

## 10 Cultural Heritage Impact

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### 10.1 Overview

This section presents the assessment of impacts on cultural heritage associated with the construction and operation of LMC Loop. The assessment includes the background information of archaeological heritage, declared monument and built heritage within the assessment area, results of archaeological surveys, the level of potential impact and recommended mitigation measures.

In accordance with the findings of the 2012 archaeological survey conducted at Lok Ma Chau Loop, Ma Tso Lung, the areas along Border Road, Ma Tso Lung Road and Ho Sheung Heung Road as well as the proposed alignments of Western Connection Road (including the connection to San Tin Highway), there was no sign of archaeological potential in the surveyed area.

Desktop review and field survey has been conducted for historic buildings and direct impacts on them are not expected. There will be minor visual impact from its surrounding development but it can be mitigated by providing plant screening.

The cultural heritage impact assessment has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Annexes 10 and 19 of the TM-EIAO as well as the requirements set out under Clause 3.4.11 of the EIA Study Brief.

### 10.2 Environmental Legislation, Standards and Guidelines

The relevant legislation, standards and guidelines for the assessment and protection of cultural heritage include:

- Antiquities and Monument Ordinance;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO);
- Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG);
- Technical Memorandum on Environmental Impact Assessment Process;
- Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.

#### 10.2.1 Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance

The Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap 53) was enacted in 1976. It prescribes the regulation over the discovery, excavation and protection of antiquities in HKSAR.

Under this Ordinance, the Secretary for Development is the Antiquities Authority. The statutory Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) consists of members with expertise in various relevant fields to advise the Antiquities Authority on any matters relating to antiquities and monuments. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), as the executive arm of the Antiquities Authority, provides

secretarial and executive support to the AAB in conserving places of historical and archaeological interest.

The Antiquities Authority may, after consulting AAB and with the approval of the Chief Executive as well as the publication of the notice in government gazette, legally declare a place to be protected. The Antiquities Authority is empowered to prevent alterations, or to impose conditions upon any proposed alterations as appropriate to protect the monument.

In addition to declared monuments, a large number and variety of sites of cultural heritage are identified and recorded by AMO. Recorded historic buildings and structures are classified into Grades 1, 2 and 3 by AAB to indicate their relative importance, as defined below:

- Grade 1 – Buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible.
- Grade 2 – Buildings of special merit; efforts should be made to selectively preserve.
- Grade 3 – Buildings of some merit; preservation in some form would be desirable and alternative means could be considered if preservation is not practicable.

Although graded buildings and structures carry no statutory protection, the Government has administrative procedures that require conservation be given to those historic buildings and sites of cultural heritage.

For sites of archaeological interest, antiquities (as defined under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance) discovered after 1976 are, by law, properties of the government. All discoveries of antiquities or supposed antiquities must also be reported. The excavation and search for antiquities require a licence from the Authority.

### **10.2.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance**

The Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap 499) (EIAO), implemented on 1 April 1998, stipulates that consideration shall be given to cultural heritage and archaeological issues as part of the EIA process. The purpose of EIAO is to avoid, minimise and control the adverse impact on the environment of designated projects, through the application of the EIA process and the Environmental Permit (EP) system.

### **10.2.3 Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines**

Chapter 10 of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) provides general guidelines and measures relating to the conservation of historic buildings, sites of archaeological interest and other antiquities. The guidelines detail the methods for the conservation and preservation of protected monuments, the method of identifying and recording antiquities, particularly buildings which should be conserved and the recording and grading of such buildings and sites of archaeological interest.

## 10.2.4 Technical Memorandum on Environmental Impact Assessment Process

The general criteria and guidelines for evaluating and assessing impacts to cultural heritage are listed in Annexes 10 and 19 of the TM-EIAO. Annexes 10 and 19 of the TM-EIAO cite the following:

- criteria for evaluating the impacts on sites of cultural heritage;
- guidelines for impact assessment;
- the general presumption in favour of the protection and conservation of all sites of cultural heritage because they provide an essential, finite and irreplaceable link between the past and the future and are points of reference identified for culture and tradition;
- preservation in totality and measures for the integration of sites of cultural heritage into the proposed project will be a beneficial impact; and
- adverse impacts on sites of cultural heritage shall be kept to the absolute minimum.

The Guidance Note on Assessment of Impact on Site of Cultural Heritage in Environmental Impact Assessment Studies (<http://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/english/guid/cultural/basis.html>) serves as a reference to facilitate an understanding of the requirements set out in Annexes 10 and 19 of the TM-EIAO for assessing impacts on sites of cultural heritage in EIA studies.

## 10.2.5 Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment

The Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment was issued by AMO to outline the technical requirement for conducting terrestrial archaeological and built heritage impact assessments including the parameters and scope of baseline study for cultural heritage, desktop research, field survey and reporting requirement, as well as, the guideline for evaluating the significance of impacts and recommending mitigation measures.

## 10.3 Description of the Environment

### 10.3.1 Brief History

Before the training of Shenzhen River, the Lok Ma Chau Loop (LMC Loop) was under administration of Shenzhen and in the form of agricultural land and fish ponds in 1980s and early 1990s. It was used as a dumping ground for mud extracted from Shenzhen River Training Works Stages 1 and 2 before 1997. The administration of LMC Loop was then transferred to Hong Kong since 1997. The area was currently vacant.

In the vicinity outside LMC Loop, it kept a rural condition with several traditional Chinese villages. Detailed history of individual villages and areas of archaeological potential were discussed below.

### 10.3.2 Geology and Topography

The landscape setting within the Project includes both the undulating sedimentary hills to the east of the LMC Loop and the Quaternary alluvial plain in and around the LMC Loop - characterised by marshland and fishponds. This alluvial plain was part of an extensive shallow sea less than 2000 years ago. Since this period silt and floodplain deposits have produced a prograded estuarine coastline with the landscape gradually reclaimed over the past 1000 years for paddy agriculture and later fishpond development <sup>[10-1]</sup>.

The broad-scale disturbance of the LMC Loop and surrounding landscape by local dumping of contaminated mud, and by conversion from paddy fields to fish ponds in the past 40 years in the area surrounding the LMC Loop, has obscured much of the original landscape. Reference to aerial photos (**Figures A10-1.4 to A10-1.9 in Appendix 10-1**) and old maps (**Figures A10-1.1 to A10-1.3 in Appendix 10-1**) were made during this study although these proved to be of limited value for locating early sites of archaeological interest in such a landscape.

Maps of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries for this part of Hong Kong such as the Coastal Map of Kwang Tung (1553) and Map by Chan Lun Kwing (1730) are highly stylized maps which only represent large settlements or forts. No evidence of substantial settlement within the Sham Chun (Shenzhen) region can be inferred from these early sources.

Sham Chun is shown on a similarly stylized map (Gazetteer Map of Hong Kong (1864)) (**Figure A10-1.1 in Appendix 10-1**). The villages of Lok Ma Chau, Lo Wu and Sham Chun are shown on a similarly stylized lease map of Hong Kong produced in 1898 (**Figure A10-1.2 in Appendix 10-1**). Lok Ma Chau and Sham Chun are also shown on a Tourists Guide to Hong Kong Map by R.C Hurley published in 1898 (**Figure A10-1.3 in Appendix 10-1**).

Maps produced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century - which include 1905 Demarcation maps and 1913 1:31,360 scale topographic maps - also show that the region of the present LMC Loop and surrounding area was not a focus of prominent settlement or development.

The landscape of paddy fields which characterized the low lying landscape in and around Lok Ma Chau and Shenzhen was gradually converted into fish ponds during the 1970s and 1980s. As will be discussed later, while fish pond construction has disturbed the landscape, such disturbance has thrown up traces of the early historic period activity beneath formerly drained areas or on landforms of slightly higher elevation, since been obscured by siltation.

The most recent and profound impact on the landscape of the LMC Loop and surrounding study area has been the widening or “training” of the Shenzhen River and subsequent truncation of the LMC Loop. A sequence of aerial photographs between 1973 and 2008 (**Figures A10-1.4 to A10-1.9 in Appendix 10-1**) shows that the training works have occurred between 1995 and 1997. Prior to this period the LMC Loop was occupied predominantly by paddy fields with minor fish pond development. Development of Shenzhen New Town which has occurred on the northern side of the River commenced about a decade earlier.

The LMC Loop has been the site of widespread dumping of dredged sediment including contaminated material which covers much of the site shown in the aerial photographs of year 2000.

Approximately 70 ha of land in the LMC Loop were backfilled with waste sediments from the Phase I Regulation of Shenzhen River works. Regulation of Shenzhen River Phase II works followed in 1996 and was completed in 2000. The LMC Loop was divided into upstream and downstream disposal area for waste sediments. The area was landscaped and vegetated after the completion of Phase II works. According to the DSD, approximately 4 million m<sup>3</sup> of soil sediment from the works of Phase I and Phase II Regulation of Shenzhen River were disposed in the LMC Loop. Together with the sediment originally in the LMC Loop, there is a total of approximately 4.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of sediment.

These works will have substantially covered much of the LMC Loop area and therefore considerably reduced the archaeological potential of this area.

### 10.3.3 Review of Previous Archaeological Investigation

There have been limited previous archaeological studies within 300m from the boundary of the Project within HKSAR. The location plan of previous archaeological investigation is presented in **Figure 10.1**.

Part of the Sheung Shui – LMC Spur Line EIA study<sup>[10-8]</sup> included archaeological investigation near Pun Uk Tsuen, Hill West of Pun Uk Tsuen, Chau Tau Tsuen and South of Castle Peak Road outside LMC Loop within HKSAR some of which are within the 300m assessment boundary. No archaeological remains were found during this survey.

Fragments of Tang period kiln debris and pottery dated to Han and early Tang period were discovered 500m north-east of the LMC Loop - during an archaeological survey at Ma Tso Lung for the Drainage Improvement in the Northern New Territories - Package B in 2004<sup>[10-9]</sup>. This suggests that the fishpond areas – while considered of low heritage potential - may throw up archaeological remains by the disturbance from the fishpond construction.

A survey and follow-up archaeological excavation associated with the Shenzhen River Regulation Project (HKIA 2003)<sup>[10-10]</sup> at Yuen Leng Chai near Man Kam To – revealed Song Dynasty remains and two Song-Yuan burials of this period within an alluvial landscape similar to that at LMC.

### 10.3.4 Areas of Archaeological Potential

There are no recorded sites of archaeological interest within the assessment area. However, there are some areas of archaeological potential in the assessment area in particular around the lower hill slope including small hillocks.

Prehistorical occupation was recorded in this type of setting south of the LMC Loop at Ho Sheung Heung<sup>[10-2]</sup>. Prehistoric archaeological material has been found on lower hill slopes in the interior of the territory including Bronze Age (1500–221 BC) sites at Ngau Tam Mei<sup>[10-7]</sup>, Yuen Long<sup>[10-3]</sup>, Tong Min Tsuen, Lam Tsuen<sup>[10-7]</sup>, Wai Tau, Tai Po<sup>[10-4]</sup> and Ho Pui, Kam Tin<sup>[10-5]</sup>. Earlier material from the Late Neolithic (2500-1500 BC) – Bronze Age (1500-221 BC) has been reported from Sheung Shui Wa Shan, Sheung Shui<sup>[10-6]</sup> and Hung Leng, Fanling<sup>[10-4]</sup>.

In prehistoric times those areas which are presently occupied by fishponds and river flood plains were shallow seas fringed with marshland and mangrove<sup>[10-1]</sup>.

Within this environment present hillocks formed islands and islets; therefore the lower hill slopes and former shorelines of these islands may have potential for prehistoric deposits.

These include hillocks north of Ping Hang and west of Ma Tso Lung as well as those west of LMC Road; west of Pun Uk Tsuen; at Pak Shek Au; just to the north-west of Pak Shek Au; and within the Ma Tso Lung Valley. These areas have moderate archaeological potential as sites of prehistoric or early historic period occupation at the edge of the former shallow sea<sup>[10-1]</sup>.

The rest of the assessment area is considered with low archaeological potential including the LMC Loop which is occupied by dumped sediment; stoney and skeletal soils at higher elevation with shallow sedimentary bedrock where archaeological sequences are unlikely to be preserved; and areas of modern development such as highways, railways, roads and other infrastructure, storage yards and modern villages.

According to the Heritage Baseline Desktop Study Report under Development of LMC Loop in 2010, the areas of archaeological potentials have been assigned according to the following priority order:

#### **Moderate Potential:**

- Areas around the lower hill slopes including small hillocks surrounding Chau Tau Tsuen, Lok Ma Chau Tsuen and Pun Uk Tsuen but also the lower hill slopes at Ma Tso Lung area, have moderate archaeological potential as sites of prehistoric or early historic period occupation at the edge of the former shallow sea.

In prehistoric times those areas which are presently occupied by fishponds and river flood plains were shallow seas fringed with marshland and mangrove<sup>[10-1]</sup>. Within this environment present hillocks formed islands and islets; therefore the lower hill slopes and former shorelines of these islands may have potential for prehistoric deposits. These include hillocks north of Ping Hang and west of Ma Tso Lung as well as those west of Lok Ma Chau Road; west of Pun Uk Tsuen; at Pak Shek Au; and just to the north-west of Pak Shek Au.

Moreover, there is a record of prehistoric occupation at Ho Sheung Heung in this type of setting south of the LMC Loop. Prehistoric archaeological material has been found on lower hill slopes in the interior of the territory including Bronze Age (1500–221 BC) sites at Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long<sup>[10-3]</sup>, Tong Min Tsuen, Lam Tsuen<sup>[10-7]</sup>; Wai Tau, Tai Po<sup>[10-4]</sup> and Ho Pui, Kam Tin<sup>[10-5]</sup>. Earlier material from the Late Neolithic (2500-1500 BC) – Bronze Age (1500-221BC) has been reported from Sheung Shui Wa Shan, Sheung Shui<sup>[10-6]</sup> and Hung Leng, Fanling<sup>[10-4]</sup>.

#### **Low Potential:**

- Fishponds and paddy fields (agricultural land) which surround the LMC Loop and the off-site areas for ecological compensation under the Shenzhen River Regulation project or LMC Spur Line have low archaeological potential.

According to the finding of a report submitted by Archaeo-Environments Ltd for the EIA study: Drainage Improvement in the Northern New

Territories (NNT), Package B<sup>[10-9]</sup>, fragments of Tang period kiln debris and pottery dated to Han and early Tang Dynasty (2nd to 7th Century AD) were found during field survey across an 80m arc at the edge of two adjacent fish ponds - located about 500m northeast of the LMC Loop area. The conversion from paddy fields to fish ponds in the past 40 years has resulted in disturbance which – in this case – appears to have thrown up archaeological remains from prehistory and the early historic period.

- Areas within the LMC Loop occupied by dumped sediment and marshland have low archaeological potential.

#### **Very Low Potential:**

- Areas of higher elevation within the undulating hills to the east of the LMC Loop have very low archaeological potential as they are not commonly associated with sites of prehistoric or early historic period occupation. In addition, the low incidence of archaeological material within this landscape can be attributed to the geological setting which is characterized by stoney and skeletal soils and shallow sedimentary bedrock where archaeological sequences are unlikely to be preserved.
- Areas of modern development such as highways, railways, roads and other infrastructure, storage yards and modern villages have very low to no archaeological potential.

**Figure 10.2** shows the archaeological potential within the assessment area. Archaeological survey was proposed in “moderate” archaeological potential area, which locates along Eastern and Western Connection Road. An archaeological survey at LMC Loop, Ma Tso Lung, the areas along Border Road, Ma Tso Lung Road and Ho Sheung Heung Road as well as the proposed alignments of Western Connection Road (including the connection to San Tin Highway) has been conducted in early 2012 to ascertain the identified archaeological potential within the assessment area. According to the survey findings, no sign of archaeological potential was identified in the surveyed areas.

### **10.3.5 Built Heritage Baseline Condition**

The review of built heritage baseline condition generally follows the same assessment area defined. The baseline study included desktop review and field survey in the entire assessment area. A number of villages within the assessment area were identified with recorded or potential historic buildings and structures during the baseline study. Field survey has been conducted to identify and record the historic buildings and structures in these historic villages. **Figures 10.3 to 10.9** show the locations of these villages and the identified historic buildings and structures inside. The details of the built heritage survey of historic buildings and structures identified in the assessment area are presented in the **Appendix 10-2**. For easy reference, a coding system is adopted in which “GB” and “HB” stands for Graded Building and Historic Building respectively.

## 10.3.6 Historic Villages

### 10.3.6.1 Lok Ma Chau Tsuen (落馬洲村) (HB-1-01 to HB-1-12, GB-3)

LMC Tsuen (**Figure 10.4**) is situated at the north foothill of the knoll where the LMC Police Station is located. It was established by the Cheungs (張氏) from Wong Bui Ling (黃背嶺) of Shenzhen. They came to the area and established the village in the early Ming dynasty. They left during the Coastal Evacuation in the early Qing dynasty, and returned after the abolishment of the Edict of the Coastal Evacuation a few years later. The village is said to have a history of over 500 years. The villagers have constructed fishponds on the swampy area along the south coast of Shenzhen River. They rear fresh-water fish and carry out farming in the area. Some fishermen living nearby rent fishponds from them.

The village is formed by rows of village houses, a traditional style of village establishment. There are eight main rows of village houses. While many of the buildings are modern styled two-storey residential houses, quite a number of historic old village houses built with green bricks can still be found in the village. Twelve (12) historic buildings (HB-1-01 to HB-1-12) and one (1) graded historic building (GB-3) were recorded at LMC Tsuen (in **Appendix 10-2** and **Figure 10.4**). These historic buildings are mainly one-hall-one-room structures, with enclosed courtyard or without courtyard. Many of the original appearance of the historic buildings are preserved such as the pitched tile roof and door canopies decorated with painting.

The current ancestral hall of the village is a two-hall-two chamber structure with enclosed courtyard named Mi Tak Study Hall (美德家塾) (GB-3), which is a Grade 2 historic building. Worships of the ancestors in spring and in autumn, and Dim Dang (點燈) Ceremony are carried out yearly in the Hall.

### 10.3.6.2 Pun Uk Tsuen (潘屋村) (HB-2-01 to HB-2-11)

Pun Uk Tsuen (**Figure 10.5**) is located about to 150m from WCR. It is established by the Puns (潘氏) from Siu Kwan (韶關) in the early 15th century. At that time, San Tin Area was occupied by the Lams (林氏), the Tsuis (徐氏), the Chans (陳氏), the Tses (謝氏) and the Puns (潘氏), each founded a small village called Lam Uk, Tsui Uk, Chan Uk, Tse Uk and Pun Uk. Then the Mans (文氏) of San Tin came. Later, the Lams, the Tsuis, the Chans, and the Tses left, leaving the Mans and the Puns who predominate in the area. Some descendants of the Puns moved to Sheung Tsuen (上村) of Kam Tin (錦田) and Shek Ha (石廈) of Huanggang (皇崗) in Shenzhen.

With the prosperity of the Mans, they occupied most of the San Tin Area. Pun Uk Tsuen remains a small village closed to Chau Tau Tsuen, a village founded by the Mans.

The village is formed by rows of village houses, a traditional style of village establishment. There are four main rows of village houses. Most the buildings in the village now are modern two-storey residential building. Eleven (11) historic buildings (HB-2-01 to HB-2-11) were recorded at Pun Uk Tsuen (in **Appendix 10-2** and **Figure 10.5**).

The retained historic and traditional village houses are generally one-hall-one-room type with enclosed courtyard structures built with green bricks or mud and red brick. Though the appearance of some of the historic buildings or structures are altered with modern construction such as corrugated metal roof or stainless steel gate, a number of them still retain their traditional characters with pitched tile roof and door canopies decorated with painting. There were also a vacated ancestral hall and an earth shrine.

### 10.3.6.3 Chau Tau Tsuen (洲頭村) (HB-3-01 to HB-3-19)

Chau Tau Tsuen (**Figure 10.6**) lies to the southeast of Pun Uk Tsuen. It is located about 160m from the slip road to San Tin interchange of WCR. It is established by the Mans in the early 15th century, a few years later than the Puns. The Mans originated from Jiangxi, they moved south into Guangdong, and settled in Ling Ha village in Shenzhen in the late 14th century. Then, in the early Ming dynasty (during the Yung Lo reign 1403-1424), they moved south and settled in San Tin. After nine generations, some of them moved away and formed the Chau Tau Tsuen.

The village was formed by rows of village houses. Most of the buildings now are modern styled two-storey residential buildings. Quite a number of historic and traditional old village houses are found in the village, which were mostly one-hall-one room type with or without enclosed courtyard. Nineteen (19) historic buildings (HB-3-01 to HB-3-19) were recorded at Chau Tau Tsuen (in **Appendix 10-2** and **Figure 10.6**)

Some of these old village houses were built with green bricks or mud and red bricks. Renovation of historic buildings with corrugated metal roof, new paint and plaster are quite common in Chau Tau Tsuen. Moreover, some of the historic buildings are in ruined. Given the size of the village, only very few of the remaining historic buildings are well preserved to their original appearance. The village contains two renovated concrete built study halls, Ting Si Study Hall (廷士家塾) and Jik Sin Study Hall (積善書室). Ting Si Study Hall is used as the ancestral hall. Worships of the ancestors in spring and in autumn, and Dim Dang Ceremony are carried out yearly in the Hall. There was an iron old muzzle-loading cannon in front of the Ting Si Study Hall. However, according to the site observation on 27 November 2009, the cannon has been removed from the village.

### 10.3.7 Graded Buildings

Four graded buildings are located within the assessment boundary area which are LMC Police Station, MacIntosh Fort (Ma Tso Lung), Mi Tak Study Hall and Tung Shan Temple. The existing grading of these buildings are shown in **Table 10.1**.

**Table 10.1** Graded buildings (as of 23 November 2011) within the assessment boundary

Graded Building	Existing Grading	Year of Construction / Restoration
LMC Police Station (GB-1 in Appendix 10-2 and Figure 10.7)	2	Built in 1915
MacIntosh Fort (Ma Tso Lung) (GB-2 in Appendix 10-2 and Figure 10.8)	2	Built in 1949 to 1953

Graded Building	Existing Grading	Year of Construction / Restoration
Mi Tak Study Hall (GB-3 in Appendix 10-2 and Figure 10.4)	2	Probably built in 1870s
Tung Shan Temple (GB-4 in Appendix 10-2 and Figure 10.9)	3	Built before 1894

### 10.3.7.1 Lok Ma Chau Police Station (落馬洲警署)

LMC Police Station (GB-1, **Photos 49 to 51 in Appendix 10-2**) lies on a knoll behind LMC Tsuen. It faces Huanggang and was built in 1915 on the site of the former San Tin Police Station. According to the assessment of the 1,444 historic buildings in Hong Kong released on 23 November 2011, it is currently a Grade 2 historic building. The station is still in use, and it guards the boundary area from LMC to Kwu Tung (古洞).

### 10.3.7.2 MacIntosh Fort (Ma Tso Lung) (麥景陶碉堡(馬草壘))

MacIntosh Fort (GB-2, **Photo 52 in Appendix 10-2**) at Ma Tso Lung is one of the seven MacIntosh Forts built on the border between Hong Kong and mainland China between 1949 and 1953. In face of an influx of refugees from mainland China during the 1940s to 50s, Duncan William MacIntosh (D.W. MacIntosh), the commissioner of police then, decided to build a chain of observation posts (forts) on prominent hilltops along the Hong Kong – Shenzhen border to strengthen border defence against illegal immigrants in 1949. The forts were guarded day and night then. However, with the assistance of advance tele-communication and electronic device, six out of seven of them are remotely controlled nowadays.

MacIntosh Fort (Ma Tso Lung) is situated at the hill north of Ma Tso Lung Shun Yee San Tsuen and built of reinforced concrete. According to the assessment of the 1,444 historic buildings in Hong Kong released on 23 November 2011, it is currently a Grade 2 historic building.

### 10.3.7.3 Mi Tak Study Hall (美德家塾)

Mi Tak Study Hall (GB-3, **Photos 16 to 18 in Appendix 10-2**), also known as Hin Cheung Tong (衍昌堂), lies in the northeast of the LMC Tsuen. It was built in the 1870s. It is a traditional two-hall three-room type building, with foundations built of granite, and the walls constructed of green brick. It had been renovated in 1915. The name of the hall can be seen on top of the main gate. On the altar of the main hall of the building, there are about 100 ancestral tablets. It is still in use. Adjacent to the main building of Mi Tak Study Hall, there is an ancillary building, which was built in around 1870. The outer walls of the ancillary building are plastered with white paint. It was used as classroom of the village school, but is vacant now.

The two buildings had been used as a village school after the Japanese Occupation, and closed in the 1950s. The main building now used as an ancestral hall. Worships of the ancestors in spring and in autumn, and Dim Dang Ceremony are still carried out yearly in the Hall.

Both the main and ancillary buildings are currently Grade 2 historic buildings according to the assessment of the 1,444 historic buildings in Hong Kong, which was released on 23 November 2011.

#### 10.3.7.4 Tung Shan Temple (東山古廟)

Tung Shan Temple (GB-4, **Photo 53** in **Appendix 10-2**) in Wing Ping Tsuen (永平村) of San Tin (新田) was built before 1894 (the 20th year of the Guangxu (光緒) reign in the Qing (清) dynasty) according to a stone tablet record about its first renovation date. The temple serves the village alliance of the entire Mans (文) clans in San Tin area. The Mans are the descendents of Man Tin-shui (文天瑞), a blood brother of Man Tin-cheung (文天祥) who was a renowned patriot fighting with the Mongols to protect the Song Emperors in the late Southern Song (南宋) dynasty (1127-1279).

The main deity of the temple is Tin Hau (天后) and two others are Yeung Hau (楊侯) and Lung Mo (龍母, Dragon Mother) on either side of the main hall. The left cockloft of front hall accommodates a Fui Sing Kok (魁星閣) for candidates to seek blessings to have successful results in the Civil Service Examination. The Fui Sing Kok has a round opening on the front wall. The right chamber of the front hall houses the Kwun Yam (觀音) and the Buddha and an Earth God (土地) deity is housed in the left chamber of the front hall.

Tung Shan Temple is a Qing vernacular building of a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays, which has a symmetrical design. The courtyard of the temple is between the entrance and the main hall. The Tin Hau altar locates in the central axis in the middle of the main hall facing the entrance. The building is mainly constructed by green bricks. The walls and granite columns of the buildings support the pitched roofs, which is of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The gables of the courtyard are with Ma Tau (馬頭, horse head) design. The main ridge has a dragon head moulding and others are with plastered geometric mouldings. Wall friezes on the front façade are with flowers moulding, landscape and plants. Wall paintings above the name board at the entrance are with flowers and plants and landscape motifs.

According to the assessment of the 1,444 historic buildings in Hong Kong released on 23 November 2011, it is currently a Grade 3 historic building.

### 10.3.8 Others

Apart from the villages with identified historic buildings and the historic buildings recorded by AMO mentioned above, the assessment area have been subjected to the baseline study. There is no historic village within LMC Loop and slips road from WCR to San Tin Highway. Thus, survey was conducted along Direct Link to LMC Station, WCR and ECR only. The following locations had been surveyed (**Figure 10.3**) and no historic buildings were identified.

#### 10.3.8.1 Ha Wan Tsuen (下灣村)

Ha Wan Tsuen (also known as Ha Wan San Tsuen) lies inside the assessment area, to the northwest of LMC Tsuen. Because of the poor living condition of the land, the old village of Ha Wan Tsuen was abandoned by the villagers who then moved to higher ground on the slope of the knoll further southeast. After 1950s, more

people, of multi-clans (雜姓), arrived, and they repopulated Ha Wan Tsuen. The village is formed by scattered temporary squatters. The houses are two-storey with steel-plate roof. There are two playgrounds, one lies to the north and one lies to the south of the village. Villagers live on pond-fishing and intensive farming. There is no ancestral hall or temple in the village.

No historic building was found in the village.

#### **10.3.8.2 Ha Wan Fisherman San Tsuen (下灣漁民新村)**

Ha Wan Fisherman San Tsuen was set up by the old villagers of Ha Wan Tsuen. It lies inside the assessment area. With the arrival of a greater population, it developed outside the closed area, on the slope south of LMC Police Station. The village is well planned with temporary squatters built in rows. The houses are two-storey with steel-plate roof. There is no ancestral hall or temple.

No historic building was found in the village.

#### **10.3.8.3 Ma Tso Lung Tsuen (馬草壟村), Ma Tso Lung Shun Yee San Tsuen (馬草壟信義新村) and Ma Tso Lung San Tsuen (馬草壟新村)**

Ma Tso Lung was composed of three villages, namely Ma Tso Lung Tsuen, Ma Tso Lung Shun Yee San Tsuen and Ma Tso Lung San Tsuen. These villages are located within the proposed Eastern Connection Road assessment area.

Ma Tso Lung Tsuen was established by multi-clans with the Lams (林氏) as the majority. The old village lay on low-lying area and flooding happened frequently. In the 1950s, Ma Tso Lung Shun Yee San Tsuen was built on higher ground, to the north-east of the old village and people resettle there. Ma Tso Lung Tsuen was later ruined and no longer exist. Some people also moved to the higher ground to the south of Ma Tso Lung Shun Yee San Tsuen and formed Ma Tso Lung San Tsuen.

The people there believe in Buddha and Kwun Yam but no temple or monastery was found there. To the south of Ma Tso Lung San Tsuen, at a place called She Ling (蛇嶺), there was a school called Lung Kai School (龍溪學校). It had been abandoned for long.

No historic building was found in the area.

#### **10.3.8.4 Tai Law Hau (大羅口)**

Tai Law Hau positioned within the assessment area. It is also known as Ngau Kok Shan (牛角山). There is a police watch post built in the 1980s.

No historic building was found in this area.

#### **10.3.8.5 Ping Hang (坪坑)**

Ping Hang is situated inside the Study Area. It is a small hamlet with only a few temporary squatters. It was established in the 1980s. The people are fishermen who live on fish and oysters from the ponds they established.

No historic building was found in the hamlet.

## 10.4 Assessment Methodology

As stipulated in Clause 3.4.11 of the EIA Study Brief, a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment including archaeological impact assessment and built heritage impact assessment would be undertaken to identify the potential impacts on sites of cultural heritage, historical buildings and structures arising from the development of LMC Loop and its associated infrastructures. The assessment methodology would be in accordance with the Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in Appendix C of the EIA Study Brief and Annexes 10 and 19 of TM-EIAO.

Impacts on existing and potential heritage resources within 300m from the Project were identified and recorded during the baseline review. Within the 300m assessment area, Designated Projects included in the cultural heritage impact assessment have been identified.

The identified impacts would be classified into five levels of significance based on type and extent of the effects:

- a) Beneficial if the project will enhance the preservation of the heritage site(s);
- b) Acceptable if the assessment indicates that there will be no significant effects on the heritage site(s);
- c) Acceptable with mitigation measures if there will be some adverse effects, but these can be eliminated, reduced or offset to a large extent by specific measures;
- d) Unacceptable if the adverse effects area considered to be too excessive and are unable to mitigate practically;
- e) Undetermined if the significant adverse effects are likely, but the extent to which they may occur or may be mitigated cannot be determined from the study.

### 10.4.1 Construction Phase

Impacts, both direct and indirect, and their physical extent, on sites of cultural heritage arising from the Project during the construction phase would be identified. Direct impacts are such as direct loss, destruction or disturbance in whole or in part of the cultural heritage permanently or temporarily due to the proposed construction works. Preservation in totality must be taken as the first priority in assessing these impacts and devising mitigation measures.

Indirect impacts are such as adverse visual impact on built heritage, potential damage to the physical fabric of archaeological remains, historic buildings or historic landscapes through air pollution, change of ground water level, vibration, and ecological damage.

## 10.4.2 Operational Phase

Impacts, both direct and indirect, and their physical extent, on sites of cultural heritage arising from the Project during the operational phase would be identified. Impacts are such as direct loss, destruction or disturbance in whole or in part of the cultural heritage, impact on its setting or impinging on its character through inappropriate siting or design, potential damage to the physical fabric of archaeological remains, historic buildings or historic landscapes through air pollution, change of ground water level, vibration, ecological damage, new recreation or other daily needs to be caused by the new development.

## 10.5 Identification and Evaluation of Impact

The cultural heritage impact assessment has covered the entire Project including the following DPs (as shown in Figure 2.1a) as follows:-

- LMC Loop:
  - Ecological Area (DP1)
  - Drainage System under Internal Transport Networks (DP4)
  - Sewage Treatment Works (DP5)
  - Other non-DP components (refer to **Section 2**)
- Associated Infrastructures outside LMC Loop:
  - Western Connection Road (DP2);
  - Direct Linkage to LMC Station (DP3);
  - Eastern Connection Road (DP6); and
  - Flushing Water Service Reservoir (DP7).

### 10.5.1 Desktop Review

Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) maintains a list of known and potential sites of cultural heritage which is being updated from time to time. This list can be consulted at the AMO, or EPD's EIAO Register Office. However, the list is not meant to be exhaustive, nor is the information contained therein comprehensive, particularly in the case of sites of archaeological interest or cultural features buried underground. Other useful sources of relevant information include the tertiary institutions (e.g. the Hong Kong Collection at the University of Hong Kong Library, Departments of History and Architecture at the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong), public libraries and archives (e.g. the LCSD's reference libraries, the Public Records Office), District Offices, District Lands Offices and Land Registries, etc.

### 10.5.2 Terrestrial Archaeology Survey

A general field inspection was conducted to assess existing or potential terrestrial sites of archaeological interest as follows:

- A field visit to accessible areas of known terrestrial archaeology within the Project and a 300m buffer around the Project.

- A reconnaissance field scan of natural land undisturbed in the recent past in detail with special attention paid to areas of exposed soil as a possible source of artefacts;
- Assemble relevant bibliography and the sources of information about terrestrial sites within the 300m assessment boundary.
- An archaeological survey in government lands at LMC Loop, Ma Tso Lung, the areas along Border Road, Ma Tso Lung Road and Ho Sheung Heung Road (along Eastern Connection Road) as well as the proposed alignments of Western Connection Road has been conducted in early 2012. The survey details were reviewed by professional archaeologist and license from the Antiquities Authority was obtained prior to commencement of archaeological field investigations (**Appendix 10-3**).

From the desktop review of the Lok Ma Chau study area and its 300m buffer, no recorded sites of archaeological interest were found within the area. Therefore, no direct or indirect impact on sites of archaeological interest is anticipated by the Project. In addition, no sign of archaeological potential was identified along Eastern Connection Road from the archaeological survey in 2012 and that of Drainage Improvement in the Northern New Territories – Package B (2004). Due to the similarity of geographic conditions and landuse, the survey results at government lands are also applicable to the entire portion of Eastern Connection Road and Flushing Water Service Reservoir. The survey report is attached in **Appendix 10-3**.

Although no test pits and auger holes were conducted on Western Connection Road as a result of access constraints, archaeological potential of the sites are not anticipated based on findings As follows:

- Existing archaeological survey results at Pun Uk Tsuen and Chau Tau Tsuen <sup>[10-8]</sup> concluded that no sign of archaeological potential was identified.
- The archaeological survey results at Hill West of Pun Uk Tsuen and South of Castle Peak Road of Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line EIA Report (2002) concluded that no sign of archaeological potential was identified.
- Field scan was conducted in part of the survey area along the proposed alignments of Western Connection Road in the archaeological survey findings given in **Appendix 10-3** with no discovery of archaeological finds; and
- Field scan, auger holes and test pits were conducted at the Government Land of the survey area at Ma Tso Lung and along Border Road, Ma Tso Lung Road and Ho Sheung Heung Road in the archaeological survey findings given in **Appendix 10-3** with no discovery of archaeological finds. Due to similarity of geographic conditions, history and landuse, the same is anticipated along Western Connection Road.

According to the above, the archaeological potential on Western Connection Road would be similar to that of Eastern Connection Road. Thus, the overall archaeological impact arising from the proposed construction of both Eastern Connection Road and Western Connection Road is negligible.

Refer to **Sections 10.3.2** and **10.3.4**, the archaeological potential is considered as low and thus the impact is negligible for the below other project components:

- LMC Loop: Occupied by dumped sediment and marshland have low archaeological potential.

- Direct Link to LMC Station: Fishponds and paddy fields (agricultural land) which surround the LMC Loop and the off-site areas for ecological compensation under the Shenzhen River Regulation project or LMC Spur Line have low archaeological potential.
- Slip roads to San Tin Interchange: Areas of modern development such as highways, railways, roads and other infrastructure, storage yards and modern villages have very low to no archaeological potential.
- Off-side ecological compensation areas (Figure 2.1c): The fishpond compensations will require normal fishpond operations on existing ponds, where formed after river trainings. Fishponds and paddy fields (agricultural land) which surround the LMC Loop and the off-site areas for ecological compensation under the Shenzhen River Regulation project or LMC Spur Line have low archaeological potential.

### 10.5.3 Built Heritage Survey

A built heritage impact assessment was conducted in general accordance with the Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment provided in Appendix C of the EIA Study Brief as follows:

- A field visit to sites of recorded and potential built heritage within the Project and 300m buffer. This includes sites of cultural heritage, such as relics, historic buildings and structures within the Project area.
- Establish photographic records of each historic building or structure as well as the surroundings of each historic building or structure.
- Interview with local elders and other informants on the local historical, architectural, anthropological and other cultural information related to the historic buildings and structures.
- Prepare maps showing the boundary of each historic building or structure.

### 10.5.4 Impact Assessment

From the desktop review and field survey of built heritage, no declared monuments, graded buildings and built heritages were identified within the project boundary. Therefore, no direct impact on built heritage is anticipated from the LMC Loop and the associated external infrastructures such as WCR, ECR, Direct Link to LMC Station and Flushing Water Service Reservoir.

It is expected that potential indirect visual impacts to some built heritages at Lok Ma Chau Tsuen, Pun Uk Tsuen, Chau Tau Tsuen and the Lok Ma Chau Police Station may occur during the operational phase. A summary of impact assessment is given in **Table 10.2**.

**Table 10.2** Summary of impact assessment for cultural heritage from the Project

Cultural Resource	Description of proposed works in the vicinity	Horizontal distance from proposed works	Construction Phase			Operational Phase		
			Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Mitigation measure	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Mitigation measure
<b>Sites of archaeological interest</b>								
None recorded presence of sites of archaeological interest	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Villages with historic buildings</b>								
LMC Tsuen (HB-1-01 to HB-1-12, GB-3)	LMC Loop / Western Connection Road	~210 m	No direct impact is identified as the village is outside the project boundary.	No indirect impact from construction vibration as there are no large scale underground works and the village is considered far away from construction site.	N/A	No direct impact is identified as the village is outside the project boundary.	Visual impact from buildings from LMC Loop and Western Connection Road.	Tree belts could be planted to screen visual impacts (see Section 11 on road side trees and Section 12 on EA zone).
Pun Uk Tsuen (HB-2-01 to HB-2-11)	Western Connection Road	~55m for HB-2-11 ~200m for others	No direct impact is identified as the village is outside the project boundary.	No indirect impact from construction vibration as there are no large scale underground	N/A	No direct impact is identified as the village is outside the project boundary.	Visual impact from Western Connection Road.	Tree belts could be planted to screen visual impacts (see Section 11 on road side

Cultural Resource	Description of proposed works in the vicinity	Horizontal distance from proposed works	Construction Phase			Operational Phase		
			Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Mitigation measure	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Mitigation measure
				works and the village is considered far away from construction site.				trees).
Chau Tau Tsuen (HB-3-01 to HB-3-19)	Western Connection Road	~300 m	No direct impact is identified as the village is outside the project boundary.	No indirect impact from construction vibration as there are no large scale underground works and the village is considered far away from construction site.	N/A	No direct impact is identified as the village is outside the project boundary.	Visual impact from Western Connection Road.	Tree belts could be planted to screen visual impacts (see Section 11 on road side trees).
<b>Graded buildings</b>								
LMC Police Station (GB-1)	Western Connection Road	~250 m	No direct impact is identified as the building is outside the project boundary.	No indirect impact from construction vibration as there are no large scale underground	N/A	No direct impact is identified as the building is outside the project boundary.	Visual impact from Western Connection Road.	Tree belts could be planted to screen visual impacts (see Section 11 on road side

Cultural Resource	Description of proposed works in the vicinity	Horizontal distance from proposed works	Construction Phase			Operational Phase		
			Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Mitigation measure	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Mitigation measure
				works and the building is considered far away from construction site.				trees).
MacIntosh Fort (Ma Tso Lung) (GB-2)	Eastern Connection Road	~200 m	No direct impact is identified as the building is outside the project boundary.	No indirect impact from construction vibration as there are no large scale underground works and the building is considered far away from construction site.	N/A	No direct impact is identified as the building is outside the project boundary.	No indirect impact since the building/roads has no direct view from the project.	No
Mi Tak Study Hall (GB-3)	LMC Loop / Western Connection Road	~180m	No direct impact is identified as the building is outside the project boundary.	No indirect impact from construction vibration as there are no large scale underground works and the	N/A	No direct impact is identified as the building is outside the project boundary.	Visual impact from buildings from LMC Loop and Western Connection Road.	Tree belts could be planted to screen visual impacts (see Section 11 on road side trees and Section 12

Cultural Resource	Description of proposed works in the vicinity	Horizontal distance from proposed works	Construction Phase			Operational Phase		
			Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Mitigation measure	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts	Mitigation measure
				building is considered far away from construction site.				on EA zone).
Tung Shan Temple (GB-4)	Slip roads to San Tin Interchange under Western Connection Road	~200m	No direct impact is identified as the building is outside the project boundary.	No indirect impact from construction vibration as there are no large scale underground works and the building is considered far away from construction site.	N/A	No direct impact is identified as the building is outside the project boundary.	No indirect impact since the slip roads to San Tin Interchange under WCR has no direct view from the project.	No

## 10.6 Mitigation Measures

### 10.6.1 Construction Phase

Since there is no adverse impact on any site of archaeological interest, archaeological potential area, built heritage and declared monuments arising from the project, no mitigation measure is recommended for construction phase. However, the project proponent should inform the Antiquities and Monuments Office in case of discovery of antiquities or supposed antiquities in the course of excavation works, if any.

### 10.6.2 Operational Phase

No major disturbance impact to any site of archaeological interest, archaeological potential area, built heritages or declared monuments arising from the project during operational phase. There will be minor visual impact on the built heritages near LMC Loop and Western Connection Road from its surrounding development but it can be mitigated by providing plant screening.

## 10.7 Conclusion

The desktop review and field surveys of cultural heritage (archaeological heritage, built heritage and declared monument) within the 300m assessment area from the Project suggests that impacts from the Project are negligible.

The only potential impacts from the Project are the indirect visual impact on the built heritages near LMC Loop and Western Connection Road from its surrounding development but it can be mitigated by providing plant screening.

## 10.8 Reference

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- [10-10] HKIA (2003) Rescue Excavation Works at Yuen Leng Chai