

10 CULTURAL HERITAGE

10.1 INTRODUCTION

10.1.1 This Section presents the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) associated with the construction and operation of the Project in accordance with Clause 3.4.11 and Appendix I of the EIA Study Brief No. ESB-338/2021.

10.2 LEGISLATIONS AND GUIDELINES

10.2.1 The relevant legislations, standards and guidelines related to cultural heritage impact assessment are identified, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) (CAP.499), Technical Memorandum on Environmental Impact Assessment Process (EIAO-TM), Annexes 10, 18 and 19;
- (b) Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (CAP.53);
- (c) Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG);
- (d) Requirements for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) from Appendix I of the EIA Study Brief No. ESB-338/2021; and
- (e) Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.

10.2.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (CAP.499)

- (a) Annex 10 of the EIAO-TM outlines the criteria for assessment of impact on sites of cultural heritage. The general presumption is in favour of the protection and conservation of all sites of cultural heritage. In addition, adverse impacts on sites of cultural heritage shall be kept to the absolute minimum.
- (b) Annex 18 of the EIAO-TM outlines the general approach and methodology for assessment of landscape and visual impacts which are applicable to visual impacts on built heritage.
- (c) Annex 19 of the EIAO-TM outlines the approaches required in investigating and assessing the impacts on sites of cultural heritage. There is no quantitative standard in deciding the relative importance of these sites, but in general, sites of unique archaeological, historical or architectural value will be considered as highly significant. Preservation in totality is preferred. If, due to site constraints and other factors, only preservation in part is possible, this must be fully justified with alternative proposals or layout designs, which confirm the impracticability of total preservation.

10.2.3 Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (CAP.53)

- (a) The Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (CAP.53) (A&M Ordinance) provides statutory protection against the threat of development on Declared Monuments to enable their preservation for posterity. The A&M Ordinance also establishes the statutory procedures to be followed in making such a declaration.
- (b) Any person who discovers an antiquity, or supposed antiquity, is required to report the discovery to the Antiquities Authority.

10.2.4 Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG)

- (a) The Chapter 10, Conservation, of the HKPSG provides general guidelines and measures for the conservation of historical buildings, sites of archaeological interest and other antiquities.

10.2.5 Requirements for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment

- (a) Appendix I of the EIA Study Brief No. ESB-338/2021 provides requirements for conducting cultural heritage impact assessment.

10.2.6 Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment

- (a) The Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment provide guidelines to assist the understanding of requirements in assessing impact(s) on Site of Cultural Heritage.

10.3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

10.3.1 According to Clause 3.4.11.2 of the EIA Study Brief No. ESB-338/2021, the CHIA shall include a Built Heritage Impact Assessment (BHIA) and an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the construction and operation of the Project and the assessment area for cultural heritage impact assessment (CHAA) is defined as an area within 500m from the boundary of the Project area (i.e. the boundary of Works Area of the Project) (see **Figure 10.1** for the CHAA). The CHIA comprises the following tasks:

Baseline Study

10.3.2 A desktop review was conducted based on best available information such as relevant previous studies and background of the site held by Government departments, public libraries and the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre Reference Library to identify the known and unknown built heritage items including declared monuments, proposed monuments, sites and buildings graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), sites of archaeological interest or Government historic sites identified by AMO within the CHAA. The Bibliography is provided in **Section 10.10**.

Built Heritage Survey

10.3.3 A built heritage survey was conducted to identify known and unknown built heritage items in the CHAA that may be affected by the Project and its associated works. The findings are summarised in **Section 10.4** and detailed in **Appendices 10.1** and **10.2**.

10.3.4 The coding method for the recording of built heritage resources used is as follows:

- Graded historic buildings and new items for grading assessment (GB); and
- Additional surveyed Built Heritage Items with no grading including buildings, structures, features and sites. (BH).

Archaeological Survey

10.3.5 According to Clause 2 of Appendix I of the EIA Study Brief No. ESB-338/2021, the scope of AIA study presented in the AIA Working Paper was submitted to the AMO and Environmental Protection Department (EPD) prior to the commencement of the assessment. It was concluded in the Report that archaeological survey is not required. Details are discussed in **Section 10.4**.

Impact Assessment

10.3.6 Based on the findings and analysis from (a), (b) and (c), a CHIA including AIA and BHIA for the construction and operation of the Project was conducted to assess the direct and indirect impacts on the identified built heritage items. Based on the identified impact on built heritage items, if any, appropriate practicable mitigation measures and monitoring to avoid or keep the

adverse impact to the minimum would be recommended. A checklist including all the affected archaeological resources, impacts identified, recommended measures as well as the implementation agent and period were included in the environmental monitoring and audit (EM&A) section of the EIA report. The CHIA was conducted according to Annexes 10 and 19 of the TM and the Requirements for CHIA in Appendix I of the EIA Study Brief No. ESB-338/2021. As no archaeological survey is required, AIA was conducted based on desktop review, and its result was presented in **Section 10.5** below as part of the EIA report for the Project.

10.4 BASELINE CONDITION

Topographical Background

- 10.4.1 The CHAA is situated in urban area in Fanling-Sheungshui of the North District, in the northeastern part of New Territories and Hong Kong. The general area lies in valley and terraced alluvial plain extending from Shenzhen in the north to Tai Po at the head of Tolo Harbour towards the southeast. The CHAA lies on the alluvial plain and valley of Fanling with lower topography, and it slightly steps up northward and southward with higher alluvial terrace. It is bounded to the south and southwest by hills like Kong Hill, Po Leng Au, Pei Tau Ling Kok and higher ground in Sheung Shui area to the north.
- 10.4.2 The Works Area of the Project is located in an area with developed existing roads, including the So Kwun Po Interchange (SKPIC) along So Kwun Po Road between San Wan Road and Pak Wo Road, Po Wing Road, Kat Cheung Crescent and a section of the East Rail Line and Fanling Highway in the North District. The area is also surrounded by developed residential land use including Sheung Shui Centre in the north, Tai Ping Estate in the west, Vienna Garden and Cheerful Park in the south.

Historical Background

- 10.4.3 Clues of human occupation in the Fanling-Sheungshui area can be found in historic textual records such as Shiji (史記) and Hanshu (漢書) written in the first to second century A.D.. These records describe that Yue (越) ethnic groups (also called “Hundreds of Yue” (百越)) scattered around South China. Such ethnic groups are comprised of different tribes bearing various surnames and can be differentiated from the Han ethnic group who lived in central China in terms of physical characteristics, language, and folklore (Arup, 2013).
- 10.4.4 Since the 8th century (during Tang dynasty AD 618 – 907), Tolo Harbour was the main pearl harvesting centre in China. From the 9th century onward, Pearl River area (including Hong Kong) was an important salt production centre. Especially in Southern Song dynasty (AD 1127-1279), Hong Kong was one of the thirteen salt production centres of China. Historic textual records such as Yudi Jisheng (輿地紀勝) and Songhuiyao Jilu (宋會要輯錄) describe smuggling related to salt production. The north New Territories area gradually turned into a settlement place and agricultural land to supply food to deal with the increasing population growth attributed to the prevalent salt production industry (Arup, 2013).
- 10.4.5 According to oral history and local genealogical records, a wave of immigrants migrated into the north New Territories area from mainland China during Mongol's conquer to Southern Song Court. Study of local genealogy indicates that five major clans, namely, the Pangs, the Lius, the Haus, the Mans and the Tangs, were groups of settlers in the north New Territories during Southern Song period (Chan 2006).
- 10.4.6 In 13th century, the Pangs, the Haus, and the Lius moved into the Fanling-Sheungshui area and its adjacent areas. The Pangs inhabited in Lung Yeuk Tau (龍躍頭) in Fanling in A.D. 1220 of Southern Song Dynasty. At that time, Pang Kwei (彭桂) moved from Lung Yeuk Tau and settled in Fanling Wai, became the founder of Fan Ling Lau (粉嶺樓) (AMO website).

10.4.7 During the late 17th to early 18th centuries, Hakka people from Guangdong province were encouraged to move into the north New Territories area owing to the sharp decline in population after coastal evacuation in the 17th century. Ng Uk Tsuen was established by those Hakka people in 18th century as a settlement (AMO website).

Built Heritage

10.4.8 According to the built heritage survey, no declared monuments, proposed monuments or Government historic sites are identified within the CHAA.

10.4.9 One Grade 1 (Pang Ancestral Hall), one Grade 2 (Tsz Tak Study Hall) and six Grade 3 historic buildings are identified. They are listed in **Table 10.1** and their locations are shown in **Figure 10.1**. Detailed descriptions and photographic records are provided in **Appendix 10.1**.

Table 10.1 Identified Graded Historic Buildings within the CHAA

Site Code	Name	Approximate Closest Distance to boundary of Works Area (m)
Grade 1 historic buildings		
GB-01	Pang Ancestral Hall	340
Grade 2 historic buildings		
GB-02	Tsz Tak Study Hall	380
Grade 3 historic buildings		
GB-03	No.5 Ng Uk Tsuen	110
GB-04	Sam Shing Temple (Fanling Wai)	110
GB-05	Watchtower (Northwest), Fanling Wai	250
GB-06	Fanling Wai, Entrance Tower	250
GB-07	Watchtower (Southwest), Fanling Wai	250
GB-08	ELCHK Gloria Lutheran Church	420

10.4.10 For built heritage items with no grading, BH-01, BH-02, BH03 and BH-04 (BH-04: Fanling Wai Site with 31 items (BH-04-1 to BH-04-31) comprising wells, shrines, cannons and village houses, details refer to **Appendix 10.2**) have been identified within the CHAA. They are listed in **Table 10.2**. Their locations are shown in **Figure 10.1**, with detailed descriptions and photographic records provided in **Appendix 10.2**.

Table 10.2 Identified Built Heritage Items with No Grading

Site Code	Name	Approximate Closest Distance to boundary of Works Area (m)	Figure Reference
BH-01	Shrine, So Kwun Po Tsuen	20	Figure 10.1
BH-02	Village House No. 11, Kai Leng	180	Figure 10.1
BH-03	Cheung Ancestral Hall, Kai Leng	190	Figure 10.1

Site Code	Name	Approximate Closest Distance to boundary of Works Area (m)	Figure Reference
BH-04	Fanling Wai Site (details refer to Appendix 10.2)	250	Appendix 10.2

Geological Condition

10.4.11 The solid geology of the CHAA consists of Tai Mo Shan Formation with feldspar and quartz crystals, with some dark green biotite, and lithic lapilli of pale sandstone. The superficial deposit includes quaternary alluvium (clay, silt and sand), terraced alluvium and debris flow deposit (dune sand). Details are shown in **Figure 10.2** (CEDD, 2020).

Archaeological Background

10.4.12 A part of the Po Leng SAI is found within the CHAA, and it lies on the terrace south of Ching Ho Estate, at a distance of about 450m from the works boundary of the Project (see **Figure 10.1**). The Po Leng SAI includes a large area of cultivated land with a gentle slope from the south (ca. 25.6mPD) to the north (ca. 11.5mPD) and three hillocks: Chong Tsin Leng (34.4mPD), Po Leng (38.9mPD) and a nameless hillock (31.2mPD). The majority of the low-lying area has been used for cultivation and currently sparse structures are built in the fields or around the hillocks. The hillocks are covered in vegetation with graves set in the mid-level slopes. A Field investigation was conducted in 1999 with twelve auger tests and a test pit excavation, a few Tang and Song dynasty ceramic sherds were found in the northwest tip of the SAI. (WSP, 2022)

Archaeological Potential Evaluation

10.4.13 The key elements of the proposed works that may involve ground excavation work for the Project include the following:

- (a) Construction of the new So Kwun Po Link (SKPL), comprising an at-grade road, an underpass, a single 2-lane flyover (main ramp) and a single 1-lane flyover (side ramp) connecting San Wan Road on the north side of SKPL and Pak Wo Road on the south side of SKPIC, which involve piling, pile cap construction, road building work and diversions of utilities;
- (b) Realignment of So Kwun Po Road between SKPIC and Po Wing Road involving road building work and diversions of utilities;
- (c) Junction modification works at San Wan Road and Po Wing Road involving road building work and diversions of utilities;
- (d) Reprovisioning of the affected footpaths, cycletracks and staircases; and
- (e) Associated roadworks, geotechnical works, landscape works, drainage works, utility works, traffic aids installation, traffic signal modification works, environmental mitigation measures, street lighting and street furniture, and other ancillary works.

10.4.14 Based on the baseline review result and the key elements that may involve ground excavation work for the Project, the archaeological potential within the boundary of Works Area has been evaluated and presented in **Table 10.3**.

Table 10.3 Archaeological Potential Evaluation within the boundary of Works Area of the Project

Existing Condition and Geology (see Figure 10.2)	Archaeological Potential Evaluation
Proposed new SKPL (location refer to Proposed Road Link in Figure 10.1 and 10.2)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along or by existing Road • Geology Condition: Qpa 	The proposed work is mainly located along or by existing roads, including SKPIC, San Wan Road, So Kwun Po Road and Pak Wo Road. These existing roads underwent construction works with high level of ground disturbance, therefore, no archaeological potential is expected.
Proposed Road Modification Works (locations refer to Associated Road Modification Works in Figure 10.1 and 10.2)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along or by existing Road • Geology Condition: Qa, Qpa and Qpd 	The proposed work includes realignment of So Kwun Po Road, junction modification works at San Wan Road and Pak Wo Road, and associated road works at Po Wing Road. These works are mainly located along or by existing roads, including So Kwun Po Road, San Wan Road, Pak Wo Road and Po Wing Road. These are existing roads that contain no archaeological potential.
Note: (a) Qa – Alluvium; Qpd – Debris flow deposits; Qpa – Terraced Alluvium.	

10.4.15 As presented in **Table 10.3**, the proposed new SKPL and associated road modification works including realignment of So Kwun Po Road, junction modification works at San Wan Road and Pak Wo Road, as well as associated road works in Po Wing Road are located in area without archaeological potential. Therefore, no archaeological survey is required.

10.5 CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Archaeological Impact Assessment

Construction Phase

10.5.1 No excavation works of the Project are proposed in or adjacent to the Po Leng SAI, therefore no adverse archaeological impact due to the proposed works is anticipated.

10.5.2 As evaluated in **Section 10.4.13** to **10.4.15** above, the boundary of Works Area are of no archaeological potential, potential impact on archaeological resources is not anticipated.

Operation Phase

10.5.3 No excavation works of the Project will be involved during operation phase, therefore no adverse archaeological impact is anticipated.

10.5.4 As evaluated in **Section 10.4.13** to **10.4.15** above, the proposed new roads and road modifications are located in areas of no archaeological potential, potential impact on archaeological resources is not anticipated.



Built Heritage Impact Assessment

Construction Phase

- 10.5.5 All of the graded historic buildings listed in **Table 10.1** are located at least 110m from the works boundary of the Project. Due to considerable separation distance between the proposed works and graded historic buildings, no direct impact is anticipated.
- 10.5.6 Potential direct and indirect impacts to the no grading built heritage items BH-02, BH-03 and BH-04 identified and listed in **Table 10.2** are not anticipated due to considerable separation distance (over 180m) between the proposed works and built heritage items.
- 10.5.7 For BH-01, although it is located relatively closer (about 20m) to the boundary of Works Area, potential direct and vibration impacts are not anticipated as the closest major underground construction works like piling and piling cap construction are located around 300m away.
- 10.5.8 No indirect impact from construction vibration to the mentioned graded historic buildings listed in **Table 10.1** is anticipated due to considerable separation distance (over 110m) from the works boundary of the Project, piling and pile cap construction, vibrations caused by construction (e.g. piling works) and the possible impact would be insignificant. In addition, the proposed road modification works such as slope work, decommission and reprovision of cycletracks and footpath are considered minor, and thus no indirect impact is anticipated.

Operation Phase

- 10.5.9 No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated from the proposed new roads and road modification during the operation phase.

10.6 MITIGATION MEASURES

Archaeological Mitigation Measures

Construction Phase

- 10.6.1 A part of the Po Leng SAI is found within the CHAA, at a distance of about 450m from the boundary of Works Area of the Project. No excavation works of the project will exist in or adjacent to the SAI, therefore no adverse archaeological impact due to the proposed development is anticipated and thus, no mitigation measure is required.
- 10.6.2 No archaeological potential area has been identified within the boundary of Works Area of the Project, and no archaeological impact arising from the proposed work is anticipated. Therefore, no mitigation measure is required.
- 10.6.3 As a precautionary measure, the project proponent and his/her contractor are required to inform AMO immediately when any antiquities or supposed antiquities under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (CAP.53) are discovered during the course of works.

Operation Phase

- 10.6.4 No excavation works will be involved during the operation phase of the Project, no adverse archaeological impact is anticipated. Thus, no mitigation measure is required.

Built Heritage Mitigation Measures

Construction Phase

- 10.6.5 Since no declared or proposed monuments and government historic sites identified by AMO have been identified, no mitigation measure is required.
- 10.6.6 Eight graded historic buildings identified in the CHAA are located over 110m from the boundary of Works Area. Due to considerable separation distance between the proposed works and graded historic buildings, no direct impact is anticipated. No mitigation measure is required.

- 10.6.7 Potential direct impact to the no grading built heritage items BH-02, BH-03 and BH-04 identified and listed in **Table 10.2** is not anticipated due to considerable separation distance (over 180m) between the proposed works and built heritage items. No mitigation measure is required.
- 10.6.8 Although BH-01 is located relatively closer (about 20m) to the boundary of Works Area, potential direct and vibration impact are not anticipated as the closest major underground construction works like piling and piling cap construction are located around 300m away. Thus, no mitigation measure is required.
- 10.6.9 No indirect impact from construction vibration to the mentioned graded historic buildings listed in **Table 10.1** is anticipated due to considerable separation distance (over 110m) from the works boundary of the Project, piling and pile cap construction, vibrations caused by construction (e.g. piling works) and the possible impact would be insignificant. Moreover, the proposed road modification works are considered minor, and no indirect impact is anticipated. However, it is recommended to monitor any vibration and building movement induced by the proposed works on the graded historic buildings (GB-03), which is closest to the boundary of the Works Area, as well as on the Grade 1 historic building (GB-01). This will ensure that there are no negative impacts from vibration on the graded historic buildings.

Operation Phase

- 10.6.10 No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated from the proposed new roads and road modification during the operation phase. No mitigation measure is required.

10.7 RESIDUAL AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- 10.7.1 With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, no adverse residual cultural heritage impact is anticipated.
- 10.7.2 No cumulative cultural heritage impact is anticipated.

10.8 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND AUDIT

Archaeology

Construction Phase

- 10.8.1 As a precautionary measure, the project proponent and his/her contractor are required to inform AMO immediately when any antiquities or supposed antiquities under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (CAP.53) are discovered during the course of works.

Operation Phase

- 10.8.2 No excavation works of the Project will be involved during operation phase, so no adverse archaeological impact is anticipated. Thus, no EM&A is required.

Built Heritage

Construction Phase

- 10.8.3 No direct and indirect impacts from construction vibration to the mentioned graded historic buildings listed in **Table 10.1** and no grading built heritage items BH-02, BH-03 and BH-04 listed in **Table 10.2** are anticipated due to considerable separation distance (over 110m) from the works boundary of the Project, piling and pile cap construction, vibrations caused by construction (e.g. piling works) and the possible impact would be insignificant. Moreover, the proposed road modification works are considered minor. For BH-01, although it is located relatively closer (about 20m) to the boundary of Works Area, potential direct and vibration impacts are not anticipated as the closest major underground construction works like piling and

piling cap construction are located around 300m away. However, it is recommended to monitor any vibration and building movement induced by the proposed works on the graded historic buildings (GB-03), which is closest to the boundary of the Works Area, as well as on the Grade 1 historic building (GB-01). This will ensure that there are no negative impacts from vibration on the graded historic buildings.

Operation Phase

- 10.8.4 No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated from the proposed new roads during the operation phase. No EM&A is required.

10.9 CONCLUSION

- 10.9.1 A part of the Po Leng SAI is found within the CHAA, at a distance of about 450m within the boundary of Works Area of the Project. No excavation works of the project will exist in or adjacent to the SAI, therefore no adverse archaeological impact due to the proposed development is anticipated and thus, no mitigation measure is required.
- 10.9.2 No archaeological potential area has been identified within the boundary of Works Area. No archaeological impact is anticipated and thus no mitigation measure is required.
- 10.9.3 As a precautionary measure, the project proponent and his/her contractor are required to inform AMO immediately when any antiquities or supposed antiquities under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (CAP.53) are discovered during the course of works.
- 10.9.4 Desktop review supplemented by built heritage survey identified no declared or proposed monuments and government historic sites identified by AMO in the CHAA. Thus, no mitigation measures is required.
- 10.9.5 Eight graded historic buildings identified in the CHAA are located over 110m from the boundary of Works Area. Due to considerable separation distance between the proposed works and graded historic buildings, no direct impact is anticipated. No mitigation measure is required.
- 10.9.6 Potential direct impact to the no grading built heritage items BH-02, BH-03 and BH-04 identified and listed in **Table 10.2** is not anticipated due to considerable separation distance (over 180m) between the proposed works and built heritage items. No mitigation measure is required.
- 10.9.7 For no grading built heritage item BH-01, although it is located relatively closer (20m) to the boundary of Works Area, potential direct and vibration impacts are not anticipated as the closest major underground construction works like piling and piling cap construction are located around 300m away.
- 10.9.8 No indirect impact from construction vibration to the mentioned graded historic buildings listed in **Table 10.1** is anticipated due to considerable separation distance (over 110m) from the works boundary of the Project, piling and pile cap construction, vibrations caused by construction (e.g. piling works) and the possible impact would be insignificant. Moreover, the proposed road modification works are considered minor. However, it is recommended to monitor any vibration and building movement induced by the proposed works on the graded historic buildings (GB-03), which is closest to the boundary of the Works Area, as well as on the Grade 1 historic building (GB-01). This will ensure that there are no negative impacts from vibration on the graded historic buildings.
- 10.9.9 The operation phase of the Project does not involve any excavation works. No cultural heritage impact is anticipated and thus, no mitigation measure is required.

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