

PRESS STATEMENT

10 April 2014

Archaeological survey at Kai Tak Development Area works site of Shatin to Central Link

With regard to a press report today (10 April 2014) about the archaeological survey in the Kai Tak Development Area, the Corporation would like to provide the following information for your reference:

The construction works for a railway station of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) are now in progress in the Kai Tak Development Area near Sung Wong Toi Playground. In the Approved Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of SCL, it was recommended that an archaeological survey-cum-excavation be conducted prior to the commencement of the station construction works in To Kwa Wan to salvage any possible discovery of archaeological remains in the project site. Under the close supervision of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), the Corporation commissioned an independent archaeologist to conduct the exercise starting from November 2012 to end-2013 and the Interim Report has been submitted to the AMO.

According to Section 10 of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance, the ownership of every relic discovered in Hong Kong shall vest in the Government from the moment of discovery. All finds and field archives of the above exercise are being handled according to the AMO's Guidelines for Handling of Archaeological Finds and Archives. Upon reporting the findings to the AMO and obtaining their agreement, parts of the excavated finds have been handed over to the AMO whilst the remaining parts of the finds are temporarily being kept by the Corporation for further study by the archaeologist before they are returned to the AMO.

At the north-west side of the archaeological survey area, a square well has been unearthed. This area is beyond the boundary of the station in To Kwa Wan under the SCL project. In the Interim Report, it is pointed out that the well is structurally in good condition and the preservation of the square well in situ is recommended. For better protection of the well and to avoid exposing them to the open air or construction works in the vicinity, the well has been covered with protective materials and backfilled under the close supervision of archaeologists upon the AMO's request. The public display of the well is subject to further discussion by relevant government departments.

Other unearthed archaeological finds were considered as insignificant by the archaeologists and the AMO, as most of the field archives were disturbed by past developments. The archaeologists suggested conducting detailed recording of finds for future analysis. On the public display of the archaeological finds, this is subject to further discussion by the Corporation and the AMO.

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