春坎角 Chung Hom Kok

Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

PLANNING STATEMENT

July 2024

URBIS Limited

in association with

EnviroSolutions & Consulting Limited

ECOSYSTEMS LIMITED
Ecosystems Limited

S16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) on Government Land near Rural Building Lot No. 1220 and 1221, Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Planning Statement (Final)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Planning Statement is prepared in support of a planning application under section 16 (s16) of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) for a proposed 'Public Utility Installation' use at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island. The proposed utility installation consists of land-based works comprising a pair of Cable Landing Ducts with associated Draw Pits, a pair of Beach Manholes, and the shore-end part of the feed-in underground Submarine Cables on Government land near Rural Building Lot (RBL) No. 1220 and 1221 ("the Project Site"). The proposed installation is the enabling works that will facilitate the landing of the Asia Link Cable and a future feed-in Submarine Cable at the Cable Landing Stations at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 respectively. These Cable Landing Stations are currently under development by the Applicant of this application.

The Project Site comprises a single landfall extending from the south coast of Chung Hom Kok to the western edges of Lot RBL No. 1220 and 1221. The Project Site has a total area of approximately 1242.58m^2. The Construction Works will be carried out in two phases.

The majority of the Phase 1 Works falls within an area zoned "Other Specified Use" annotated "Composite Signals Organization Station Complex" ("OU(CSOSC)") on the Approved Stanley Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/H19/16. In the "OU(CSOSC)" zone, 'Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation' (of which submarine cable landing stations are considered as a kind) and utility installation ancillary to the specified use are always permitted (as 'Column 1' uses). A small part of the Phase 1 Works lies within an area zoned "Coastal Protection Area" ("CPA") and requires s16 planning permission from the Town Planning Board (TPB), as it falls within the definition of 'Public Utility Installation' which may be permitted under Column 2 of the Schedule of Uses of the OZP. This area represents the Application Site which has an area of approximately 266.17m^2 in extent (approximately 21% of the Project Site area).

The part of the Phase 2 Works for which this application is submitted, comprising the buried shore-end part of the submarine cables, falls entirely within the "CPA" zone and therefore requires planning permission under s16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap.131) from the TPB. It is intended that Phase 1 Works will be constructed by the Applicant on approval of this s16 application; whilst Phase 2 Works will be constructed by a future supplier.

This application establishes that the proposed installation of the Cable Landing Ducts with associated Draw Pits, Beach Manholes and the shore-end part of the buried Submarine Cables on Government land near Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 at Chung Hom Kok:

- is ancillary to the 'Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation' use and is therefore always permitted within the relevant area zoned "OU(CSOSC)" on the Approved Stanley OZP No. S/H19/16;
- falls within the definition of 'Public Utility Installation' in the relevant "CPA" zone which therefore requires s16 planning permission from the TPB;
- has cogent Government innovation and technology (I&T) and telecommunications policy support;
- is both "essential infrastructure" and also fulfils an "overriding public interest" and therefore meets the requirements for a permissible Column 2 'Public Utility Installation' use within the relevant "CPA" zone; and
- has been designed according to the conducted assessments on environmental, ecological, visual and landscape impacts. Considering the stated planning intentions in both "OU(CSOSC)" and

"CPA" zones with regard to conservation of the natural environment, the proposed installation will be constructed with all appropriate mitigation measures and will not generate any unacceptable impacts on the coastal environment of Chung Hom Kok, its residents and users.

The proposed utility installation is an essential infrastructure project with overriding public interest, as set out below.

Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Systems Are the Backbone of Hong Kong's External Telecommunication Infrastructure

Submarine cable systems are critical in supporting Hong Kong's external telecommunications services and development. As of 2021, optical fibre cable systems provided for over 99% of Hong Kong's external telecommunications network capacity, of which 78% is provided by submarine cables.

Hong Kong is a key submarine cable landing hub in Asia and a landing for 12 international submarine cable systems supporting I&T development in Hong Kong and Southern China. These submarine cable systems are crucial to strengthening Hong Kong's role as a regional communications hub and the development of Hong Kong into an International I&T Centre.

- Regional Communications Hub: Geographically located at the centre of the Asia-Pacific region, Hong Kong is uniquely advantaged as a data transit hub with low cost and low latency. The proposed installation will provide the essential landing infrastructure for the ALC, connecting Hong Kong with its regional counterparts, thereby strengthening Hong Kong's role as a Regional Communications Hub.

- China Gateway and International I&T Centre: Hong Kong as a regional data traffic hub and an International I&T Centre plays an important role in supporting the development of I&T in Southern China, namely in the Greater Bay Area, and as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. Hong Kong and Shantou are the only active landing points for submarine cables in Southern China, given that other areas are not preferred due to shallow sea water depths and faster river current flows in the Pearl River. Due to its proximity to Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong is also well connected to the Mainland's major land cable backbone.

In summary, Hong Kong is therefore well placed both geographically and strategically to serve as a Regional Communications Hub, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region; the gateway city to the Mainland; and as an International I&T Centre supporting the Belt and Road cooperation on promoting development of I&T.

To capitalise on Hong Kong's comparative advantages, to meet the exponentially rising demand for data traffic and bandwidth-intensive applications, and to ultimately strengthen Hong Kong's status as a Regional Telecommunications Centre in Asia, more external communications capacity and submarine cable systems as basic telecommunications infrastructure are needed. The ALC and the future feed-in submarine cable, together with the proposed installation which is needed to facilitate their landing, are therefore essential to realising these advantages and policy objectives.

內容摘要

申請人現尋求規劃許可，根據《城市規劃條例》（第 131 章）第 16 條，准許在香港島春坎角作「公用事業設施裝置」用途設施。擬議的公用事業設施裝置為陸上工程，包括一對光纜登陸管道及其相關手井、一對石灘沙井和岸邊部分地下海底光纜，以連接亚洲快链（ALC）国际通信海底光缆及未来海底光纜分別至位於鄉郊建屋地段第 1220 及 1221 號用地的光纜著陸站（下稱「項目地點」）。該光纜著陸站正由是次規劃許可申請的申請人在位於此地段的兩幅用地進行建設工程。

項目地點由鄉郊建屋地段第 1220 及 1221 號用地的西面，沿車行道及斜坡延伸至位於春坎角南海岸的靠岸位置，陸地總面積為約 1242.58 平方米。所涉工程將分爲兩期。第一期工程的大部分發展範圍位於「其他指定用途（混合通訊站）」地帶，「混合通訊站」及附屬於指定用途的「公用設施裝置」屬經常准許的用途（「第一欄」用途）。

項目小部分範圍坐落在「海岸保護區」地帶，「公用事業設施裝置」屬「第二欄」用途，須向城市規劃委員會（城規會）申請規劃許可。此範圍為是次規劃許可申請的申請範圍，面積約 266.17 平方米，佔項目範圍面積約百分之六（約 21%）（下稱「申請地點」）。

第二期工程由小部分埋藏地下並延伸至岸端高水位的亚洲快链（ALC）国际通信海底光缆組成。因位於「海岸保護區」地帶，該部分地下光纜須向城規會申請規劃許可。第一期工程將由申請人在獲得規劃許可後建造，而第二期工程則預期由未來供應商建造。

是次申請擬議在春坎角鄉郊建屋地段第 1220 及 1221 號用地旁安裝的光纜登陸管道及其相關手井、石灘沙井和小部分延伸至高水位的地下光纜：

- 附屬於赤柱分區計劃大綱核准圖編號 S/H19/16 中劃爲「其他指定用途（混合通訊站）」地帶內的指定用途「混合通訊站」，因此屬經常准許的用途；及
- 涵蓋於「公用事業設施裝置」的定義，屬赤柱分區計劃大綱核准圖編號 S/H19/16 中「海岸保護區」地帶相關《註釋》規定下的「第二欄」用途，因此須根據《城市規劃條例》（第 131 章）第 16 條取得城規會的規劃許可；及
- 明確獲得政府創新及科技和電訊政策支持；及
- 屬「絕對基於公衆利益而必須進行的基礎設施項目」，因此滿足作爲位於「海岸保護區」地帶屬「第二欄」用途的「公用事業設施裝置」獲得批准的條件；以及
- 采用的設計已充分考慮基於環境、生態、視覺及景觀影響的技術評估，以及「其他指定用途（混合通訊站）」和「海岸保護區」地帶的規劃意向。擬議公用事業設施裝置的安裝將采取適當的緩解措施，不會對春坎角的沿海環境、居民及使用者造成任何不可接受的影響。

擬議公用事業設施裝置的安裝為絕對基於公衆利益而必須進行的基礎設施項目，說明如下。

海底光纜爲香港特區對外電訊基建的骨幹

海底光纜系統為香港特區對外電訊基建服務及發展提供重點支撐。截至 2021 年，光纜系統共承擔香港特區超過百分之九十九（99%）的對外電訊網絡容量，其中百分之七十八（78%）由海底光纜提供。

香港特區是亞洲重點海底光纜著陸樞紐以及十二個國際海底光纜系統的著陸點。衆多海底光纜系統為香港特區及其他中國南部地區的創科發展創造了條件，並為鞏固香港特區作爲區域通訊樞紐及發展香港特區成爲國際創新科技中心發揮了建設性作用。

- 區域通訊樞紐：香港特區位於亞太地區的中心地帶，作爲數據傳輸樞紐，具有低成本及低延遲的獨特優勢。擬議裝置將為亚洲快链（ALC）国际通信海底光缆提供必要的著陸設施，以連接香港特區及其區域夥伴，因而鞏固香港特區作爲區域通訊樞紐的地位。

- 中國窗口及國際創新科技中心：香港特區作爲區域數據傳輸樞紐及國際創新科技中心，在支撐中國南部尤其是粵港澳大灣區的創科發展，以及「一帶一路」倡議，扮演重要角色。南部其他地區的海岸水位較淺，珠江流速亦較快，香港特區和汕頭因其地理優勢分別擔當中國南部的主要活躍光纜著陸點。由於地理位置靠近廣東省首府廣州，香港特區亦與內地主要陸纜緊密連接。

香港特區作爲亞太地區的區域通訊樞紐；通往內地的窗口城市；以及作爲國際創新科技中心，支撐「一帶一路」相關經濟體及其他貿易夥伴在創科方面協同發展的地理位置及戰略地位相對優越。

為把握香港特區的相對優勢，同時滿足對數據傳輸及高頻寬應用日新月異的需求，以及鞏固香港特區作爲區域通訊樞紐的地位，我們需要更多對外通訊容量和作爲基礎電訊基建的海底光纜系統。因此，亚洲快链（ALC）国际通信海底光缆和未来海底光纜以及擬議裝置作爲其所需著陸設施是實現以上優勢和政策目標的必要設施。

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

5G	Fifth-generation Mobile Network Technology
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ALC	Asia Link Cable
CPA	Coastal Protection Area
CSOSC	Composite Signals Organization Station Complex
FS(R)O	Foreshore and Seabed (Reclamations) Ordinance
GBA	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area
HKSAR	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
I&T	Innovation and Technology
ICT	Information & Communication Technology

IT	Information Technology
km	Kilometres
LegCo	Legislative Council
LIA	Landscape Impact Assessment
LR	Landscape Resource
MD	Marine Department
mm	Millimetres
m^2	Square Metres
OZP	Outline Zoning Plan
RBL	Rural Building Lot
s16	section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance
TPB	Town Planning Board
TPO	Town Planning Ordinance
VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
WMP	Waste Management Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

1.2 BACKGROUND

1.2.1 China Telecom Global Limited and GB21 (Hong Kong) Limited ("the Applicant") have commissioned URBIS Limited to seek planning permission from the Town Planning Board (TPB) for a proposed utility installation of telecommunications Cable Landing Ducts with associated Draw Pits, Beach Manholes and shore-end part of the feed-in Submarine Cables on Government land near Rural Building Lot (RBL) No. 1220 and 1221 in Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island ("the Project Site") (**Figure 1.1** refers).

1.2.2 The proposed installation is to facilitate the landing of the Asia Link Cable (ALC) at the Cable Landing Station at Lot RBL No. 1220 and a future submarine cable at the Cable Landing Station at Lot RBL No. 1221. Both Cable Landing Stations are under development by the Applicant. The ALC is a regional submarine cable system of 6,000 kilometres (km) in length, connecting Hong Kong and Singapore, with branches into the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam and Hainan, China. The Applicant (China Telecom Global Limited) together with Singtel of Singapore co-lead the ALC consortium which includes a panel of regional carriers, namely Globe Telecom, Inc. (Globe) and DITO Telecommunity Corporation (DITO) of the Philippines, and Unified National Networks Sdn Bhd (UNN) of Brunei Darussalam. The ALC consortium has signed a US$300 million contract for the development of the ALC.

1.3 LOCATION, EXISTING LAND USE AND SURROUNDING LAND USES OF THE APPLICATON SITE

1.3.1 The Project Site is situated on the southern shore of Chung Hom Kok, near the submarine Cable Landing Stations at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 which will serve the ALC and a future submarine cable system. Both are currently under development by the Applicant (**Figure 1.1** refers). With a site area of approximately 1242.58m^2, the Project Site is bounded by the two Cable Landing Stations under development to the northeast, the open water of Stanley Bay to the southeast, Chung Hom Shan to the west, and rocky slopes above the access road leading to Chung Hom Road to the north (**Figures 1.3 and 1.4** refer).

1.3.2 Within ***the Project Site*** consists of the locations of proposed landfall on the rocky shore; proposed Beach Manholes; and a cable duct alignment entering a secondary woodland on slopes below the access road which leads towards Chung Hom Kok Road and then running to Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 along the access road. Draw Pits are proposed along this alignment to facilitate change in direction and underground ducting beneath the access road.

1.3.3 ***The Application Site*** comprises a smaller part of the Project Site (approximately 266.17m^2 in extent which equals to approximately 21% of the Project Site area) falling within an area zoned "Coastal Protection Area" ("CPA") on the Approved Stanley Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/H19/16 in which the proposed installation requires planning permission from the TPB.

1.3.4 The Application Site mainly comprises an area lying on the rocky shore to the south of the secondary woodland. The shore-end part of the ALC and the future feed-in submarine cable will be buried in a shallow excavation on the shore and backfilled upon completion.

1.3.5 Existing land uses in the vicinity of the Application Site include (**Figure 1.4** refers):

- the GB21 Cable STN CHK Teleport Substation which is located approximately 193.58m to the northeast of the Application Site;
- Undeveloped slopes of Chung Hom Shan approximately 206.68m to the west of the Application Site; and

- Residential areas (e.g. Beaulieu, Emerald Ridge Scape House, Hillgrove, etc.) approximately 352.64m to the north of the Application Site.

1.4 PLANNING STATUS

1.4.1 The Project Site falls within two town planning zones identified on the Approved Stanley OZP No. S/H19/16 (**Figure 1.2** refers), namely:

- an area which falls within a "Composite Signals Organization Station Complex" ("OU(CSOSC)") zone; and
- a smaller area that lies within the "CPA" zone in which the proposed installation requires planning permission from the TPB (i.e. the Application Site).

1.5 LANDS STATUS

1.5.1 The Application Site falls on Government land only. For Planning Department's (PlanD) reference, the Project Site mostly falls on Government land which adjoins Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221, with very limited parts lying within Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 which have been granted to the Applicant of this planning application (**Figure 1.1** refers).

1.5.2 Lot RBL No. 1220 is approximately 1,836 square metres (sqm) in extent and is designated specifically for external telecommunications station purposes.[1]

1.5.3 Lot RBL No. 1221 has a site area of approximately 1,649.6 sqm and is similarly designated for external telecommunications station purposes.[2]

1.6 PLANNING HISTORY AND PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS

1.6.1 A planning application was approved on 29th October 2021 for a 'Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cables and Landing System)' at two strips of Government land adjacent to RBL 1158, Chung Hom Kok (Application No. A/H19/83). The approved public utility installation is located in the same "CPA" zone as the proposed installation.

1.7 BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMARINE TELE-COMMUNICATIONS CABLE SECTOR

1.7.1 Submarine telecommunication optical fibre cables are key to facilitating telecommunication services and data transfer across the globe. Characterised by their huge capacity, optical fibre cables are commonly used for transmitting voice, video and data signals.

1.7.2 Southeast Asia is one of the world's fastest growing economic regions and has seen sky-rocketing demand for high-bandwidth, low-latency, and high-redundancy internet connectivity, fuelled by the growth in e-commerce and a digitally literate population. The digital economy is expected to reach US$363 billion in 2025.[3]

1.7.3 Hong Kong is a major telecommunications and internet hub in the region with well-established submarine optical fibre cable systems, overland optical fibre cable systems and communications satellites, as well as submarine cable landing facilities and satellite earth stations. As at August 2023,

[1] The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (2022). Tender awarded for site in Chung Hom Kok. Available at: https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202208/18/P2022081800527.htm
[2] The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. (2023). Tender awarded for site in Chung Hom Kok. Available at: https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202303/01/P2023030100583p.htm
[3] Google, Temasek and Bain & Company. (2021). e-Conomy SEA 2021 Roaring 20s: The SEA Digital Decade. Available at: https://services.google.com/fh/files/misc/e_conomy_sea_2021_report.pdf

there are eight submarine cable landing stations in Hong Kong connecting the city to 12 regional and transcontinental submarine cable systems.

1.7.4 In December 2022, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau (ITIB) promulgated the 'Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint' setting out the vision of developing Hong Kong into an International Innovation and Technology (I&T) Centre, with a view to developing a diversified economy, creating quality jobs, improving quality of life, and serving national needs.

1.7.5 The Chief Executive's Policy Address 2023 has further set out the HKSAR Government's commitment to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's development of the "eight centres" policy in the 14th Five-Year Plan, one of which is to develop Hong Kong into an International I&T Centre. In pursuit of this vision, the Policy Address directs the strengthening of Hong Kong's role as a Regional Communications Hub, which will require the enhancement of the overall coverage of fifth-generation mobile telecommunications technology (5G) network.

1.7.6 Most recently, the Draft San Tin Technopole OZP No. S/STT/C exhibited on 23rd February 2024 set out a planning framework for the San Tin Technopole to become "a World Class I&T Hub" with a comprehensive I&T industry ecosystem that builds upon close cooperation with Shenzhen (TPB Paper No. 10954).[4]

1.7.7 With the rapid development of communications technologies; high-speed and high-traffic services to be brought about by 5G; the aspiration of developing Hong Kong into an International I&T Centre; as well as ongoing effort of pursuing coordinated development of I&T together with Shenzhen and other member cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (hereafter referred to as "the GBA"), it is anticipated that the need for external telecommunications services in Hong Kong will continue to rise.

1.7.8 Given the rising need, as well as to further strengthen Hong Kong's status as an International I&T Centre and a Regional Communications Hub, the industry has been committed to enhancing the capacity of existing optical fibre cable systems whilst establishing more submarine optical fibre cable systems so as to be well prepared for increasing external telecommunications demand in the future.[5]

1.7.9 In addition, the Government has for some years designated Chung Hom Kok specifically as a key hub for providing external telecommunications services in Hong Kong. In 2022, two land lots at Chung Hom Kok were granted for the development of external telecommunications service facilities. This was in order to enhance the overall capacity and diversion capability of Hong Kong's external communications networks so as to accommodate future development needs of different sectors including communications. These lots are RBL No. 1220 and 1221 which have been granted to the Applicant of this planning application for the construction of external telecommunications facilities.[6]

1.7.10 A submarine telecommunications cable landing facility generally comprises three components, including:

[4] Town Planning Board. (2024). 1313th Agenda and Papers. Draft San Tin Technopole Outline Zoning Plan No. S/STT/C – Consideration of a New Plan (Open Meeting). Available at: https://www.tpb.gov.hk/en/meetings/TPB/Agenda/1313_tpb_agenda.html

[5] Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting. (2020). Hong Kong's External Telecommunications Connectivity. *LC Paper No. CB(1)306/19-20(03)*. Available at: https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/panels/itb/papers/itb20200113cb1-306-3-e.pdf

[6] Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. (2022). 2022 Policy Address Policy Measures Relating to Telecommunications and Broadcasting. *LC Paper No. CB(1)747/2022(03)*. Available at: https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr2022/english/panels/itb/papers/itb20221114cb1-747-3-e.pdf

- shore-end submarine cable(s) which emerge from the seabed to be connected to the beach manholes and cable landing ducts on land ("Phase 2 Works");
- a cable landing system, which typically includes cable landing ducts and beach manholes connecting the cable landing station to submarine cables ("Phase 1 Works"); and
- a submarine cable landing station;

1.7.11 This planning application relates to the first and second components at Chung Hom Kok which will be set out in more detail in the following chapter.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

2.1 BACKGROUND: IMPORTANCE OF CABLE LANDING STATION TO HONG KONG'S ROLE AS AN INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY HUB AND A REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS HUB

2.1.1 Submarine optical fibre cable systems are the vital backbone infrastructure for telecommunications. They are critical in supporting Hong Kong's external telecommunications services and development. As at 2021, optical fibre cable systems provided over 99% of Hong Kong's external telecommunications network capacity, of which 78% is provided by submarine cables.

2.1.2 Hong Kong is a key submarine cable landing hub in Asia and a landing for 12 international submarine cable systems[7] supporting I&T development in Hong Kong and the Mainland, in particular other southern regions of the country. These submarine cable systems are crucial to strengthening Hong Kong's role as a Regional Communications Hub and the development of Hong Kong into an International I&T Centre.

2.1.3 Regional Communications Hub: Geographically located at the centre of the Asia-Pacific region, Hong Kong is uniquely advantaged as a data transit hub with low cost and low latency. The proposed installation will serve to facilitate the landing of the ALC, connecting Hong Kong with its regional counterparts, thereby strengthening Hong Kong's role as a Regional Communications Hub.

2.1.4 China Gateway and International I&T Centre: Hong Kong is a regional data traffic hub and an International I&T Centre plays an important role in supporting the development of I&T in Southern China, namely in the GBA, and the Belt and Road Initiative. Hong Kong and Shantou are the only active landing points for submarine cables in Southern China, given that other areas are not preferred due to shallow sea water depth and faster speed of river flow in the Pearl River. Due to its proximity to Guangzhou, the capital city of the Guangdong Province, Hong Kong is also well connected to the Mainland's major land cable backbone.

2.1.5 As such, Hong Kong is well placed both geographically and strategically to serve as a Regional Communications Hub, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region; the gateway city to the Mainland; and an International I&T Centre supporting the Belt and Road cooperation on promoting the development of I&T.

2.1.6 To capitalise on Hong Kong's comparative advantages and to meet the exponentially rising demand for data traffic and bandwidth-intensive applications, thereby ultimately strengthening Hong Kong's status as the Regional Telecommunications Centre in Asia, more external communications capacity and submarine cable systems are needed as basic telecommunications infrastructure. The ALC and the future feed-in Submarine Cable together with the proposed installation necessary to facilitate their landing are therefore essential to realising the above advantages and policy objectives.

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT WORKS

2.2.1 This planning application is submitted under section 16 (s16) of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) (TPO) for the a 'Public Utility Installation' including Cable Landing Ducts with associated Draw Pits, Beach Manholes and buried shore-end part of the feed-in Submarine Cables at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island.

[7] Communications Authority. (2023). Telecommunications. Available at: https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/en/content_113/telecommunications.pdf

2.2.2 The Project Works will comprise works to be carried out in two phases which are set out in detail below.

Phase 1 Works (Cable Landing Works)

2.2.3 The Phase 1 Works will comprise a pair of beach manholes on the rocky shore to facilitate the landing of the ALC and the future feed-in Submarine Cable, along with associated ducting for connecting them to the Applicant's Cable Landing Stations at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 (**Figure 1.2** refers). The total area of the Phase 1 Works is approximately 1208.02m^2.

2.2.4 The majority of the proposed cable landing duct alignment falls within the "OU(CSOSC)" zone on the Approved Stanley OZP No. S/H19/16 where the specified 'Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation' use and utility installation ancillary to the specified use are always permitted (as 'Column 1' uses). Only a small part of the proposed Cable Landing Ducts and the proposed Beach Manholes are situated within the "CPA" zone on the OZP and require planning permission from the TPB under s16 of the TPO.

2.2.5 **Table 2.1** below outlines the proposed Phase 1 Works within the Application Site, and those outside the Application Site but within the Project Site (for PlanD's reference).

Table 2.1: Summary of Phase 1 Works

Type of Proposed Installation	Number of Provision	Description of Facilities	
		Application Site	Project Site (Outside Application Site)
Cable Landing Ducts	2 nos.	■ To cater for a pair of 6-way (2x3) conduits running in parallel with each other, with a diameter of approximately 107mm. ■ Approximately 26.60m in length. ■ This provision is to accommodate feed-in submarine cables of the ALC and the future Submarine Cable landing at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 respectively, and associated facilities, such as power cables, etc. ■ A limited part of 1 no. draw pit (1.8m (L) x 1m (W) x 1.5m (D) at most) partially (approximately 0.64m^2	■ To cater for a pair of 6-way (2x3) conduits running in parallel with each other, with a diameter of approximately 107mm. ■ Approximately 169.04m in length. ■ This provision is to accommodate feed-in submarine cables of the ALC and the future Submarine Cable landing at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 respectively, and associated facilities, such as power cables, etc. ■ 11 nos. draw pits (1.8m (L) x 1m (W) x 1.5m (D) at most)

Type of Proposed Installation	Number of Provision	Description of Facilities	
		Application Site	Project Site (Outside Application Site)
		in extent) within the Application Site.	
Beach Manhole	2 nos.	■ Semi-buried above tidal high-water mark to accommodate the future feed-in submarine cables. ■ Required for the conversion of feed-in submarine cables into land cables prior to connecting to the Applicant's Cable Landing Station at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221. ■ With a dimension of approximately 3.5m (L) x 3.0m (W) x 3.0m (H).	N/A

Beach Manhole

2.2.6 The proposed Beach Manholes are necessary to facilitate the conversion of the incoming ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable to a land cable connection for Hong Kong's telecommunication system. The location of the beach manholes has been selected to allow for the receipt of the ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable from the sea, whilst avoiding adverse effects by storm surges and waves on the proposed installation, and also minimising impact to existing landform and scenic quality.

2.2.7 The exact location of the proposed Cable Landing Ducts and Beach Manholes has been chosen with reference to its proximity to the two Cable Landing Stations to which they are essential to facilitate the landing of future feed-in Submarine Cables at these Stations, taking into account the locations of existing and planned submarine cable systems in this area.

2.2.8 Allowing all-weather access to the beach manholes by the operation and maintenance team is required to ensure that the proposed cable landing system is reliable and maintains a good performance.

2.2.9 As noted above, in selecting the location of the beach manholes, impact arising from storm surges and waves is minimised. To this end, a sea level of approximately +7.034mPD under the combined effect of a) the highest astronomical tide of approximately 2.684mPD based on the gauge of Cheung Chau; b) storm surge of 2.35m which is the most severe record at Quarry Bay due to Typhoon Mangkuht[8]); and c) an assumed wave height of 2m in the event of tropical cyclones, is assumed. The proposed

[8] Hong Kong Observatory. (n.d.). Storm Surge Records. Available at: https://www.hko.gov.hk/en/wservice/tsheet/pms/stormsurgedb.htm?t=SEARCH&v=Mangkhut

beach manholes will be located at a ground level above this assumed sea level.

Cable Landing Ducts

2.2.10 The majority of the proposed Cable Landing Ducts will be laid below-ground along the access road leading towards Chung Hom Kok Road, whilst the remaining ducting from the Beach Manholes to the road will be supported above ground on steel racks which are approximately 1,000 millimetres (mm) in height and 1,450mm in width, typically at around 6m intervals along the alignment (subject to local adjustments) (**Figure 2.1a** and **Figure 2.1b** refer). The Cable Landing Ducts will take the shortest possible alignment from the tidal high-water mark to the access road, thereby minimising its footprint within the "CPA" zone.

2.2.11 Associated draw pits will facilitate installation and maintenance of underground ducting and changes of direction. The above-ground components will have a finishing of matt black or charcoal grey colour coating so as to minimise their visual impact.

2.2.12 The proposed Beach Manholes and Cable Landing Ducts with associated draw pits which together form the Phase 1 Works are enabling works for the incoming ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable which will be supplied and installed by a future supplier in Phase 2.

2.2.13 Overall, the Phase 1 Works have been designed to mitigate any significant impacts on the natural environment and visual amenity. To this end, environmental mitigation measures set out in Chapter 5 of this Planning Statement will be implemented during the construction of the proposed works.

Implementation and Maintenance Requirements of Phase 1 Works

2.2.14 The Phase 1 Works are anticipated to be constructed over an approximately 5-month period, within 1 to 2 years from receipt of planning permission. The lifespan of cable landing ducts and beach manholes will typically last for about 20 years, subject to individual project conditions.

2.2.15 During the operational phase, the frequency of inspection and maintenance of the proposed cable landing ducts and beach manholes will be low. As such, the need to access these works will be extremely low. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that the existing paved footpath to the south of the access road which leads to Chung Hom Kok Road can be used to access the proposed works for inspection and maintenance. By utilising the existing footpath, construction activities on site and disturbance to the existing environment will be minimised.

Phase 2 Works (Offshore and Shore-end Submarine Cable Laying)

2.2.16 The Phase 2 Works will consist of two components, namely a) offshore cable laying and b) shore-end cabling. The total area of Phase 2 Works up to the tidal high-water mark will be approximately 34.56m^2. The whole of this limited extent of Phase 2 Works up to the high water mark falls within the "CPA" zone and therefore will require planning permission from the TPB under s16 of the TPO. The following describes the two components of the Phase 2 Works.

Offshore Cable Laying

2.2.17 Submarine cables are commonly laid in a shallow excavation on the seabed before emerging at the coast where they connect to a terrestrial cable landing station from which they serve users on land.

2.2.18 To install the offshore submarine cables on the seabed, a cable laying barge will be deployed to simultaneously lay and bury the cables along the routing. Gazettal under the Foreshore and Seabed

(Reclamations) Ordinance (Cap. 127) (FS(R)O) will be required. **Figure 2.2** depicts the alignment of existing submarine cables in the area.

2.2.19 Impact to marine traffic will be minimised at the crossing of the East Lamma Channel, and if possible, the cable will follow the shortest possible distance. Prior to cable laying activities, a marine traffic impact assessment will be conducted and submitted to Marine Department (MD) for approval. To verify the seabed conditions, marine geophysical survey and bathymetric survey will be conducted by the parties responsible for the future submarine cable installation.

2.2.20 It is intended that the burial depth for the offshore cables will be between 3m – 5m below the seabed, and no less than 5m within the marine fairway. Depending on the seabed condition, passive jetting will be used by the burial tool to:

- liquefy sediments at the desired installation level; and
- aid with the burial at the target depth of 3m – 5m below the seabed (5m within the marine fairway) as the tool is pulled along the route alignment by the cable-laying vessel.

2.2.21 This method is designed to simultaneously lay and bury the cable whilst minimising potential disturbance to the seabed. It will therefore result in only localised, temporary impacts to the marine water quality at the seabed.

2.2.22 The width of the trench created by the burial tool is narrow (usually 250mm or less), and the disturbed area of the seabed will be limited to the tool's width. To ensure proper functioning and positioning of the tool, a dive team will be on standby during installation.

2.2.23 The cable laying vessel will travel at approximately 1km per hour or less along the planned cable route. The submarine cable installation by the cable laying vessel is expected to take one day to cross the East Lamma Channel.

Shore-end Cabling Works and Alignment

2.2.24 Once the cables arrive at the foreshore, they will travel in a shallow excavation across the foreshore to meet the proposed beach manholes (**Figure 2.1b** refers). **Figure 2.3** illustrates the layout of the future submarine cables.

Description of Submarine Cables and Shore-end Installation

2.2.25 Submarine cables will typically be up to 50mm in diameter. They generally comprise optic fibres within a copper tube, protected by steel armour wire and water blocking compound which is then covered in a medium-density polyethelyne insulating sheath (typically black or grey in colour). This cable design may vary by adding further steel tape protection or outer armour wire with an outer sheath of polypropylene yarn protected by a bitumen coat and a final covering of chalk. The detailed design including the exact type of construction, thickness and finish will be determined by the future supplier. A typical view and section of submarine optic fibre telecommunication cable is provided in **Figure 2.3**.

2.2.26 The shore-end submarine cables will be buried in the foreshore in a shallow excavation made using handheld jetting equipment. To make way for the cables, any existing rocks and stones on the foreshore will be moved and deposited back over the cables after it is laid. This is to ensure that the cables are fully covered.

2.2.27 The routing of this short shore-end section is anticipated to avoid potential impacts to geological or topographic features, or alterations to the existing natural scenery. To this end, no rock breaking, blasting or drilling will take place. Given that the proposed works will be manually laid, potential impact

to the seabed condition and the adjoining environment could also be minimised. Subsequently, the shore-end cables will meet the proposed beach manholes, following which, the land cables will be fed through the cable landing ducts proposed under this application to connect with the Applicant's cable landing stations at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221. Appropriate environmental mitigation measures will be put in place during construction of the proposed works.

2.2.28 The proposed Phase 2 cable laying works are summarised in **Table 2.2** below.

Table 2.2: Summary of Proposed Phase 2 Cable Laying Works

Type of Proposed Installation	Number of Provision	Description of Facilities
Shore-end Part of Submarine Cable	2 nos.	■ 50mm diameter cable ■ Optic fibres within a copper tube protected by steel armour wire and water blocking compound covered in a medium-density polyethelyne insulating sheath ■ Laid in a shallow excavation on the foreshore and covered with existing rocks and stones

Implementation and Maintenance of Phase 2 Works

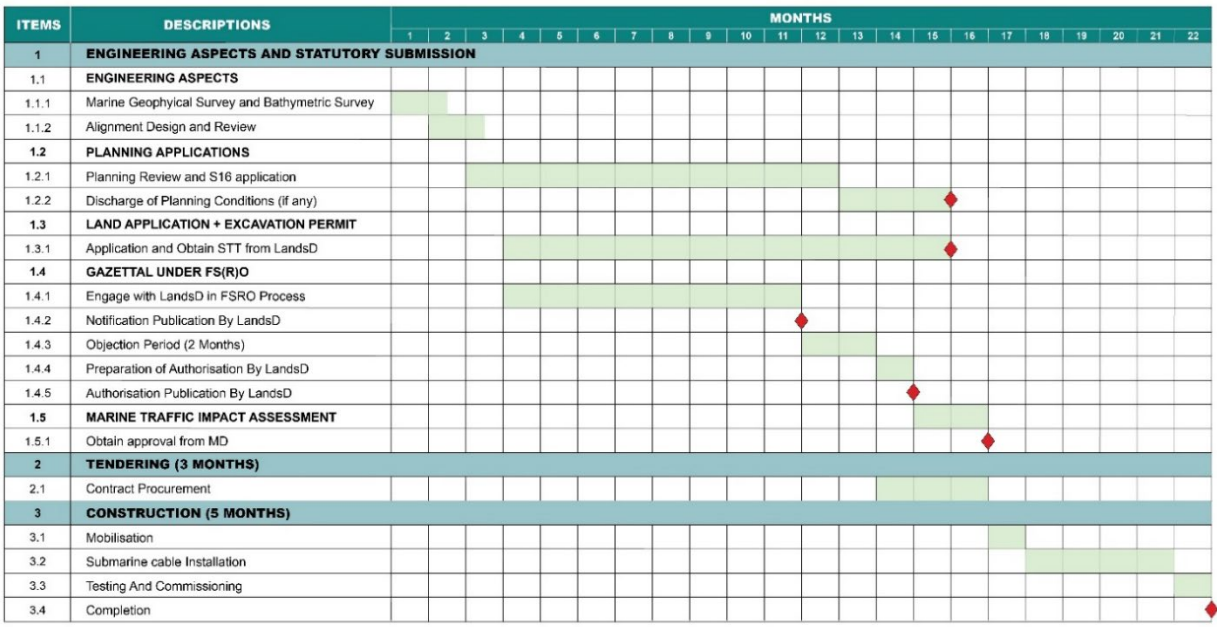
2.2.29 It is estimated that the physical installation works for the shore-end cable section will be completed within 2 to 4 weeks, subject to ground conditions and its final alignment. Implementation of the shore-end Submarine Cables component of the project will depend on the programme of the ALC and the future feed-in Submarine Cable which are anticipated to complete construction by the third quarter of 2025. The application for gazettal under the FS(R)O for the first submarine cable is expected to take place within a year from the receipt of planning permission, after which installation will be completed within 3 years. The usage / lifespan of the cables will usually be around 20 years, subject to individual project conditions. **Table 2.3** sets out a tentative implementation and construction programme for the marine cable installation.

2.2.30 The shore-end cables will be operated by the Applicant. **Figure 2.4** shows the indicative operational areas within the Project Site. There will be no physical barrier segregating these operational areas of which the specific extent is subject to detailed site survey.

2.2.31 Since the shore-end cables will have armour protection, they are generally maintenance-free. Revisiting the cables for maintenance is also not expected upon completion of installation. Based on common practice, inspection and/or fault detection would be conducted inside beach manholes.

Table 2.3: Indicative Timeline for Phase 2 Submarine Cable Installation

ITEMS	DESCRIPTIONS	MONTHS
1	**ENGINEERING ASPECTS AND STATUTORY SUBMISSION**	
1.1	**ENGINEERING ASPECTS**	
1.1.1	Marine Geophyical Survey and Bathymetric Survey	
1.1.2	Alignment Design and Review	
1.2	**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**	
1.2.1	Planning Review and S16 application	
1.2.2	Discharge of Planning Conditions (if any)	
1.3	**LAND APPLICATION + EXCAVATION PERMIT**	
1.3.1	Application and Obtain STT from LandsD	
1.4	**GAZETTAL UNDER FS(R)O**	
1.4.1	Engage with LandsD in FSRO Process	
1.4.2	Notification Publication By LandsD	
1.4.3	Objection Period (2 Months)	
1.4.4	Preparation of Authorisation By LandsD	
1.4.5	Authorisation Publication By LandsD	
1.5	**MARINE TRAFFIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT**	
1.5.1	Obtain approval from MD	
2	**TENDERING (3 MONTHS)**	
2.1	Contract Procurement	
3	**CONSTRUCTION (5 MONTHS)**	
3.1	Mobilisation	
3.2	Submarine cable Installation	
3.3	Testing And Commissioning	
3.4	Completion	



2.3 SUMMARY OF PROJECT WORKS

2.3.1 The following provides a summary of the Project works for which this planning application is made (**Table 2.4** refers).

Table 2.4: Summary of Application

Applicant:	China Telecom Global Limited and GB21 (Hong Kong) Limited
Project Site Address:	Government land near RBL No. 1220 and 1221, Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island
Project Site Area:	Approximately 1242.58m^2 • Approximately 976.41m^2 (79%) of the area falls within the "OU(CSOSC)" zone • Approximately 266.17m^2 (21%) of the area falls within the "CPA" zone
Land Status:	**Application Site** Falls within Government Land **Outside Application Site but within Project Site (for PlanD's Reference)** Falls within RBL No. 1220 and 1221, and Government Land
Statutory Plan:	Approved Stanley Outline Zoning Plan No. S/H19/16
Zoning:	"Other Specified Uses" annotated "Composite Signals Organization Station Complex" ("OU(CSOSC)" and "Costal Protection Area" ("CPA") zones
Building Height Restriction:	N/A
Proposal:	**Application Site** Single landfall with shore-end parts of the ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable across the foreshore; a pair of Beach Manholes; and

	a pair of Cable Landing Ducts running in parallel to facilitate the landing of the incoming ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable at the Applicant' Cable Landing Stations, with steel supporting racks at typically 6m intervals to support the surface laid part of the Ducts **Outside Application Site but within Project Site (for PlanD's Reference)** 11 nos. draw pits; and a pair of Cable Landing Ducts running in parallel to facilitate the landing of the incoming ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable at the Applicant' Cable Landing Stations

3 GOVERNMENT POLICY SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT

3.1 GOVERNMENT POLICY SUPPORT

3.1.1 The Chief Executive's Policy Address 2023 and 'Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint' (2022) set out the Government's objective to develop Hong Kong into an International I&T Centre. In particular, the Government is committed to strengthening Hong Kong's role as a Regional Communications Hub and promoting 5G development, with a view to improving the transmission speed of 5G networks.

3.1.2 The above policies require that Hong Kong has sufficient telecommunications capacity.

3.1.3 Strong policy support for utilising Chung Hom Kok as a key location for accommodating Hong Kong's telecommunications infrastructure is also evident. The Chung Hom Kok Teleport has been designated by the Government as a hub for providing external telecommunications services in Hong Kong since 2000:

"*The Government has earmarked a teleport site in Chung Hom Kok where providers of external telecommunications facilities and broadcasters can establish external links to and from Hong Kong.*" (Hong Kong 2000 Yearbook)[9]

3.1.4 This policy intention was furthered in the Policy Address 2019 which envisaged Chung Hom Kok Teleport as "*further enhancing the overall capacity and diversion capability of Hong Kong's external telecommunications network*".

3.1.5 In a Discussion Paper to the Legislative Council (LegCo) on Hong Kong's External Telecommunications Connectivity (January 2020, LC Paper No. CB(1)306/19-20(04)), the Government reiterated the significance of Chung Hom Kok Teleport to the external telecommunications connectivity of Hong Kong (**Appendix 3.1** refers):

"*Situated in Southern District of Hong Kong and with a total area of about 2.5 hectares, Chung Hom Kok Teleport is the only piece of land currently designated for external telecommunications facilities, suitable for the construction of submarine optical fibre cable landing facilities and satellite earth stations.*" [our emphasis]

3.1.6 The Government has subsequently stated in a more recent Discussion Paper to LegCo on 'Policy Measures Relating to Telecommunications and Broadcasting' (November 2022, LC Paper No. CB(1)747/2022(03)) that (**Appendix 3.2** refers):

"*We have reserved land lots at the Chung Hom Kok Teleport for external telecommunications service facilities with a view to further enhancing the overall capacity and diversion capability of Hong Kong's external communications networks to accommodate the future development needs of the communications and other sectors. The Lands Department granted two land lots to two MNOs in March and August 2022 respectively for construction of external telecommunications facilities.*" [our emphasis]

3.1.7 The cited land lots have been granted to the Applicant of this planning application for the construction of external telecommunications facilities (i.e. Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221).

[9] Hong Kong 2000 Yearbook. (2000). Communications, the Media and Information Technology. [Online]. Available at: https://www.yearbook.gov.hk/2000/eng/19/c19-10.htm

3.1.8 The Government industry regulator, the Office of the Communications Authority has been approached at the pre-submission stage with regard to the project that is the subject of this application and has stated on 6th June 2024 that that "*the Office supports the proposed installation of submarine cables and landing system in "CPA" zone on government land adjoining RBL 1220, Chung Hom Kok, Stanley*" [our emphasis].

3.2 FURTHERING THE "BELT AND ROAD" POLICY DIRECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUANGDONG-HONG KONG-MACAO GREATER BAY AREA INTO AN EXTERNAL HUB OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

3.2.1 The Belt and Road Initiative promotes economic co-operation among countries and regions along the Belt and Road routes. Under this initiative, the Digital Silk Road is an integral component that seeks to improve access to high-speed internet, lower market barriers to international e-commerce, and close the digital divide. Hong Kong is strategically well-situated as a super-connector, given its proximity to the Mainland and its long-established connectivity to Asia and beyond.

3.2.2 The Applicant's submarine Cable Landing Stations at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 can act as a gateway for data traffic between China and international ports. The proposed cable landing facilities are vital to enabling connection and co-operation with partners on both the infrastructure and information/data fronts, thereby supporting the policy intention of the Digital Silk Road and furthering the policy direction of the wider Belt and Road Initiative.

3.2.3 External telecommunication service facilities are also crucial to the development of the GBA into an International I&T Hub, in accordance with the 'Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area' (February 2019). With the only submarine cable landing point in the GBA, provision of submarine cable landing facilities in Hong Kong including the proposed installation is key to meeting this policy objective.

4 CONFORMITY WITH OUTLINE ZONING PLAN INTENTION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The Project Site is situated within the boundary of the Approved Stanley OZP No. S/H19/16. This section of the Planning Statement will demonstrate that the proposed installation conforms to the planning intention of the OZP and that it is both essential infrastructure and fulfils an overriding public interest.

4.1.2 The current OZP zonings of the Project Site and its environs are depicted in **Figure 1.2**. The majority of the Project Site (approximately 976.41m^2 or 79%) falls within an area zoned "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Composite Signals Organization Station Complex" ("OU(CSOSC)"); whilst approximately 266.17m^2 or 21% of the Project Site falls within an area zoned "Coastal Protection Area" ("CPA").

4.1.3 According to the Notes of the OZP, within the "OU(CSOSC)" zone, 'Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation', of which submarine cable landing stations are considered one kind[10], is a use always permitted in this zone (**Appendix 1.1** refers). The proposed installation is necessary to facilitate the landing of the incoming ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable at the Cable Landing Stations at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221, which are under development by the Applicant of this planning application. The proposed installation is therefore ancillary to the specified use and always permitted in this zone.

4.1.4 'Public Utility Installation' is a Column 2 use in the "CPA" zone which may be permitted with or without conditions on application to the TPB under s16 of the TPO (**Appendix 1.2** refers). The proposed installation falls within the definition of 'Public Utility Installation' and will therefore require planning permission from the TPB. This Planning Statement is submitted in support of an application for such a permission.

4.2 OUTLINE ZONING PLAN INTENTION

4.2.1 The proposed installation falls within the boundary of the Approved Stanley OZP No. S/H19/16. The majority of the Project Site (approximately 79%) falls within an area zoned "OU(CSOSC)", whilst the remaining portion falls within an area zoned "CPA" (approximately 21%).

"OU(CSOSC)" Zone

4.2.2 According to the Notes of the OZP, the planning intention of the "OU(CSOSC)" zone is "*primarily to provide land for composite signals organization station complex and its ancillary facilities*".

4.2.3 Paragraph 7.7.2 of the Explanatory Statement states:

"*A site to the south of Chung Hom Kok Road is zoned "OU" annotated "Composite Signals Organization Station Complex" and is intended primarily for composite signals organization station complex and its ancillary facilities for the development of the Chung Hom Kok Teleport. Given the site's prominent location, the design of the proposed development should be in keeping with the surrounding natural*

[10] OFCA. (2012). Information Note for External Fixed Carriers to Apply for Statutory Approvals for Laying of Submarine Cable and Landing at Cable Landing Station. Available at: https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/fbs/infrast/i834c.pdf

terrain and the existing built environment in the Chung Hom Kok and Stanley area."

4.2.4 According to the Notes of the OZP, 'Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation' is a use always permitted within the "OU(CSOSC)" zone (**Appendix 1.1** refers), which is considered to include use as a submarine cable landing station.

4.2.5 As the proposed cabling installation is to serve the Cable Landing Stations at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 which are under development by the Applicant, it constitutes an ancillary facility for the 'Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation' use. The majority of the proposed installation (approximately 79%) which falls within the "OU(CSOSC)" zone is therefore always permitted in this zone.

"CPA" Zone

4.2.6 According to Notes of the OZP, the stated planning intention of the "CPA" zone is to:

"*conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment, including attractive geological features, physical landform or area of high landscape, scenic or ecological value, with a minimum of built development. It may also cover areas which serve as natural protection areas sheltering nearby developments against the effects of coastal erosion.*

There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted."

4.2.7 In the Notes of the OZP, 'Public Utility Installation' is a Column 2 use which may be permitted with or without conditions on application to the TPB under s16 of the TPO. According to the TPB's Definition of Terms, 'Public Utility Installation' means "*any tank, structure or premises built on, over, or under ground level for the provision of water, sewerage, gas, electricity, broadcasting, television and telecommunications services to serve the local district*". The proposed cable landing installation therefore falls within the definition of 'Public Utility Installation'. A small part of it (approximately 21%) lies within the "CPA" zone and will therefore requires planning permission from the TPB.

4.3 CONFORMITY WITH PLANNING INTENTION OF THE OZP "CPA" ZONE

4.3.1 According to the Notes of the OZP, 'Public Utility Installation' may be permitted within a "CPA" zone with or without conditions on application to the TPB.

4.3.2 Despite a presumption against development in this zone, developments may be permitted given that they "*are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted*" [our emphasis].

4.3.3 For a development to be permissible in this zone, it must therefore be shown that the proposed works constitute an "essential infrastructure project with overriding public interest". This is demonstrated below.

Status as "Infrastructure Project"

4.3.4 As set out above, the proposed installation falls within the definition of 'Public Utility Installation' which is clearly an "infrastructure project" within the meaning of the OZP, given that it is a fixed installation that seeks to facilitate the provision of telecommunication services serving the local district and beyond.

"Essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest"

4.3.5 To be permissible in the "CPA" zone, it must be demonstrated that the proposed installation constitutes an "essential infrastructure project with overriding public interest". The following sets out both the "overriding public interest" which the proposed installation will deliver and its "essential" characteristics.

"Public Interest" Characteristics of the Proposed Installation

Government Recognition of "Public Interest" Value

4.3.6 The proposed installation is essential infrastructure of significant benefit to Hong Kong and is required to meet both needs of the public and Government policy objectives. As the essential enabling works that will facilitate the landing of the ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable at the two Cable Landing Stations that are under development by the Applicant, the proposed installation will increase the capacity for cable landing in Hong Kong, which is substantially beneficial to Hong Kong's I&T, Telecoms and other sectors.

4.3.7 The proposed installation is also essential to realising the Government's objective of developing Hong Kong into a Regional Communications Hub and an International I&T Centre. The proposed installation has clear and express Government policy support regarding its location at Chung Hom Kok. The proposed installation has also received express support from the Government Industry Regulator namely the Office of the Communications Authority at pre-submission.

4.3.8 The significant public interest of the proposed installation is in line with that set out in the Discussion Paper issued in January 2020 by the LegCo Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting (LC Paper No. CB(1)306/19-20(03), **Appendix 3.1** refers). In particular, this paper recognises the critical role of fibre optic cables in supporting Hong Kong's external telecommunications services and development, and the importance of capacity building in preparing for the ever-increasing external telecommunications demand at paragraphs 3 and 7 respectively (with our emphasis):

"*3. Optical fibre cables, characterised by their huge capacity, are mainly used for transmitting voice, video and data signals. Through optical fibre cable networks, Hong Kong is connected to data centres, servers and relevant platforms around the world, with access to various online services and applications, and supporting business activities of various trades and industries. Currently, more than 99% of Hong Kong's external telecommunications network capacity is provided by optical fibre cable systems (including submarine optical fibre cables connecting to the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and North America, and overland optical fibre cables connecting to the Mainland), of which 78% is provided by submarine optical fibre cables, which play a critical role in supporting Hong Kong's external telecommunications services and development.*

7. With the rapid development of communications technologies and the high speed, high traffic services and various smart applications expected to be brought about by the fifth-generation mobile telecommunications technology (5G), it is anticipated that the demand for external telecommunications services in Hong Kong will continue to increase. In view of this, in order to further enhance Hong Kong's status as a regional telecommunications hub, the industry has in recent years been committed to enhancing the capacity of the existing optical fibre cable systems and establishing more submarine optical fibre cable systems so as to get well prepared for the ever-increasing external telecommunications demand in the future."

4.3.9 As of 2022, Hong Kong had the second biggest data centre market in the Asia Pacific region, and the sixth biggest across the globe. Hong Kong's robust telecommunications infrastructure has been a major driver of growth in the data centre sector which is simultaneously incentivised by the unprecedented rise of smart technologies and initiatives, namely artificial intelligence (AI), real-time

big data analysis and cloud services. These all demand resilient data storage capacity to be met by robust network and telecommunications infrastructure.[11]

4.3.10 The above demonstrates clearly the public interest and paramount need for telecommunications infrastructure in Hong Kong to meet future demand, and to ensure future capacity in supporting the highly dynamic, ever expanding I&T, Communications and Telecoms industries.

Wider "Public Interest" Considerations

4.3.11 **Support the Government's Aspiration of Strengthening Hong Kong's Status as a Regional Communications Hub and an International I&T Centre** – The proposed installation will serve the public interest of Hong Kong by providing landing facilities for the incoming ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable. The successful landing of the ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable in Hong Kong will likely encourage other telecom providers or cloud players to use and prioritise Hong Kong as the regional hub for data traffic exchange. Furthermore, the Hong Kong-Singapore submarine cable connection serving as the trunk of the ALC will enable strategic partnership building with Singapore which also has a very active digital economy. Synergies between these two market-leading digital economies are likely to bring substantial opportunities to both the industry and the Government in pursing the stated aspiration.

4.3.12 **Contribute to the Development of Other Industries and Serve the Wider Public** – As other telecommunications and information & communication technology (ICT) services and infrastructure advance over the years, namely 5G and AI, having a high concentration of international submarine cables is highly attractive to multinational corporations when deciding on the locations of their regional hubs. Having sufficient cable infrastructure is therefore critical not only to the economic development of the telecommunications sector in Hong Kong, but also to other sectors which rely on high-speed telecommunications, such as information technology (IT), finance, etc., which are also major contributors to Hong Kong's economy. In this context, the public interest of ensuring adequate landing infrastructure for international submarine cables, namely the ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable in the case of this planning application, can be clearly established.

"Essential" Characteristics of the Proposed Development

Special Status of Chung Hom Kok

4.3.13 As set out above, the Government has specifically designated Chung Hom Kok as a submarine cable landfall. In LC Paper No. CB(1)747/2022(03), it is also stated that the Lands Department granted land lots at Chung Hom Kok specifically for the construction of external telecommunications facilities. Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 are the cited land lots and have been granted to the Applicant of this planning application for the purpose of developing external telecommunications facilities.

4.3.14 Given this special status and the grant of land for the specified purpose which the proposed installation will serve, it is therefore 'essential' that the ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable should land at Chung Hom Kok.

Landing at the Cable Landing Stations at RBL No. 1220 and 1221

4.3.15 More specifically, once the cables have made landfall at Chung Hom Kok, their alignment toward the Applicant's cable landing stations is equally 'essential'. The proposed installation is required to allow for the landing of the ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable at the cable landing stations at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 respectively which are currently under development by the Applicant of this

[11] HKTDC. (2022). The Road to Net Zero: Delivering a Sustainable Data Centre Future. Available at: https://research.hktdc.com/en/article/MTIwODgzOTEzMQ

application. This is to maximise the much needed cable landing capacity of the two cable landing stations.

4.4 NO UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT

4.4.1 An application for a similar proposed public utility installation (submarine cables and landing system) has been approved by the TPB in this particular "CPA" zone on 29 October 2021 (Application No. A/H19/83).

4.4.2 An application for s16 permission to install shore-end cabling works was also approved by the Metro Planning Committee on 7 October 2011 in the same "CPA" zone (Application No. A/H19/65).

4.4.3 As such, the proposed installation would not set an undesirable planning precedent.

4.5 CONCLUSION

4.5.1 It can be seen from the preceding discussion, that the proposed installation fulfils an "overriding public interest" and is "essential infrastructure" at this location.

4.5.2 The proposed installation therefore conforms to the planning intention of the "CPA" zone as set out in the Approved Stanley OZP No. S/H19/16, meets the requirements for permission as a Column 2 'Public Utility Installation', and will not set an undesirable precedent.

4.5.3 As will be demonstrated in the following Technical Assessments, the proposed installation will also conform to the planning intention for the "OU(CSOSC)" zone as stated at paragraph 7.6.2 in the Explanatory Statement of the OZP that:

"*Given the site's prominent location, the design of the proposed development should be in keeping with the surrounding natural terrain and the existing built environment in the Chung Hom Kok and Stanley area.*"

4.5.4 Similarly, with regard to the "CPA" zone, it will be demonstrated that the proposed installation fulfils the stated planning intention to "*to conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment, including attractive geological features, physical landform or area of high landscape, scenic or ecological value*".

5 TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 This chapter of the Planning Statement will set out the technical assessments undertaken for the proposed installation, including the environmental assessment, ecological assessment, visual impact assessment, and landscape impact assessment. This chapter will subsequently describe the proposed mitigation measures that seek to reduce and eliminate the environmental impacts of the proposed installation.

5.2 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

5.2.1 The environmental assessments undertaken for the Project Site are provided in full in **Annex A**. It is concluded that the proposed installation will not give rise to any unacceptable environmental impacts during the construction and operation phases, provided that the recommended mitigation measures are strictly implemented by the Applicant. Below summarises the assessments.

Air Quality

5.2.2 With the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures including good site practice, adverse air quality impact is not anticipated during construction. At the operation phase, there will be no air pollution source from the proposed installation and therefore adverse air quality impact is not anticipated.

5.2.3 As such, overall, no adverse air quality impact is expected during the construction and operation phases of the proposed installation.

Noise

5.2.4 Given the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures inclusive of good site practice, adverse noise impact is not anticipated to arise from the construction of the proposed installation. During operation, in the absence of noise source from the proposed installation, adverse noise impact is not anticipated.

5.2.5 It is therefore concluded that no adverse noise impact is expected during both the construction and operation phases of the proposed installation.

Water Quality

5.2.6 Following the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures including good site practice, adverse water quality impact is not anticipated during the construction phase. Since there will be no water pollution source from the proposed installation, adverse water quality impact is also not expected during the operation phase.

5.2.7 Based on the above, it has been assessed that no adverse water quality impact is expected during both the construction and operation phases of the proposed installation.

Waste Management

5.2.8 With the development of a Waste Management Plan (WMP) and implementation of good site practice, adverse water quality impact arising from waste generation during the construction phase is not

anticipated. There will also be no generation of waste during the operation phase.

5.2.9 Therefore, no adverse impact of waste is expected during both the construction and operation phases of the proposed installation.

5.3 SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

5.3.1 To assess the broad ecological baseline conditions of the Project Site and the associated 500m Assessment Area, ecological field surveys of flora and key groups of fauna were conducted in November 2023. The findings are set out in **Annex D** and summarised below.

5.3.1 During the construction phase, direct impact on terrestrial habitats will arise from temporary aboveground works of installing the proposed cable landing ducts with associated draw pits and beach manholes. Given the temporary works will be in small scale and localised, such impact is considered to be **Insignificant**.

5.3.2 Indirect impacts on the water quality of the sea from surface runoff will be transient, and therefore considered as **Minor**. To avoid contamination of seawater, construction runoff should be controlled by the implementation of mitigation measures such as good site practice.

5.3.3 Indirect impacts (including noise, light, dust and other human activities) on the identified habitats and associated fauna resulting from the temporary increase in human disturbance during the construction phase are considered **Insignificant** and can further be minimised by the implementation of good site practice and other mitigation measures proposed.

5.3.4 During the operational phase, direct impacts within the Project Site will arise from the permanent occupation of habitats within the very limited footprint of the proposed permanent works, and will be of similar significance as specified in the assessment for the construction phase. It is considered that such impacts will be **Insignificant**, with no additional habitat loss anticipated during the operational phase.

5.3.5 Potential indirect impacts during the operational phase include disturbance to wildlife and habitat in the surrounding area arising from increased human disturbance due to maintenance and management of the proposed installation. Given the very limited scale of the proposed installation, and the low frequency of inspection and maintenance anticipated, potential indirect impacts are considered **Insignificant**.

5.3.6 A small part of the Assessment Area falls within an area zoned "CPA". However, the proposed works will be small-scale, which will not affect the ecological integrity of the CPA. As such, the significance of ecological impact to the recognised sites of conservation importance is considered **Insignificant**.

5.3.7 The recorded individual plant species of conservation importance i.e. *Artocarpus hypargyreus* and *Diospyros vaccinoides* were recorded outside the Project Site. Potential impacts to these species are not expected.

5.3.8 No bat roosts were recorded within the Project Site. Given bats' mobility, it is anticipated that they can readily use the same type of or similar habitat nearby, and that none of them exhibited fidelity to the habitats where they were found. Hence, no direct impact will be exerted on them, and the potential impacts on bats are considered **Minor**.

5.3.9 A butterfly species of conservation importance, Malayan, was recorded within the Project Site. However, this butterfly species is mobile and can also be found in other habitats outside the Project Site. Given that the construction works will be small-scale and of a temporary nature, without the implementation of mitigation measures, the potential impact to this species will be **Insignificant**.

5.3.10 Some bird, butterfly and reptile species of conservation importance were recorded outside the Project

Site. Given that the construction works will be small-scale and short-term, without the implementation of mitigation measures, the potential impact to these species will be **Insignificant**.

5.4 SUMMARY OF VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.4.1 A visual impact assessment (VIA) has been undertaken for the proposed cable landing installation in accordance with TPB PG-No. 41 and is provided in full in **Annex B**. The VIA has established the baseline visual conditions of the Project Site and associated Assessment Area, and subsequently identified the acceptability of visual impact arising from the proposed installation. The following summarises the findings of the VIA.

5.4.2 There are relatively few key public viewpoints from which the proposed installation can be seen. Public viewers will have no clear views of the proposed installation from the access road leading towards Chung Hom Kok Road. Other viewers from key public viewpoints will be primarily maintenance personnel and occasional recreational users of the rocky shore.

5.4.3 The proposed installation will be relatively low, will have a very limited footprint and be largely hidden by dense vegetation during its operation.

5.4.4 With the implementation of proposed mitigation measures, the cable landing installation is not anticipated to be highly visible from the nearby access stairs or from the shoreline.

5.4.5 Given the small scale of the proposed installation, limited numbers of key viewpoints, the limited visibility of the works, and the visual mitigation measures proposed, the proposed installation will result in an overall **Negligible** visual impact.

5.5 SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND TREE SURVEY

5.5.1 A landscape impact assessment (LIA) and tree survey have been conducted for the proposed cable landing installation, and are presented in full in **Annex C** and **E** respectively. The LIA has identified the baseline landscape resources (LRs) within the Project Site and the 100m Assessment Area. A survey of existing trees has also been undertaken to determine the presence and value of trees within the vicinity of the Project Site, and whether the proposed installation will affect any trees. The assessments are summarised below.

5.5.2 A total of six LRs have been identified, of which the Project Site will potentially affect three. The majority of the Project Site falls within **LR6 Construction Site/Open Storage/Bare Ground**, whilst a small part is situated within **LR3 Secondary Woodland** with a smaller extent within **LR2 Rocky Shore**. Given the very low sensitivity of LR6, and the small magnitude of change of the proposed installation within LR3 and LR2, with the implementation of proposed landscape mitigation measures, it is assessed that the proposed installation will give rise to **Insubstantial** impact on these LRs during its construction and operation.

5.5.3 The proposed installation will not give rise to any off-site impact on the identified LRs.

5.5.4 As identified in the Tree Survey Report (**Annex E**), **14** nos. existing trees within and adjacent to the Application Site were surveyed. **1** no. is proposed to be retained owing to its small crown size and distance from site works and therefore is not affected by the site works. **13** nos. trees are proposed to be felled. **5** nos. of the **13** nos. are of invasive weedy species namely *Leucaena leucocephala*. **8** nos. trees (excluding **5** nos. of undesirable weedy species) are proposed to be compensated (1:1 ratio) in accordance with relevant Government guidelines.

5.5.5 Outside the Application Site, for PlanD's reference only, within and adjacent to the Project Site, a total of **62** nos. existing trees were surveyed, of which the proposed installation will inevitably affect **34** nos. trees which are proposed to be felled. **18** nos. of the **34** nos. affected trees are of undesirable weedy

species namely *Leucaena leucocephala*), while the remaining **16** nos. are proposed to be compensated (1:1 ratio) according to relevant guidelines published by the Development Bureau and Lands Department. Separate submissions for permissions to carry out works to the trees will be made in due course to the relevant authority in accordance with relevant regulations.

5.5.6 Compensatory planting at 'seedling' size will be carried out in locations as close as possible to the proposed cable landing alignment in practical locations. Suitable locations will be identified and seedling trees will be notch-planted. Their locations will be marked with wooden stakes. Planting will be to the prevailing standards of the Civil Engineering and Development Department's General Specification for Civil Engineering Works, and plants will be maintained during the one-year Establishment Period. A potential compensatory planting area has been identified subject to on-site conditions which is located at the edge of exiting vegetation in the vicinity of the Application Site where new planting may benefit from exposure to sunlight (**Figure 5.1** refers).

5.5.7 Seedling sized compensatory planting is proposed to account for the surrounding slope environment in which seedling trees are anticipated to have a relatively higher chance of survival in comparison to trees of a larger size grades. It is generally not possible to plant Light Standard trees on sloping rocky ground as their rootballs are not adapted to these conditions and trees of this size are expected to have a lower survival rate than seedling trees.

5.5.8 The tree species native to the area, as listed in Appendix A of the Ecological Assessment by Ecosystems Limited (**Annex D**), are being considered for compensatory planting. These shortlisted species will undergo an evaluation process based on their ability to adapt to on-shore and slope environments, their ecological significance, and their availability in the market. The final selection of species for compensatory planting will be made based on these assessments (**Table 5.1** refers).

Table 5.1: Proposed Compensatory Tree Species

Scientific Name	Chinese Name
Bischofia javanica	秋楓
Bridelia tomentosa	土蜜樹
Hibiscus tiliaceus	黃槿
Litsea glutinosa	潺槁樹
Sterculia lanceolata	假蘋婆

5.6 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES

5.6.1 Taking into consideration the following stated planning intention in the OZP, an appropriate range of rigorous environmental mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce or eliminate the environmental impacts of the proposed installation, taking into account the following requirements of the OZP:

- in the "OU (CSOSC)" zone, "*the design of the proposed development should be in keeping with the surrounding natural terrain and the existing built environment in the Chung Hom Kok and Stanley area*"; and

- in the "CPA" zone, proposals are required "*to conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment, including attractive geological features, physical landform or area of high landscape, scenic or ecological value*".

5.6.2 The proposed landscape and visual mitigation measures are summarised below.

Design Stage Mitigation Measures

5.6.3 At the design stage, the alignment of the proposed cable landing ducts has been optimised to facilitate the landing of the ALC and future feed-in Submarine Cable at the Applicant's cable landing stations at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 within the shortest possible distance from the tidal high-water mark, thereby minimising its footprint within the "CPA" zone. An optimal location has also been proposed for the associated beach manholes so as to minimise disturbance to existing boulders on the rocky shore and preserve the resources of the shore as far as practical.

Construction Stage Mitigation Measures

5.6.4 During the construction phase, the extent of works areas and the duration of the construction works will be kept to the minimum so as to minimise disturbance to the surroundings whilst ensuring safety and environmental acceptability of the works. To ensure that the proposed construction works do not significantly impact the resources of the rocky shore on which a very limited portion of the proposed works lie, boulders and shingle temporarily disturbed by the proposed works will be placed back as close to their original location as possible after the completion of works.

5.6.5 Good construction site practice and mitigation measures will be put in place to reduce and eliminate adverse environmental impacts. Quiet construction methods and quiet mechanical equipment will be adopted as far as practical. Deployment of heavy construction plant is not envisaged. Minor excavation will be required for the proposed beach manholes and footings for the supporting racks to the cable landing ducts. Excavated areas will be backfilled, with the main chamber of the beach manholes buried below ground, upon completion. Proper enclosure and water spraying for dusty materials will be deployed. Appropriate arrangements to control and manage surface runoff discharge will be pursued with reference to ProPECC PN 2/23. A WMP will be formulated according to which good housekeeping practices together with effective site waste collection, storage and delivery will be implemented.

Operational Stage Mitigation Measures

5.6.6 During the operation of the proposed installation, all built structures are designed to be compact and of minimal sizing so as to minimise its overall footprint, ground vegetation clearance and visual prominence. The above-ground section of the proposed cable landing ducts and associated structures will be treated chromatically with a dark charcoal colour so as to minimise their visual prominence. Compensatory planting will be provided for any fell trees arising from the proposed works, apart from invasive species that are unfavourable to the local ecosystem (e.g. *Leucaena leucocephala*).

5.7 CONCLUSION

5.7.1 This chapter has set out the findings and conclusions of the technical assessments undertaken for the proposed installation, as well as associated mitigation measures. As can be seen, the proposed installation is considered environmentally acceptable following the implementation of the proposed mitigation.

6 CONCLUSION AND DECISION SOUGHT

6.1.1 This planning application establishes that the proposed installation of cable landing ducts with associated draw pits, beach manholes and shore-end parts of the feed-in submarine cables on Government land near Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 at Chung Hom Kok:

- is a use ancillary to 'Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation' and is therefore always permitted within the area zoned "OU(CSOSC)" on the Approved Stanley OZP No. S/H19/16;
- falls within the definition of 'Public Utility Installation' in the "CPA" zone which therefore requires a s16 planning permission from the TPB;
- has cogent Government innovation and technology (I&T) and telecommunications policy support;
- both fulfils an "overriding public interest" and is "essential infrastructure" and therefore meets the requirements for a permissible Column 2 'Public Utility Installation' use within the relevant "CPA" zone; and
- has been designed according to the assessments conducted on environmental, ecological, visual and landscape impacts. Considering the stated planning intentions in both "OU(CSOSC)" and "CPA" zones with regard to conservation of the natural environment, the proposed installation will be constructed with all appropriate mitigation measures in place and will not generate any unacceptable impacts on the coastal environment of Chung Hom Kok, its residents and users.

6.1.2 The Applicant therefore respectfully requests the permission of the Town Planning Board, exercising its powers under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131), to proceed with the proposed works.

春坎角
Chung Hom Kok

Figures

RBL 1220

RBL 1221

GB21 Cable STN CHK Teleport Substation

岩地 Rocky Area

數碼通香港角電訊港 Smartone STN CHK Telecom Substation

Antenna

道路 Road

平岩 Flat Rock

HWM

LEGEND

- Project Site (Phase 1 Works)
- Project Site (Phase 2 Works)
- Application Site
- Proposed Beach Manhole
- Proposed Drawpit
- Indicative Alignment of Future Feed-in Telecommunications Cable (By Other)
- RBL 1220 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station
- RBL 1221 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station

NORTH

0 10 20 30 40 50m

Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Ubis 雅邦 Limited

Title: Location of Project Site and Application Site

Scale	Date	Figure No.
1:750 @ A3	July 2024	**1.1**

RBL 1220

RBL 1221

OU

CPA

LEGEND

- Project Site (Phase 1 Works)
- Project Site (Phase 2 Works)
- Application Site
- Proposed Beach Manhole
- Proposed Drawpit
- Proposed Underground Cable Landing Duct
- Proposed Surface Mounted Cable Landing Duct
- Future Underground Submarine Cable
- RBL 1220 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station
- RBL 1221 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station
- CPA – Coastal Protection Area
- OU – Other Specified Uses

Note: Adopted from part of the Approved Stanley Outline Zoning Plan No. S/H19/16 gazetted on 28 October 2022.

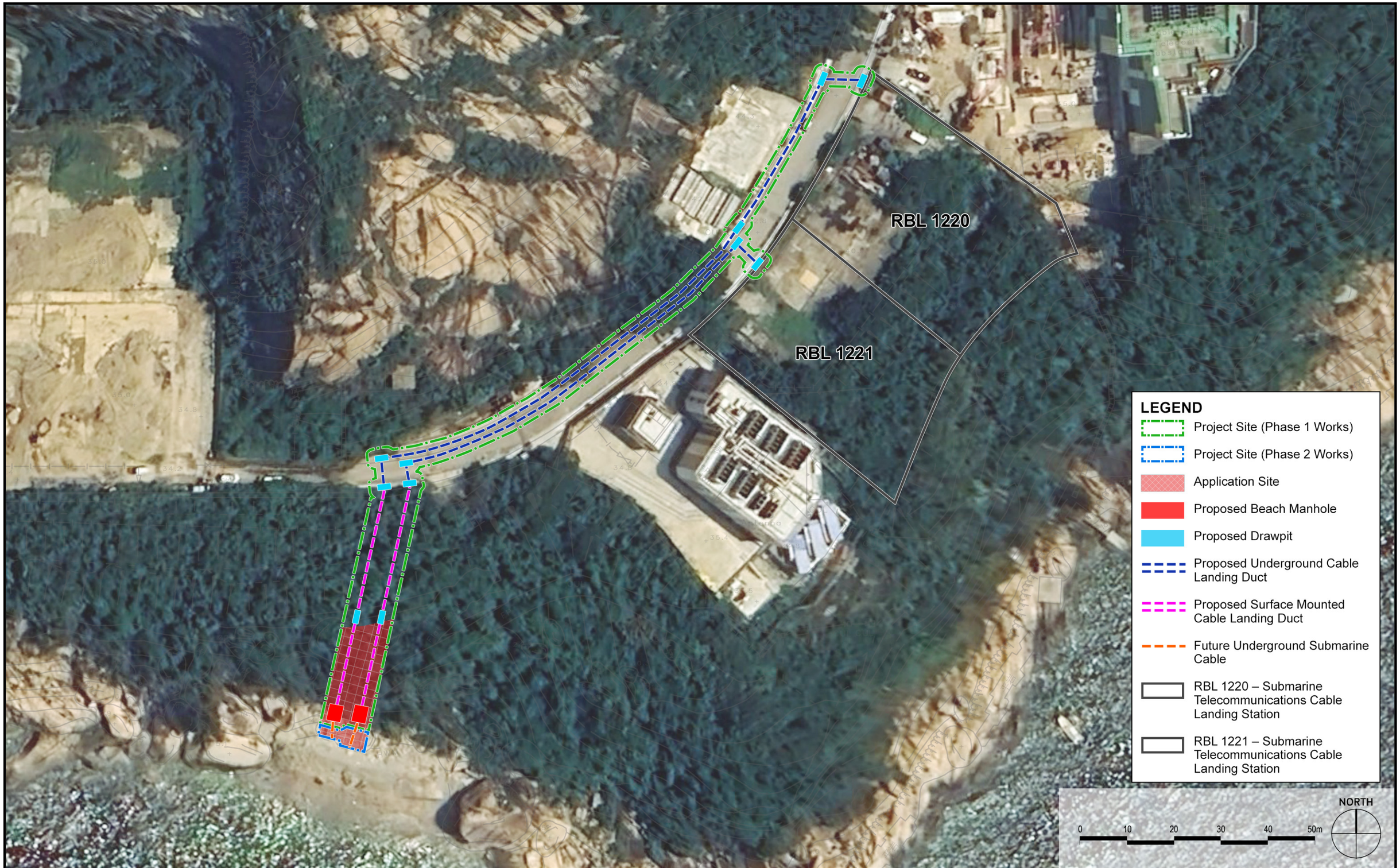
NORTH

0 10 20 30 40 50m

Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Title: Project Site and Application Site on Outline Zoning Plan

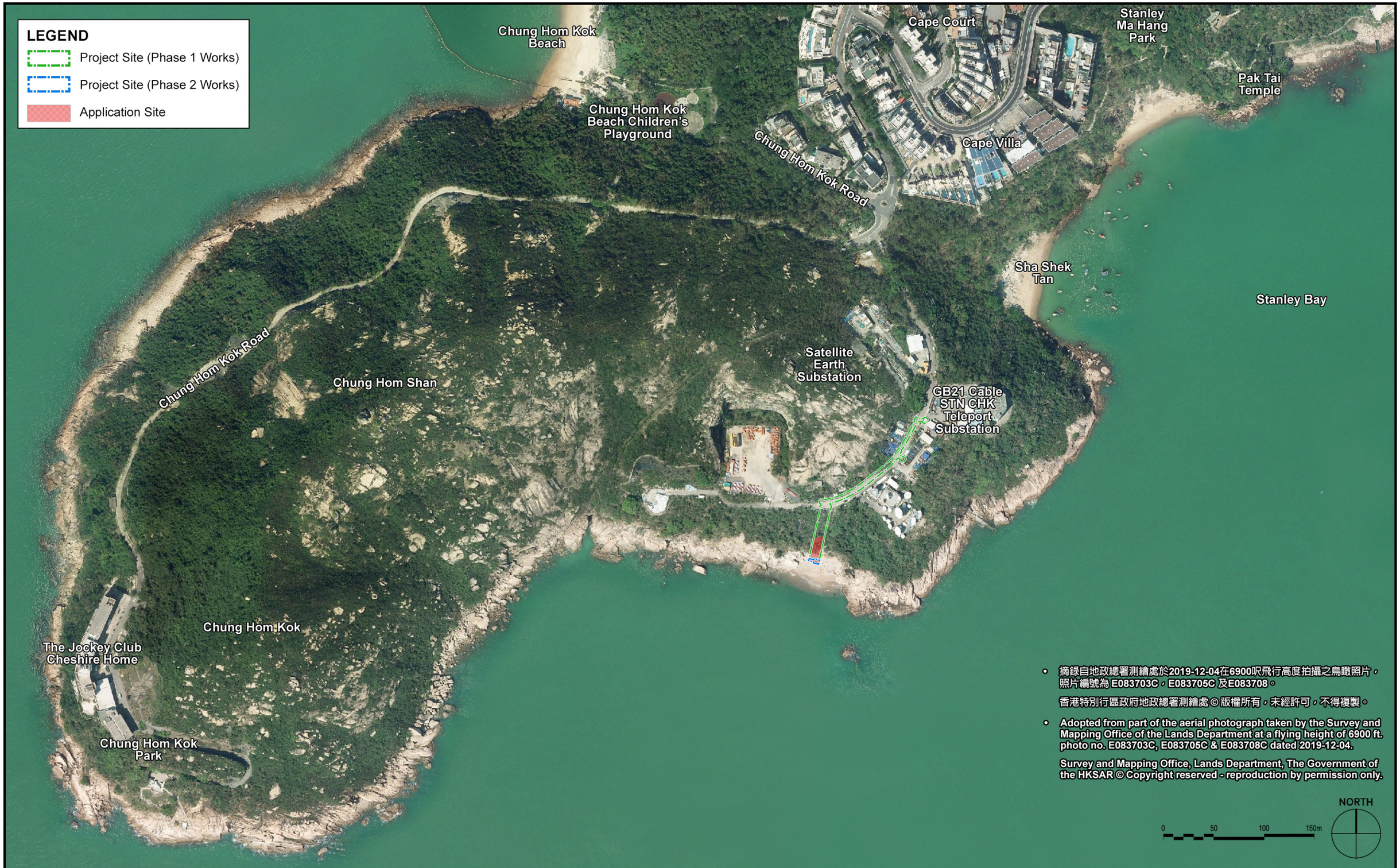
Scale	Date	Figure No.
1:750 @ A3	July 2024	**1.2**



Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Title: Aerial Photo of Application Site

Scale	Date	Figure No.
1:750 @ A3	July2024	1.3



- 摘錄自地政總署測繪處於2019-12-04在6900呎飛行高度拍攝之鳥瞰照片，照片編號為 E083703C，E083705C 及E083708。

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- Adopted from part of the aerial photograph taken by the Survey and Mapping Office of the Lands Department at a flying height of 6900 ft. photo no. E083703C, E083705C & E083708C dated 2019-12-04.

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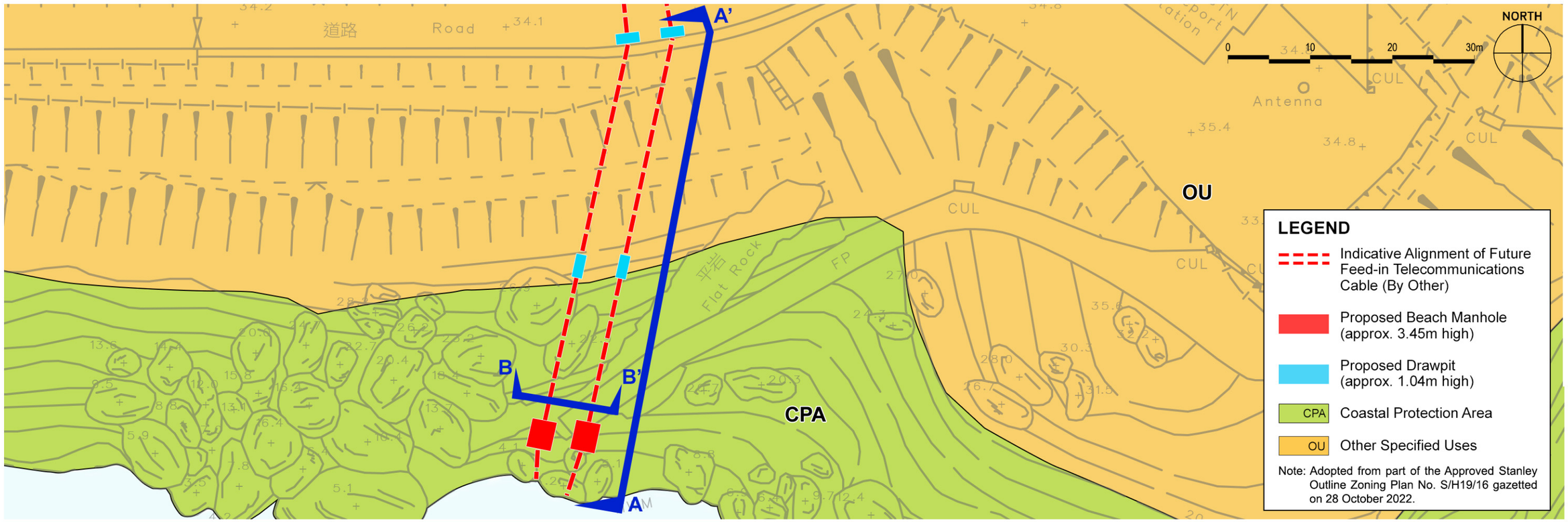
Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

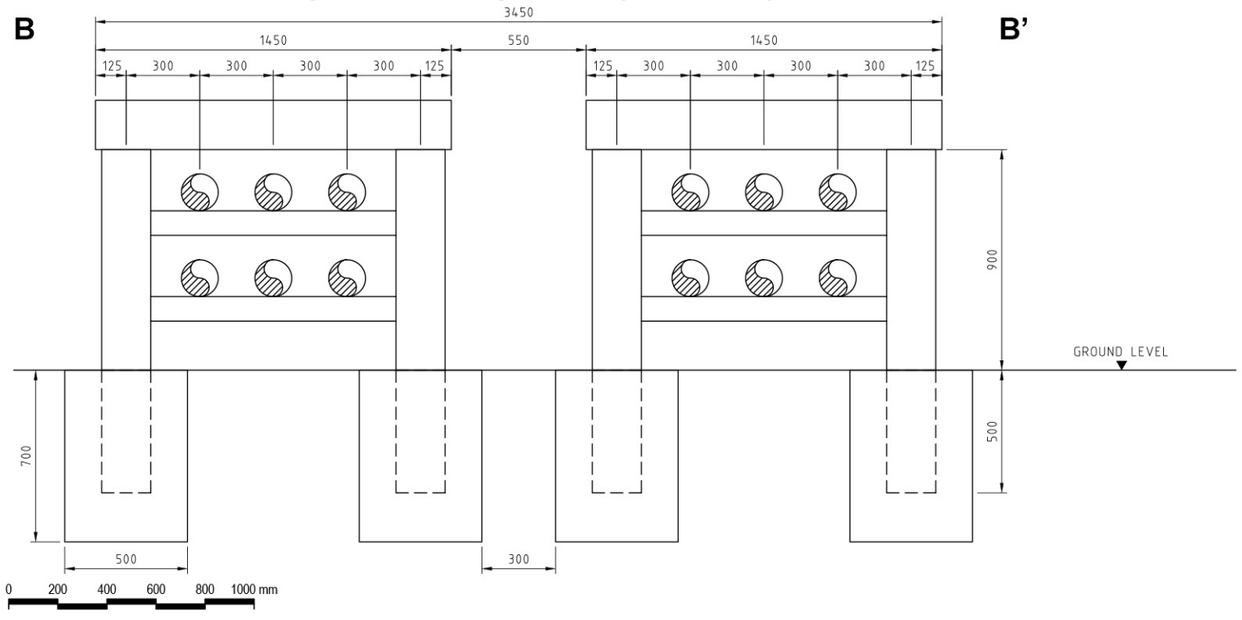
Ubis 雅邦 Limited

Title: Key Surrounding Developments

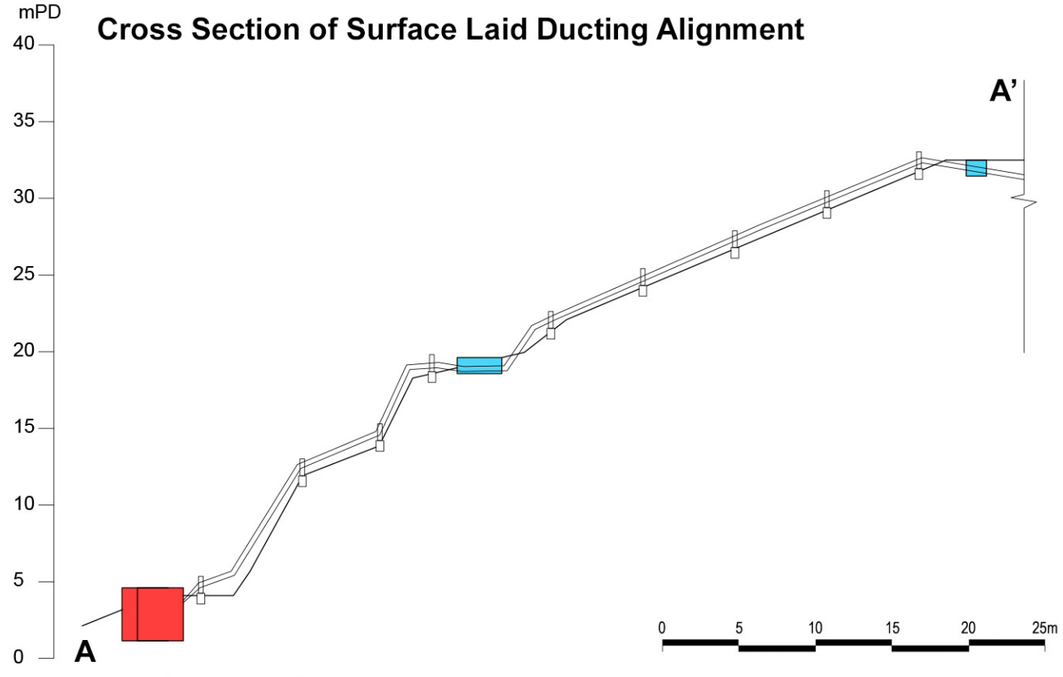
Scale	Date	Figure No.
1:3,500 @ A3	July 2024	**1.4**



Cross Section Through Supporting Racks (Indicative)



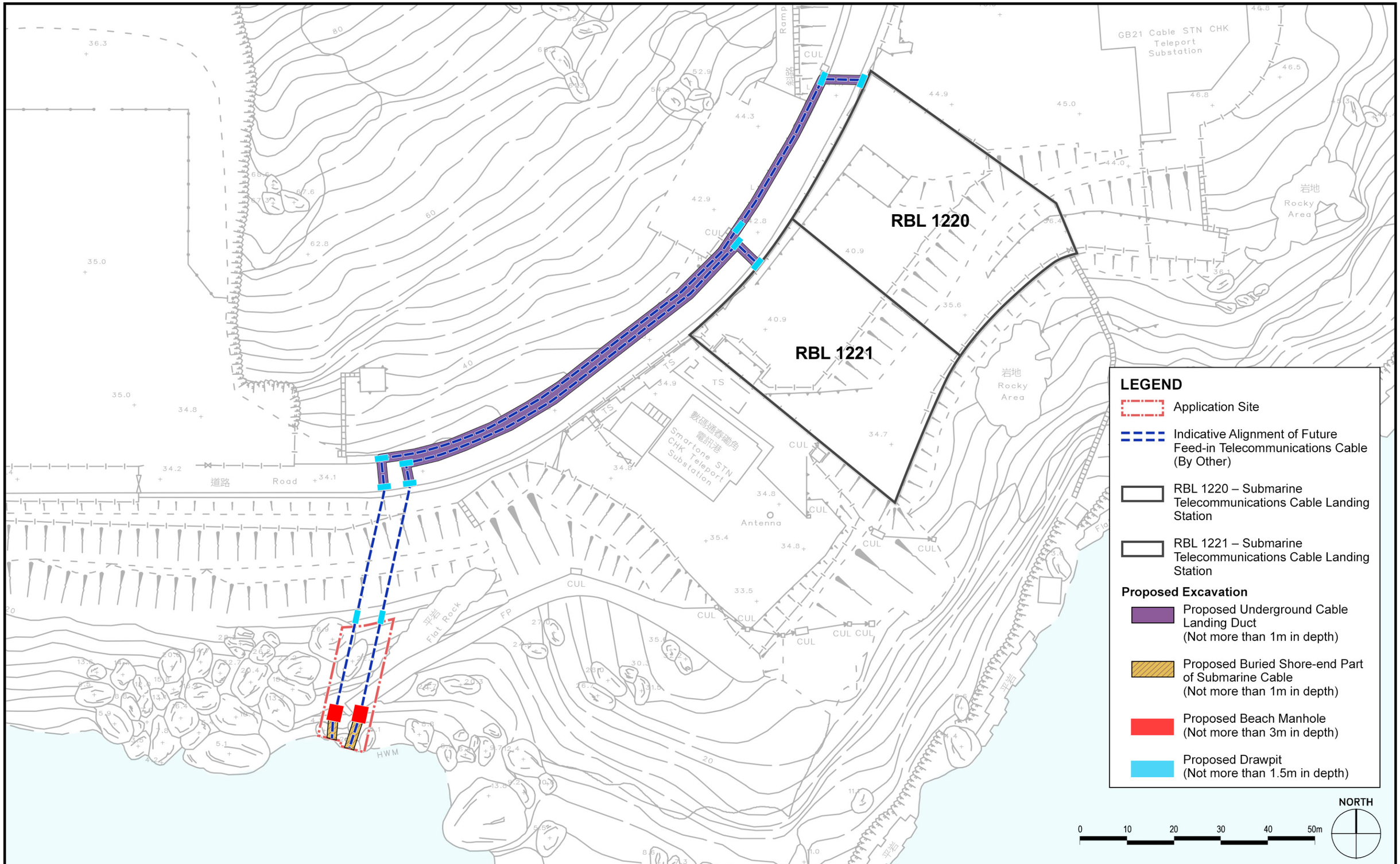
Cross Section of Surface Laid Ducting Alignment



Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Upbis Limited 雅邦

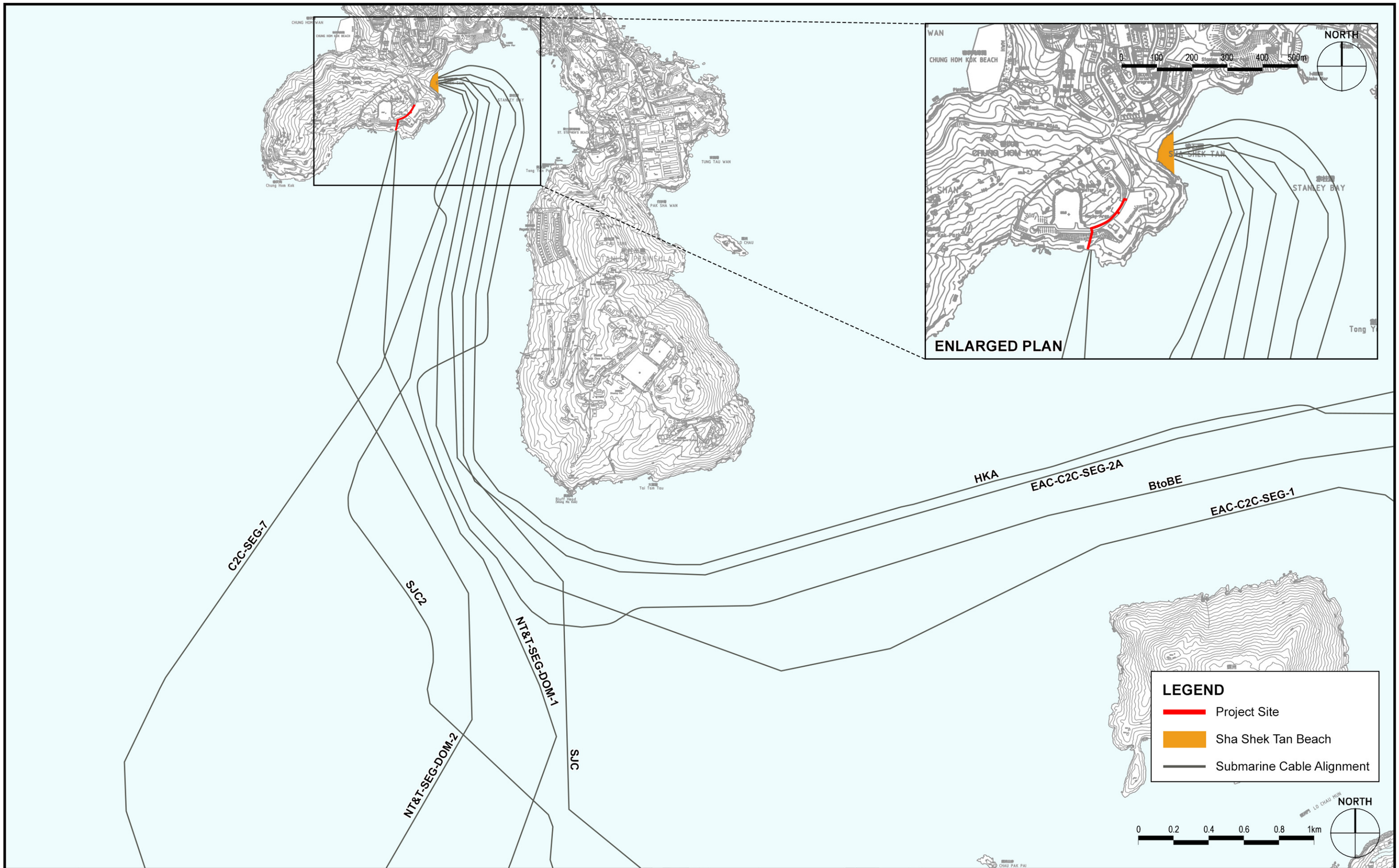
Title			
Longitudinal Profile and Cross-Section of Landfall			
Scale: As Shown @ A3	Date: July 2024	Figure No.: **2.1a**	



Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Title: Extent of Proposed Excavation

Scale	Date	Figure No.
1:750 @ A3	August 2024	**2.1b**



Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

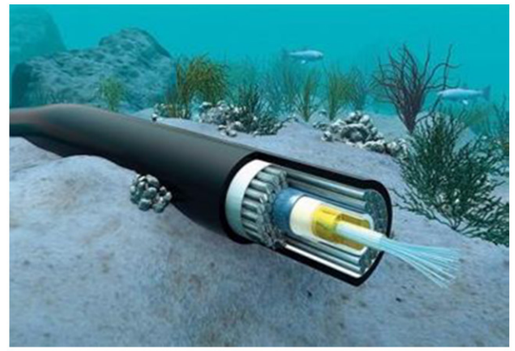
Arbia Limited

Title: Alignment of Existing Submarine Cables Near Project Site

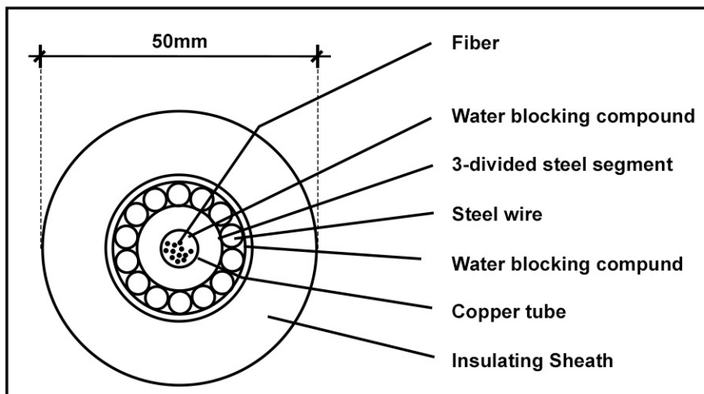
Scale	Date	Figure No.
1:20,000 @ A3	July 2024	2.2

LEGEND

- Proposed Beach Manhole
- Proposed Cable Landing Duct
- Coastal Protection Area Zone
- Extent of Phase 2 Alignment Corridor of Incoming Asia Link Cable
- RBL 1220 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station
- RBL 1221 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station



Typical Appearance of Submarine Cable



Section Through A Typical Light Weight Submarine Cable

Source: OCC-SC530 by OCC Corporation

Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Ubis 雅邦 Limited

Title			
Phase 2 Submarine Cable Works			
Scale: As Shown @ A3	Date: July 2024	Figure No.: **2.3**	

RBL 1220

RBL 1221

GB21 Cable STN CHK Teleport Substation

Smartone STN CHK Teleport Substation

Antenna

Road

Flat Rock

HWM

LEGEND

- Project Site
- Proposed Beach Manhole
- Proposed Drawpit
- Indicative Alignment of Future Feed-in Telecommunications Cable (By Other)
- RBL 1220 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station
- RBL 1221 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station

Future Operational Area in Connection with

- RBL 1220
- RBL 1221

NORTH

0 10 20 30 40 50m

Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Ramboll Limited

Title: Indicative Operational Areas

Scale	Date	Figure No.
1:750 @ A3	July 2024	**2.4**

LEGEND

- Project Site
- Application Site
- Potential Compensatory Planting Area
- Proposed Beach Manhole
- Proposed Drawpit
- Indicative Alignment of Future Feed-in Telecommunications Cable (By Other)
- RBL 1220 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station
- RBL 1221 – Submarine Telecommunications Cable Landing Station
- View from Rocky Shore

Remark: Location of Compensatory Planting is subject to on-site condition.

RBL 1220

RBL 1221

Road

Flat Rock 平岩

HWM

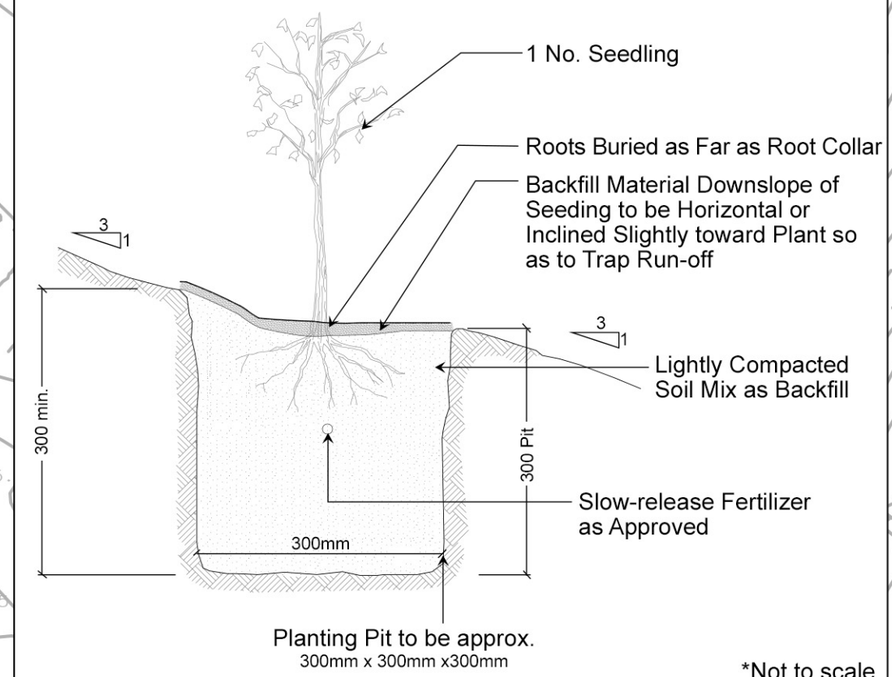
CUL

FP

0 10 20 30m

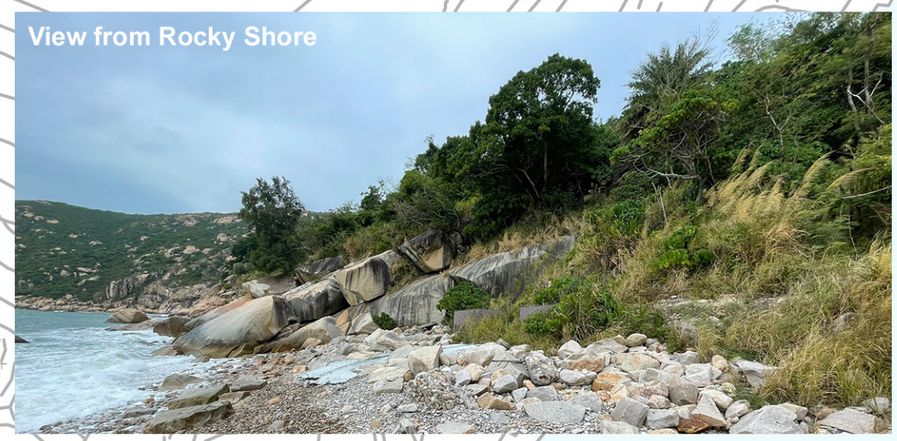
NORTH

Typical Seedling Pit Planting Detail on Slope



*Not to scale

View from Rocky Shore



Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Title: Potential Compensatory Planting Area and Typical Seedling Pit Planting Detail

Scale	Date	Figure No.
1:500 @ A3	July 2024	5.1

15NE-C/C109
15NE-C/C409
15NE-C/C270
15NE-C/C271
15NE-C/C108
15NE-C/F86(1)
15NE-C/F86(3)
15NE-C/F86(2)
15NE-C/F86(3)
15NE-C/F87(4)
15NE-C/F85
15NE-C/F87(3)
15NE-C/F87(2)
15NE-C/C408
15NE-C/F88(1)
OU
15NE-C/F88(3)
15NE-C/F88(2)
15NE-C/F87(1)
CPA
GB21 Cable STN CHK Teleport Substation
數碼通香磡角電訊港 Smartone STN CHK Teleport Substation
岩地 Rocky Area
平岩 Flat Rock
道路 Road
Antenna
HWM

LEGEND

- Project Site (Phase 1 Works)
- Project Site (Phase 2 Works)
- Proposed Beach Manhole
- Proposed Drawpit
- Indicative Alignment of Future Feed-in Telecommunications Cable (By Other)

Constraints:

- Registered Slopes Area

NORTH

0 10 20 30 40 50m

Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Public Utility Installation (Submarine Cable and Landing System) at Chung Hom Kok, Hong Kong Island

Ubis 雅邦 Limited

Title: Site Constraints Plan

Scale	Date	Figure No.
1:750 @ A3	July 2024	5.2

春坎角
Chung Hom Kok

Appendix 1.1
Notes of the OZP for "OU(CSOSC)"

OTHER SPECIFIED USES

Column 1 Uses always permitted	Column 2 Uses that may be permitted with or without conditions on application to the Town Planning Board

For "Composite Signals Organization Station Complex" Only

Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation	Government Use Utility Installation not ancillary to the Specified Use

Planning Intention

This zone is intended primarily to provide land for composite signals organization station complex and its ancillary facilities.

For "Cemetery" Only

Columbarium	Place of Recreation, Sports or Culture
Crematorium	Public Transport Terminus or Station
Funeral Facility	Public Utility Installation
Government Use	Religious Institution
Grave	Shop and Services (Retail Shop Only)
Public Convenience	Utility Installation for Private Project

Planning Intention

This zone is intended primarily to provide land for cemetery and its ancillary facilities.

(Please see next page)

春坎角
Chung Hom Kok

Appendix 1.2
Notes of the OZP for "CPA"

COASTAL PROTECTION AREA

Column 1 Uses always permitted	Column 2 Uses that may be permitted with or without conditions on application to the Town Planning Board
Agricultural Use (other than Plant Nursery) Barbecue Spot Nature Reserve Nature Trail On-Farm Domestic Structure Picnic Area Wild Animals Protection Area	Field Study/Education/Visitor Centre Government Use House (Redevelopment only) Pier Public Convenience Public Utility Installation Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation Tent Camping Ground Utility Installation for Private Project

Planning Intention

This zone is intended to conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment, including attractive geological features, physical landform or area of high landscape, scenic or ecological value, with a minimum of built development. It may also cover areas which serve as natural protection areas sheltering nearby developments against the effects of coastal erosion.

There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted.

Remarks

No redevelopment, including alteration and/or modification of an existing house, shall result in a total redevelopment in excess of the plot ratio, site coverage and height of the house which was in existence on the date of the publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft Stanley Outline Zoning Plan No. S/H19/4.

Appendix 3.1

LC Paper No. CB(1)306/19-20(04) Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting Meeting on 13 January 2020 – Background brief on Hong Kong's external telecommunications connectivity

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)306/19-20(04)

Ref. : CB1/PL/ITB

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Meeting on 13 January 2020

Background brief on
Hong Kong's external telecommunications connectivity

Purpose

This paper provides background information on Hong Kong's external telecommunications connectivity, and a brief account of the concerns expressed by Members on the subject.

Background

2. Hong Kong is a leading digital economy consistently achieving top rankings in digital readiness and Internet access capabilities. All sectors of Hong Kong's telecommunications market have been liberalized with no foreign ownership restrictions. Its telecommunications infrastructure is currently one of the most sophisticated and advanced in the world, providing a wide range of services connecting the city locally and more importantly, to the rest of the world.

3. By utilizing the external networks operated by licensees, external telecommunications services ("ETS") are provided in the market to facilitate (a) communications between one or more points in Hong Kong and one or more points outside Hong Kong; and (b) communications between two or more points outside Hong Kong but routed in transit via Hong Kong.[1] The Communications Authority ("CA") which was established under the Communications Authority Ordinance (Cap. 616) regulates the provision of

[1] Section 4.2 of the Guidelines for Application for Unified Carrier Licence (Issue 12)

both the facilities (such as cables and satellites) and the services (such as International Direct Dialing ("IDD") services) of Hong Kong's ETS in accordance with the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) as well as the relevant regulations and policies.

Facility-based external telecommunications services

4. Hong Kong is a major telecommunications and Internet hub in the region. As at March 2019, there are eight cable landing stations in Hong Kong connecting the city to 11 regional and transcontinental submarine cable systems and 20 overland cables connected to four telecommunications operators in the Mainland of China. The total equipped external capacity exceeded 81 421 Gbps. Landing of five additional submarine cable systems is in the pipeline and they are expected to be ready for service between 2019 and 2021.

5. Hong Kong adopts an open sky policy in regulating the provision of satellite services. Satellite-based telecommunications and television broadcasting services are provided via a multitude of satellites in the region with more than 200 transmitting/receiving satellite antennae in earth stations operated by a number of licensed fixed carriers and broadcasters. As at March 2019, two Hong Kong companies are licensed to operate and provide satellite communications services, namely Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited and APT Satellite Company Limited, operating a total of 12 in-orbit satellites.

6. The provision of external facilities as well as external services operated over external facilities is regulated by a Unified Carrier Licence ("UCL(External)"). As at November 2019, there are 42 UCL(External) licensees providing satellite-based or cable-based fixed external telecommunications service in Hong Kong.

Service-based external telecommunications services

7. An operator who intends to provide external service without establishment, operation and maintenance of external transmission facility does not need a UCL. The operator may consider applying for a Services-Based Operator ("SBO") Licence for Class 3 services (ETS) by which he/she may provide ETS by leasing external transmission facility from other UCL holders. As at November 2019, there are 183 licensed services-based ETS providers in Hong Kong, providing services such as IDD service and international call forwarding service. In the financial year ended on 31 March 2019, the total external telephone traffic from Hong Kong exceeded 3 billion minutes.

Previous discussion

8. The impending introduction of the fifth generation ("5G") mobile services in Hong Kong may affect the operation of ETS. During the briefing by the Administration to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("the Panel") on 10 May 2019 on the assignment of spectrum for the 5G mobile services, Panel members noted that the satellite earth stations in Tai Po and Stanley were using the 3.5 GHz band radio spectrum for the telemetry, tracking and control of satellites in orbit. To ensure that satellite services operated by these satellite earth stations could coexist with future 5G services, CA, based on technical considerations, had set up restriction zones in Tai Po and Stanley to constrain the deployment of mobile base stations operating in the 3.5 GHz band in the area. Members were concerned whether the Administration would consider relocating the telemetry, tracking and control stations away from Tai Po and Stanley. They also queried how the 5G mobile services would be affected in the restriction zones.

9. The Administration informed Panel members that a working group had been formed to explore feasible technical arrangements for utilizing the 3.5 GHz band within the restriction zones. Mobile services could be provided in the area using other frequency bands. As regards the suggestion to relocate the earth stations, the Administration explained that it would keep the option under review but the interest of the licensees of the earth stations would have to be considered.

Council question

10. At the Council meeting of 10 January 2018, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen raised a written question in relation to complaints on billing disputes in relation to ETS as well as other telecommunications services. In particular, Mr CHAN expressed concerns over complaints against telecommunications service operators overcharging service fees and enquired whether the Administration would adopt new regulatory measures to enhance protection of consumers' rights and interests. The Administration explained that, with a view to enhancing the transparency of pricing in respect of chargeable items in the provision of telecommunications services, CA had issued the Code of Practice in Relation to Billing Information and Payment Collection for Telecommunications Services, which provides guidelines on the information to be included in bills and on the arrangements for payment collection. Furthermore, the Office of the Communications Authority had also encouraged the industry to improve and implement the Industry Code of Practice for Telecommunications Service

Contracts, run the Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme and implement the "mobile bill shock" preventive measures, so as to protect the rights and interests of consumers.

11. Details of the question and the Administration's reply are given in the hyperlink in the **Appendix**.

Latest position

12. The Administration will brief the Panel on 13 January 2020 on the overview and updates relating to Hong Kong's external telecommunications connectivity.

Relevant papers

13. A list of the relevant papers is set out in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 January 2020

Appendix

List of relevant papers

Issued by	Meeting date	Paper
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting	10 May 2019	Administration's paper on assignment of spectrum for fifth generation mobile services (LC Paper No. CB(1)1020/18-19(05)) Updated background brief (LC Paper No. CB(1)1020/18-19(06)) Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1290/18-19)
Council	10 January 2018	Question No. 18 raise by Hon CHAN Chi-chuen Billing of telecommunications services

Appendix 3.2

LC Paper No. CB(1)747/2022(03) 2022 Policy Address Policy Measures Relating to Telecommunications and Broadcasting (Commerce and Economic Development Bureau)

For discussion
on 14 November 2022

2022 Policy Address
Policy Measures Relating to
Telecommunications and Broadcasting
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

This paper aims to brief Members on the relevant policy measures and progress relating to the work on telecommunications and broadcasting in the 2022 Policy Address. The Government will continue to fully leverage on Hong Kong's unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems" and keep pace with the times to proactively facilitate the development of telecommunications and broadcasting services. We will also continue to assist the communications industry to scale new heights and consolidate Hong Kong's status as a regional communications hub.

Telecommunications

Promoting the Development of the Fifth Generation Mobile Communications (5G) in Hong Kong

2. With the characteristics of high speed, high capacity, high reliability, massive connectivity and low latency communications, 5G technology not only revolutionises users' experience of mobile communications services, but also offers vast potentials for various innovative commercial services and smart city applications in Hong Kong.

3. Mobile network operators (MNOs) in Hong Kong launched commercial 5G services in April 2020. 5G services have already covered more than 90% of the population, with networks covering major locations in the urban areas and all MTR lines of 98 stations. The coverage of 5G networks in core business districts has even reached 99%. As at June 2022, there are approximately 3.9 million of 5G users, amounting to half of the total population. Hong Kong ranks third[1] globally in terms of 5G coverage according to a recent report published by an international survey organisation. The Government will continue to implement a series of

[1] Second only to Puerto Rico and South Korea.

measures to facilitate further expansion of 5G networks and services.

Strengthening 5G Infrastructure

4. To promote smart city development, the Government is proactively enhancing the 5G network coverage in Hong Kong. To further improve network coverage in specific locations, particularly new development and remote areas, we plan to amend the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) and relevant guidelines to ensure that appropriate space is made available in new buildings for installation of mobile communications facilities by telecommunications operators, with a view to enhancing coverage of 5G networks in preparation for future development of more advanced mobile communications technology. The Government will soon discuss with the trade and devise feasible proposals, and aim to complete public consultation and introduce the proposed amendment bill to the Legislative Council in 2023.

Facilitating the Installation of Radio Base Stations (RBS) by MNOs

5. The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) will continue to assist MNOs in installing RBS. Currently, OFCA has approved over 10 000 applications from MNOs for installing 5G RBS. To facilitate the continuous enhancement of the 5G network coverage, we launched a pilot scheme in 2019 to open up about 1 000 suitable government premises for MNOs to install 5G RBS at a nominal rent ($1 per year) through streamlined application procedure. In January this year, about 500 additional government premises were made available under a "demand-led" model for MNOs to install 5G RBS at a nominal rent ($1 per year) through a streamlined application process. Moreover, we have established a mechanism to facilitate the installation of RBS at sheltered bus stops, public payphone kiosks and smart lamp-posts.

6. Notwithstanding the measures to facilitate the installation of RBS by MNOs, we are also mindful of public concern over radiation safety. OFCA will continue to vet the applications for installing RBS strictly in accordance with the non-ionizing radiation safety standard[2] recognised by

[2] The non-ionizing radiation safety limits set by the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

the World Health Organization. In short, OFCA will ensure that the total radiation level complies with the radiation safety standard before approving the applications. Besides, OFCA will proactively initiate on-site measurement of radiation level and conduct such measurement in relevant premises at the request of the members of the public. Over the past three years, OFCA has conducted such measurement for over 1 000 times on public members' requests on radiation level in residential premises throughout the territory, and performed random checks on the radiation level of more than 7 600 RBS. No case has been found to have exceeded the radiation safety standard so far. OFCA will continue to step up publicity and education on radiation safety of RBS to alleviate unwarranted public anxiety.

Spectrum Supply

7. More than 2 100 MHz of spectrum in different frequency bands was assigned to the market between 2019 and 2022 under market mechanism to enable the early launch of 5G services by MNOs and meet the future demand of the telecommunications market for supporting the continuous development of mobile telecommunications services in Hong Kong. At present, major MNOs have been provided with sufficient spectrum for launching various 5G services one after another. We will continue to monitor technology and market developments in order to prepare for the future spectrum supply and make available more suitable spectrum timely for the development of 5G and other innovative services as appropriate.

Encouraging Wider Application of 5G Technology

8. The Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G (the Scheme) was rolled out in May 2020 under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund. The Scheme has been well received and aims to encourage early deployment of 5G technology to improve operational efficiency and service quality. We have increased the total funding for subsidy under the Scheme to $100 million and extended the application period to end-December 2022. The Scheme subsidises 50% of the costs for projects deploying 5G technology, subject to a cap of $500,000. As at October 2022, over 150 applications have been approved, covering

innovative applications in various sectors such as remote medical training and consultation, construction site safety monitoring system, 4K/8K live broadcast of musical performance, 3D building information modelling technology and robots for real-time online sale and customer services. These projects have demonstrated the wide application of 5G technology.

9. We will continue to work with different institutions (such as the Hong Kong Science Park, Cyberport, the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute and the Hong Kong Productivity Council) as well as the industries to promote 5G technology. We will also facilitate early introduction and application of 5G technology by government departments and public bodies with a view to developing Hong Kong into a smart city and improving the life quality of our citizens.

Extending Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas

10. The Government has been monitoring the provision of broadband services in remote villages. In general, the progress of extending telecommunications network coverage to remote villages by fixed network operators (FNOs) was slower due to higher costs of network rollout and a smaller number of subscribers. Therefore, the Government launched the Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas in 2018 with a view to encouraging FNOs through provision of financial incentives to extend fibre-based networks to a total of 235 villages in remote areas, providing 110 000 villagers with higher Internet access speed and more stable broadband services. Subsidised FNOs are taking forward the network extension works in an orderly manner. Fibre-based networks have already reached 88 villages, providing broadband services with a speed ranging from 200 Mbps to 2 Gbps. It is expected that around 120 villages will be covered by the end of this year.

11. In addition, subsidised FNOs are required under the Scheme to roll out three submarine cables running respectively from Hong Kong Island to Lamma Island, from Lantau Island to Cheung Chau and from Lantau Island to Peng Chau, as well as fibre-based lead-in connections to villages covered by the Scheme on Lamma Island, Cheung Chau and Peng Chau. The related works, which are expected to be completed by the end

of this year, will further extend the backbone infrastructure for telecommunications (including 5G services) to cater for Hong Kong's smart city development.

Providing Land for Construction of External Telecommunications Facilities

12. As a regional telecommunications hub with 40 external FNOs operating external telecommunications facilities, Hong Kong is well equipped with sound and excellent external telecommunications facilities, including well-established communications optical fibre cables and satellite systems[3]. We have reserved land lots at the Chung Hom Kok Teleport for external telecommunications service facilities with a view to further enhancing the overall capacity and diversion capability of Hong Kong's external communications networks to accommodate the future development needs of the communications and other sectors. The Lands Department granted two land lots to two MNOs in March and August 2022 respectively for construction of external telecommunications facilities.

Implementation of Real-name Registration Programme for Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) Cards

13. We have implemented the Real-name Registration Programme for SIM Cards (RNR Programme) through enactment of the Telecommunications (Registration of SIM Cards) Regulation (the Regulation) under the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106). The RNR Programme aims to plug the loophole arising from the anonymous nature of pre-paid SIM (PPS) cards and support law enforcement agencies in combating more effectively serious crimes involving the use of such SIM cards (including phone scams), thereby enabling the Government to discharge the responsibility of safeguarding law and order.

14. Starting from 1 March this year, all new PPS cards would require the completion of real-name registration before service activation. Those PPS cards issued before this date would require real-name registration on or before 23 February 2023, or they can no longer be used after the

[3] Currently, there are 12 external submarine optical fibre cable systems, 23 overland optical fibre cables, 9 communications satellites and more than 180 satellite earth station antennas in Hong Kong, which are sufficient for meeting Hong Kong's medium- to long-term external telecommunications demand.

deadline. Since the commencement of the Regulation, telecommunications operators have implemented real-name registration for their PPS cards in accordance with the Regulation and the process has been smooth thus far. We will continue to maintain close liaison with telecommunications operators, and OFCA will also continue to undertake a series of monitoring and enforcement actions, including checking of telecommunications operators' electronic registration systems as well as more surveillance inspections in the market so as to ensure the effective implementation of the RNR Programme.

15. We have rolled out a series of publicity measures since February this year including Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), posters, pamphlets, a thematic website, advertisements and community talks to enhance promotion of the RNR Programme. Relevant publicity materials have also been translated into various languages to cater for the needs of specific groups (such as foreign domestic helpers and ethnic minorities). We have also maintained close liaison with various telecommunications operators to appeal for their support to complement the Government's publicity efforts and remind their PPS card users to complete real-name registration as early as possible.

16. In addition, we have also actively explored collaboration with various government departments, social welfare agencies and telecommunications operators in introducing a series of assistance measures to encourage PPS card users who have not yet completed real-name registration to do so through multiple channels and methods as early as possible. In addition to the real-name registration service counters at 18 designated post offices established since30 May this year across districts to provide free registration service[4], the Government has been in discussion with different social welfare agencies on related assistance measures including helping needy groups, especially the elderly, in completing real-name registration. OFCA will continue to work with those social welfare agencies and relevant district organisations to proactively provide support for their service recipients. An enquiry hotline (2961 6699) has also been set up to answer public enquiries about real-name registration.

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[4] The support service has so far assisted more than 1 000 members of the public in completing real-name registration.

17. Besides the above, we have been maintaining regular liaison with telecommunications operators to explore ways to encourage PPS card users to complete real-name registration before the statutory deadline, including incentives offered by telecommunications operators (e.g. extra free data usage) to attract PPS card users to register early. Telecommunications operators have responded to our appeal positively and have been supportive to our publicity efforts (e.g. distributing promotional materials at retail outlets). They have also provided more registration channels (such as retail outlets or customer service hotlines) as far as practicable to assist users in completing real-name registration. Furthermore, they have sent multiple reminder SMS messages to PPS card users who are required to complete real-name registration. These messages have contained information about the issuing telecommunications operators of the PPS cards and registration channels to facilitate users' registration.

18. We will closely monitor the registration situation and step up support services accordingly so as to help PPS card users in need to complete real-name registration as soon as possible ahead of the deadline on 23 February next year.

Collaborating with the Police and Telecommunications Operators to Combat Phone Scams

19. In recent years, OFCA has been committed to combating scam calls jointly with law enforcement agencies through a multi-pronged approach so as to safeguard the integrity of telecommunications services and the security of communications networks.

20. To help members of the public identify suspicious phone calls originating from outside Hong Kong, OFCA has since August 2015 required telecommunications operators to insert a "+" sign for all incoming calls originating from outside Hong Kong in the calling number display (CND) of mobile phones. When an incoming call originating from outside Hong Kong is masqueraded as a local Hong Kong number, a "+" sign will be displayed before the Hong Kong area code "852" on the CND so as to enable the public to identify from the CND that the incoming call is originated from outside Hong Kong and hence one should stay vigilant in answering the call.

21. In view of the increasingly rampant scam calls in recent months, OFCA has convened a meeting in early September this year with the Police and major telecommunications operators to discuss how to step up efforts in combating scam calls on telecommunications front. A dedicated working group has then been set up for joint exploration and implementation of feasible technical measures. With OFCA's co-ordination, major operators are finalising the details of the related measures in stepping up their network management, and assisting in blocking suspicious calls based on the information provided by the Police. OFCA will continue to convene regular meetings of the dedicated working group to co-ordinate with the Police and major operators and explore the feasibility of various measures as well as to follow up on the implementation of related measures.

22. OFCA will also continue to co-operate with the Police and telecommunications operators to conduct public education and publicity through different channels, such as issuing press releases and consumer alerts, broadcasting APIs on television channels and organising roving exhibitions, community talks and various consumer education programmes with a view to disseminating anti-deception messages widely to all members of public.

Broadcasting

23. As a regional broadcasting hub, Hong Kong has a vibrant broadcasting industry. The Government has been striving to assist the industry in introducing innovative broadcasting services and widening programme choices and diversity by adopting a facilitating and pro-competition policy objective. Besides, the current-term Government attaches particular importance to national education and youth development. We will encourage local television and sound broadcasters to broadcast more programmes on youth and national development through various means so as to foster youth development and enhance the public's sense of national identity.

Mid-term Review of Free Television and Sound Broadcasting Licences

24. There are currently in Hong Kong three domestic free television

programme service licensees (namely Fantastic Television Limited, HK Television Entertainment Company Limited and Television Broadcasts Limited) and two sound broadcasting licensees (namely Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Limited and Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited). These licences are valid for 12 years and shall be subject to a mid-term review by the Chief Executive in Council halfway through the licence period (i.e. after six years).

25. The Communications Authority (CA) has commenced a mid-year review of the abovementioned licences since September last year, including examining the licensees' performance during the first six years of their respective licence periods, collecting views from the industry and the public, reviewing the licensees' investment commitments in the coming six years and discussing with them amendments to the prevailing licence conditions and service requirements with a view to enhancing the broadcasting services to be delivered for the remaining period of the licences. The CA will complete the review and submit recommendations to the Government as soon as possible.

Radio Television Hong Kong

26. Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) continues to fully fulfil the public purposes and mission under the Charter of RTHK (the Charter). On one hand, it strives to strengthen social cohesion and public understanding (especially young people) of our society and country through a diverse range of programmes and channels. On the other hand, it will enhance the cross-media multi-language broadcasting to keep expatriates in Hong Kong as well as people in the Mainland and overseas apprised of the latest developments and appeal of Hong Kong in various fields (e.g. finance and economics, investments, innovation and technology, culture and arts, education and daily living) as a way to "tell good stories of Hong Kong and good stories of China".

27. In addition, RTHK has been actively following up on the recommendations of the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report[5] released on 19 February 2021. In general,

[5] The report covers mechanisms for editorial management, complaints handling, performance measurement and evaluation, workforce management, financial management, stores and procurement, as well as information technology management.

all major recommendations have been implemented. For instance, a new editorial management mechanism was introduced in March last year, under which an editorial committee comprising the Director of Broadcasting and the senior management of RTHK was set up. The Editorial Policies and Processes of Radio Television Hong Kong was promulgated in September last year to elaborate on RTHK's editorial policies and principles. The enhanced mechanism for complaints handling was also implemented in September last year to establish specific procedures for handling programme-related complaints, so as to address public opinions more fully. RTHK will continue to strive for excellence in different aspects in order to better and thoroughly implement the public purposes and mission under the Charter.

28. In order to strengthen the sense of belonging to our country and Hong Kong and to reinforce social cohesion among the general public, RTHK will position RTHK TV 32 as a "Live Information Channel" to enhance the dissemination and transparency of government information and provide the public with the most comprehensive and accurate information about the Government and the community (including anti-epidemic information). For example, "Hong Kong United", an information programme broadcast on RTHK TV 32 in evenings from Mondays to Fridays, provides the public with the latest information about our city on all fronts and introduces new initiatives and major tasks of various government departments. The upcoming short video programme "Hong Kong Info Express" (enhanced version) will help the public understand social issues with a "fast, simple and accurate" approach.

29. To deepen the knowledge of our country and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" of the community and to nurture their affection for our country, RTHK will continue to provide more programmes on important topics such as the Constitution, the Basic Law, national security education and the Greater Bay Area. For example, radio and television programmes "The National Security Law Chronicles II" and "The 20th National Congress of the CPC: An Introduction" present an in-depth and comprehensible introduction of the background and work of the National Congress of the Communist Party of China to enable the public to have a better understanding of the national identity and national establishment. In response to the recent recruitment of payload

specialists in Hong Kong and Macao, RTHK will broadcast programmes about China's aerospace development and is preparing in full swing special programmes on the participation of Hong Kong scientific researchers in the astronautical endeavours of our country. At the same time, RTHK will continue to strengthen the partnership with the China Media Group so that more Mainland programmes/programme channels can be broadcast on RTHK, with a view to cultivating patriotic sentiments of the public. In this regard, RTHK started to relay "CGTN Documentary Television Channel" and "Radio the Greater Bay" of the China Media Group from July this year. RTHK will strengthen its broadcast network to expand the coverage of "Radio the Greater Bay" gradually. It will also enhance its broadcast service quality by various advanced broadcast technologies.

30. Moreover, RTHK has been sparing no effort in promoting sports development. Following the successful relay of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games early this year, RTHK has relayed many major international and local sports events (e.g. the East Asian Football Federation E-1 Football Championship 2022, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League 2022, the AFC Cup 2022, the AFC U20 Asian Cup, the World Team Table Tennis Championships 2022 as well as various local and inter-school sports events). These programmes have enabled Hong Kong audience to witness the brilliant and charismatic performances of the athletes of Hong Kong and our country and were well received. RTHK will explore broadcasting more major international sports events to sustain the sports mania in the community.

31. Promoting social inclusion is another on-going mission of RTHK and a new series of related television programmes have been produced. For example, "A Wall-less World – Chasing Our Dreams" presented in the form of a documentary the interviews with "dream pursuers" of different disabilities, revealing their thoughts in the process. Another documentary series "Season 2 of Sign Language Learning Class" brought to the audience real-life stories about hearing impaired and other people through featured interviews which aimed to build a caring, inclusive and diversified society.

32. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

33. The 2022 Policy Address also details other proposals on

commerce and industry as well as trade development. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau have briefed other Panels of the Legislative Council (including the Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology Panel and Economic Development Panel) on these proposals, which are not repeated here.

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
November 2022

春坎角
Chung Hom Kok

Appendix 3.3
Basic Schematic Details

Basic Details and Schematic Design of the Beach Manholes and Associated Cable Landing Ducts

1. Introduction

1.1. The proposed installation encompasses excavation works along an unnamed access road leading towards Chung Hom Kok Road, stretching from the western boundary of Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 where two cable landing stations are under development by the Applicant of the planning application. The proposed installation will emerge above ground at the top of the slope below the access road to reach the southern shoreline of Chung Hom Kok via surface mounted ducting. **Table 1** below sets out the basic details of the proposed works.

Table 1: Basic Details of the Proposed Beach Manholes and Associated Cable Landings Ducts

Item	Proposed Works	Description
1	Overall Configuration of the Proposed Installation	The proposed installation comprises the following major components: • 2 nos. of Beach Manholes semi-buried above the tidal high-water mark to receive future feed-in submarine telecommunications cables • 11 nos. of Intermediate Drawpits for maintenance purpose • A pair of 6-way (2x3 ways) steel conduits running in parallel (buried along the access road and surface mounted on slope) to connect the submarine Cable Landing Station at Lots RBL No. 1220 and 1221 with the respective Beach Manholes
2	Beach Manhole	Semi-buried concrete structure: • Exterior dimensions of 3.5m (L) x 3.0m (W) x 3.0m (H) • Junction boxes will be mounted on the interior walls of the Beach Manholes • For each Beach Manhole, there will be 4 nos. openings with a diameter of 150mm for incoming cables, and 6 nos. openings with a diameter of 100mm for outgoing cables • One access opening on the top slab of each Beach Manhole is proposed
3	Ducting	• 12 nos. of 100mm ID uPVC conduits buried underground along the access road • 12 nos. of 100mm ID surface mounted galvanised steel conduits to be laid above ground on slope, supported by steel rack Typical length of approximately 6m
4	Supporting Rack	Galvanised steel rack of which height (approximately 900mm to 1200mm) and location vary to suit the topography and geological profile for supports

2. Schematic Arrangement

2.1. The proposed installation comprises a pair of ducting running in parallel with each other, each comprising a 6-way conduit and associated drawpits, which will be laid and connected to the respective beach manhole. Figure 1 below shows the schematic arrangement of the proposed installation which follows the shortest length from the landfall to the cable landing stations along a routing that seeks to avoid conflict with existing trees.

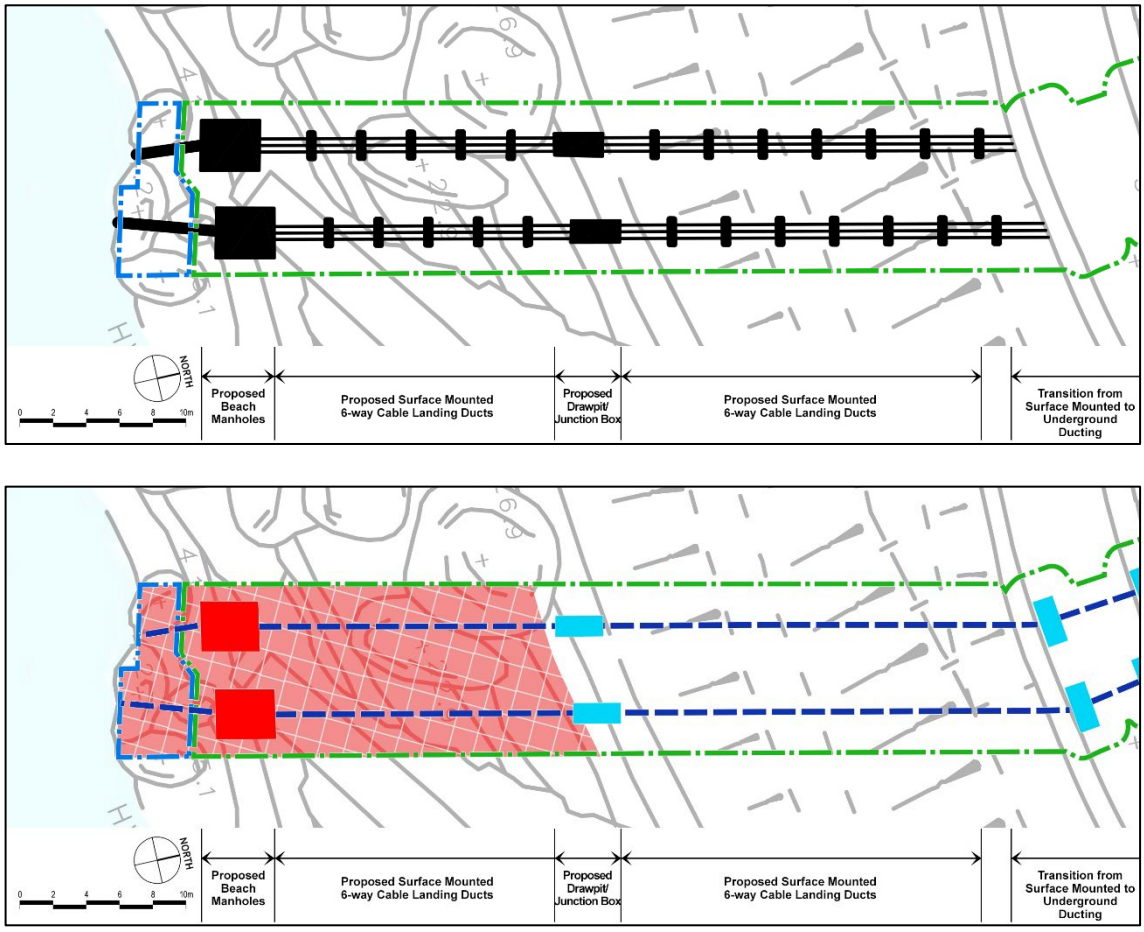

Figure 1: Schematic Arrangement of the Proposed Installation

2.2. The proposed ducting on slope will be surface-mounted and supported by steel racks at typically 6m interval (subject to local adjustments). Location of the steel racks will be adjusted on site to suit the topography, geological profile for supports and/or to resolve conflict with existing trees where appropriate and practical. To this end, horizontal curvature of the alignment may be required to cope with the existing topography for it to integrate well into the environs.

2.3. A cable landing facility in the vicinity at Sha Shek Tan beach which is broadly similar to the proposed installation is shown on **Figure 2** below for reference. Frequent access to the proposed ducting for maintenance is not anticipated. The surface mounted ducting, which has a limited footprint and is proposed to be treated chromatically (so as to minimise their visual prominence) will be covered by vegetation upon completion, and therefore will not give rise to visual intrusion.

Figure 2: Cable Landing Facility at San Shek Wan Comprising Beach Manholes (Top) and Cable Landing Ducts on Slope (Bottom)[1]

[1] Environmental Protection Department. (2019). Project Profile South East Asia – Japan 2 Cable System – Hong Kong Segment (SJC2-HK) – Chung Hom Kok. Available at: https://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/register/profile/latest/dir269/dir269.pdf