

Agreement No. CE 28/2004 (GE)
Landslide Preventive Works at Po Shan, Mid-Levels
Design and Construction
(Natural Terrain Risk Mitigation Works)

Landscape & Visual Audit and Monitoring


Monthly Inspection Report No. 09

(December 2008)

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8th January 2009

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8th January 2009

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Landscape and Visual Audit & Monitoring are conducted to fulfill the requirements of the EIA Report during the Construction and Operational Phases of the project, and are based on the procedures and requirements as set out in the Agreement No. CE 28/2004 (GE) Landslide Preventive Works at Po Shan, Mid-Levels – Design and Construction (Natural Terrain Risk Mitigation Works) - Environmental Monitoring and Audit Manual.

As stated in section 3.5 and 3.6 of the EM&A Manual, all landscape and visual mitigation measures undertaken by the Contractor during the construction phase and the first 12 months of the operational phase shall be audited on a bi-weekly and monthly basis respectively to ensure compliance with the intended aims of the mitigation measures.

2.0 SCOPE OF AUDIT and MONITORING

The broad scope of landscape and visual monitoring and audit on mitigation measures is as detailed below:

2.1 Construction Phase

Identify any potential conflicts between the proposed landscape measures and any other project works or operation requirements, and recorded for the contractor to resolve in early stage, without compromising the intention of the mitigation measures. Also, the followings shall be monitored:

- designation of 'no-intrusion zones', and to record any trespass by the contractor, including damage to existing vegetation;
- allowance for adjustment of soil nails on site for the avoidance of tree trunks and tree roots;
- dust and erosion control for exposed soil;
- tree planting operations, checking method statement against specification requirements;
- all retained trees within the working boundary shall be regularly checked and reported to the engineer, including damage to the tree canopy edge.

Considerations shall also be made to address the appearance and view by public through:

- control over the appearance of construction workers, hoarding, construction plants / machines
- careful selection of security floodlights to avoid light pollution

2.2 Operation Phase

Ensure the compensatory planting and horticultural maintenance operations are properly carried out during the 12 months establishment period, including:

- Inspection for fungal / viral attacks and pest infestations
- Litter collection
- Watering
- Weeding removal
- Replacement of defective planting material
- Grass cutting / groundcover trimming and removal of arisings
- Fertilizing application as required in specification
- Aeration / mulching application

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3.0 INSPECTIONS

3.1 Summary of Inspection – 2nd December 2008

3.1.1 Matters Arising from Previous Inspections

- It was still observed that the Contractor had not removed the dead trees, including a tree with rotten trunk at the base located near existing tree T534. The Contractor was recommended to remove all the dead and rotten trees away from the footpath area for safety.
- It was still observed that rectification of many of the tree identification numbers for the existing retained trees were outstanding. The Contractor was reminded to re-instate the tree numbers on existing trees for ease of reference as soon as possible.
- It was noted that compensatory planting proposal for the replacement of dead tree T611 was outstanding. The Contractor was recommended to seek Engineer's agreement on the replacement planting as soon as possible.
- It was noted that the Contractor's clarification of the status of existing trees T516, T517, T666, and T698 was outstanding. The Contractor was reminded to provide necessary information as soon as possible.

3.1.2 Protection of Existing Trees

- It was noted that some excavated rocks for soil nail heads were piled against the based of an existing tree. The Contractor was reminded to clear the rocks away from the tree as soon as possible.
- A tree was observed with its branch hacked off and left with scars. The contractor was reminded that pruning of tree branch requires permission from the Engineer and that pruning of tree branch shall be carried out by approved landscape contractor.
- It was observed that the Contractor had used an existing tree as support to tie the large hose. The Contractor was requested to remove the hose from the tree as soon as possible.

3.1.3 Recommendations

- The Contractor was recommended to clear and remove dead / rotten trees from site for safety.
- The Contractor was reminded to rectify all ineligible tree identification numbers for all existing trees.
- The Contractor was recommended to clarify the status of missing trees as soon as possible.
- The Contractor was recommended to seek Engineer's agreement on the replacement planting for dead tree.
- The Contractor was recommended to clear away excavated rocks from existing tree and not to place it against trees in future.
- The Contractor was reminded to seek Engineer's agreement prior to carry out tree pruning works, which should be carried out by approved landscape contractor in future.

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3.2 Summary of Inspection – 16th December 2008

3.2.1 Matters Arising from Previous Inspections

- The Contractor had cleared out the remaining stones around the base of existing tree T614.
- Also, the Contractor had removed the excavated rocks previously found piled against the based of existing tree.
- The Contractor had removed tie support for the large hose from existing tree.
- It was still observed that the Contractor had not removed the dead trees, including a tree with rotten trunk at the base located near existing tree T534. The Contractor was recommended to remove all the dead and rotten trees away from the footpath area for safety.
- It was still observed that rectification of many of the tree identification numbers for the existing retained trees were outstanding. The Contractor was reminded to re-instate the tree numbers on existing trees for ease of reference as soon as possible.
- It was noted that the Contractor's clarification of the status of existing trees T516, T517, T666, and T698 was outstanding. The Contractor was reminded to provide necessary information as soon as possible.

3.2.2 Protection of Existing Trees

- It was observed the tree bark of an existing tree with protective hessian wrappings was damaged by scrapings from the moving of pipe sleeves for stock piling nearby. The Contractor was requested to provide better tree protection and to ensure moving of equipments and materials do not damage existing trees.

3.2.3 Recommendations

- The Contractor was reminded not to damage the tree barks and to provide better tree protections while carried out works near vicinity of existing trees.
- The Contractor was reminded to rectify all ineligible tree identification numbers for all existing trees.
- The Contractor was recommended to remove dead / rotten trees from site for safety. The Contractor was also reminded to record and report all dead trees as found on site to the Engineer for record.
- The Contractor was recommended to clarify the status of missing trees as soon as possible.
- The Contractor was recommended to seek Engineer's agreement on the replacement planting for dead tree.

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3.3 Summary of Inspection – 30th December 2008

3.3.1 Matters Arising from Previous Inspections

- The Contractor had provided new hessian tree protective wrapping to the existing tree previously found with damaged bark.
- It was still observed that the Contractor had not removed the dead trees, including a tree with rotten trunk at the base located near existing tree T534. The Contractor was recommended to remove all the dead and rotten trees away from the footpath area for safety.
- It was still observed that rectification of many of the tree identification numbers for the existing retained trees were outstanding. The Contractor was reminded to re-instate the tree numbers on existing trees for ease of reference as soon as possible.
- It was noted that the Contractor's clarification of the status of existing trees T516, T517, T666, and T698 was outstanding. The Contractor was reminded to provide necessary information as soon as possible.

3.3.2 Protection of Existing Trees

- It was observed that 10 pipe sleeves were stockpiled against an existing tree. The contractor was requested to remove immediately the stockpile away from the tree.

3.3.3 Recommendations

- The Contractor was reminded remove the pipe stockpile away from the existing tree and not to stockpile materials and equipment against trees on site.
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- The Contractor was reminded to rectify all ineligible tree identification numbers for all existing trees.
- The Contractor was recommended to remove dead / rotten trees from site for safety. The Contractor was also reminded to record and report all dead trees as found on site to the Engineer for record.
- The Contractor was recommended to clarify the status of missing trees as soon as possible.
- The Contractor was recommended to seek Engineer's agreement on the replacement planting for dead tree.

4.0 AUDIT SCHEULE

4.1 Audit Schedule for January 2009

The next audits are scheduled to be conduct on 13th and 20th January 2009.