

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Basic Information of Enquiry

Log Number:	2017/07/001
Date of Enquiry Received	31 July 2017 and 5 August 2017
Location	Project Site
Nature of Enquiry	Landscape and visual
Enquiry from	Ming Pao Newspaper

Details of Enquiry

Ming Pao, a Chinese newspaper in Hong Kong, has published two articles on 31 July 2017 and 5 August 2017, respectively, concerning the health condition of the retained trees *Aleurites moluccana* (Tree 6 and Tree 7) located at the prison yard of the CPS Site. The 31 July 2017 article indicated that pests were found on Tree 6 and 7 and the current amount of leaves on Tree 6 and Tree 7 have seemingly reduced in comparison with the photo of the trees which was said to be taken in December 2015, suggesting that the health of Tree 6 and Tree 7 may have deteriorated. The report enquired if the construction work has been carried out in compliance with the requirements in the Environmental Permit and potential measures to rectify the condition of Tree 6 and Tree 7. The 5 August 2017 article reported that the contractor has applied pesticides to the trees but queried if the contractor did not rectify the problem in a timely manner.

Investigation Report

1. Regular tree inspections have been carried out by a qualified arborist on a monthly basis in accordance with the requirement in the Environmental Permit (EP). The arborist will observe and identify any potential issues to the retained trees and recommend appropriate remedial actions as necessary. Routine horticultural operation for the retained trees has been undertaken, including watering of the trees for at least 2-3 times a week and adding mulch to the trees when necessary as recommended by the arborist. The latest tree inspection has been conducted by the arborist on 10 July 2017 and the observations and recommendations were reported in the Monthly Tree Inspection Report for July 2017 prepared by the arborist.
2. As indicated in the Monthly Tree Inspection Report for July 2017, signs of pests (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*) have been observed on some faded leaves of Tree 6 and Tree 7 during the tree inspection on 10 July 2017. A decayed log was also found on the upper branches of Tree 7. The arborist has recommended the application of pesticides to Tree 6 and Tree 7 and pruning of the decayed log on Tree 7 to be conducted as soon as possible to control and eliminate the pests. Although there are signs of pests, the health condition of the trunks of Tree 6 and Tree 7 is considered fair by the arborist. Some young and green leaves are growing on Tree 6, but leaves on the crown of Tree 7 are observed to be rather sparse. The tree protection zone around the planters of Tree 6 and Tree 7 are also in good condition and the areas in the vicinity of the trees are clean and tidy.
3. After the tree inspection on 10 July 2017, application of pesticides on the tree crown of Tree 6 and Tree 7 and pruning of decayed log on Tree 7 have been arranged and conducted on 3 and 4 August 2017. Residents near the Project Site have been informed of the pesticide application dates in advance. Application of pesticides could not be arranged in July due to presence of frequent rainy days towards the end of July. A Registered Consulting Arborist assessed Tree 6 and Tree 7 on 12 August 2017. He commented that the pests on Tree 6 and Tree 7 appeared to be under control due to the pesticide application on 3 and 4 August 2017. According to the Registered Consulting Arborist, new and healthy branches and roots were observed on the trees. He advised the Contractor to maintain sufficient mulch in the planters and conduct regular watering to the trees. Further application of pesticides is considered not necessary at the moment but the arborist will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the pesticide and the health of the trees and apply further measures if required.
4. Tree 6 and Tree 7 were cordoned off with a fence of about 2.5m height as a tree protection zone since the commencement of the construction works on site in accordance with the requirement in Appendix Part B of the EP. The fence was removed in April 2016 due to various works at Prison Yard, including laying of floor paving, making of chairs next to the planters and planter repairing works, etc. Construction works have substantially completed at the Prison Yard but barricades are still being set up around Tree 6 and Tree 7 to cordon off the trees. No root pruning has been conducted for Tree 6 and Tree 7. A foliage sprinkler cleansing system was installed at Tree 6 and Tree 7 for washing off any accumulated dust from the leaves in accordance with the requirement in Appendix Part B of the EP. As no major construction works have been conducted at the Prison Yard since April 2016 and construction works have substantially completed since April 2017, accumulation of dust on the leaves is no longer expected and the foliage sprinkler cleansing system was removed since May 2017. The areas in the vicinity of Tree 6 and Tree 7 have generally been kept clean and tidy. Construction activities in the vicinity of Tree 6 and Tree 7 were kept at a minimum. Other mitigation measures for landscape and visual impacts as required under the EP are complied with. A wide tree strip for compensatory tree planting has been reserved at the eastern part of the Parade Ground in accordance with the requirement in EP Condition 2.9. Planters for the compensatory trees are currently being built.
5. Photo records of Tree 6 and Tree 7 taken during the monthly tree inspections from December 2015 to July 2017 were provided below for reference. It can be seen that there is a gradual loss of leaves at Tree 6 and Tree 7 since around May 2016. However, as it is considered there is still reasonable amount of leaves on Tree 6 and Tree 7 with no apparent issues on the health of the trees observed, no actions were recommended or taken by the arborist until pests were observed during the tree inspection on 10 July 2017. The arborist has suggested two possible reasons for the loss of leaves on Tree 6 and Tree 7 since around May 2016:

i) Presence of pests – Besides the pests (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*) which were recently discovered during the tree inspection on 10 July 2017, Tree 6 and Tree 7 have also been infected with the pest Mealy Bugs in April 2016. Pests present on the leaves take up nutrients from the trees, causing loss of leaves and potential deterioration of the health of the trees. Subsequent application of pesticides and pruning of affected leaves and branches were performed on 25 April 2016 and proved effective with signs of pests apparently reduced and hardly found after the application. Although the trees were clear of pests after the pest application on 25 April 2016, gradual loss of leaves at Tree 6 and Tree 7 can be observed since around May 2016.

ii) Age of the trees – Tree 6 and Tree 7 were planted in 1960s and are currently about 50-60 years of age. According to the arborist responsible for the trees on site and other experienced arborists in Hong Kong, *Aleurites moluccana* (Tree 6 and Tree 7), which is a non-native species, generally has a life expectancy of about 60 to 80 years. The loss of leaves and possible deterioration of health may reflect the natural aging of the tree.

Photos of Tree 6 from December 2015 to January 2017



4 December 2015



6 January 2016



3 February 2016



4 March 2016

Photos of Tree 6 from December 2015 to January 2017



6 April 2016



4 May 2016



8 June 2016



4 July 2016

Photos of Tree 6 from December 2015 to January 2017



10 August 2016



2 September 2016



4 October 2016



2 November 2016

Photos of Tree 6 from December 2015 to January 2017



6 December 2016



4 January 2017



8 February 2017

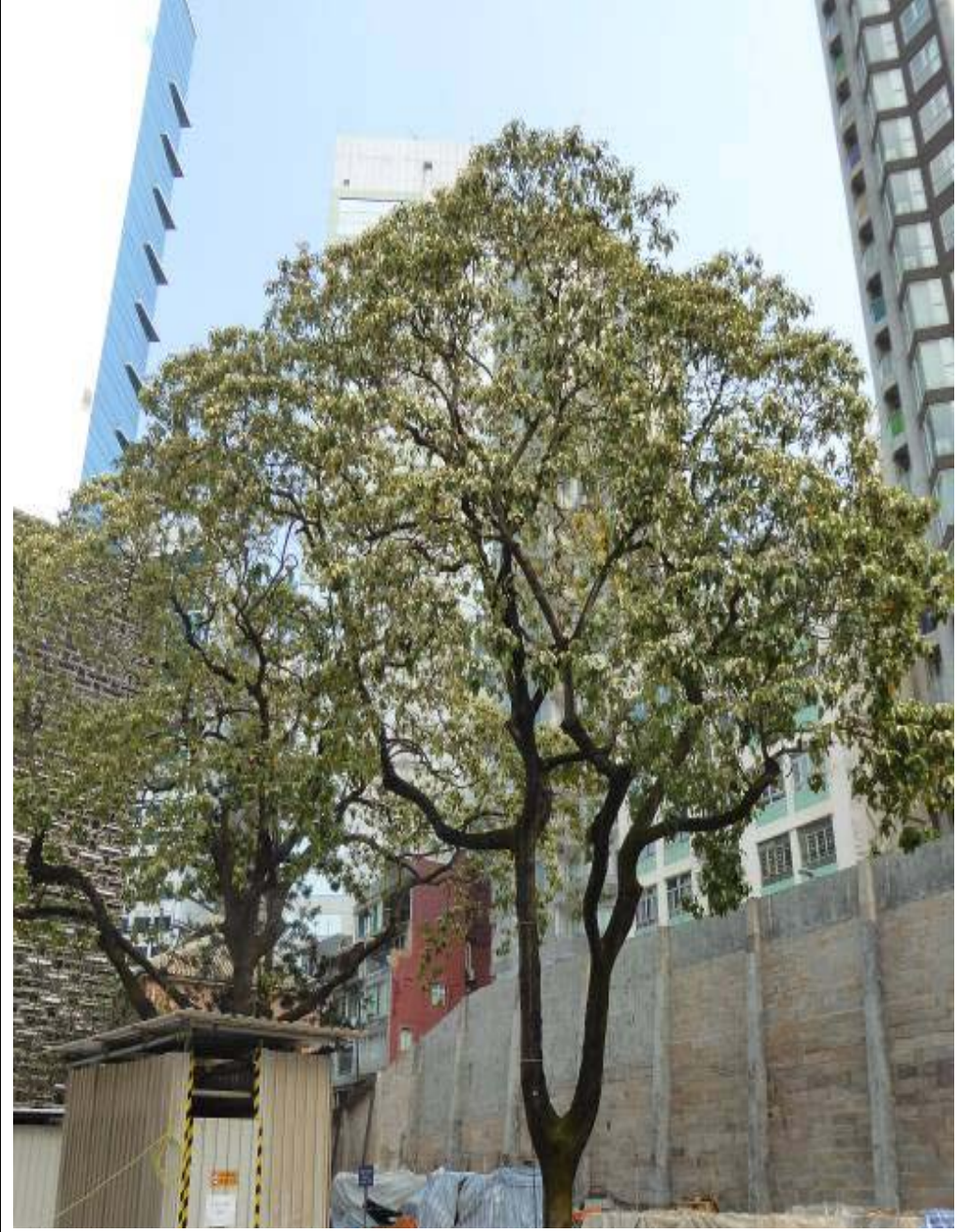


15 March 2017

Photos of Tree 6 from December 2015 to January 2017



7 April 2017



5 May 2017



8 June 2017

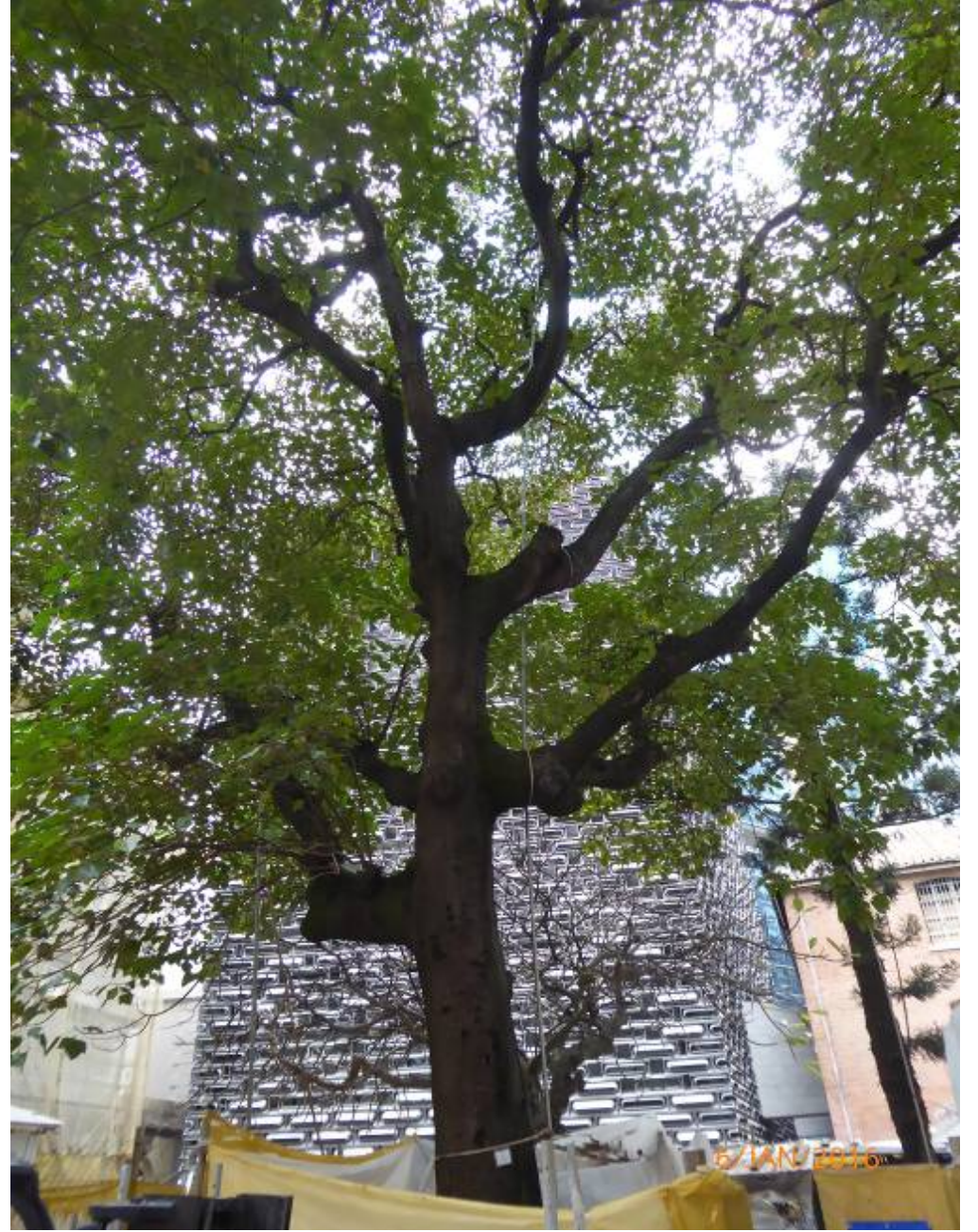


10 July 2017

Photos of Tree 7 from December 2015 to January 2017



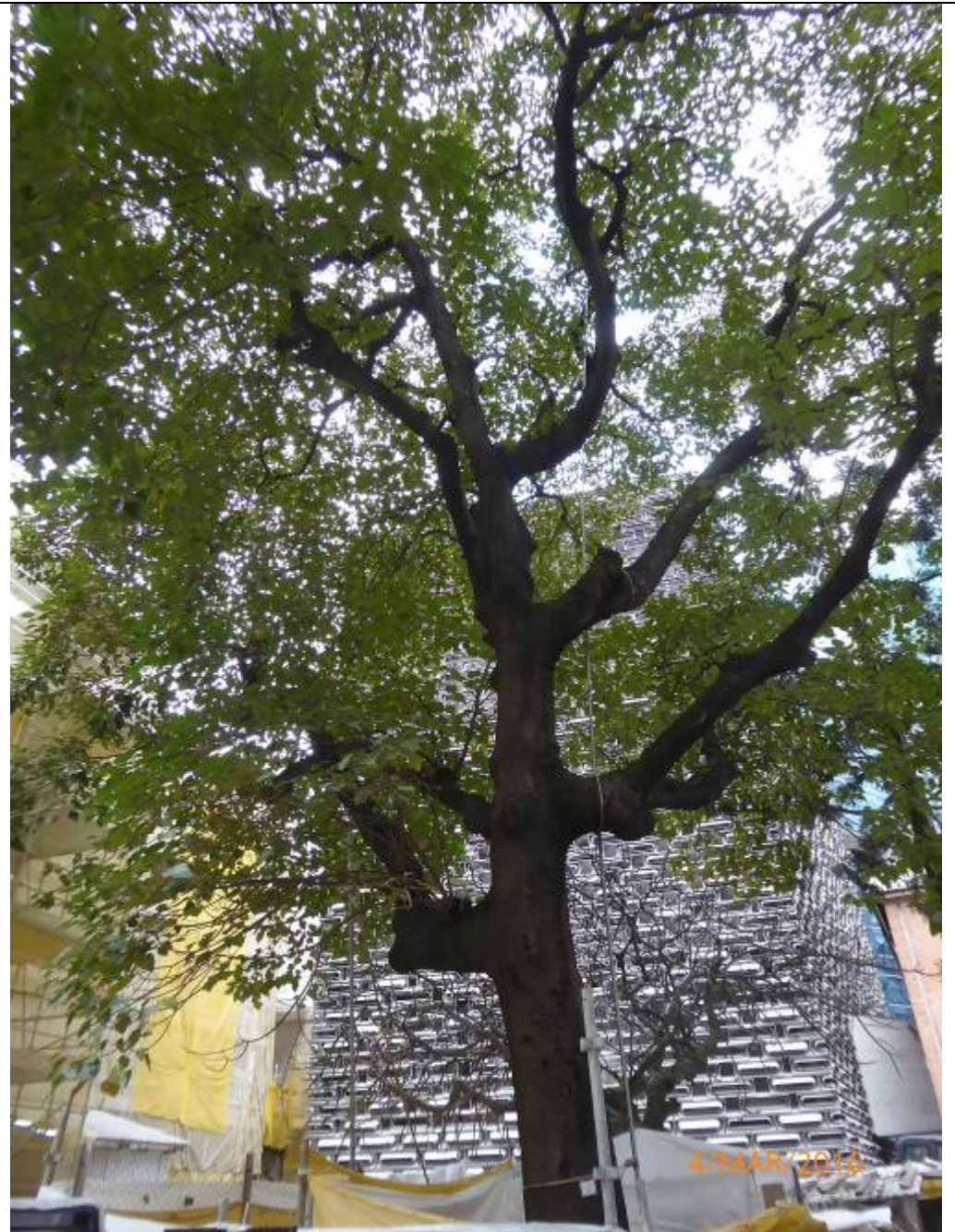
4 December 2015



6 January 2016



3 February 2016

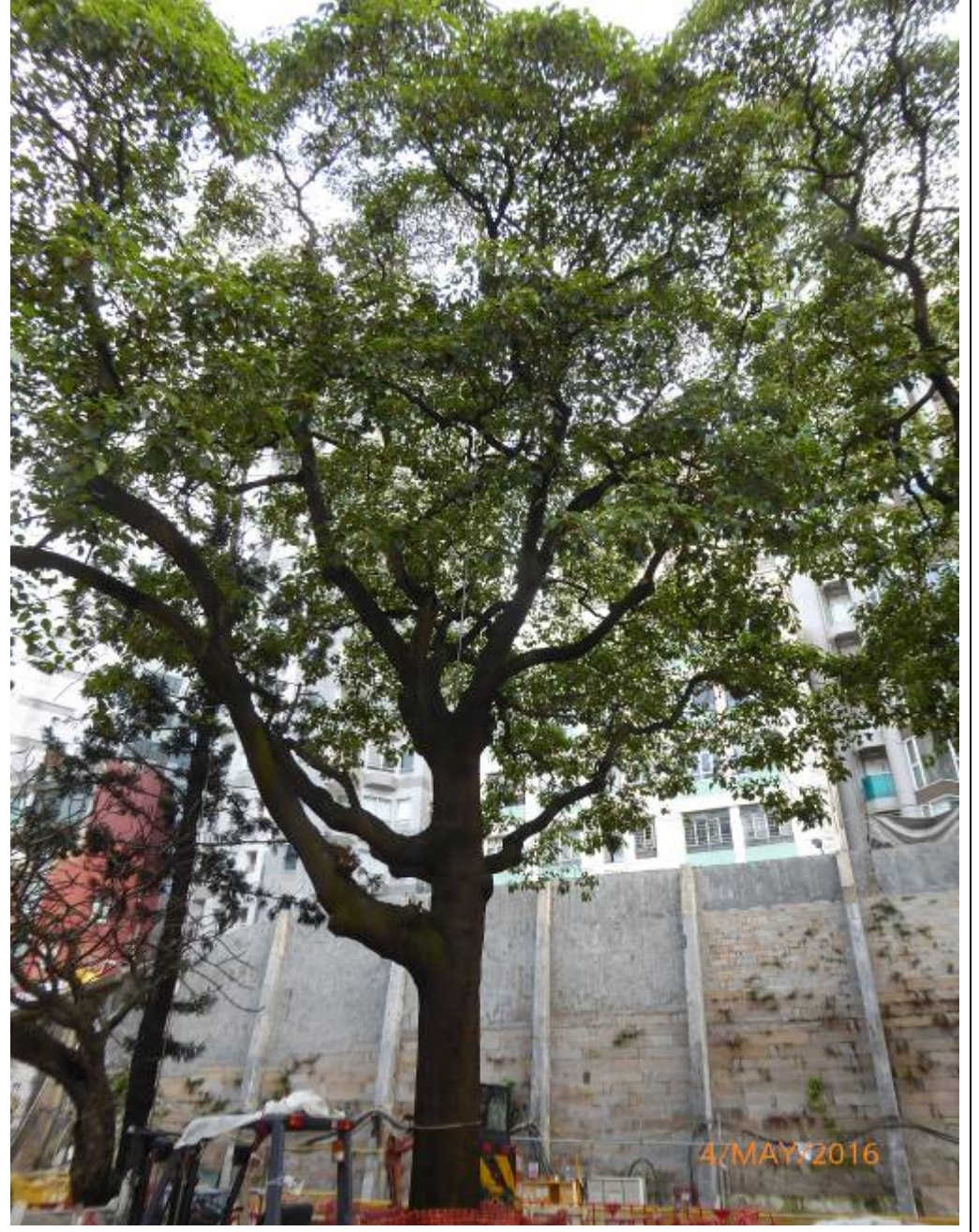


4 March 2016

Photos of Tree 7 from December 2015 to January 2017



6 April 2016



4 May 2016



8 June 2016

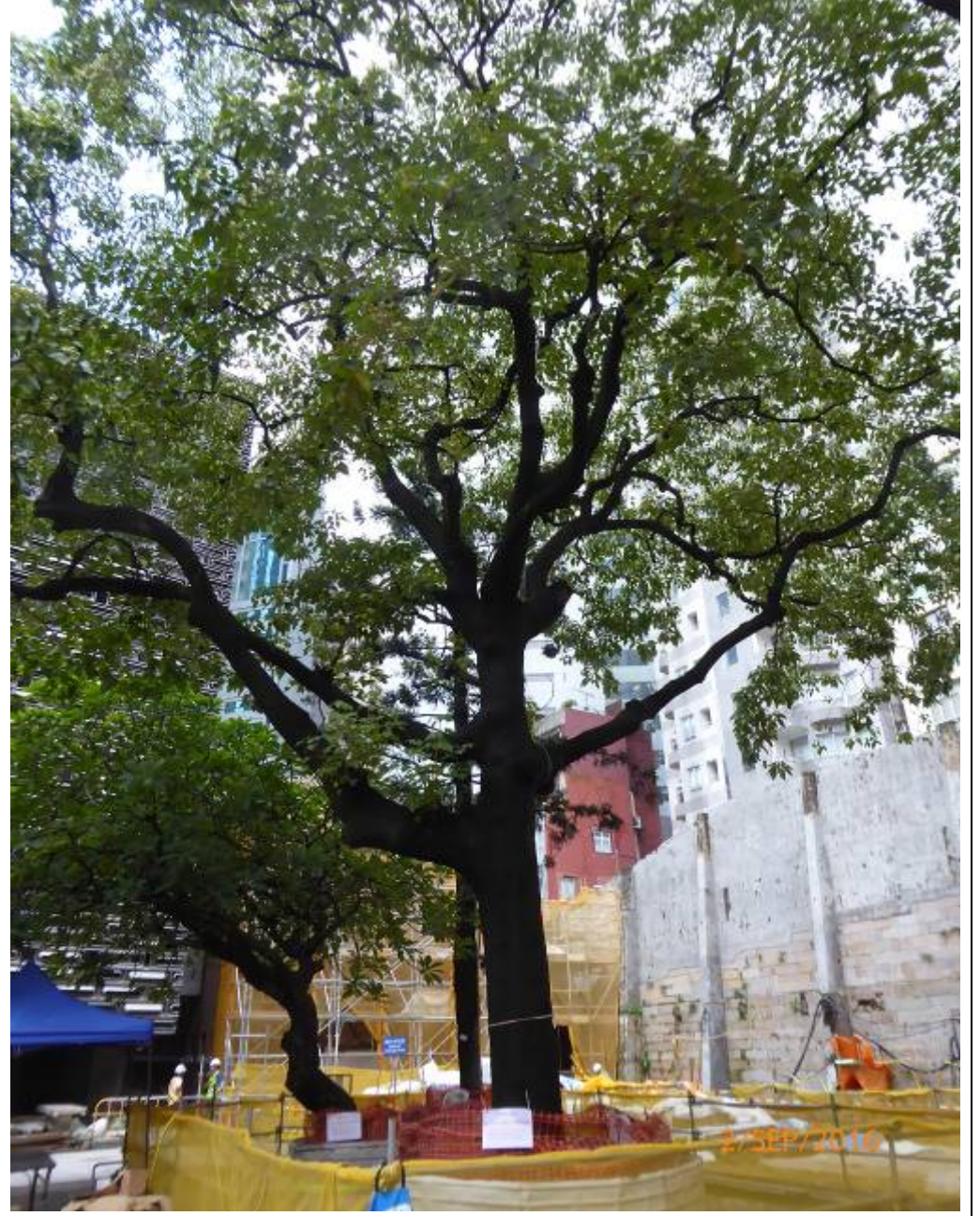


4 July 2016

Photos of Tree 7 from December 2015 to January 2017



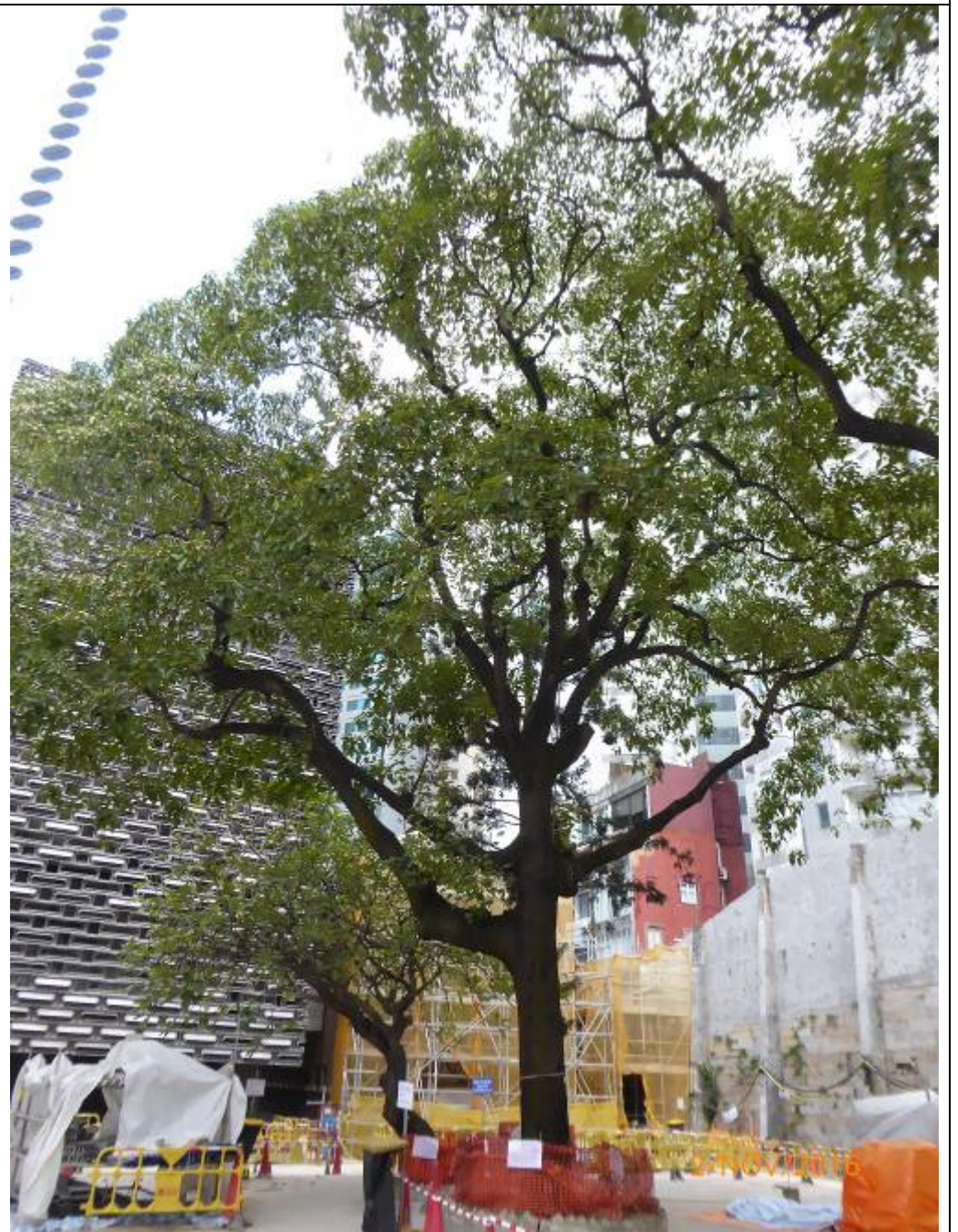
10 August 2016



2 September 2016



4 October 2016



2 November 2016

Photos of Tree 7 from December 2015 to January 2017



6 December 2016



4 January 2017



8 February 2017



15 March 2017

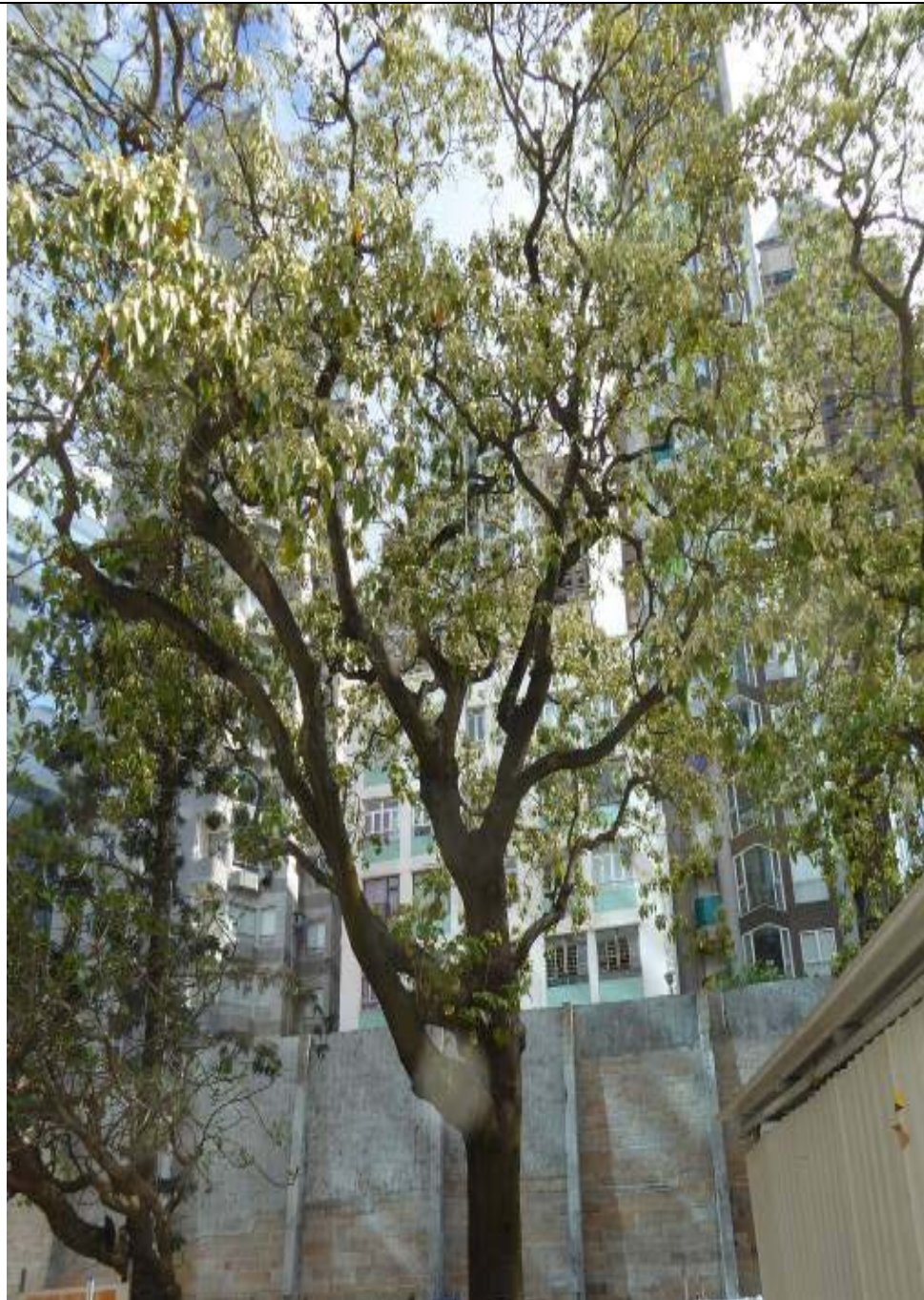
Photos of Tree 7 from December 2015 to January 2017



7 April 2017



5 May 2017



8 June 2017



10 July 2017

Mitigation Measures and Follow-up Actions Recommended to Contractor

All construction works are carried out strictly following the necessary requirements specified in the EP, EIA, and the EM&A Manual of this Project. Application of pesticides and pruning of decayed log have been conducted on Tree 6 and Tree 7 on 3 and 4 August 2017 after the discovery of the presence of pest (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*) during the tree inspection on 10 July 2017. As observed by the arborist in the inspection on 12 August 2017, the pests on Tree 6 and Tree 7 appeared to be under control. Further application of pesticides is considered not necessary at the moment but the arborist will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the pesticide and the health of the trees and apply further measures if required.

In addition, HKJC is currently seeking another tree specialist to thoroughly assess the health conditions of Tree 6 and Tree 7 and will propose further special care and treatment measures on Tree 6 and Tree 7.

Date of File Closed : 25 August 2017


Approved by:

ET Leader

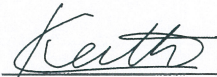
IEC

JCCPS's
Representative

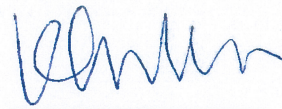
Rocco Design
Architect's
Representative



(Name: Katie Yu)
Date: 25 August 2017



(Name: Keith Chau)
Date: 25 August 2017

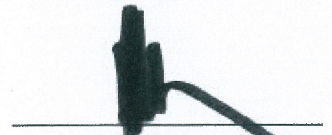


(Name: KENNETH LEE)
Date: 25 Aug 2017



(Name: CHARLES KUNG)
Date: 25 Aug 2017

Gammon's
Representative



(Name: Cliff Leung)
Date: 25 August 2017