

**Members of the Legislative Council visit the archaeological survey
at Shatin to Central Link To Kwa Wan Station construction site**

The MTR Corporation understands the concerns expressed by the public about the archaeological survey at the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) To Kwa Wan Station and tunnel construction site. The archaeological survey will be carefully coordinated with the construction works according to the advice and suggestions of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) and the archaeological specialist. An assessment of the actual impact of the archaeological survey on the construction progress could only be determined upon receiving clear directions from relevant government departments on how to handle the finds.

Members of Panel on Transport and other Panels of the Legislative Council visited the work site of SCL To Kwa Wan Station today (3 June 2014) to learn about the progress of the archaeological survey. Representatives from AMO and the archaeological specialist employed by the Contractor and the Corporation provided information about the construction works and the archaeological survey, and also replied to members' queries about the progress of the survey and its impact on the construction works.

General Manager – SCL of MTR Corporation Mr Philco Wong said, "We fully understand the concerns of the public about the archaeological survey, and whether the construction of the SCL would be affected. As the project manager of the SCL project, we will work conscientiously with the government in coordinating the archaeological survey and the construction works."

"Archaeology involves professional expertise and we have to carry out this survey under the advice and suggestions of AMO and the archaeological consultant. The construction works of the shaft have been suspended to make way for the archaeological study, which has delayed the original timetable for assembling the tunnel boring machine. As of today, we are five months behind the original schedule for key construction works such as tunnel and station construction. Nonetheless, our utmost priority at this moment is to ensure that the rest of the archaeological survey can be carried out smoothly and not be affected by works which are unrelated to the archaeological study." Mr Wong added.

Currently, construction works have been suspended within the archaeological study area, while shaft excavation near the relics has also been suspended so as to ensure that the finds are not affected by the works. For more stringent protection of the archaeological study area, a technical proposal has been submitted to AMO and the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) for a protection wall to be built to separate the works site and the survey area. The proposal would be subject to further discussion with relevant government departments for endorsement.

-more-

As some of the archaeological survey is still ongoing, the programme of the SCL would inevitably be affected. As more time would be needed for the public and the society to discuss how to handle the relics, the Corporation will closely monitor the situation and maintain close communication with relevant government departments. The Corporation would put forward a clearer plan on the forthcoming works arrangement for the SCL after the Government comes up a clear direction on the handling of the relics upon the completion of the archaeological survey.

- End -

Photo Captions:

Legislative Councillors visited the work site of SCL To Kwa Wan Station and tunnel to learn about the progress of the archaeological study and its impact on the SCL construction programme.

