

7.0 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The EIA has recommended the EM&A for landscape and visual resources is undertaken during both the construction and operational phases of the project. The implementation and maintenance of landscape compensatory planting measures is a key aspect of this and should be checked to ensure that they are fully realised and that potential conflicts between the proposed landscape measures and any other project works and operational requirements are resolved at the earliest possible date and without compromise to the intention of the mitigation measures. In addition, implementation of the mitigation measures recommended by the EIA will be monitored through the construction phase site audit programme.

7.2 Mitigation Measures

7.2.1 The landscape and visual impacts assessment of the EIA recommended a series on mitigation measures to ameliorate the landscape and visual impacts of the project. These measures include:

- C pumping stations design to complement architecture of village properties;
- C plant compound boundary with trees and shrubs;
- C boundary wall/railing features to resemble the adjacent building types;
- C low key design of pipe bridge in scale with surroundings and adjacent footbridge;
- C minimise impacts on existing trees, tree root-balls and scrub in all areas;
- C stockpile topsoil and regrass upon completion, including marsh verge;
- C reinstate footpath and roads upon completion;
- C avoid woodland at expense of smaller number of roadside trees, along Tai Lam Chung Road; and
- C store any good excavated topsoil on site and reuse in screen planting and hydroseeding.

7.3 Baseline Monitoring

7.3.1 Baseline monitoring for the landscape and visual resources will comprise a vegetation survey of the entire selected route undertaken on an 'area' basis. Representative vegetation types will be identified along with typical species composition. An assessment of landscape character will be made against which future change can be monitored. The landscape resources and elements of particular concern are to be noted.

7.3.2 The landscape and visual baseline will be determined with reference to the habitat maps included in the EIA Report.

7.4 Construction and Operational Phase Audit

7.4.1 A competent landscape architect should be employed by the Contactor for the implementation of landscape construction works and subsequent maintenance operations during the 12 month

establishment period. The establishment works will be undertaken throughout the Contractor's one year maintenance period which will be within the first operational year of the project.

7.4.2 All measures undertaken by both the Contractor and the Landscape Contractor during the construction phase and first year of the operational phase shall be audited by a Landscape Architect, as a member of the ET, on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the intended aims of the measures. Site inspections should be undertaken at least once every two weeks throughout the construction period and once every two months during the operational phase. The broad scope of the audit is detailed below. Operational phase auditing will be restricted to the 12 months establishment works of the landscaping proposals, with LCSD taking over the maintenance and monitoring after this period, and thus only the items below concerning this period are relevant to the operational phase.

- C the extent of the agreed works areas should be regularly checked during the construction phase. Any trespass by the Contractor outside the limit of the works, including any damage to existing trees and woodland shall be noted;
- C the progress of the engineering works should be regularly reviewed on site to identify the earliest practical opportunities for the landscape works to be undertaken;
- C the tree and shrub planting operation;
- C all existing trees and vegetation within the study area which are not directly affected by the works are retained and protected;
- C the methods of protecting existing vegetation proposed by the Contractor are acceptable and enforced;
- C all landscaping works are carried out in accordance with the specifications;
- C the planting of trees and shrubs are carried out properly and within the right season;
- C the species and mix of the new trees and shrubs to be planted are suitable; and
- C the newly planted trees and grassed areas are maintained throughout the establishment period, particularly in respect of the following:
 - C regular watering, weeding and fertilising of all tree and shrub planting and areas of grass reinstatement;
 - C regular grass cutting for reinstated areas;
 - C firming up of trees after periods of strong winds;
 - C regular checks for and eradication of pests, fungal infection etc;
 - C pruning of dead or broken branches; and
 - C prompt replacement of dead plants and regrassing of failed areas of grass.