

## Appendix 8

### SUMMARY OF VIBROCORES INSPECTED FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

## **A8 SUMMARY OF VIBROCORES INSPECTED FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**

A total of 39 vibrocore samples, stored in about 100 boxes, were inspected on October 13 1998.

The cores were about 10 cm diameter. The average core went to a depth of 12m below seabed, though some went down as far as 20m. More than 90% of the cores consisted of grey silty marine clay, representing the mid- to late Holocene (ca. 7,000 years BP to present) transgression and stabilisation of sea level. In a few cases, a transition was noted to sand and/or alluvial material (lighter brown clay) at the base of the Holocene marine.

Small bivalve shells were frequent in the cores; oysters, cones and other shell types were rare. Some organic material of indeterminate type was also noted.

The only large fragment of organic matter which presented itself was a piece of wood, at 16.5m in sample V5. This is very near to the bottom of the Holocene marine clay and probably dates very close to or shortly after the transgression event at ca. 7,000-6,000 BP. C14 dating of the wood sample, and pollen analysis of the surrounding clay would together provide information on the flora of the Tai O Basin at a fixed point in time and by extension on the ecological zone(s) that characterised the area at that time. Such paleo-environmental data has a direct bearing on understanding the adaptation of early humans who are known to have been present in the territory of Hong Kong by 7,000 BP.

No artefacts were observed in the cores. Isolated artefacts, from small items to larger structures such as remains of boats, may be present at any level in the Holocene clays, however, it is noted that the likelihood of finding such artefacts through analysis of borehole data is limited.