

7. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The EIA has recommended EM&A for landscape and visual resources to be undertaken during both the construction and operational phases of the project. The implementation and maintenance of the landscape compensatory planting measures is a key aspect of this and should be checked to ensure that the proposals are fully realised. The mitigation measures are detailed in Section 13 - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the EIA Report.

7.1.2 Also any potential conflicts between the proposed landscape measures and any other project works and operational requirements should be 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 Baseline Monitoring

7.2.1 Baseline monitoring for the landscape and visual resources will comprise a vegetation survey of the entire selected route undertaken on an 'area' basis. 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, including the Sung Wong Toi and Kowloon Rocks.

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

7.3 Advanced Design of Open Space over Engineering Structures

7.3.1 The design and construction of any open space over any engineering structures will be advanced. Thus the project proponent, design engineer and design landscape architect will liaise closely in order to ensure that there is an integrated design between the engineering structure and the requirements of creating a quality landscaped open space above. In particular, consideration should be given to the following:

- allowing sufficient loading requirements topsoils and tree planting;
- location of any utilities (particularly drainage, water and electrical supplies) to be within the structure and away from any planting areas;
- dual use of hard surfacing for pedestrians and maintenance access (within safety constraints);
- avoidance of ventilation, etc. buildings within the open space (unless absolutely necessary, whereby they should be designed to be a feature building);
- adequate provision of water for irrigation;
- design of external appearance of the structure to have an aesthetically appealing design; and
- minimisation of in situ concrete as a finish.