

12. CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT

12.1 Legislation, Policies, Plans, Standards and Criteria

12.1.1 Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO), Annexes 10 and 19 of the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process provide the criteria and guidelines for carrying out impact assessments on sites of cultural or historical heritage significance. These sites provide an essential, finite and irreplaceable link between the past and the future and are points of reference and identity for culture and tradition and are thus worthy of protection and conservation. Adverse impacts on these sites should be kept to the absolute minimum.

12.1.2 There is no quantitative standard in deciding the relative importance of these sites. In general, sites of unique archaeological, historical or architectural value will be considered as highly significant. A wide range of archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures are identified and recorded by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

12.1.3 In addition to Annex 10 and Annex 19 of the TM on EIA Process, the AMO has published Criteria for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment. This document elaborates the requirements for the carrying out of baseline studies and impact assessments, and for the development of mitigation measures.

12.1.4 The AMO has also published Guidelines for Marine Archaeological Investigation (MAI). This document furnishes methodologies for carrying out baseline reviews, geophysical surveys, and field evaluations using remotely operated vehicles (ROV) or divers.

12.2 Assessment Methodology

12.2.1 This heritage impact assessment follows the criteria and guidelines stipulated in Annexes 10 and 19 of the TM on EIA Process together with the other guidelines and requirements discussed above. This assessment focuses on the potential impact on the cultural and historical heritage of proposed development in the vicinity of SEKD.

12.2.2 A comprehensive marine archaeological review was carried out to determine the archaeological potential of the study area. This included examination of AMO records and archaeological and historical academic publications.

12.2.3 All archives holding information on shipwrecks in Hong Kong waters were explored for relevant data.

12.3 Historical Review

12.3.1 Topography

(A) Original Coastline and Reclamation Episodes

12.3.1.1 **Drawing No. 22936/EN/001** shows the original coastline as accurately as is possible with the maps available. It should be noted that, east of the Sacred Hill, the coastline was very low-lying and flat, with salt-marshes and mud-flats off-shore, so that it is not always easy to be sure of where the normal high-water line was.