

Table 3.29 Summary of the Assessment for Parade Ground

<i>Building No., Name & Designation</i>	<i>Date of Construction and Original Use</i>	<i>Reference Drawings</i>
Parade Ground Within Central Police Station Declared Monument	c. 1858 Parade and exercise yard	Drawings provided by RDA/HdeM
<i>Brief Overview</i>	<i>Proposed Adaptive Uses</i>	<i>Significance (refer to Section 3.11 of the Conservation Management Plan dated June 2008)</i>
A large, vaguely rectangular open space in the northern (police) part of the Site. It is paved with some remnants of car parking spaces (used as such from the mid-century onwards), and bordered by buildings on all sides. There are some trees to the northeast and northwest, though many have recently been lost. There is survival of some early cast iron drainage grilles on the north side. The space has been used for awards ceremonies, exercising, temporary accommodation (mat sheds), entertainment and car parking.	Open space for multipurpose uses. New major underground plant room serving the lower site.	HIGH The Parade Ground is significant both as an open space in busy Central Hong Kong, and as an open space within the Site. It is the focal point of the Central Police Station and has been used for numerous important events and ceremonies over the years.
<i>Conservation Approach</i>	<i>Major Proposed Changes (for Mitigations see Annex A1)</i>	<i>Other Heritage Impact Rating Assessments</i>
The Site is to remain as an open space, and it is important that it retains as much of its character as possible even though there will be a large new underground plant area and services tunnel from the centralized chilled water and electrical services plant located on the upper site. This will involve deep excavation and the consequential renewal of the ground finish.	The large plant space below ground level will reduce the need for inappropriate interventions for additional plant rooms in the highly significant Headquarters Block and the other adjacent blocks, and it also provides the fire fighting water storage required for the lower site area. It will involve deep excavation. The plant room and tunnel have been carefully located and will be carried out using methods to avoid any risk of damage to the foundations of the adjacent buildings and also to the shelter tunnel in the Parade Ground which will be retained. The services tunnel under the Barrack Block will need particular care. There is little impact on the Parade Ground as there will be little change taking place. The replacement of the late 20th century round surface will be beneficial to the overall appearance of the space. It is proposed that the current condition of the Parade Ground be recorded prior to any works, in order to have a clear understanding of the last use (car park) and ground covering of the space. Moreover, an archaeological investigation will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist to obtain field data for detailed impact assessment to be carried out during the detailed design stage, appropriate mitigation measures will be recommended subject to the findings of the archaeological investigation. Historic photographs, archives and any documentation produced prior to demolition and during the watching brief can be used in any site-wide interpretation of the Central Police Station history.	Impact Rating 3 - Acceptable Impact with mitigation measures