

For discussion
on 12 April 2016

Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Provision of Columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery – Phase 1

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the proposed project to construct two columbarium blocks at Kiu Tau Road, Wo Hop Shek Cemetery (WHSC) in the North District.

Background

Sustaining the Supply of Public Niches

2. With a growing and ageing population in Hong Kong, the number of deaths and cremations have been rising gradually. The estimated number of deaths and cremations in 2016 and 2035, as compared with the annual average number of deaths and cremations in the past few decades are set out below –

	Number of deaths	Number of cremations
1975 to 1994 (annual average)	26 000	14 000
1995 to 2015 (annual average)	38 000	32 000
2016 (projection)	48 300	44 400
2035 (projection)	68 500	65 100

With a rising demand for cremation service as depicted above, there is a rising need for niches.

3. To meet the demand for public niches, the Government announced in July 2010 the policy under which the 18 districts would collectively share the responsibility of developing district-based columbarium facilities. The Government also identified a total of 24 potential sites in the 18 districts (through three batches in July 2010, December 2010 and April 2011) for columbarium development. The Government stressed that whether the sites could eventually be used for developing columbarium facilities would depend on the results of traffic impact assessment (TIA), engineering feasibility study (if applicable), technical feasibility studies and consultation with the District Councils (DCs) concerned.

The Proposed Project

4. WHSC is one of the 24 sites. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee within this Legislative Council session, we propose to develop two new columbarium blocks at Kiu Tau Road in WHSC to provide about 44 000 niches by end-2019. Widening of the existing footbridge linking the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) Fanling Station with Pak Wo Road is required for the planned columbarium development as a whole. The opportunity is also taken to enhance accessibility to WHSC and the crematorium facilities there.

5. WHSC is the largest public cemetery in Hong Kong. It occupies an area of about 220 hectares. At present, about 66 000 niches, 113 000 urn burial spaces and 9 300 coffin burial spaces are provided in WHSC to serve the general public. Also, there are six cremators in the Wo Hop Shek Crematorium. With the increase in cremation rate over the past two decades, the demand for coffin burial in WHSC is declining. To better utilise land resources, some of the vacant land and unused coffin burial grounds would be used for niche development. To this end, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has identified a number of sites within WHSC for conversion into columbarium development, the locations of which are shown in the plan at **Enclosure 1**. Given the scale of the development, it was our plan in 2010 to develop the sites in three phases as follows –

- (a) Phase 1 (44 000 niches) : including sites T1, T2, T3(a) and T3(b);
- (b) Phase 2 (35 000 niches) : including sites T4, T5, T6 and T7; and
- (c) Phase 3 (25 000 niches) : including sites T8, T9 and two vacant plots.

Following the consultation exercise conducted in April 2012, FEHD had, in response to concerns raised by nearby villagers on visual impact, decided not to pursue the proposed development at sites T1 and T2. Instead, we will develop sites T3(a) and T3(b) in Phase 1. Under the current design, the number of niches to be provided in Phase 1 is about 44 000.

Project Scope

6. The proposed project is for the provision of columbarium facilities at Kiu Tau Road and the associated improvement measures as set out at paragraphs 7 and 8 below.

Columbarium Blocks and Associated Works

7. The scope of works includes the construction/provision of -
- (a) two 6-storey columbarium blocks at sites T3(a) and T3(b) to provide about 44 000 niches;
 - (b) communal incense holders for individual floor, except for the second to third floors set aside for incense-free niches;
 - (c) communal eco-friendly joss paper burning facilities on the first floor of each columbarium block with exhaust air treatment facilities;
 - (d) supporting facilities including passenger lifts, administrative office, storerooms, public toilets, first aid room, closed-circuit television system-cum-command centre, public address system, computer kiosks to facilitate the public to search for the niche

location of their ancestors and to disseminate promotional information on green burials;

- (e) a leisure area after demolition of the ex-staff quarters abutting Wo Ka Lau Road;
- (f) a pick-up/drop-off area (PDA) for accommodating public transport vehicles during the grave sweeping periods at the junction of Kiu Tau Road and Tai Wo Service Road West; and
- (g) road enhancement works at Kiu Tau Road to widen the existing footpath from 1.7 metres (m) to 3m wide for the section between the PDA and the gate of WHSC.

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A location plan, two site plans, and the artist's impressions of the two proposed columbarium blocks at sites T3(a) and T3(b) are at **Enclosures 2 to 6**. The site plans of the proposed PDA and leisure area are at **Enclosures 7 and 8**.

Widening of Footbridge Linking MTR Fanling Station with Pak Wo Road and Associated Works

8. To cater for the anticipated increase in the number of visitors for the planned columbarium development at WHSC which will provide a total of 104 000 niches upon full development, the TIA consultant has recommended, inter alia, widening of an existing footbridge linking the MTR Fanling Station with Pak Wo Road coupled with extension of the bus layby at Pak Wo Road as transport improvement measures. This would facilitate grave sweepers in taking, at Pak Wo Road, shuttle buses bound for WHSC during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung periods. The widening and extension works will improve the pedestrian flow along the footbridge and associated area during the festive periods, benefiting grave sweepers (for the some 188 000 existing niches and graves at WHSC), as well as users of the six cremators at Wo Hop Shek Crematorium all year round. The scope of the footbridge widening and bus layby extension works includes –

- (a) widening of the existing footbridge linking the MTR Fanling Station with Pak Wo Road from 5.5m to 11m;

- (b) extension of the existing bus layby at Pak Wo Road southbound from 34m to 52m;
- (c) associated footpath widening adjacent to the footbridge approach along Pak Wo Road southbound and subway extension;
- (d) reprovisioning of two MTR retail kiosks and a store room¹ that would be affected by the footbridge widening and associated interface works with the existing MTR Fanling Station concourse; and
- (e) ancillary works including storm drains, retaining walls, slope works and landscaping works.

The site plan of the footbridge widening and bus layby extension works at Pak Wo Road is at **Enclosure 9**.

9. The proposed project was upgraded to Category B in 2012. The capital cost of the project is estimated to be \$946 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices.

Public Consultation

10. We presented the findings of the TIA Study in respect of the three phases of the proposed columbarium developments at WHSC to the North District Council (NDC) on 12 April 2012. NDC members gave in-principle support to the development of Phase 1. They further requested the Government to include the widening of the existing footbridge connecting the MTR Fanling Station and extending the bus layby at Pak Wo Road southbound as measures to accommodate the anticipated increase in pedestrian flow associated with Phase 1 development. Their requests, which are considered justified having regard to pedestrian needs in the long run, have subsequently been incorporated into the proposed works.

¹ The reprovisioning works include civil works for the structure, building services and associated works. The construction of the building services and associated works is proposed to be entrusted to Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited.

11. Following the completion of the conceptual and schematic designs for the two columbarium blocks and the footbridge widening and bus layby extension works, we consulted NDC on 12 February 2015 on the design aspect of the project and obtained members' support for the development of Phase 1 of the project.

Traffic Impact Assessment

12. The completed TIA Study concluded that, with the implementation of suitable traffic improvement measures, the additional traffic and pedestrian volume arising from the proposed columbarium developments during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung festive periods should be manageable and would not adversely affect the performance of the key roads in the vicinity. Taking into account the TIA findings, we propose to develop Phase 1 for some 44 000 niches with the traffic improvement measures set out in paragraphs 7(f) and (g) and 8(a) to (c) above. After the proposed project is commissioned, FEHD will work closely with the Hong Kong Police Force and other relevant departments to ensure that effective traffic and crowd control measures are implemented during the grave sweeping seasons.

Environmental Implications

13. This is not a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance (Cap. 499). We have completed a Preliminary Environmental Review (PER) for the project in August 2015 and the findings were agreed by the Director of Environmental Protection. We undertake to provide the mitigation measures as recommended in the PER including frequent water suppression, use of quiet construction plant and erection of purpose-built temporary noise barrier during the works period.

Implementation Plan

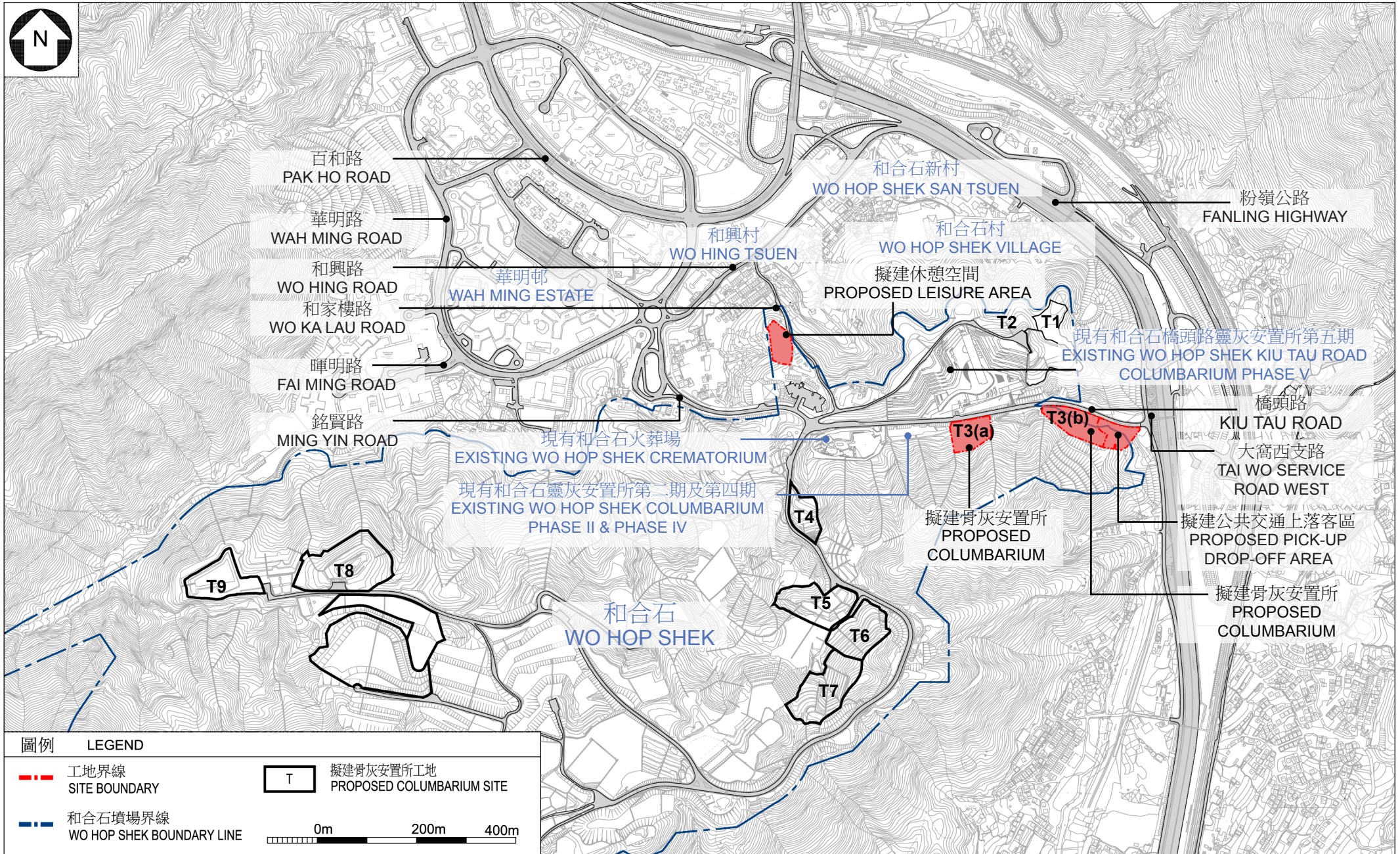
14. We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee within this legislative session after consultation with the Public Works

Sub-committee. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, construction works are expected to commence in late 2016 for completion by end-2019.

Advice Sought

15. Members are invited to support the proposed project.

**Food and Health Bureau
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
April 2016**

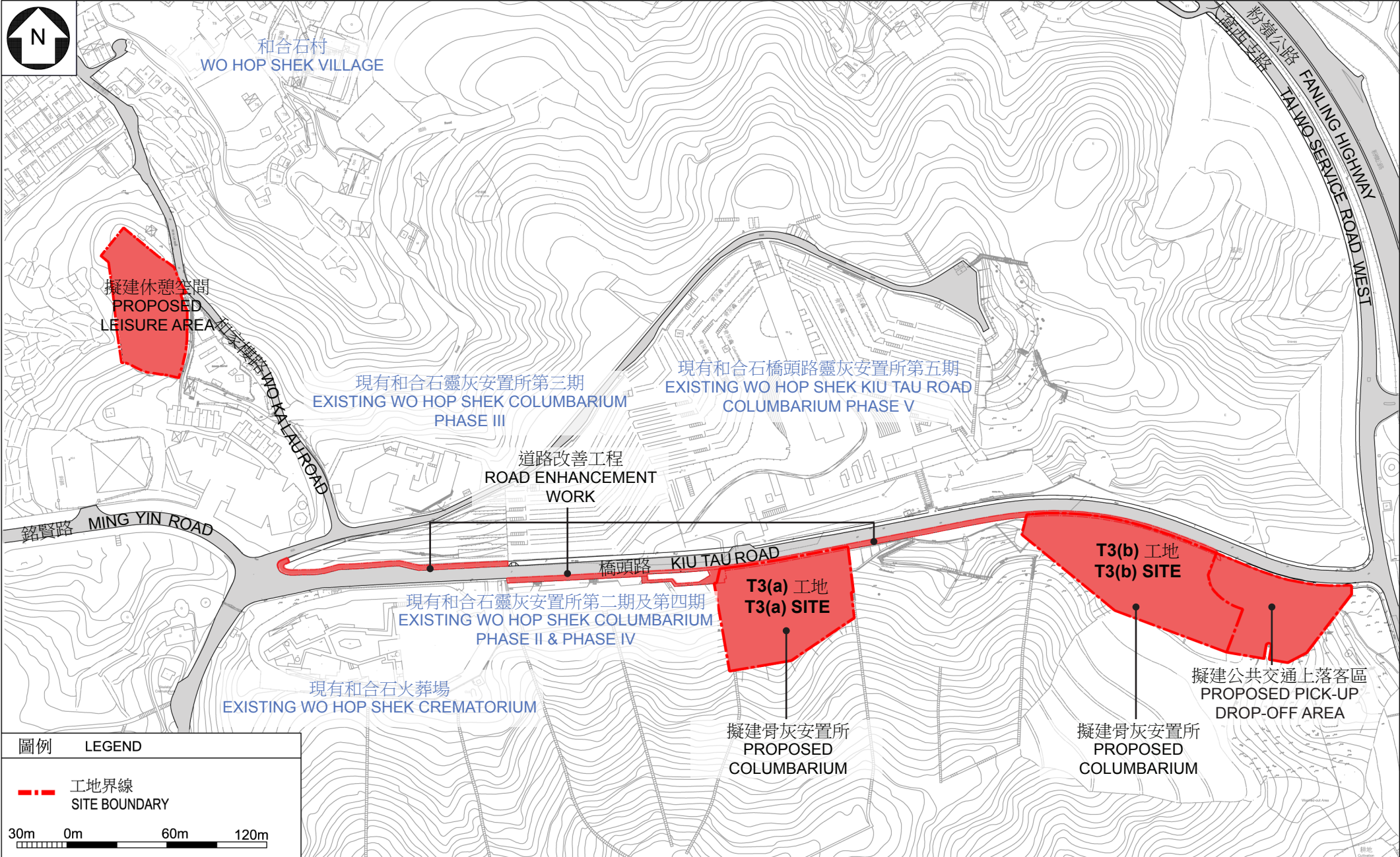


圖例 LEGEND

- 工地界線 SITE BOUNDARY
 - 和合石墳場界線 WO HOP SHEK BOUNDARY LINE
 - T 擬建骨灰安置所工地 PROPOSED COLUMBARIUM SITE
- 0m 200m 400m

位置圖 1
LOCATION PLAN 1

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1



圖例 LEGEND

--- 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY

30m 0m 60m 120m

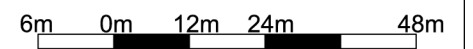
位置圖 2
LOCATION PLAN 2

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1



圖例 LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY | 無障礙出入口
BARRIER-FREE ENTRANCE / EXIT | 屋頂綠化
LANDSCAPED ROOF | 垂直綠化
VERTICAL GREENING | 冥鏹爐
JOSS PAPER BURNER | 泥石防禦網
FLEXIBLE BARRIER |
| 車輛出入口
VEHICULAR
INGRESS/ EGRESS | 行人出入口
PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE / EXIT | 地面綠化
AT-GRADE GREENING | 噴漿混凝土山坡護面的斜坡
SHOTCRETED SLOPE | 長椅
BENCH | |

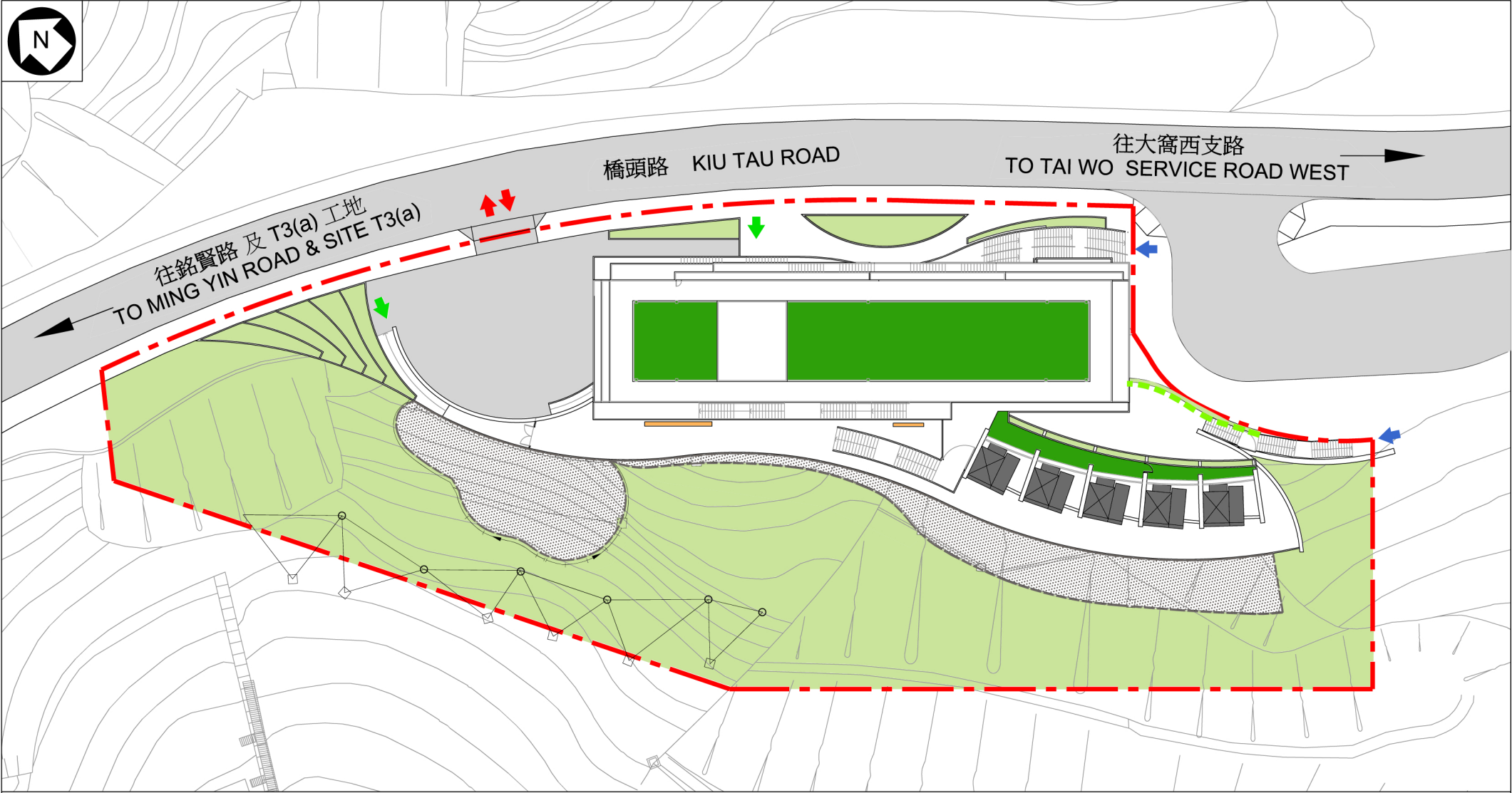


T3(a) 骨灰安置所工地平面圖
T3(a) COLUMBARIUM SITE
PLAN

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1

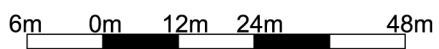


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圖例 LEGEND

- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY | 無障礙出入口
BARRIER-FREE ENTRANCE / EXIT | 屋頂綠化
LANDSCAPED ROOF | 噴漿混凝土山坡護面的斜坡
SHOTCRETED SLOPE | 垂直綠化
VERTICAL GREENING | 冥鏹爐
JOSS PAPER BURNER | 泥石防禦網
FLEXIBLE BARRIER |
| 車輛出入口
VEHICULAR INGRESS/ EGRESS | 行人出入口
PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE / EXIT | 地面綠化
AT-GRADE GREENING | 長椅
BENCH | | | |



T3(b) 骨灰安置所工地平面圖
T3(b) COLUMBARIUM SITE PLAN

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1





從北面望向T3(a)骨灰安置所的構思圖
T3(a) SITE PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM
NORTHERN DIRECTION (ARTIST'S
IMPRESSION)

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1



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從北面望向T3(b)骨灰安置所的構思圖
T3(b) SITE PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM
NORTHERN DIRECTION (ARTIST'S
IMPRESSION)

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1

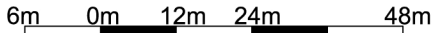


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圖例 LEGEND

- - - 工地界線 SITE BOUNDARY
- ← 無障礙出入口 BARRIER-FREE ENTRANCE / EXIT
- 地面綠化 AT-GRADE GREENING
- ← 車輛出入口 VEHICULAR INGRESS/EGRESS
- ← 行人出入口 PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE / EXIT
- 噴漿混凝土山坡護面的斜坡 SHOTCRETED SLOPE



公共交通上落客區工地平面圖
PICK-UP DROP-OFF AREA
SITE PLAN







22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1



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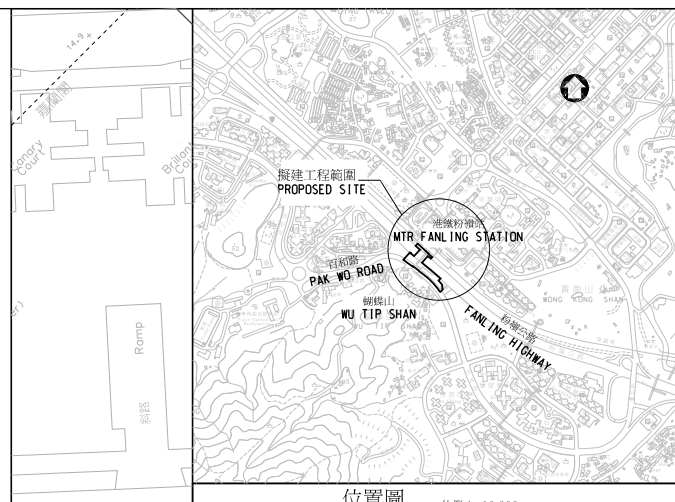
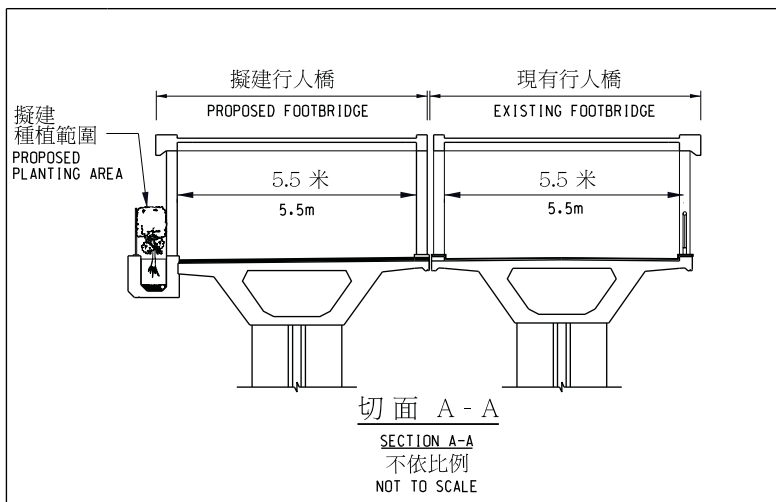


LEGEND

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY |  行人出入口
PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE / EXIT |  地面綠化
AT-GRADE GREENING |
|  無障礙出入口
BARRIER-FREE ENTRANCE / EXIT |  避雨亭
PAVILION |  長椅
BENCH |
- 6m 0m 12m 24m

休憩空間平面圖
LEISURE AREA SITE PLAN

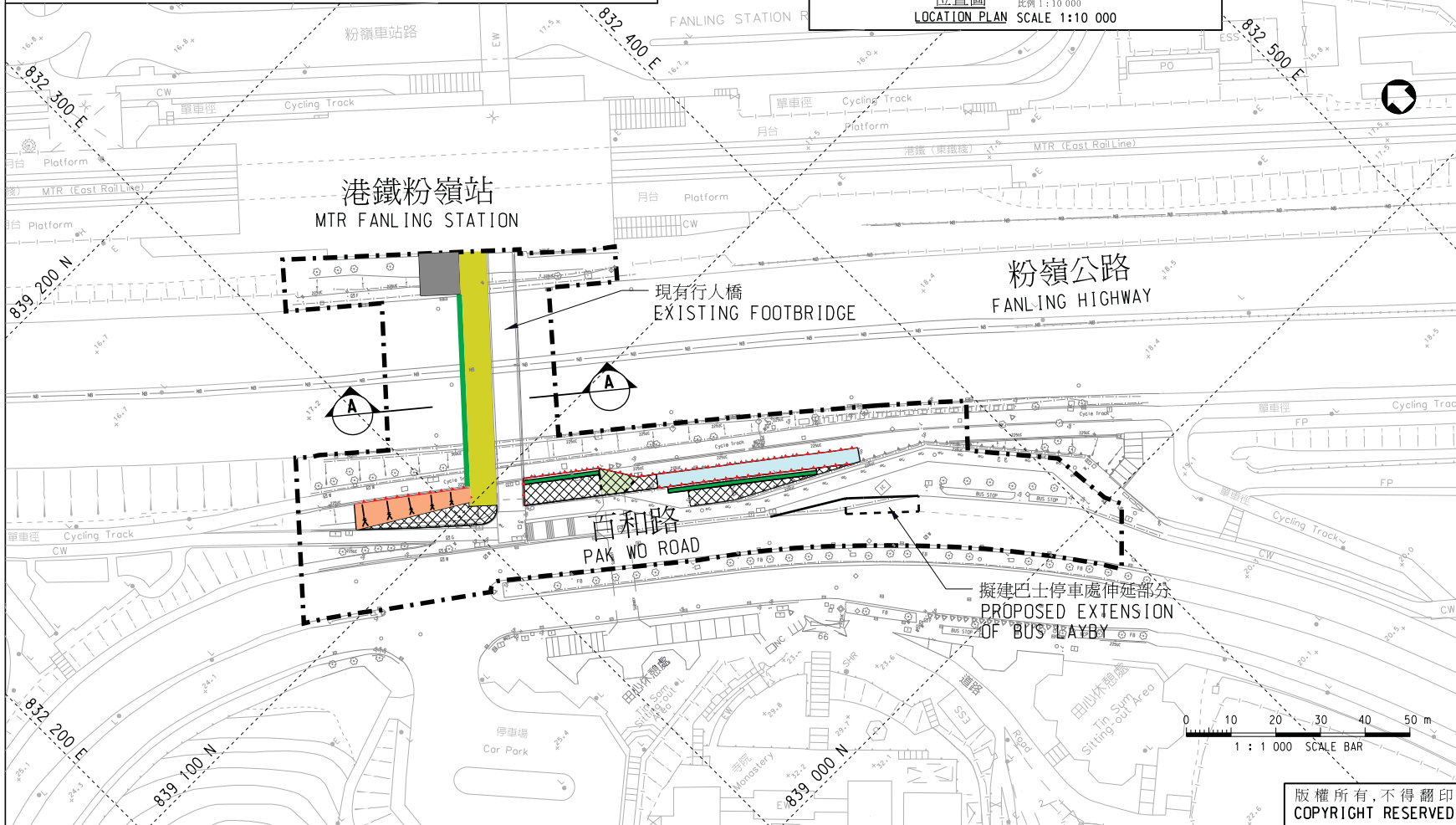
22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1



註釋
NOTES :

圖例
LEGEND

- 擬建工地範圍
PROPOSED SITE BOUNDARY
- 擬建行人橋
PROPOSED FOOTBRIDGE
- 擬建行人路
PROPOSED FOOTPATH
- 擬建港鐵站重置商舖及儲物室
PROPOSED REPROVISIONING OF MTR RETAIL KIOSKS AND STORE ROOM
- 擬建巴士停車處伸延部分
PROPOSED EXTENSION OF SUBWAY
- 擬建斜路
PROPOSED RAMP
- 擬建種植範圍
PROPOSED PLANTING AREA
- 擬建斜坡
PROPOSED SLOPE
- 擬建擋土構築物
PROPOSED RETAINING WALL



A	01/04/2016	TITLE REVISED	SIGNED	SIGNED
高綱 No.	日期 date	內容摘要 description	核對 checked	核准 approved
修訂 REVISION				
設計 designed	姓名 name	簽署 initial	日期 date	
繪圖 drawn	H Y CHOW	SIGNED	11/03/2016	
描摹 traced	L C WONG	SIGNED	11/03/2016	
核對 checked	C T LAU	SIGNED	11/03/2016	
核准 approved				
ORIGINAL SIGNED				
-- (WOO Tai-on, Gabriel) --				
Chief Engineer				
日期 date : 11/03/2016				

圖則名稱 drawing title

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所
設施工程第一期
擴闊行人天橋和延長百和路巴士
停車處工程的工地平面圖

22NB
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT
W HOP SHEK CEMETERY -
PHASE 1
SITE PLAN OF FOOTBRIDGE
WIDENING AND BUS LAYBY
EXTENSION WORKS AT
PAK WO ROAD

圖則編號 drawing no.	比例 scale
LW 9488A	1 : 1000 或 圖示

辦事處 office
土木工程處 土地工程部
LAND WORKS DIVISION
CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE

土木工程拓展署
CEDD CIVIL ENGINEERING AND
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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