

**Enhanced protection and monitoring for relics
at To Kwa Wan Station works site**

The MTR Corporation presented an enhanced protection proposal for the T1 archaeological site at the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) launching shaft area to the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) today (24 June 2014) to address their concerns about the original plan. The purpose of the protection proposal is to minimise the impact of weather and nearby works at the T1 archaeological site.

General Manager – Shatin to Central Link of the Corporation Dr Philco Wong said, “It is critical to carry out works to protect the T1 archaeological area during the rainy season as soon possible, as the soil layer of the archaeological area will easily be affected by the weather and may loosen or collapse. After taking AAB members’ suggestions into consideration, our team has revised the plan in order to enhance the protection wall proposal. Enhanced measures include 3D laser scanning to accurately record the condition of the well before the protection works, the installation of digital in-place inclinometers to regularly measure any horizontal displacements, and increasing the number of settlement markers and vibration monitoring points to ensure that the finds are not affected by the works.

The works for the protection wall will commence shortly at the TBM launching shaft T1 archaeological area. The protection works will also be closely monitored by the site archaeologist and the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) to ensure that the relics are not affected by the works. After the completion of the protection wall, works for the nearby TBM launching shaft can then be resumed. To date, the extended archaeological survey has impacted the overall progress of the SCL Project for over five months. As the archaeological survey is still in progress, the full extent of its impact to the programme cannot be determined until a clear direction from relevant government departments about the way forward in handling the heritage remains discovered is available after the extended archaeological study completes in September this year.

“The Corporation respects the archaeological works and the archaeological study will continue in full force. We will keep close communication with the Development Bureau and the AMO so as to ensure the archaeological works and the relics are not affected by the SCL works,” added Dr Wong.

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