

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary information on 304CL – Formation, Roads and Drains for Package 6 Remainder, Sai Kung

INTRODUCTION

When considering PWSC(2001-02)21 on **304CL** at the Public Works Subcommittee meeting held on 16 May 2001, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information -

- (a) on the planned developments in Sai Kung Town North Area 4; and
- (b) about the Sha Ha archeological site and consult the Antiquities Advisory Board on the proposed archaeological rescue excavation at Sha Ha.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

Planned developments in Sai Kung Town North Area 4

2. Sai Kung Town North Area 4 is adjacent to Sai Kung Town. The general planning intention for the area is to complement the current role of Sai Kung Town as a central area for the provision of commercial, recreational, Government, institution or community and residential uses for the Sai Kung district.

3. According to the Sai Kung Town North Planning Area 4 Layout Plan, the planned developments in this area include a hotel, a school, an indoor recreation centre and residential and commercial developments. Developments in this area will be confined to low-to-medium-rise buildings with a gradation of descending building heights towards the waterfront. To maintain the character of Sai Kung Town as a market town, the proposed residential developments are

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subject to a building height restriction of not more than eight storeys. This is in line with the existing developments in Sai Kung Town which have a maximum height up to 12 storeys. Furthermore, developers of the proposed residential developments will have to submit master layout and landscape plans to the Government to ensure that the detailed layout and height profile will not cause adverse landscape, visual and environmental impacts.

Proposed archaeological rescue excavation at Sha Ha

4. Information about the Sha Ha archaeological site provided by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) is at the Enclosure. As a measure to mitigate the archaeological impact arising from the works under this project, the Civil Engineering Department proposes to salvage the archaeological remains within the depth range of construction works. A sum of \$6 million has been reserved in the project estimate and a period of eight months will be allowed for rescue excavation works. Upon completion of the rescue project, the AMO will keep the excavated finds and field archives in the Central Archaeological Repository. Exhibitions and educational activities will also be arranged to introduce the findings of the rescue project. The AMO has confirmed that the proposed rescue excavation work, including the funds and time allowed for the excavation, is acceptable. If necessary, extra time and funds will also be provided to complete the rescue excavation. The construction works under **304CL** will start only upon completion of all the planned rescue excavation activities.

5. As requested by Members, the AMO circulated a paper to the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) in June 2001 to seek Members' views on the proposed archaeological rescue excavation work. AAB took note of the project and did not raise any objection to the proposed rescue excavation work.

Planning and Lands Bureau
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The Sha Ha Archaeological Site

Discovery of cultural remains at Sha Ha, Sai Kung, was first reported by a member of the Hong Kong Archaeological Society in February 1996. Tang dynasty kiln debris and Late Neolithic coarse pottery shards were collected on the ground surface. Subsequently, the Archeological and Monuments Office (AMO) conducted a two-week preliminary survey in April 1996 to ascertain the archaeological potential of the site. Seven test pits were excavated at the garden of the Beach Resort Hotel and a Tang dynasty cultural layer with a large quantity of kiln debris was revealed at a depth of 30cm. One of the test pits also yielded a few pieces of coarse corded pottery shards at a depth of about 2m, suggesting the presence of a Neolithic cultural phase at the site.

2. With funds provided by the Territory Development Department, the AMO commissioned a team of archaeologists from the Hunan Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology to conduct a two-month intensive survey at Sha Ha in January and February 1998 to further establish the horizontal spread of archaeological remains and the cultural sequence of the Sha Ha site. The survey was confined to a piece of abandoned cultivated land to the south of the Beach Resort Hotel and to the north of Sha Kok Mei Temporary Housing Area. Altogether 37 test-pits, each measuring 2m x 2m, were excavated and remains of three different periods were yielded, namely the Late Neolithic (about 4,000 years ago), Bronze Age (about 3,000 years ago) and Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368 – 1911 AD). The spread of Late Neolithic remains was very extensive, covering an area of about 18,000m² and the excavated artefacts included pottery ware and polished stone tools.

3. Although the Sha Kok Mei Temporary Housing Area was paved and could not be surveyed, it is expected that cultural remains exist within the Housing Area.