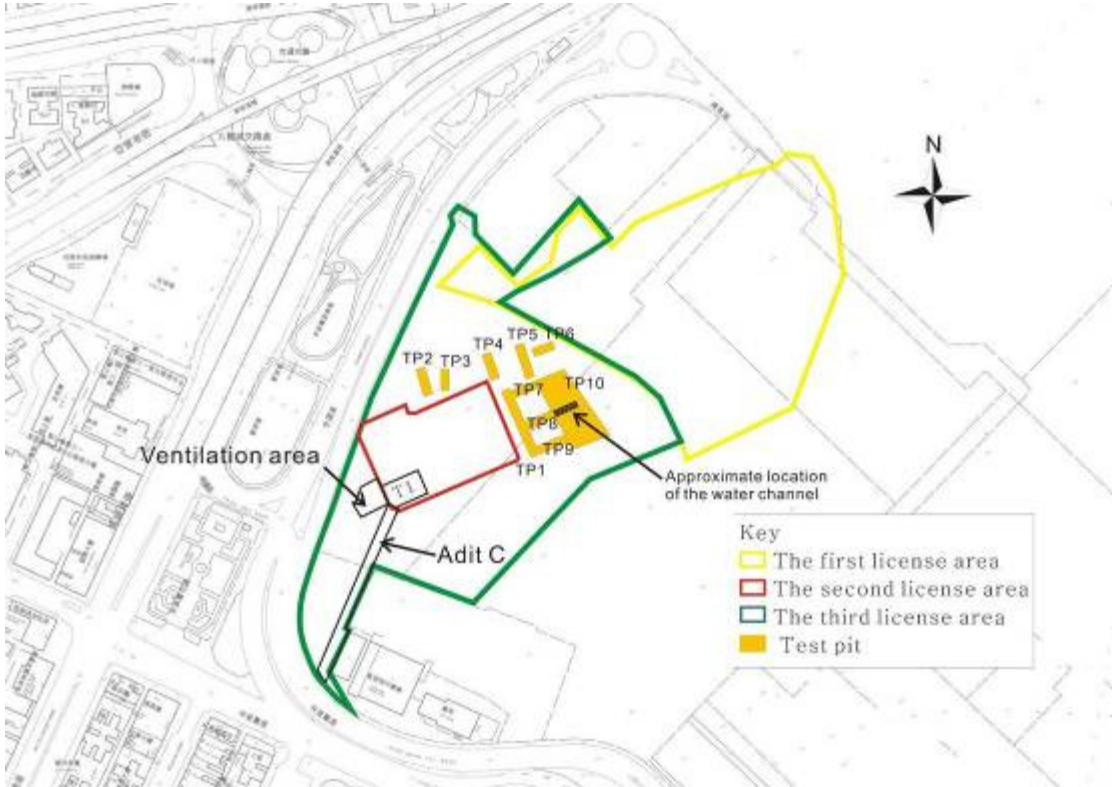


Figure 1: Location of excavated trenches (TP1 -TP10).



Photo 6: Archaeological remains of a water channel system was discovered below the fill layer



Photo 7: Boulders were used to form the upper part of the well/water tank in a circular shape.



Photo 8: Stone slabs were applied to form a square base.