



Provision of Crematorium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery

Project Profile Architectural Services Department

July 2023





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Client signoff

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1. Basic Information

1.1. Project Title

1.1.1. This Project is known as "Provision of Crematorium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery" (hereafter named "the Project").

1.2. Purpose and Nature of the Project

- 1.2.1. The body cremation services in Hong Kong are mainly provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). With the growth in overall population and changes in demographic profile, the projected demand for cremation service in Hong Kong is expected to continue to increase steadily in the next 20 years. In order to cope with increasing demand of cremation services, there is a plan for the provision of a new crematorium at the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery (WHSC).
- 1.2.2. This Project is to develop a new crematorium within the existing WHSC area in the North District. The Project site area is about 2 hectares.
- 1.2.3. The proposed crematorium comprises the following elements:
 - a) Provision of ten new coffin cremators (comprising nine (9) standard cremators and one (1) large cremator) with air treatment system;
 - b) Provision of a full range of ancillary facilities including:
 - six (6) service halls;
 - office accommodation for FEHD staff and reception area;
 - six (6) Eco-joss paper burners;
 - mortuary;
 - ash storage room;
 - pulverization room;
 - office accommodation for Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) staff;
 - EMSD maintenance workshop and spare part store;
 - refuse storage chamber;
 - passenger lifts and goods lifts;
 - public toilets including accessible unisex toilets and universal toilet, as well as baby care room;
 - layby for hearses, etc;
 - c) Control room, equipped with CCTV;
 - d) Separate control room inside cremation plant room equipped with CCTV system; and
 - e) Landscaping.

1.3. Name of Project Proponent

1.3.1. FEHD is the Project Proponent.

1.4. Location and Scale of Project and History of Site

1.4.1. The Project Site is located within the WHSC area with an area of about 2 hectares. The preliminary layout plan and the location plan of the Project are shown in **Figure 1.1** and **Figure 1.2** respectively. This Project Site falls entirely within the Permanent Government Land Allocation ("PGLA") No. GLA-DN 81, which has been allocated to FEHD for cemetery use. The Site is currently under the



management and control of FEHD. The site does not currently fall into any Outline Zoning Plan or any other relevant plan.

1.4.2. WHSC is the largest public cemetery in Hong Kong that has been operating since 1950. It occupies an area of about 220 hectares.

1.5. Number and Types of Designated Projects to be Covered by the Project Profile

1.5.1. The Project involves construction and operation of a crematorium, which is classified as a Designated Project (DP) under Category N.4 of Part I, Schedule 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO).

1.6. Name and Telephone Number of Contact Person(s)

Name:	Ms. Shina CHUNG
Position:	Senior Project Manager 320
Address:	Architectural Services Department 37/F, High Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong
Telephone:	2867 7637
Email:	chungcy@archsd.gov.hk
Name	Ms. Canio PANG

Name:	Ms. Canjo PANG
Position:	Chief Health Inspector (Public Columbaria Project Team), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Address:	Room 516, 5/F, Lai Chi Kok Government Offices, 19 Lai Wan Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon
Telephone:	2746 4136
Email:	yypang@fehd.gov.hk



2. Outline of Planning and Implementation Programme

2.1. Project Planning and Implementation

2.1.1. FEHD is the project proponent and is responsible for the operation of the crematorium. Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) is the works agent responsible for the management, design and implementation of the Project. Atkins China Limited (Atkins) is appointed by ArchSD to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with the EIAO. Construction works of the Project will be carried out by contractor(s) to be appointed by ArchSD at a later stage.

2.2. Project Programme

2.2.1. The tentative implementation programme for the Project is provided in **Table 2.1** for reference:

Task	Tentative timeframe
Commencement of Construction	2026
Completion of Construction	2030
Commissioning Date	2030

Table 2.1 - Project Implementation Programme

2.3. Interactions with Other Projects

- 2.3.1. Potential project(s) that may have interface with the Project have been identified and listed below:
 - Utilities Improvement Works connecting to Kiu Tau Road by Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
 - Road Improvement Works at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery for Phases 2 and 3 Columbarium Development by CEDD
 - Provision of Columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery Phase 2
 - Provision of Columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery Phase 3
- 2.3.2. The above project list will be reviewed during the EIA Study to ensure that all the latest projects available from the respective stakeholders are incorporated. Any cumulative impacts from these concurrent projects during both the construction and operational phases of the Project would need to be identified and addressed as appropriate.



3. Possible Impact on the Environment

3.1. General Description of the Project

- 3.1.1. The Project involves construction and operation of a new crematorium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery. During the construction phase, the major construction activities will include site clearance, formation, superstructure works and other associated works. During the operational phase, farewell ceremonies will be held at the service halls followed by cremations conducted at the crematorium.
- 3.1.2. The potential environmental impacts relevant to the Project have been reviewed with reference to Annex 1 of the Technical Memorandum on Environmental Impact Assessment Process (EIAO-TM) and are described in the following sections.

3.2. Air Quality

Construction Phase

3.2.1. The potential air quality impact would be fugitive dust emissions associated with site clearance and construction activities. Operation of diesel-powered construction equipment and machineries may also emit gaseous pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and smoke. Mitigation measures stipulated in the Air Pollution Control (Construction Dust) Regulation, Air Pollution Control (Non-road Mobile Machinery) (Emission) Regulation, Air Pollution Control (Fuel Restriction) Regulation, and good site practices will be implemented (see **Section 5**) to abate the potential impacts.

Operational phase

- 3.2.2. Emissions from the proposed crematorium may include air pollutants such as particulate matters, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen chloride, volatile organic compounds, other gases and odour. The new cremators will use town gas as fuel and shall be of advance design such that the emissions will comply with statutory requirements and guidelines, including "A Guidance Note on the Best Practicable Means for Incinerators (Crematoria)" (BPM 12/2 (2020) published by EPD.
- 3.2.3. Vehicular emissions during the operational phase include those from traffic on Kiu Tau Road and Ming Yin Road being the main access to the Project site.
- 3.2.4. Eco-joss paper burners will be provided to handle joss paper burning occurring within the proposed Project Site. The design of the joss paper burners shall follow the EPD's "Guidelines on Air Pollution Control for Joss Paper Burning at Chinese Temples, Crematoria and Similar Places" to minimize the nuisance caused by the burning of joss papers.

3.3. Noise

Construction Phase

3.3.1. Noise would be generated from construction activities through the use of powered construction plant and equipment. The Project site is located within WHSC. The nearest Noise Sensitive Receiver (NSR), village house in Nam Wa Po, is approximately 430m from the Project site. Furthermore, the Project site is shielded by the surrounding terrain. Thus, no adverse construction noise impacts associated with the Project is expected.

Operational phase

3.3.2. Equipment and Electrical and Mechanical (E&M) installations will be properly housed within the crematorium building. As there are no NSRs located within 300m from the Project site, adverse operational noise impacts are not expected.



3.4. Water Quality

Construction Phase

3.4.1. Potential sources of water quality impacts may arise from construction site runoff and wastewater generated from construction activities. Potential impacts would be controlled through the implementation of good site management practices. In addition, temporary sanitary facilities such as portable chemical toilet and sewage holding tank will be provided for the onsite construction workforce. Adverse water quality impact during the construction phase is not anticipated.

Operational phase

3.4.2. Sewage generated from sanitary facilities during daily operation of the new crematorium will be discharged to public sewerage system constructed by Civil Engineering Development Department (CEDD) under a separate civil engineering project. No local treatment and discharge of wastewater is expected from the Project. The stormwater / surface runoff will be collected and conveyed to on site drainage system. Thus, water quality impact during the operation of the Project is not anticipated.

3.5. Ecology

Construction Phase

- 3.5.1. During the construction phase, potential ecological impacts would include the following:
 - Habitat loss and impact on existing vegetation, including loss of existing woodland;
 - Impact on species and habitats of conservation importance;
 - Disturbance to nearby habitats and wildlife due to construction activities, noise, etc.; and
 - Habitat fragmentation due to land-taking for the Project.

Operational phase

3.5.2. Ecological impact during the operation of the Project is not anticipated.

3.6. Waste Management Implications

Construction Phase

3.6.1. The construction works including foundation works, excavation works, superstructure works, etc. will generate a certain amount of construction and demolition (C&D) materials comprising inert and non-inert materials. Inert C&D materials include soil, rock, concrete, etc, and non-inert C&D materials include timber, paper, etc. Chemical waste, general refuse, etc. would also be generated.

Operational phase

3.6.2. The operation of the cremators would generate ash, non-combustibles residues during cremation. Chemical waste would also be produced from regular maintenance of the air pollution control system and other mechanical systems. Municipal solid waste will be generated from the visitors and staff during the operation of the Project. The waste would be properly sorted, handled and recycled as appropriate.

3.7. Land Contamination

3.7.1. The Site falls entirely within the Permanent Government Land Allocation ("PGLA") No. GLA-DN 81, which has been allocated to FEHD for the use of cemetery. As presented in the historical aerial photos below, the Project Site comprises of cemetery, vegetated land and access roads, which are non-contaminating land uses. No significant change in land uses was observed within the Project Site since 1963. The Project Site has always been used as cemetery and no contaminating land



uses/activities were identified within the Project Site. Thus, land contamination impact associated with past and current land uses/activities is not anticipated.

Aerial Photo in 1963



Aerial Photo in 2012



Aerial Photo in 1993



Aerial Photo in 2021



3.8. Landscape and Visual

- 3.8.1. Based on the preliminary desktop review and site visit findings, two trees of particular interest (*Dalbergia balansae, Eucalyptus citriodor*) have been seen in the northern portion of Project Site (Refer to **Figure 1.1**) and will be retained in order to avoid any potential landscape impacts of the Project. There is no other landscape with distinctive character/resources such as country parks, conservation areas, nature reserves etc., identified within an area about 500m from the Project Site. Other landscape with distinctive character/resources, such as mature woodland, is not identified within the Project Site. Considering that the identified trees of particular interest will be retained, direct impacts anticipated on landscape with distinctive character/resources are not expected.
- 3.8.2. The Project Site is located within a hilly terrain of the existing WHSC area where it is generally screened by the surrounding terrain and only partially visible from the visual sensitive receivers (VSRs) that are distant from the Project Site. The existing uses/facilities in the surroundings (e.g. graves) and their heights within the WHSC area are at similar or higher levels than the Project Site. Location of VSRs and visual envelope are presented in **Figure 3.1**. The proposed development would be visually compatible in terms of visual composition, considering no protruding structure to the landscape backdrop and sensitive façade treatment to harmonize with the surrounding landscape setup. There will be no visual obstruction and loss of views or visual openness due to the proposed Development as the low proposed development height as well the structure situated at remote area. The effect on visual resources is considered as negligible, with the integration of proposal to enhance or mitigate the impact through design measures, including buffer planting, vertical greening for visually intrusive elements. The effect of visual changes on public viewers is qualitatively graded as negligible to slight, due to the viewing distance and negligible impact on the visual resources. Magnitude of changes is therefore considered as negligible.



3.9. Cultural Heritage

3.9.1. There are no heritage sites, i.e., declared monuments, proposed monuments, graded historic sites/buildings/structure, sites of Archaeological Interest, all sites/buildings/structures in the new list of proposed grading items and Government historic sites, and area of archaeological potential within or in the vicinity of the Project site. Cultural heritage impacts are not anticipated.



4. Major Elements of the Surrounding Environment

4.1. General

- 4.1.1. The Project Site is located within the WHSC and surrounded by a mix of burial ground and vegetated slopes. It is not covered by any statutory Outline Zoning Plan.
- 4.1.2. All the existing and planned sensitive receivers and sensitive parts of the natural environment which might be affected by the Project as listed in Annex 1 of the EIAO-TM have been reviewed. The sensitive receivers and sensitive parts of the natural environment are discussed in the following sections. Other major elements of the surroundings that might affect the area in which the Project is located are also identified and described as appropriate.

4.2. Air Quality

4.2.1. The majority of land within 500m from the Project site is the Government Land Allocation for cemetery use. Nearest residential development within 500m of the Project Site Boundary includes village houses in Nam Wo Po to the southeast. Open roads in the vicinity of the Project include Kiu Tau Road and Ming Yin Road which are access roads to the Site. The existing chimney at the Wo Hop Shek Crematorium is a major air emission source in the surrounding environment. There are no other elements that may affect the air quality of the Project areas.

4.3. Noise

4.3.1. There are no existing, committed or planned Noise Sensitive Receivers (NSRs) within 300 m of the Project site. The nearest residential NSRs, village houses in Nam Wa Po, are located about 430 m from the Project Site.

4.4. Water Quality

4.4.1. The Project site is an old cemetery ground with existing drainage channels and features located within a hilly area with elevations ranging from +103mPD to +137mPD. It is located close to the water gathering ground designated by the Water Supplies Department (WSD). There are no streams within the Project Site boundary, with some localized watercourses in the vicinity of the Site as indicated in **Figure 1.2**.

4.5. Ecology

- 4.5.1. The Project Site consists of mainly semi-natural woodland and vegetated slopes, with some areas of urbanised areas (as burial grounds) to the south and scrubland to the east. Semi-natural wood refers to a combination of planted native and exotic trees and regeneration of native plant species. The Study Area is not located within any Country Parks and conservation area, and does not contain any site of special scientific interest.
- 4.5.2. Ecologically important streams (EIS) at Kau Lung Hang, as identified by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), are located outside the 500m study area, with the closest stream being a short semi-natural channel section located approximately 550m away from the Project Site boundary.

4.6. Landscape and Visual

4.6.1. The Project Site is located on hillside terrain within existing WHSC area. In general, the Project surrounding areas comprised of hillside landscape including grassland, scrubland, woodland, and urban/developed areas. Landscape Character Area (LCA) including Wo Hop Shek Cemetery Landscape and Wo Hop Shek Upland Hillside Landscape, and Landscape Resources (LR) including semi-natural woodland as described in **Section 4.5.1** and under development for new graves are



identified within the Project Site, which are not considered as distinctive and/or areas of high landscape value.

4.6.2. Visually Sensitive Receivers (VSRs) are identified through the definition of the Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) of the proposed structure at about 130mPD height of main building and about 144mPD height of cremator and within visual envelope. Location of VSRs and visual envelope are presented in Figure 3.1. These include visitors to Wo Hop Shek Cemetery and hikers at Lung Shan, most of which are distant from the Project site and are screened by the surrounding terrain.

4.7. Cultural Heritage

4.7.1. There are no heritage sites, i.e., declared monuments, proposed monuments, graded historic sites/buildings/structure, sites of Archaeological Interest, all sites/buildings/structures in the new list of proposed grading items and Government historic sites, and area of archaeological potential within or in the vicinity of the Project site.



5. Environmental Protection Measures to be Incorporated in the Design and Any Further Environmental Implications

5.1. Air Quality

Construction Phase

- 5.1.1. Good site practices, dust control and suppression measures will be implemented to minimise potential dust impacts. Reference would be made to the requirements stipulated in the Air Pollution Control (Construction Dust) Regulation wherever applicable, to limit the dust emissions from the Project Site. The following mitigation measures will be considered during the construction phase to minimise impacts on air quality on nearby ASRs.
 - Stockpiles of dusty material will not extend beyond the Project Site;
 - In the process of material handling, any material which has the potential to create dust will be treated with water or sprayed with a wetting agent where practicable;
 - Any vehicles with an open load compartment used for transferring dusty materials off-site will be properly fitted with side and tail boards and cover;
 - Stockpiles of sand and aggregate will be enclosed on three sides and water sprays will be used to dampen stored materials and when receiving raw material;
 - The Project Site will be frequently cleaned and watered to minimise fugitive dust emissions;
 - Motorised vehicles on the Project Site will be restricted to a maximum speed of 15 km/hr and shall be confined to designated haul routes which will be paved; and
 - Use of appropriate dust suppression measures.

Operational Phase

- 5.1.2. Subject to EIA Study, possible mitigation measures to ensure the air quality within the acceptable levels to be considered are as follows:
 - The emissions from the cremators must comply with the limits stipulated in EPD's guidance note no. BPM 12/2 (2020) "A Guidance Note on the Best Practicable Means for Incinerators (Crematoria)"
 - The environmental performance of the cremators will be regulated by the Specified Process License of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311);
 - Eco-joss paper burners will comply with EPD's "Guideline on Air Pollution Control for Joss Paper Burning at Chinese Temples, Crematoria and Similar Places Joss paper burner"; and
 - Odour control measures, if necessary, would be provided to reduce the odour emissions.

5.2. Noise

Construction Phase

- 5.2.1. The following measures will be considered for construction period to minimise construction noise impacts as appropriate.
 - Quiet plant will be used to reduce noise generated. Silencers or mufflers on construction equipment will be utilised and will be properly maintained during the construction phase;
 - Good site practices will be implemented as effective noise mitigation measures. These will include, but not limited to, locating noisy equipment and activities as far from NSRs as practical, scheduling noisy activities to minimise construction noise, proper maintenance of construction



plant and devising methods of working to minimise noise impacts on the surrounding environment.

Operational Phase

- 5.2.2. The following mitigation measures and appropriate building design will be considered.
 - Enclose the noisy machinery;
 - Use acoustic louver, silencer for ventilating fan, acoustic door and absorptive wall lining; and
 - Locate any ventilation fans and louvers of the building structures and other noise sources facing away from NSRs, if appropriate.

5.3. Water Quality

Construction Phase

- 5.3.1. Wastewater arising from construction site runoff and construction activities will be properly collected and treated, and controlled through the implementation of good site management practices, whilst sewage generated from construction workers will be collected and disposed of properly.
- 5.3.2. The Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap 358) and its subsidiary regulations shall be fully complied with during the course of the construction works. Good site practices in accordance with the ProPECC PN 1/94 "Construction Site Drainage" and "Recommended Pollution Control Clauses for Construction Contracts" issued by EPD, and the procedures in the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) Technical Circular (Works) TC(W) No. 5/2005 "Protection of natural streams/rivers from adverse impacts arising from construction works" will be followed. Precautionary measures following WSD's "Conditions of Working within Water Gathering Ground" to protect the nearby Water Gathering Ground will be followed.

Operational Phase

5.3.3. Sewage generated from sanitary facilities during daily operation of the new crematorium will be collected and conveyed to public sewerage system. Relevant best practices as stated in ProPECC PN 5/93 "Drainage Plans Subject to Comment by the Environmental Protection Department" will also be followed to minimize potential water quality impact during operation phase. Thus, no specific mitigation measures are anticipated.

5.4. Ecology

Construction Phase

- 5.4.1. Potential impacts to inhabiting species and habitats of conservation importance will be assessed in the EIA Study, with mitigation measures and monitoring and audit programme to be proposed where necessary.
- 5.4.2. The general policy for mitigating impacts on ecologically sensitive resources as per Annex 16 of the EIAO-TM shall be followed in the order of priority: avoidance, minimisation and compensation.

Operational Phase

5.4.3. During the operational phase, efficient mitigation measures such as compensatory planting would be considered as appropriate.

5.5. Waste Management Implications

Construction Phase

5.5.1. The construction activities would generate certain amount of C&D materials, chemical waste and general refuse. Waste management plan will be established prior to the commencement of



construction works. The approach is to avoid, minimize, reuse, recycle and finally dispose of. Disposal will be undertaken in compliance with statutory requirements.

Operational Phase

5.5.2. Ashes and other non-combustible residues collected from cremation and joss paper burning will be properly handled and disposed of in accordance with current practice. General refuse generated during the operation of the Project will be contained in bins with lids to avoid the emission of odour, windblown litter, vermin and visual impact. Chemical wastes will be handled in accordance with the *Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation* and the *Code of Practice on the Packaging, Labelling and Storage of Chemical Wastes*.

5.6. Land Contamination

5.6.1. Land contamination issue is not anticipated at the Project site in view of the sole cemetery use in the past.

5.7. Landscape and Visual

5.7.1. The design of the new crematorium will consider as far as practicable preserving and enhancing the greenery effect of the site by retaining the existing trees and planting new trees, as mentioned in **Section 3.8.1**. Compensatory planting will be adopted when tree felling is necessary, and transplantation will be considered where feasible in accordance with the Development Bureau Technical Circular (Works) (*DEVB TC(W)*) No. 4/2020 – Tree Preservation. Visual amenity measures will also be considered in the landscape design of the new crematorium building taking into account the existing adjacent environment. The design of the new crematorium, as described in **Section 3.8.2**, will make full use of the natural topography and environmental characteristics of the Project Site. Plants and trees will be used as barriers to make the appearance of the facilities blend with the surrounding environment where feasible in accordance with *DEVB TC* No. 2/2015 – Green Government Building. With the implementation of the abovementioned measures, direct impacts anticipated on landscape with distinctive character/resources and pronounced visual change are not expected. As such, landscape and visual impact assessment is not required with reference to the flow chart (Appendix A&B) of Annex 18 of the amended EIAO-TM.

5.8. Cultural Heritage

5.8.1. There are no heritage sites, i.e., declared monuments, proposed monuments, graded historic sites/buildings/structure, sites of Archaeological Interest, all sites/buildings/structures in the new list of proposed grading items and Government historic sites, and area of archaeological potential within or in the vicinity of the Project site. Cultural heritage impacts are not anticipated. Precautionary measures will be taken to avoid any impacts on any features that might need protection.

5.9. Severity, Distribution and Duration of Environmental Effects and Further Implications

- 5.9.1. Subject to the EIA findings, effective mitigation measures will be identified to ensure that the environmental impacts induced by the Project are acceptable. The severity, distribution and duration of environmental effects such as beneficial and adverse effects; short and long term effects; secondary and induced effects; and cumulative effects will be considered and addressed in the EIA, where applicable.
- 5.9.2. Consultations with the North District Council and the public will be undertaken for this Project during the course of the EIA study.



6. Use of Previously Approved EIA Reports

6.1.1. The approved EIA reports of projects that are of relevance to the Project are listed in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1 - Previously Approved EIA Reports Relevant to the Project

Register No.	Project Title	Date of Approval	Aspect of Relevance
AEIAR- 119/2008	Provision of Cremators at Wo Hop Shek Crematorium	24 June 2008	 Nature of the Project Cremation Technology Cumulative impact to air, water, ecology, landscape & visual.
AEIAR- 137/2009	Phased Reprovisioning of Cape Collinson Crematorium	8 June 2009	Nature of the ProjectCremation Technology
AEIAR- 076/2004	Reprovisioning of Diamond Hill Crematorium	30 March 2004	Nature of the ProjectCremation Technology
AEIAR- 048/2002	Replacement of Cremators at Fu Shan Crematorium	4 January 2002	Nature of the ProjectCremation Technology

Figure



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PHOTOS OF VISUALLY SENSITIVE RECEIVERS (VSR) 視覺敏感受體圖片



	LIST OF VISU 視感敏感受體列	IALLY SENSITIVE RECEIVERS(VSR) 表(VSR)			NOTES:	
	VSR NUMBER	マンSR DESCRIPTION	VSR CATEGORY	VSR DISTANCE FROM SITE VSR和工地的距離	STATED. 1. 所有尺寸均以毫米為單位,除非另有說明。	
	VSR-1	VIST 油池 VISITOR TO WO HOP SHEK CREMATORIUM & CEMETERY 和人工业産県内接場社会	TRAVELER	6M 6米	2. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METERS (M) AND RELATIVE TO HONG KONG PRINCIPAL DATUM (mPD).	
	VSR-2	和古石大鉄場及現場前各 VISTOR TO WO HOP SHEK CREMETORIUM & CEMETERY 和ムズルを提导時場合に安	地各 TRAVELER	1100M	2. 所有高度均以米 (M) 為單位並相對於香港基準面 (mPD)。	
	VSR-3	和古石大雅物及現物的各 HIKER TO CLOUDY HILL HILLTOP	迎客 RECREATIONAL	2110M		
1	VSR-4	九龍坑山山頂行山客 HIKER TO LUNG SHAN	休閒 RECREATIONAL	2110* 1890M		
Ś	VSP_5	離山行山人士 TRAVELER AT JUNCTION BETWEEN WO HOP SHEK RD AND KIU TAU RD	休閒 TRAVELER	1890米 55M	LEGEND.	
1	VCD C	位於和合石路及橋頭路的遊客 TRAVELER AT WONG KONG SHAN	遊客 TRAVELER	55米 1260M		
	VSK-0	位於黃崗山的遊客 HIKER AT WA MEI TRAIL PAVILION	遊客 RECREATIONAL	1260米 1315M	本工程項目工地(暫定)	
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阿特金斯顧問有限公司 Atkins China Limited 13/F Wharf T&T Centre Harbour City Tsim Sha Tsui Kowloon Hong Kong

Tel: +852 2972 1000 Fax: +852 2890 6343 Sean.Wong@atkinsglobal.com