

10.1 INTRODUCTION

This Section of the report summarises the result of the Marine Archaeological Investigation (MAI) undertaken by SDA Marine Ltd in October 1999 for the proposed area which consists of approximately 15.2 ha of reclamation along the coast between the proposed Ting Kau and Sham Tseng Sewage Treatment Works and Tsing Lung Tau.

10.2 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION, POLICIES, STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

The following legislation is applicable to the assessment of marine archaeological resources in Hong Kong:

- *Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499.S16). Technical Memorandum on the EIA Process (EIAO-TM);*
- *Guidance Notes on Assessment of Impact on Sites of Cultural Heritage in Environmental Impact Assessment Studies;*
- *Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53); and*
- *Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG).*

10.2.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance

The technical requirements of cultural heritage impact assessment is defined within Annexes 10 and 19 of the *EIAO-TM*.

Annex 10 states that the criteria for evaluating impacts to sites of cultural heritage include:

- the general presumption in favour of the protection and conservation of all sites of cultural heritage because they provide an essential, finite and irreplaceable link between the past and the future and are points of reference and identity for culture and tradition;
- adverse impacts on sites of cultural heritage shall be kept to an absolute minimum.

Annex 19 describes the commonly used approaches and methodologies for the assessment and the *Guidance Notes on Assessment of Impact on Sites of Cultural Heritage in Environmental Impact Assessment Studies* serves only as a reference to assist the understanding of the requirements set in the *Annexes*.

10.2.2 Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53)

In addition to the EIA Ordinance, the heritage resources of Hong Kong are governed by a range of legislative and planning mechanisms. The *Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53)*, provides powers for the designation of Antiquities and Monuments Sites or Declared Monuments in Hong Kong. The Ordinance provides statutory protection against the threat of development for declared monuments, historic buildings and archaeological sites which have been recommended by the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), approved by the Chief Executive and gazetted in the government

gazette to enable their preservation for posterity.

Deemed Monuments have been identified by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) and agreement reached with the owners of the Monument to provide for specific measures to ensure preservation. Deemed Monuments have the potential to be upgraded to statutory Declared Monuments.

A wide range of sites of cultural heritage are identified and recorded by the AMO. Recorded historic buildings and structures are defined as follows:

- Grade 1 Buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible.
- Grade 2 Buildings of special merit; effort should be made to selectively preserve.
- Grade 3 Buildings of some merit, but not yet qualified for consideration as possible monuments. These are to be recorded and used as a pool for future selection.

This classification is for AMO internal reference and has no statutory protection power. Although there are no statutory provisions for the protection of the sites of historical interest, Graded Buildings and Deemed Monuments in Hong Kong, the Government has administrative procedures which state that consideration must be given to protect listed and locally designated historic buildings and sites of cultural interest.

Archaeological surveys had been undertaken to identify the archaeological sites in Hong Kong. The AMO has set boundaries on the identified sites and has administrative procedures which state that consideration must be given to protect known archaeological sites (including the marine archaeological resources) in Hong Kong. However, the current record of archaeological sites in Hong Kong is known to be incomplete as many areas are not yet surveyed, there is a need to ensure that procedures and mechanisms, which ensure the preservation or formal notification of previously unknown archaeological resources that may be revealed or discovered during project assessment or construction, are identified at an early stage in Project planning.

10.2.3 *Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines*

The HKPSG, Chapter 10 (Conservation), provides general guidelines and measures for the conservation of historical buildings, archaeological sites and other antiquities.

10.3 *MARINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY*

The MAI Report has been prepared by SDA Marine Ltd and reviewed by AMO. The MAI Report is included as *Annex J* of this Final Report.

10.4 IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The reclamation work may result in a negative impact on any archaeological material, if present. The reclamation work which involves seabed soil disturbance would result in a total destruction of any archaeological deposit buried underneath.

10.5 PREDICTION AND EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The MAI Report (provided in full as *Annex J*) indicates that there is a low archaeological potential for shipwrecks within the Study Area. The existing strong prevailing currents and geological characteristic of the area is a poor preservation environment for archaeological material. Moreover, detailed examination (100% coverage of the seabed) of the geophysical survey data from the MAI did not reveal any features of archaeological potential. It is concluded that no archaeological material is likely to be buried within the proposed STD area. Therefore, no impact to any marine archaeological materials within the proposed reclamation area is expected.

10.6 CONCLUSION

The Marine Archaeological Investigation indicates that no archaeological material is likely to be buried within the Study Area. Therefore, no impact to any marine archaeological deposit is expected and neither further archaeological investigation nor any mitigation measures are required.