

9 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

9.1 INTRODUCTION

In this section, environmental issues raised and studied in the LAPH Studies but where conclusions indicated that there would be minimal adverse environmental impact are briefly discussed and the conclusions summarised.-

9.2 TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY

Ecological assessment was carried out as a component of the LAPH Studies. Three key issues were identified :

- o habitat loss caused by development of the TCT mega borrow area;
- o effects of habitat reduction and habitat severance on the Chinese Pangolin; and
- o loss of Reef Egret and White-bellied Sea-Eagle breeding sites on Kau Yi Chau, at implementation of later phases of the LAPH development. Its relative isolation and suitable habitat make it an ideal nesting site for these birds, it is believed to be the only breeding site for the Reef Egret.

To address the first two key issues an ecological survey of the TCT peninsula was carried out as part of this study. The findings of the study are summarised in Volume II of the study final report, which is the TCT Borrow Area EIA. The full study findings are contained in Working Paper 13 of this study. Reclamation activity during construction of the terminals and the operation of the terminals will not significantly affect terrestrial ecology on the TCT peninsula.

The island of Kau Yi Chau will be physically joined to Lantau during reclamation activity for the later phases of the terminals, after CT10 & 11, although the integrity of the island will be maintained. The proximity of the Green Island Link (GIL) is noted as a possible area of adverse impact. In the conclusions to the LAPH Studies it was proposed that in order to mitigate the impacts further survey work should be carried out to :

- o document other breeding sites for the White-bellied Sea Eagle, and determine whether there are other possible breeding sites for the Reef Egret on the remote offshore islands; and
- o identify suitable alternative breeding sites for these species, outlining the requirements to secure their protection.

9.3 ARCHAEOLOGY AND SITES OF HISTORIC INTEREST

During the LAPH Studies 15 sites of archaeological interest were identified in the extended study area. Of the fifteen, three sites were identified which had potential to be adversely affected by the construction and operation of the LAPH developments. These sites were :

- o Pa Tau Kwu - a small peninsula extending south from the TCT peninsula. In the LAPH Studies this site was identified as a conservation site and the draft Outline Zoning Plan identified retention of the area;

- o Chok Kwo Wan - located on the east side of Penny's Bay. The Antiquities and Monuments office have indicated that this site has been fully excavated; and
- o Luk Keng - located on the north shore of Lantau Island close to Yam O Wan.

The Antiquities and Monuments office are undertaking a survey of the TCT peninsula to identify new sites of significance, identify needs for protection or rescue excavation in advance of works associated with development of the TCT mega borrow area.

The only site, identified to date, which has potential to be affected by terminal construction and operation is the neolithic site at Pa Tau Kwu. The land site has been identified for retention in the draft OZP and no impact from terminal construction and operation activity is anticipated.