Archaeological Survey
Former Tai Hom Village
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Submitted to:
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The SCL Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section is an approximately 11km long extension of the Ma On Shan Line (MOL) from Tai Wai through new stations including Hin Keng Station (HIK), Diamond Hill Station (DIH), Kai Tak Station (KAT), To Kwa Wan Station (TKW), Ma Tau Wai Station (MTW), Ho Man Tin Station (HOM) and connects the West Rail Line at Hung Hom Station (HUH). Most of the sections would be underground except for a section at Hin Keng, and another section at Hung Hom. The underground sections of the alignment would be constructed by various construction methods including drill-and-blast, cut-&-cover, bored tunnelling, compressed air shield and shotcrete support method. Open cut methods will be employed for the tunnel portals at Hin Keng and Diamond Hill, and most of the station and ventilation building structures etc.

DIH will become an interchange station with the existing Kwun Tong Line (KTL). The SCL Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section will interchange with the Kwun Tong Line Extension (KTE) and the SCL Cross Harbour Section at HOM and HUH respectively.

A new train stabling sidings will be located at the Diamond Hill CDA site (i.e. Former Tai Hom Village) to provide stabling facilities and to allow effective train launching to meet the service requirements.

The SCL Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section will also form an important part of the proposed Kai Tak Development, providing mass transit service not only to the proposed new commercial and residential developments in the area, but also the Multi-Purpose Stadium Complex and other leisure facilities planned at Kai Tak.

The proposed tentative alignment is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 EIA Study Brief

The Project is a designated project under Schedule 2, Part I, Categories A2, A4, A7 and A8 of the Environmental Impact Ordinance (EIAO). An application (No. ESB-191/2008) for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study Brief under Section 5(1)(a) of the EIAO was submitted by the Applicant on 18 June 2008 with a project profile (No. PP-356/2008) (the Project Profile). Pursuant to Section 5(7)(a) of the EIAO, the Director of Environmental Protection issued an EIA Study Brief (ref: EIA Study Brief No: ESB-191/2008 dated 14 July 2008 to the Project Proponent to carry out an EIA Study. According to Clause 3.4.8 of the EIA Study Brief, a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA), including an archaeological impact assessment (AIA), needs to be conducted.

According to Annex 19 of the TM-EIAO, a baseline study will be conducted which includes both a desktop study and field survey, where necessary, within the study area to determine areas of archaeological potential. This will include any areas impacted by rail construction as well as direct and indirect impact of ancillary works areas, access sites and ventilation outlets etc.

As the development works for the DIH Train Stabling Sidings at Tai Hom Village will need to remove much of the ground surface by way of levelling and landscaping works, an archaeological survey at Tai Hom Village forms a major part of the archaeological assessment for the SCL alignment.

The survey was conducted in March 2009 in accordance with the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance Cap 53 (1976)) and Annexes 10 and 19 of the TM-EIAO.
1.3 **Objectives**

The objectives of this report are to:

- Review and summarise the archaeological resources within the Former Tai Hom Village (the survey area);
- Document known or potential archaeological deposits;
- Summarise the results of an archaeological survey within the study area; and
- Propose measures to mitigate impacts on archaeological resources within the study area.

2.0 **DESKTOP REVIEW FOR FORMER TAI HOM VILLAGE (大磡村)**

2.1 **General**

Based on previous studies, the Former Tai Hom Village area at the proposed DIH Train Stabling Sidings has been identified as a site with potential archaeological value. A total of 2 archaeological surveys were conducted in Year 2002. These surveys include the following:

- "Archaeological Survey at Tai Hom Tsuen", by Archaeo-Environments Ltd [1]
- "九龍鑽石山舊大磡村考古搶救發掘報告", 張家發文物考古顧問公司 [2]

The site of the former Tai Hom Village lies at about 1km to the northeast of Kowloon City and 500m north of the old Kai Tak airport in East Kowloon. The demolished Diamond Hill squatter village developed beside the villages of Tai Hom and Yuen Leng during the 1960’s. In the 1970’s, the population within the small corrugated iron and narrow laneways reached about 15,000 (Smart A 1992).

The site was cleared in Year 2000 for future development and is currently planned as the site for the train stabling sidings for SCL. According to the latest Tsz Wan Shan, Diamond Hill & San Po Kong OZP (S/K11/23), this train stabling sidings site has been zoned as Comprehensive Development Area (CDA).
Plate 1: View to north across Diamond Hill squatter village around 1985.
2.2 Settlement History of Tai Hom Village

2.2.1 Before World War II

Before development in recent decades which had altered the topography of the area, Tai Hom was a village built on the northern edge of an area of low-quality rice-land about 1 – 2 km north-east of Kowloon City. The village was sited where the fertile, flat lands of the Kowloon plain sloped upwards towards Temple Hill. The area was rocky and rather unattractive to subsistence rice-farmers, as the village name, “At the Great Cliff”, suggests.

The early origins of Kowloon can be dated to the Imperial Salt Monopoly of Nan Yue times (200BC). In addition the Lei Cheng Uk tomb dated to 200AD is almost certainly the tomb of a high official of the Salt Monopoly (P. Hase in AE Ltd report on Tai Hom Village Dec. 2002 p7). The main villages of the Kowloon plain were founded over 800 years ago. Tai Hom Village has a much shorter history, which was founded in the late 18th century. The agricultural potential of the area near Tai Hom Village was poor and the founders of the village had to supplement their livelihood by stone-cutting, in addition to the rice which they were able to grow.

The nearest old village to Tai Hom was Po Kong, which was a few hundred metres (or a few hundred yards) south-west of Tai Hom. This village lies below today's Choi Hung Road Sports-ground, and the Market Building on Sheung Hei Street, San Po Kong. It dates from the 3rd quarter of the 12th century, and the villagers farmed the fertile lands which comprise today's San Po Kong area.

Tai Hom (see Appendix A) is a single-surname village of the Chu clan. The founding ancestor of the Chu's was a Hakka from Ng Wah District far to the north-east of Hong Kong. He was a stone-cutter, and could not find enough work to feed his large family. He came to Hong Kong in Year 1762 to look for work in quarries which were at that date starting up in the eastern part of today's Victoria Harbour. He bought land at Tai Hom for two of his sons born in the 1750s. He supplemented by rice-growing with stone-cutting on the hills behind the village sold for use by masons in Kowloon City. Tai Hom was, therefore, a late settlement. It would probably take 40 years for the settlement and hence it is unlikely to have been founded much earlier than 1790.

2.2.2 During World War II

Nga Tsin Wai, Po Kong, Ngau Chi Wan, Tai Hom and the other villages of this area remained agricultural settlements throughout the 1930s. When the Japanese took Hong Kong in 1941, they immediately extended the Airport to make it usable by modern fighter planes. The extension of the Airport required the clearance of Po Kong and Sha Tei Yuen villages and their fields. All the land within the great loop of today’s Choi Hung Road was used as Airport (this area was only freed for the San Po Kong development in the late 1950s, after the Airport was moved seawards onto new reclamation). This development did not affect Tai Hom directly, since the village stood to the north of the Japanese Airport perimeter fence. However, the Japanese period did bring serious hardship and hunger to the Tai Hom Village villagers.

2.2.3 Post World War II

After the War, the Tai Hom area resumed its traditional subsistence rice and market-gardening lifestyle. However, the capture of Canton by the victorious People's Liberation Army in 1949-1950 sent refugees into Hong Kong.

Given the lack of accommodation in Hong Kong at that time, most of the refugees lived in squatter huts. These huts were built on wherever land could be found and as close to the main urban area as possible. The Tai Hom area which lay at the edge of urban area at that time, became an obvious target for accommodation. By 1953-1955, most of the fields in the Former Tai Hom Village had disappeared beneath the new Diamond Hill squatter area. Only a few small fields survived between the new squatter huts. Most of
the squatter huts in Diamond Hill were residences, but there were also many small squatter factories, shops and restaurants, some of which had become quite popular.

2.3 Geological Setting

The train stabling sidings occupies approximately 7 ha and is located between Lung Cheung Road and Choi Hung Road. It is situated at the southerly margin of low granite hills and what was originally marshland along the original coastline.

According to geological mapping by Strange and Shaw (1986) [4], this area is located almost entirely on Quaternary alluvium with a small edge of debris flow entering the southern end of the site. On inspection of the local geology during the archaeological survey by Archaeo-Environments Ltd (2002), however, it was noted that a low hill (+14mPD) composed of deeply weathered granite occupies much of the centre and eastern half of the site.

Modern road construction in the vicinity has removed part of this granite hill to the south, revealed in the cross section in a road cutting some 3-4m high and 100m long along Choi Hung Road. Directly opposite to the cutting is a small outcrop of granite which indicates the southerly extent of this hill. The hill can also be seen at Um Ling on the 1904 map of the area (see Appendix A).

Relief throughout the Tai Hom area varies from +6m-8mPD on the lower lying western half of the study area, while to the east relief is from +8-14mPD.

2.4 Previous Investigations

2.4.1 Archaeological Survey July – August 2002

This survey was conducted by Archaeo-Environments Ltd aiming to determine the archaeological potential of the former Tai Hom Village area and to recommend any further investigation works and mitigation of impacts (if any).

The archaeological potential was evaluated based on 3 phases of field sampling of increasing resolution, following a progression from broad general survey to subsurface excavation work with closer focus on areas of archaeological discovery and archaeological potential. The key steps are:

- Baseline review;
- Survey baseline/sampling grid;
- Phase 1 - test trenches;
- Phase 2a - test pits;
- Phase 2b - focus test pits;
- Phase 3 - follow-up test pits;
- Finds analysis; and
- Reporting.

A sampling grid of 25m x 25m was established across the study area, which was adjusted during the field program to accommodate buildings and vegetation. A total of 53 test trenches, 23 test pits and 2 focus test pits were excavated at Tai Hom during the survey. The results are summarised in “Archaeological Survey at Tai Hom Tsuen” which was subsequently submitted to AMO.
2.4.2 Archaeological and Landscape Summary at Tai Hom Village

Aerial photos taken in 1948 showed a low hill with the RAF hangar occupied by agricultural fields and slopes extending to the south and east (see Appendix A). Dark grey clay within trenches and test pits at the Former Tai Hom Village area (paddy soils) provide evidence of cultivation of the Qing and modern period. They were widespread and effectively sealing sands and colluvium in mid and lower slopes to the centre-east of the survey area. Subsurface geological and archaeological information recorded within 49 test trenches and 18 test pits provide the following summary of stratigraphy at Tai Hom:

a) Within the centre-east of the study area, a low hill (+14mPD) composed of coarse grained deeply weathered granite occupies the centre-east of the project area – ostensibly the area occupied by the former Yuen Ling old village. Soil cover was thin in the upper landscape and where undisturbed (cut into) by the old RAF hangar and house development, parent material of orange sandy clay was less than 30cm below surface and can be seen in terraces and batters cut for house sites south of the hangar. A thin cultural layer persists throughout this area, manifest in a brown sandy clay. Most part this layer is thin containing disturbed Qing, modern and occasional Song period pottery.

The only early feature was a ditch or depression of similar brown sandy clay containing Song-Yuan Dynasty pottery. Follow-up excavation revealed little evidence of Song material in the surrounding area.

b) To the east of this low hill, the granite bedrock was blanketed by colluvium. It could be seen as pebbles and small cobbles within a mottled matrix. Colluvium had been covered by coarse sandy alluvium, variably iron and manganese stained and weakly mottled, and present above colluvium in the lower landscape. The presence of sandy alluvium suggested deposition in and around the granite bedrock as outwash material from drainage from the hills to the rear of the site. These deposits contain Song Dynasty pottery within an area of about 800m² in the east of the study area near Luen Yee road. Over 5kg of Song Dynasty pottery was found within Test pit 12 in the centre of this area. Pottery found within this deposit was well preserved, suggesting transport/redistribution from a proximal source. Further to the east and below the elevated freeway, house debris was thick and the natural surface was difficult to examine. Dark grey paddy soils appear to overlie alluvium and recovery of archaeological material was poor, though the coarse sands of context 4, with minor Song period pottery - extend as far as test pit 48.

c) The center-west of the study area was low lying (+6-8mPD) and for the most part underlain by coarse colluvium. Cobbles and coarse alluvium represented a broad alluvial fan at the confluence of two main streams – since diverted by the western nullah but shown in the 1904 map of the area (see Appendix A).

d) Archaeological materials in this region were restricted to Qing and modern period pottery. These materials were present even within alluvial cobbles, which had provided a recent date for these phases of deposition. The only notable find within the western half of the study area was at test pit 37 which produced a thick layer of 19th century and early 20th century tile and earthenware (Dr. P.Lam p.comm.) within a disturbed context which also contained mixed Song period and a single Warring States period shred.

2.4.3 Recommendations

The “Archaeological Survey at Tai Hom Tsuen” recommended the following investigation:

1) The low granite hill was represented by deposition of cultural material within a shallow ditch or depression offers the prospect of locating primary features. Although the surrounding area was highly disturbed, it had been truncated by house foundations, sewerage pits and pipelines. Excavation to follow the extent of this feature both to the west and east was recommended.

2) By contrast, Song period material at test pit 12 suggested a secondary deposit – material re-deposited from primary sites further up slope. A future excavation strategy should be centred on TP 12 with the
aim of determining the extent and significance of this deposit, and the depth and relationship of the coarse alluvium in this part of the landscape. Primary occupation features were less likely in such a setting though investigation may repay further subsurface investigation.

2.4.4 Archaeological Excavation in October 2002

A follow-up excavation was conducted by Mr Au Ka Fat in October 2002 based on the findings and recommendations of the “Archaeological Survey at Tai Hom Tsuen” [2].

The excavation works were undertaken in 2 main areas, Area A and Area B, using 5m x 5m excavation trenches in each area as follows:

- Area A on the upper slope towards the eastern part of the study area occupying a total of 250m$^2$; and
- Area B on the mid-lower slope towards the eastern part of the study area also occupying a total of 250m$^2$.

Song Dynasty artefacts discovered during this excavation at the Former Tai Hom Village reflected the importance of the general Kowloon region during that period. There was also limited presence of geometric pottery and stone tools of earlier prehistoric occupation. However, in both cases, it was concluded from both the archaeological survey and follow-up excavation that the Song and earlier archaeological deposition at the Former Tai Hom Village was secondary and was the product of re-deposition from off-site.

Area A revealed little cultural material before the Qing Dynasty within typically thin soil and highly disturbed setting with likely truncation/removal of earlier archaeological deposits. Zone A was the focus of the squatter village with likely removal of earlier archaeological material flushed toward Zone B.

Throughout the study area, there was no evidence of building remains, ceramic roof tile, bricks, ancient trackways, wells or domestic features or remains etc. The ceramic assemblage recovered for most part from Test Sections 1-9 within Area B were found within sandy colluvial deposits which imply redeposition, likely from Song Dynasty occupation (now removed – north of the Former Tai Hom Village area).

While being a secondary site, the ceramic assemblages at the Former Tai Hom Village were from kilns in southern China. It demonstrated that the Kowloon area in Tang and Song Dynasty were the trading area of ceramic, probably the outer port of Guangzhou. The area in Kowloon Bay was a relatively rich area. According to historical records, this area was one of the 10 sea salt base in Guangdong.

2.4.5 Consolidating the 2 Archaeological Surveys Findings in 2002

The above sections have presented the 2 findings from 2 previous archaeological surveys. The following consolidates all the key conclusions so far:

- The early settlement in Tai Hom Village probably started in 1790;
- Before the World War II, Tai Hom Village and surrounds was mainly an agricultural area.
- Some of the land was transferred into military uses during the war;
- After the war, Tai Hom Village was mainly occupied as squatter area (with houses, factories and shops), all of which have been evacuated in Year 2000;
- The squatter area, together with its associated utilities, sewers etc, had highly disturbed the original setting in Tai Hom Village;
- Modern infrastructure development such as the Choi Hung Road has significantly changed the original landscape greatly.
Two extensive archaeological investigation programs commissioned by AMO were conducted at Tai Hom Village in 2002. Qing Dynasty or modern pottery was common throughout the site with localised deposits of Song dynasty artefacts and rare prehistoric artefacts in the centre-east and east of the study area. These latter deposits were found within secondary (colluvial) material and are therefore not part of an original (in situ) occupation site. The author of the excavation report (Au Ka Fat 2002) concluded that the study area was not an important cultural site.

Plate 2: View to west across Tai Hom landscape in early 1950s showing the landscape before the squatter settlement and roof of the RAF hangar in mid photo.
3.0 ARCHAELOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE FORMER TAI HOM VILLAGE

According to the EIA Study Brief, the study area for field survey and impact evaluation includes the area of potential impact that would be caused by the chosen SCL route alignment. A new train stabling sidings will be located at the Diamond Hill CDA site (i.e. Former Tai Hom Village) (see Figure 2) to provide stabling facilities and to allow effective train launching to meet the service requirements.

The Former Tai Hom Village area has been the subject of previous archaeological survey and excavation work discussed in Section 2.4 above. An additional archaeological survey of the area has been requested by AMO to supplement and to fill gaps in these previous studies. Some of the test pits excavated in the northeastern part of ex Tai Hom Village in 2002 failed to reach potential archaeological layers. Following discussion with the AMO during application for the archaeological licence for this project, the area of archaeological focus for this survey was the central and eastern part of the former Tai Hom Village site. The central and eastern part of the proposed Diamond Hill CDA is the general study area for the archaeological survey (see Figure 3).

An archaeological licence was applied for on 18 February 2009 and approved on 15 March 2009. The survey was conducted by Golder Associates Pty Ltd (Golder Associates) which is the cultural heritage specialist for the EIA Team for SCL Tai Wai to Hung Hom. The archaeological survey addresses the identification, protection and impact mitigation of archaeological remains within the survey area. Golder Associates archaeologist Dr Chris Day directed the field survey on 30th March to 6th April 2009.

3.1 Field Method

3.1.1 Field Survey and Approach

3.1.1.1 Field Scan

Due to the amount of prior disturbance, systematic sampling across the study area was impractical. A non-systematic field survey of the central and eastern part of the former Tai Hom Village area was made to confirm locations for test pits proposed in the licence application to determine the amount of disturbance and fill across these areas.

Weather conditions during field survey were cool and overcast. No material of archaeological significance was found during the field scanning work. The field scanning was conducted by Dr Chris Day of Golder Associates on 30 March 2009.

3.1.1.2 Test Pits

Stage 1 (Test Pits Proposed in the Licence Application)

Nine (9) test pits were excavated throughout the study area from 30 March to 3 April 2009 with a general focus on the central northern and north-eastern part of the site and in relatively untested parts of the survey area. These included test pits 1-6 and 8-10 (see Figure 3). While these parts of the study area were included in the 2002 survey by Archaeo-Environments Ltd, subsurface investigation in this part of the 2002 survey was limited by the thickness of fill and village debris.

A survey methodology was therefore submitted to AMO with the licence application in February 2009. The purpose of the test pit program was to investigate the depth and nature of archaeological deposits with a focus on the presence of archaeological remains. Where present, archaeological material, particularly vertical stratigraphic and lateral relationships, were recorded. Test pit profiles were recorded and photographed at each site. The locations of the sampling sites are shown in Figure 3.
Plate 3: View to west across test pit 11 showing removal of overburden and Lion Rock in the distance.

Stage 2 (Test pits additional to those proposed in the Licence Application)

A follow-up program of two (2) additional test pits was conducted on 6 – 7 April 2009 which incorporated the field results from Stage 1 works. These two test pits (TP 7 and TP 11) were additional to the original test pit program and were excavated to provide more data and further define the archaeological potential, and particularly the presence of Tang/Song Dynasty material, within the Former Tai Hom Village area.
3.2 Field Results

3.2.1 Field Scan

The field scan conducted on 30 March 2009 revealed disturbance throughout the study area with evidence of excavation works from the 2002 archaeological survey and excavation programs. Remains of the house foundations and infrastructure works were also observed. Nothing of archaeological significance was found during the field scan conducted on 30 March 2009.

3.2.2 Test Pit Program

Stage 1

Nine (9) test pits were excavated at locations proposed in the licence application across the central and northern part of the former Tai Hom Village area (see Figure 3).

- Eight of these test pits revealed either recent fill and village debris above decomposed granite or recent fill above paddy or agricultural soil with remains of Qing Dynasty pottery above decomposed granite.
- One of these test pits (TP5) - located in the north-east part of the study area - revealed Song Dynasty remains within coarse sandy clay soils above granitic parent material.

Stage 2

Two (2) additional test pits were added to the original Stage 1 field program to provide additional field data:

- The location of Test Pit 7 was chosen to investigate the upper (north-eastern) section of the study area following discovery of deep fill material in test pit 6 – about 40m to the west.
- The location of Test Pit 11 was chosen to investigate the archaeological potential of the area between Mt Au’s excavation in 2002 in the south-central part of the study area and Song Dynasty remains found within test pit 5. Test pit 11 was excavated to assess the lateral extent of the Song deposit between the southern and northern part of the study area.

A description of the stratigraphy and archaeological potential of each of the 11 test pits is included below. Test pit section drawings and photographs of test pit sections are summarised in Appendix B. Test Pit results are described below:
3.2.2.1 TEST PIT 1

Test Pit 1 was 1.0m x 1.0m in dimensions, located in the central northern part of the former Tai Hom Village area immediately north of the former RAF hangar. The test pit was hand-excavated to a depth of 40cm through shallow sandy fill to weathered granitic parent material. A section drawing and photograph of Test Pit 1 is shown in Appendix B.

No material of archaeological significance was recorded within Test Pit 1.

<table>
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<th>Context</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0-12</td>
<td>FILL Orange sandy fill with minor brick and rubble</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12-20</td>
<td>FILL Brown earthen fill</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>Weathered Granite</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.2.2 TEST PIT 2

Test Pit 2 is located in the centre of the former Tai Hom Village and immediately east of the former RAF hangar and was first machine-cleared of 80cm fill and overburden. A hand-dug test pit 1m x 1m in dimension was excavated beneath the fill within undisturbed granitic parent material to a depth of 25cm within sterile reddish-brown weathered granite. A section drawing and photograph of test pit 2 is shown in Appendix B.

No material of archaeological significance was recorded within Test Pit 2.

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<td>FILL Rubble, sandy FILL</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>25-80</td>
<td>FILL, clay / brick, village debris</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>80-105</td>
<td>Weathered Granite</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.2.2.3 TEST PIT 3

Test Pit 3 is located in the central northern part of the former Tai Hom Village and was first machine-cleared of 28cm of fill in the form of village debris. Test Pit 3 was hand-excavated (1m x 1m) beneath this fill to a depth of 72cm below natural surface and then augered a further 50cm to 122cm below natural surface.

The stratigraphy of Test Pit 3 includes fill above the modern agricultural soil layer (context 2) above coarse orange-brown sandy clay (context 3). Qing Dynasty village-ware and a Song Dynasty base were recovered within context 2. Song Dynasty pottery within context 2 suggests mixing or redeposition of older with more recent deposits. Context 3 was archaeologically sterile. Weathered granite was encountered at a depth of 38cm (66cm below ground surface). Thereafter an auger hole confirmed the presence of weathered granite to a depth of 122cm below natural surface or 150cm below ground surface. A section drawing and photograph of Test Pit 3 is shown in Appendix B.
### Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4 was located in the central northern part of the study area some 40m south of the Japanese pill-box. The test pit was cleared of 96cm of fill and overburden before excavation of a test pit 1m x 1m in dimensions. This test pit was hand-excavated to a depth of 50cm within modern agricultural soil – reaching a depth of 145cm below present ground surface. Qing Dynasty artefacts were recorded within context 3. A section drawing and photograph of Test Pit 4 is shown in Appendix B.

No material of archaeological significance was recorded within Test Pit 4.

<table>
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<th>Finds</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0-82</td>
<td>FILL rubble and earthen fill</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>82-95</td>
<td>FILL village debris, concrete floors, metal, wood</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>95-109</td>
<td>Modern Agricultural soil dark brown, sandy loam</td>
<td>Qing Dynasty village ware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>109-145</td>
<td>Weathered granite</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Test Pit 5

Test Pit 5 was located in the north-east part of the study area. The site was cleared of fill and overburden to original agricultural soil at 117cm. The test pit was 1m x 1m in dimensions and hand-excavated to a depth of 185cm from the present surface within modern agricultural soil, grey sandy clay, orange-brown sandy clay a thin layer of coarse granitic sand above weathered granite. A section drawing and photograph of Test Pit 5 is shown in Appendix B. Qing Dynasty pottery was recovered from context 3 and Song Dynasty pottery from Context 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0-82</td>
<td>FILL rubble</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>82-95</td>
<td>Village debris, concrete floors</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>95-109</td>
<td>Modern Agricultural soil dark brown</td>
<td>Qing Dynasty village ware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>109-145</td>
<td>Weathered granite</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Depth (cm)</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Finds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0-117</td>
<td>FILL, rubble/village debris</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>117-135</td>
<td>dark brown fine sandy clay</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>135-145</td>
<td>light grey brown coarse sandy clay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Qing Dynasty village ware</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>145-175</td>
<td>orange-brown coarse sandy clay, SONG Layer</td>
<td>Song Dynasty pottery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>175-179</td>
<td>Grey brown coarse sandy clay</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>179-185</td>
<td>Weathered granite</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.2.6 TEST PIT 6

Test Pit 6 was located in the north-east some 45m from the northern boundary of the study area. The site was cleared of fill and overburden to a depth of 80cm. The presence of old utility pipes and trenches meant that the proposed test pit site was moved several times before a suitable undisturbed area was located.

The test pit was 1m x 1m in dimensions and hand-excavated to a depth of 140cm below present land surface within dark brown modern agricultural soil and weathered granite. A section drawing and photograph of test pit 6 is shown in Appendix B.

Qing Dynasty artefacts were found including village ware and a broken jade ring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0-80</td>
<td>FILL, rubble and village debris</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>80-95</td>
<td>Dark brown agricultural soil</td>
<td>Qing Dynasty artefacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>95-140</td>
<td>Weathered granite</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.2.7 TEST PIT 7 (Additional Test Pit)

Test Pit 7 was an additional test pit located at the far north-eastern corner of the study area some 15m west of pedestrian thoroughfare (Lai Nee Road). The aim of a test pit in this location was to investigate the presence of Song Dynasty artefacts in the far north-eastern part of the study area. The site was first cleared of overburden and fill to a depth of 81cm (modern agricultural soil). A test pit was 1m x 1m in dimensions and hand-excavated to a depth of 145cm below current ground surface through dark brown agricultural soil, coarse orange-brown sandy clay and completed within weathered granite. A section drawing and photograph of Test Pit 7 is shown in Appendix B.
Qing Dynasty pottery was recovered within context 2 while Song Dynasty pottery was found within context 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0-81</td>
<td>FILL, debris and village rubble</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>81-110</td>
<td>Dark brown fine sandy clay, paddy soil</td>
<td>Qing Dynasty pottery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>110-124</td>
<td>Brown coarse sandy clay</td>
<td>Song Dynasty pottery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>124-145</td>
<td>Weathered granite</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.2.8 TEST PIT 8

Test Pit 8 was located in the north-eastern part of the study area some 20m on the eastern side of Lai Nee Road. The test pit was prepared by removal of 131cm of fill and overburden. The test pit was 1m x 1m in dimensions and hand-excavated to a depth of 182cm below current ground surface through a layer of dark brown agricultural soil above weathered granite. A section drawing and photograph of Test Pit 8 is shown in Appendix B. Four pieces of Qing Dynasty porcelain and one piece of tile were found within context 2.

No material of archaeological significance was recorded within Test Pit 8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0-131</td>
<td>FILL – rubble and village debris</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>131-141</td>
<td>Dark brown agricultural soil.</td>
<td>Qing Dynasty pottery and tile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>141-182</td>
<td>Weathered granite</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.2.9 TEST PIT 9

Test Pit 9 was located in the south-eastern part of the study area some 10m east of Lai Nee Road and 25m from the access gate from Choi Hung Road. The site was first cleared by removal of fill and overburden revealing the recent agricultural layer at 110cm. A test pit was 1m x 1m in dimensions was hand-excavated to a depth of 185cm below current ground surface through recent dark brown sand/sandy clay, a layer of light brown coarse sandy clay above orange-brown weathered granite. A section drawing and photograph of Test Pit 9 is shown in Appendix B.

Minor Qing Dynasty porcelain and village ware was found within context 2 of Test Pit 9.
### Context Depth Description Finds
---
1 | 0-110 | FILL, earthen rubble and house floors and village debris | Nil
2 | 110-125 | Dark brown sandy clay – recent agricultural layer. | Qing Dynasty porcelain and village ware
3 | 125-131 | Light brown coarse sand/sandy clay | Nil
4 | 131-185 | Orange-brown (red) mottled, weathered granite | Nil

#### 3.2.2.10 TEST PIT 10

Test Pit 10 was located in the southern part of the study area immediately south of the old RAF hangar. The site was prepared by removal of 20cm of clay fill and a test pit 1m x 1m in dimensions was hand-excavated to a depth of 44cm below current ground surface. The test pit revealed a soil profile of weathered granite which reflects the fact that the area in and around the RAF hangar has been subject to cut and fill within the natural weathered granite. A section drawing and photograph of test pit 10 is shown in Appendix B.

No material of archaeological significance was recorded within Test Pit 10.

### Context Depth Description Finds
---
1 | 0-20 | FILL, rubble | Nil
2 | 20-44 | decomposed Granite | Nil

#### 3.2.2.11 TEST PIT 11 (Additional Test Pit)

Test Pit 11 was an additional test pit located in the middle of the study area. The purpose of an extra test pit in this location was to investigate whether Song Dynasty remains were continuous between the area of Mr Au’s excavation in 2002 and those found within test pit 5 and Test Pit 7 of this program.

The site was first removed of overburden and fill to a depth of 139cm below current ground surface and to the top of the modern agricultural layer. The test pit was 1m x 1m in dimensions and was hand-excavated to a depth of 200cm below current ground surface. A section drawing and photograph of test pit 11 is shown in Appendix B.

Qing Dynasty pottery was found within context 3 and 4. Both Tang and Song Dynasty pottery was found within context 5 as confirmed by Professor Peter Lam of Chinese University of Hong Kong. Weathered pottery fragments of green flakey glaze were recovered from context 5.
4.0 SURVEYING

Test pit locations were surveyed for co-ordinate and elevation data (x,y,z) on 3 and 6 April, 2009 by the authorised land surveyors from John Barrett and Associates Ltd.

Coordinates and the surveyed topographic level at each test pit site was recorded at a fixed point – at the top of the natural soil layer and at the right hand corner of the test pit section (shown in section drawings in Appendix B). Survey results are shown in Table 1 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Pit No.</th>
<th>x-co</th>
<th>y-co</th>
<th>Elevation mPD</th>
<th>Survey corner of test pit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TP1</td>
<td>822264.49</td>
<td>838818.55</td>
<td>11.83</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP2</td>
<td>822212.76</td>
<td>838817.50</td>
<td>10.10</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP3</td>
<td>822230.37</td>
<td>838862.97</td>
<td>11.37</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP4</td>
<td>822200.05</td>
<td>838859.41</td>
<td>11.45</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP5</td>
<td>822191.56</td>
<td>838903.10</td>
<td>9.75</td>
<td>NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP6</td>
<td>822115.38</td>
<td>838895.93</td>
<td>10.26</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP7</td>
<td>822195.25</td>
<td>838921.40</td>
<td>9.91</td>
<td>NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP8</td>
<td>822169.90</td>
<td>938950.14</td>
<td>9.51</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP9</td>
<td>822096.59</td>
<td>838940.84</td>
<td>8.27</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP10</td>
<td>822188.67</td>
<td>838764.29</td>
<td>8.95</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP11</td>
<td>822175.08</td>
<td>838875.31</td>
<td>10.22</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.0 FINDS

A summary of the archaeological finds is shown in Table 2 below.

- Qing Dynasty village ware, tile and porcelain sherds – including several small blue and white Wun Yiu ware were found within the upper recent agricultural soil in Test Pits 3-7, 9 and 11. This included a piece of jade ring in Test Pit 6.

- Professor Peter Lam of Chinese University of Hong Kong has confirmed the weathered pottery fragments of green flakey glaze recovered Test Pit 11 to be of Tang Dynasty age. Tang Dynasty artefacts were also recovered by Au Ka Fat in 2002 within excavation works at this site confirming the presence of Tang Dynasty remains within this deposit. It is therefore reasonable to suggest that the age of the archaeological material recovered during the 2009 field program contains both Tang and Song Dynasty remains.

- A relatively sparse deposit of Song and Tang Dynasty sherds were found within a coarse orange-brown sandy clay layer within Test Pits 5, 7 and 11. The range of pottery of this period included:
  - Celadon bowl fragments including several foot and rim sherds,
  - Stoneware including ribbed sherds,
  - Glazed domestic village-ware bowl fragments
  - Tang/Song Dynasty crackle-glaze ware
  - Fragments of both tile and brick.

Photographs of selected sherds recovered during the test pit survey are shown in Appendix C. All finds will be submitted to the AMO following completion of the study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Pit</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Period (Dynasty)</th>
<th>Finds description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Context 2</td>
<td>Qing</td>
<td>3x villageware sherds and Song base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Context 3</td>
<td>Qing</td>
<td>3x blue and while porcelain (1x Wun Yiu ware)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Context 2</td>
<td>Song</td>
<td>3x porcelain (Inc.1 green, 1 Wun Yiu ware) 8 Celadon, 5 Stoneware, 1 stone bottle lid, 2 brick fragments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Context 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Context 2</td>
<td>Qing</td>
<td>1 jade ring piece, 2 porcelain, 13 stoneware sherds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Context 2</td>
<td>Qing</td>
<td>2 porcelain, 2 village ware 3 Celadon (2 bowl bases), 6 stoneware, 2 chalky ware rims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Context 3</td>
<td>Song</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Context 2</td>
<td>Qing</td>
<td>4 porcelain 1 tile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Context 2</td>
<td>Qing</td>
<td>1 village ware, 1 tile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Context 3 and 4</td>
<td>Qing</td>
<td>8 porcelain, 3 village ware 5 Celadon, 14 Stoneware pieces, 3 Tang crackle-glaze, 1 painted North Song (Xicun, Guangzhou .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Context 5</td>
<td>Tang/Song</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.0 DISCUSSION

The test pit program at the former Tai Hom Village revealed a significant amount of disturbance across the study area with Qing Dynasty artefacts found within upper disturbed horizons and agricultural soils.

Within the central part of the site to the north and east of the former RAF hangar fill is shallow although the agricultural soil and subsurface soils have been removed by recent hangar and village development.

The main archaeological results of the test pit program were confirmation of the presence of Tang/Song Dynasty pottery within an orange-brown sandy clay colluvial horizon at approximately 10m PD across the north-eastern part of the study area. This layer appears consistent across the north-eastern part of the study area - producing artefacts in relatively low concentration. When compared with results of survey and excavation work completed in 2002, particularly the spatial distribution of finds, this supports the notion that remains of this period appear common across the centre and eastern part of the site.

The frequency and the general depositional context (colluvial material) of the finds, however, supports the notion that the central and eastern part of the site carries low density Tang/Song Dynasty remains within a secondary context.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Following results of the test pit program at the former Tai Hom Village in 2009 and in light of the results from archaeological works in 2002, the following recommendations are made based on the following general review:

- The results of the excavation by Mr Au in 2002 culminated in conclusions that the Tang/Song Dynasty remains at the former Tai Hom Village were the product of redeposition.
- The results of the test pit survey discussed in this report have proven the presence of a sparse Tang/Song Dynasty layer which extends to the north-eastern part of the site.
- While the 2009 program has proven a wider extent of the Tang/Song Dynasty remains, the deposit is secondary with no further evidence of in situ remains, foundations, postholes or evidence of occupation.

The survey at the Former Tai Hom Village has revealed that the Tang/Song Dynasty remains are both sparse and redeposited and hence of lesser archaeological significance. However, assemblage of Tang/Song archaeological finds within urban setting is considered rare in Hong Kong. It is therefore recommended that a survey-cum-excavation works to be conducted prior to the construction works at the former Tai Hom Village site. The tentative extent for the survey-cum-excavation within former Tai Hom Village is shown in Figure 4. Before the excavation, the archaeologist shall conduct further test pits to refine the actual demarcation of the excavation area. The excavation works could start out with a series of 25m² (typically 5m x 5m) immediately next to test pits which yield the Tang/Song archaeological finds (i.e. TP5, TP7 and TP11) and fill in the gaps subsequently. The locations and numbers of these 25m² would need to be determined by the archaeologist and agreed with AMO.

Nevertheless, the project proponent should be aware of the protection of items of archaeological or historic significance according to the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. Should archaeological finds be discovered during construction phase of the project the AMO shall be notified immediately.
8.0 REFERENCES


9.0 LIMITATIONS OF THIS REPORT

This report is solely for the use of Ove Arup HK Pty Ltd and any reliance of this report by third parties shall be at such party's sole risk and may not contain sufficient information for purposes of other parties or for other uses. This report shall only be presented in full and may not be used to support any other objective than those set out in the report, except where written approval with comments are provided by Golder Associates.
CHRIS DAY
Principal Archaeologist

CAD/PK

A.B.N. 64 006 107 857
FIGURES
Figure 4  Location of Proposed Survey-cum-excavation as Mitigation Measures for Tai Hom Village Site
APPENDIX A
Background Historic Maps and Photographs
Appendix A-1  Map of Tai Hom Village and Its Environs in 1904
Appendix A-2  Aerial Photo in 1948 with the RAF Hangar

Legend

Tai Hom Village (大磡村)

RAF Hangar
Appendix A-3   Oblique Aerial Photos looking east across Kai Tak and the Tai Hom area – showing RAF hangar (1954)

Legend

Tai Hom Village (大磡村)
Appendix A-4  Aerial Photos showing Tai Hom Village before 2000

Legend

Tai Hom Village (大磡村)
APPENDIX B
Test Pit Sections and Photos
Appendix B Plate B1A: Test Pit 1 – North Section
Appendix B Plate B2A: Test Pit 2 – North Section
Appendix B Plate B3A: Test Pit 3 – North Section
Appendix B Plate B4A: Test Pit 4 – North Section
Appendix B Plate B5A: Test Pit 5 – West Section
Appendix B Plate B6A: Test Pit 6 – West Section
Appendix B Plate B7A: Test Pit 7 – South Section
Appendix B Plate B8A: Test Pit 8 – West Section
Appendix B Plate B9A: Test Pit 9 – Northeast Section
LEGEND

1. FILL - EARTHEN / CLAY / RUBBLE
2. FILL - VILLAGE DEBRIS
3. OLD PADDY / AGRICULTURAL SOIL
4. GREY - BROWN CLAY SOIL
5. COARSE ORANGE - BROWN SANDY CLAY
6. COARSE GRANITIC SAND
7. WEATHERED GRANITE

TEST PIT 10
(EAST SECTION)

C1

8.95 mPD NATURAL SURFACE

Context No.

Scale: 1:10

.getClient

OVE ARUP (HONG KONG)

TAI HOM TSUEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Drawn:

M.L.

14.10.09

Date:

Checked:

D.C.

14.10.09

Project:

TAI HOM TSUEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Figure No.:

F0010

Rev:

1

Figure 10
Appendix B Plate B10A: Test Pit 10 – East Section
Appendix B Plate B11A: Test Pit 11 – West Section
APPENDIX C
Finds Photographs
Appendix C-1  Finds from TP5 Context 4  Song Dynasty layer
Appendix C-2  Finds from TP7 Context 3  Song Dynasty layer
3 Tang Dynasty pottery sherds. The flakey green glaze of finds item (No.1) is shown in this photo.

Appendix C-3  Finds from TP 11 Context 5  Song Dynasty layer
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