

1 What lies beneath? - a decade of underground construction in Hong
2 Kong

3 Koor, N.P.

4 Centre for Applied Geology - University of Portsmouth

5 Burnaby Building, Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, PO1 3QL, UK

6 Correspondence: nick.koor@port.ac.uk

7

8 Over the past decade Hong Kong has seen a rapid expansion in the use of underground
9 space for Civil Engineering infrastructure projects (Fig 1). Forty-eight kilometres of rail tunnel
10 has been or is in the process of being constructed with associated shafts (Fig. 2) for access
11 and ventilation and mined caverns for stations (Fig. 3). The catalyst for this expansion may
12 be due to the integration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region with China which
13 commenced in 1997 (with the handing back of Hong Kong and the New Territories to China)
14 and has accelerated over the last decade in line with the global aspirations of China. This
15 integration has been the catalyst for: three new major road border crossing projects (Deep
16 Bay Link, Hong Kong to Macau Bridge and, Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai crossing) and;
17 connection into the mainland express rail link (Hong Kong High Speed Rail Project) (Fig. 1).
18 The population has also risen over this period from c.6.9M in 2005 to c.7.3M in 2016
19 ([tradingeconomics](#) 2016) fuelling in part the expansion of mass transit rail systems: the
20 Kowloon Southern Link (3 km – complete); the West Island Line (3km - complete); Shatin to
21 Central Link (17km - under construction); the South Island Line East (7km - under
22 construction); the Kwun Tong line extension (3km - under construction) and the Hong Kong
23 Express Rail Link (26km - under construction) (Fig. 1). Pressure on valuable land resources
24 has seen the emergence of the innovative use of underground space for: explosives
25 magazines; sewage treatment systems, service reservoirs (Fig. 4); urban drainage and flood

26 protection projects (Fig. 5) and, new road networks such as the Central - Wan Chai Bypass
27 (Fig. 6).

28

29 This paper presents a photographic record of some of the major underground projects
30 constructed between 2006 and 2016. This record has been collected during student field
31 study tours run by the University of Portsmouth for both undergraduate and post graduate
32 students of Engineering Geology and Geotechnics and Engineering Geology degrees
33 respectively. A brief overview of the relevant facts regarding Hong Kong climate, topography
34 and geology are presented. This is followed by a review of typical construction methods
35 used to create underground space in Hong Kong. Pertinent geological context is given in the
36 text or as supplementary data to the photographs presented.

37

38 **Background**

39 Hong Kong (Fig. 1) is a small (c. 1100km²) ex-British colony on the southern coast of
40 Mainland China. Its landmass consists Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories
41 plus a number of small to large islands. It has a subtropical climate with dry cool winters
42 associated with a northerly monsoon (October to April) which brings dry cold air from
43 northern China, and hot wet summers associated with a southerly monsoon (May to
44 September) which brings moist warm air from the South China Sea. Average rainfall in the
45 summer months is c.1200mm at sea level to c.3000mm at Tai Mo Shan which has an
46 elevation of +960m above sea level (Chau, Sze, Fung, Wong, Fong, & Chan, 2004).). Most
47 rain falls as intense events associated with typhoons which originate in the South China Sea.

48

49 The terrain is predominantly (c.70%) mountainous consisting of steep (c.25 - 36 degree)
50 slopes often heavily vegetated. The urban areas are densely populated with the majority
51 living in high rise apartment blocks which abut the steep terrain often cutting into the steep
52 slopes to form building platforms (Fig. 7).

53

54 The geology of Hong Kong comprises a suite of Mesozoic acidic igneous rocks (Fig. 8), the
55 majority of which (c. 70%) are fine to coarse grained vitric and lithic tuffs often exhibiting a
56 compaction or eutaxitic fabric. The tuffs mantle cores of coarse to fine grained granites,
57 diorites and quartz monzonite. Quartzitic rhyolite and basalt dykes intrude and cross-cut the
58 tuff and granite. Major northwest - southeast and northeast - southwest faults dissect the
59 solid geology and control to some extent the topographic relief and the joint orientations
60 within the country rock (Sewell, Campbell, Fletcher, Lai and Kirk, 2000). Minor outcrops of
61 Cretaceous to Tertiary and Devonian to Permian sedimentary rocks can be found in the
62 northern parts on the New Territories (Fig. 8).

63

64 Intense chemical weathering transforms the extremely strong to strong igneous rocks when
65 fresh to an engineering soil when completely decomposed. Weathering can be over 100m
66 deep (especially when associated with faulting) and produces complex weathering profiles
67 from the classic core stone models to weak and possibly sheared seams surrounded by
68 strong fresh rock . The weathering profiles are notoriously difficult to predict and model and
69 are associated with highly complex hydrogeological regimes. Weathering products are
70 principally kaolinite and halloysite from feldspars which are often mobilised in the weathering
71 profiles either in solution or as a colloid and redeposited at weathering fronts or
72 disseminated through the weathered rock (material and mass).

73

74 Quaternary superficial deposits mapped as Debris Flow Deposits or Colluvium by the Hong
75 Kong Geological Survey are commonly encountered overlying the weathered rock mantle
76 and often form the focus for perched water tables and zones of enhanced groundwater flow.
77 It is common to encounter internal erosion pipes at the interface between the saprolite and
78 overlying colluvium. These pipes make the prediction of hydraulic conductivity difficult and
79 can range in size from a 1-2mm to well over 1m in diameter. Other Quaternary onshore

80 deposits are predominantly Alluvium associated with low lying areas and fluvial systems and
81 can sometimes contain a high organic content. Offshore are significant thicknesses of
82 Quaternary alluvium overlain by normally consolidated recent marine clay and silt (Fyfe,
83 Shaw, Campbell, Lai and Kirk, 2000). The Anthropocene is represented by reclamation Fill
84 which fringes the coastline particularly in Kowloon and the Central District of Hong Kong
85 Island (Fig. 8). The reclamation materials range from non-engineered Victorian age
86 heterogeneous Fill to fully engineered sand Fill which is placed on either a dredged or partly
87 dredged foundation. Fill bodies are also present on land forming building platforms, fill
88 slopes and behind retaining structures

89

90 It is the combination of steep terrain, intense rainfall events, urban encroachment, the
91 complex underlying geology, and the chemical weathering which create significant ground
92 engineering challenges for engineering geologists, geotechnical engineers and
93 hydrogeologists working on construction projects in Hong Kong.

94

95 **Underground Space**

96 The creation of underground space in Hong Kong is in general relatively straight forward as
97 the strength of unweathered rock is high and discontinuities are often tight and rough.
98 Complications however do arise within the complex weathered zones within a rock mass
99 which are difficult to model and predict or where the underground space intersects the
100 Quaternary and Anthropocene. In a congested urban setting such as Hong Kong, this
101 interaction can lead to significant engineering problems associated mainly with ground
102 movements which can affect existing structures. The ground movements are caused by
103 either loss of ground during construction, basement wall deformation and, fluctuations in the
104 groundwater table during dewatering or drawdown. This has led to an increasing use of the
105 observational approach utilising geotechnical monitoring instrumentation, both traditional
106 surveying techniques and more advanced real time systems.

107

108 Underground space in Hong Kong may be considered in three broad categories based
109 primarily on the method of construction as follows: tunnels and caverns; basements and
110 station box; and vertical shafts.

111

112 Tunnels are typically constructed using drill and blast methods where the quality of rock is
113 good (Fig. 9) or by tunnel boring machine (TBM) in mixed ground conditions or where the
114 length of tunnel justifies the large capital cost associated with the design and construction of
115 the TBM (Fig. 5). Alternatively where shallow they are constructed using the cut and cover
116 method (Fig. 6). Cavern construction in Hong Kong started in the early 1980's, primarily for
117 water supply and metro station construction (Malone, 1996). This practice has continued
118 with cavern stations for deep metro lines being created using mining techniques. Three
119 government cavern projects were completed in the 1990's to house sewage treatment plant,
120 explosives depot and, a waste transfer system. In 2009 the Hong Kong Government
121 published the Enhanced Use of Underground Space in Hong Kong Feasibility Study (Arup,
122 2011) which recommended that the Hong Kong SAR Government formulates a strategy to
123 systematically relocate existing government facilities underground.

124

125 Basements and shallow station boxes are normally built bottom-up using pipe piles and steel
126 struts as temporary support (Fig. 10). Recently diaphragm walls have become more popular
127 as basement wall construction and hybrid forms of top down/bottom up construction have
128 been used.

129

130 Shafts are normally mined using either temporary pipe pile wall as support (Fig. 2) or
131 diaphragm walls (Fig. 11) for the deeper shafts with a high groundwater table through
132 reclamation fill.

133

134 Metro station boxes are either caverns mined from deep tunnels (Fig. 3) or using bottom-up
135 forms of construction where they are relatively shallow (Fig. 12). Where space permits
136 station boxes are constructed in open cut but this is rare (Fig. 13).

137

138 **Drill and blast tunnels and caverns**

139 There are many kilometres of tunnel in Hong Kong constructed using the drill and blast
140 method and therefore there is an extensive knowledge base for this method of construction.

141 The draw in drill and blast tunnels in good quality rock can be up to 5.2m per blast with
142 commonly two blast cycles in a 24hr period. Temporary tunnel support in good quality rock
143 will normally be a combination of rock bolts with shotcrete, either mesh of fibre reinforced
144 (Fig. 14), with cast in situ concrete permanent lining for transportation tunnels and commonly
145 a shotcrete permanent lining for utility tunnels. At tunnel portals it is common to encounter
146 circa 10's of meters of poor quality weathered rock which require special support. Pre-
147 grouting followed by spile installation is often necessary to commence tunnelling in
148 conjunction with steel arch and fibre reinforced shotcrete as temporary support (Fig. 15).

149 Commonly advance rates at portals is of the order of circa 1m per day. Away from
150 weathered zones and faults the rock mass quality is generally good with discontinuities
151 being rough, tight and generally dry. Close to weathering fronts kaolin infills along
152 discontinuities are common with associated affects on strength and can form the locii for
153 kinematic failure in the roof or sidewalls of a tunnel. Systematic rock bolting in predetermined
154 patters as primary temporary support is common in these conditions. An example of a typical
155 rock tunnelling project are the running tunnels for the High Speed Rail Link. These are
156 typically 13.5 diameter horse shoe tunnels 26km long and have a cast in situ reinforced
157 waterproofed permanent lining (Fig.16). A dual boom jumbo rig was used to drill probe holes,
158 drill the blast holes and, to install primary patterned rock bolt support (Fig. 9).

159

160 Over the past decade two new caverns have been constructed to house an explosives
161 magazine at Mount Davis Road and a service reservoir at the University of Hong Kong (Fig.
162 1 and 4).

163

164 The service reservoir cavern at the University of Hong Kong was the first of its kind in Hong
165 Kong and was an integral part of the new campus development at the University. The
166 existing salt water reservoir was moved underground to free up space at ground level for
167 university expansion. The reservoir is housed in two new 17m wide, 14m high, 40m long
168 caverns constructed in the Kowloon Granite Formation and partly in coarse crystal ash tuff of
169 the Mount Davis Formation. A single entrance tunnel (Fig. 17) connects the caverns which
170 have their long axis orthogonal to each other. Cavern excavation was carried out in two lifts
171 with top headings being approximately 17.6m wide and 7m high.

172

173 A cavern complex for the sewage treatment plant at Sha Tin is at the time of writing in the
174 investigation and design phase. The current sewage treatment plant occupies approximately
175 26 hectares of land in Sha Tin (Fig. 1) which will be released for redevelopment once the
176 plant is moved underground. The caverns will be constructed within the Kwai Chung Suite of
177 coarse to fine grained acid intrusive rocks and primarily within the medium to fine grained
178 Shui Chuen O Granite. Caverns will have up to 200m of rock overburden and be subject to
179 high ground water pressures. The ground investigation for the cavern design incorporates:
180 two horizontal directional core holes between 845 and 1000m long (Fig. 18); one un-steered
181 horizontal core hole 600m long; 129 vertical and inclined boreholes and; both seismic and
182 gravity geophysical surveys.

183

184 Engineering Geological mapping of cavern and tunnel walls and face are systematically
185 carried out after each blast with Barton's Q (Barton, Lien, & Lunde, 1974) being the most
186 popular method for rock mass characterisation for subsequent support design. The adoption
187 of the Geological Strength Index (Marinos, Marinos, & Hoek, 2007) does not seem to have

188 taken hold in Hong Kong. Probing ahead of cavern headings and the tunnel face is common
189 with cement or chemical grouts being used where poor quality rock is encountered and/or
190 high volumes of water are anticipated.

191

192 **Tunnel boring machines**

193 TBM's often have to cope with mixed ground conditions along a tunnel bore. Mixed ground
194 conditions can range from fresh good quality rock to saprolite with core stone profiles. If
195 tunnels are shallow and close to the original coastline then they can also encounter a
196 combination of alluvium, normally consolidated marine deposits and reclamation fill. With
197 such a variation in ground conditions the selection and design of an appropriate TBM system
198 is essential. In hard rock conditions a single or double shield TBM would be the normal
199 choice in Hong Kong allowing for probing ahead, pre-grouting and inspection and mapping
200 of rock quality by an Engineering Geologist. However, for the Lai Chi Kok drainage tunnel
201 (Fig. 5) which was bored in predominantly good quality rock, an earth pressure balance
202 (EPB) machine was utilised so that it could cope with a mixed ground, shallow tunnel and
203 high pore pressure section at the end of the southern drive. This was a specially designed
204 TBM which could deal with hard rock and soft ground conditions. In mixed conditions a slurry
205 TBM is often used unless the overburden pressures are low (shallow tunnels) and the water
206 pressures are high in permeable ground. In these scenarios EPB TBM's are utilised to
207 ensure minimal face loss and to control the groundwater flows.

208

209 A current example of complex urban TBM tunnelling is the Admiralty tunnels being built for
210 the new Shatin to Central Link (Fig. 1). The twin tunnel alignment is in places stacked due to
211 space constraints imposed by existing underground utilities and as a consequence tunnel
212 inverts are within 6m of the ground surface. Seventy six live piles are being removed and
213 replaced as part of the advanced works to create space for the tunnels. Other constraints
214 are: the risk of unexploded ordnance; tunnelling underneath existing tunnels and; tunnelling

215 within Victorian reclamation. To cope with these conditions the tunnels are being constructed
216 using a slurry TBM and a hybrid slurry/EPB TBM both 7.44m in diameter (Fig. 19). Tunnel
217 sections are scheduled to be complete by 2018.

218

219 Probing and grouting ahead of the TBM is often not carried out with an EPB machine but is
220 common practice in Hong Kong where a slurry or open face machine is being used. Launch
221 pits for the TBM's are commonly supported using diaphragm walls (Fig. 11). Where space is
222 restricted, tunnel portals are mined and enlarged to enable the launching of a TBM from
223 within the tunnel (Fig. 15).

224

225 Tunnel lining systems are either fully drained (allow groundwater to drain into the tunnel) or
226 undrained (fully sealed against groundwater ingress). Drained systems are used where it is
227 demonstrated that groundwater drawdown will be minimal and that there are no settlement
228 sensitive structures within the zone of influence of the tunnel drawdown. Drainage is
229 provided behind the segmental lining by injecting a granular filter using compressed air. In
230 this case the lining is only designed to carry the loading from the geology. Where drawdown
231 is considered to be critical then an undrained segmental liner system is used with waterproof
232 grout injected behind the lining as tunneling proceeds, In this case the lining is fitted with
233 rubber gaskets and is designed to take the full hydrostatic pore pressures.

234

235 **Cut and cover tunnels - station boxes - basements**

236 Shallow road tunnels and some station boxes are constructed using the conventional cut
237 and cover method of construction (Fig. 11). Lateral restraint during construction is provided
238 by vertical reinforced concrete walls installed using the diaphragm wall technique (Fig. 6). In
239 areas of reclamation the wall panels are normally socketed into Grade 3 rock for stability.
240 The walls are normally supported using steel internal props (Fig. 6) rather than soil or rock
241 anchors due to congestion below ground. Recent projects use a combination of clam shell
242 hammer grab plus hydrofraise diaphragm wall machines (Fig. 20) to excavate through soft

243 and hard ground respectively. Hydrofraise machines can be fitted with milling tools to
244 produce sockets into rock with unconfined compressive strength of up to circa 50MPa (Fig.
245 21).

246

247 Alternative vertical lateral support can be provided by pipe-pile walls which comprise drilled
248 in steel tubular piles up to circa 1m in diameter which form a contiguous wall (Fig. 18). The
249 tubular piles are drilled into the ground using a hydraulic Odex percussion hammer system in
250 front of the steel tube. These are normally socketed into Grade 3 rock or better. Water tight
251 construction is provided by tube-a-manchette (TAM) grouting between each pile. The front
252 face of the contiguous wall is often shotcreted to prevent soil loss from between the pipe
253 piles or alternatively protection is provided by welding steel plates to the front of the piles
254 (Fig.s 2 & 22). The hydraulic barrier provided by the grouting is demonstrated by carrying out
255 a pumping test from within the proposed excavation and measuring ground water response
256 outside the excavation limits.

257

258 Basement construction uses similar support techniques to cut and cover tunnels and station
259 boxes. With blasting normally prohibited in the urban environment of Hong Kong the
260 establishment of a geological model which takes into account the amount of rock to be
261 excavated is key to the success of a basement project. Strong rock is removed using
262 mechanical breakers assisted by stitch drilling (Fig. 23).

263

264 A combination of bottom up and top down was used to construct the massive station box for
265 the Express Rail Link terminus (Fig. 1). Due to the size of the excavation, berms were
266 utilised as temporary support around the perimeter. A traditional bottom up construction was
267 carried out in the center of the site (Fig. 24). However, a top down approach was used where
268 the perimeter berms were being used (Fig. 24). Due to a layer of normally consolidated

269 Marine Clay outcropping in the berms it was decided to jet grout this layer to improve its
270 strength and therefore the stability of the berms (Fig. 24).

271

272 **Shafts**

273 Shafts for tunnel ventilation, access, spoil removal, elevators into metro stations, access into
274 deep sewage disposal tunnels and TBM launch voids have been a prominent feature of
275 recent construction projects over the past decade. Circular shafts up to 110m deep were
276 constructed for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2 project (Fig. 1) for temporary
277 and permanent access and as pumping chambers and risers. Diaphragm wall panels have
278 generally been used as lateral support for these large deep shafts through made ground,
279 superficial deposits and saprolite (Fig. 21). Diaphragm wall panels are terminated once into
280 good quality fresh or slightly weathered rock.

281

282 Rock mass assessment logging and discontinuity surveys are carried out once into good
283 quality rock to provide design parameters for both the temporary and permanent support
284 design. Temporary support in the rock shafts is generally provided by spot rock bolts and
285 fibre reinforced shotcrete (Fig. 25). Where good quality rock is relatively shallow and the
286 groundwater conditions permit, the initial part of the shafts can be sunk using cast in situ
287 rings until rock is encountered. This was the case for the TBM launch shaft for the Lai Chi
288 Kok surface water drainage tunnel (Fig. 26). Once into good quality rock the shaft was
289 advanced using mechanical breaker.

290

291 The temporary support for the elevator shafts excavated for the access to the University
292 Station for the new West Island Line metro were supported by a pipe pile wall method (Fig.
293 27). This was possible due to the groundwater table being below the top of good quality
294 rock. Core stones in the saprolite were removed using mechanical breaker and hoist. Shafts
295 constructed to intercept surface water from ephemeral streams as part of the Hong Kong

296 Island drainage tunnel were constructed using raised boring techniques. This was the first
297 time that this technique had been used in Hong Kong and solved the mainly environmental
298 concerns of constructing shafts through rock in built-up residential locations. Adits from the
299 main TBM tunnel were first mined using drill and blast techniques (Fig. 28). A vertical pilot
300 hole was then drilled from ground level to intercept the mined adit. A cutting head is
301 connected to ground level via the pilot hole and a drive shaft to the drive head (Fig. 29). The
302 cutting head is then pulled up to ground level excavating the shaft with the spoil being
303 removed through the adits and main tunnel.

304

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307 departments for their considerable assistance and time for helping organise and giving
308 permission for the large number of site visits made over the past ten years: Gammon
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310 Office of the Hong Kong SAR Government, Leighton Asia, Nishimatsu, Vinci Grand Projects,
311 Dragages, and the MTR Corporation.

312

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336

337 **Figure Captions:**

338

339 Figure 1 - Simplified outline map of the Hong Kong SAR showing the location of the projects
340 referred to in this paper.

341 Figure 2 – West Island Line Sheung Wan shaft being excavated using a pipe pile wall and
342 ring beams for lateral support. Note the welded steel lagging used to protect the excavation
343 from ground water and soil ingress. Excavation in good quality rock being made by hydraulic
344 breaker in equigranular medium grained biotite rich Kowloon Granite. Date taken April 2011
345 by Koor, N.P.

346 Figure 3 – Mined cavern for the new Kwun Tong Station on the Shatin Central Link.
347 Excavation in the Kowloon Granite which is equigranular medium grained and biotite rich.
348 Date taken April 2015 by Koor, N.P.

349 Figure 4 – Completed cavern network for the relocation of a service water reservoir to free
350 space for the expansion of University of Hong Kong campus. Cavern constructed in eutaxitic
351 fine ash vitric tuff of the Ap Lie Chau Formation. Photograph courtesy of Gammon
352 Construction.

353 Figure 5 - Lai Chi Kok Drainage Tunnel portal with full face earth pressure balance tunnel
354 boring machine specifically designed to bore through good quality rock (Kowloon Granite)
355 and mixed ground conditions with high pore pressures and low overburden cover
356 (Reclamation Fill overlying soft Quaternary Marine Deposits and Alluvium). Date taken
357 January 2010 by Koor, N.P.

358 Figure 6 – Central Wanchai Bypass cut and cover road tunnel being constructed within the
359 Central Reclamation. Vertical diaphragm walls are supported by temporary steel struts prior
360 to the permanent structure being built. Construction is within reclamation fill with partial
361 removal of soft normally consolidated Quaternary Marine Deposits – diaphragm wall
362 socketed into Kowloon Granite. Date taken January 2010 by Koor, N.P.

363 Figure 7 – View of Hong Kong Island – Central, Admiralty and Wanchai looking east taken
364 from Victoria Peak (Figure 1). High rise structures are built adjacent to and cutting into the
365 natural steep terrain. The tall building in the centre of the photograph is the Bank of China
366 Building with the Hong Kong Convention Centre to the north protruding into Hong Kong
367 Harbour. Date taken January 2009 by Koor, N.P.

368 Figure 8 - Simplified geological map of the Hong Kong SAR reproduced with permission of
369 the Geotechnical Engineering Office of The Government of the Hong Kong SAR after
370 Sewell, Campbell, Fletcher, Lai and Kirk (2000).

371 Figure 9 – Twin boom jumbo rig drilling charge holes for the Express Rail Link project drill
372 and blast running tunnel. Temporary support of tunnel roof and side walls using patterned

373 rock bolts and fibre reinforced shotcrete. Rock is lapilli lithic bearing coarse ash crystal tuff of
374 the Tai Mo Shan Formation. Date taken April 2012 by Gibson, A.D.

375 Figure 10 – Hennessey Centre deep basement in the dense urban setting of Causeway Bay
376 utilising temporary pipe pile wall for vertical support for the excavation. Typical basement
377 bottom up construction with heavy steel struts used as temporary support as excavation
378 proceeds using mechanical breakers through strong Fan Lau Granite. Date taken January
379 2010 by Koor, N.P.

380 Figure 11 – Access and ventilation shaft at Diamond Hill for the Shatin to Central Line metro
381 incorporating diaphragm walls as both temporary and permanent support for the shaft. Note
382 crescent shaped tool marks from the milling cutter heads on some of the wall panels. Date
383 taken April 2016 by Koor, N.P.

384 Figure 12 – Austin Road (Kowloon Southern Link) cut and cover station box construction
385 utilising diaphragm walls for both temporary and permanent vertical support for the
386 excavation. Typical bottom up construction used in Hong Kong with heavy steel struts used
387 as temporary support during excavation to the underside of the bottom slab – these are then
388 replaced by the permanent structure from the bottom up. Excavation primarily through
389 reclamation fill with a high ground water table. Date taken June 2007 by Koor, N.P.

390 Figure 13 – Open cut excavation for the Kwun Tong Line Extension station. The reinforced
391 concrete station box is on the left hand side of the photograph. The concrete monoliths in the
392 centre of the photograph and pad foundations for future residential and commercial
393 structures. The excavation was 65m deep with the bottom 25m of the excavation being in
394 strong equigranular medium grained biotite rich Kowloon Granite. Temporary support for the
395 soil slopes was provided by soil nails with rock dowels used in the rock. Excavation in the
396 rock was by drill and blast. Date taken April 2015 by Koor, N.P.

397 Figure 14 – West Island Line drill and blast tunnel with fibre reinforced shotcrete and rock
398 bolts as temporary support. Standard single track section is 5.8m from soffit to crown and
399 5.7m maximum width. Date taken March 2012 by Koor, N.P.

400 Figure 15 – Hong Kong West drainage tunnel eastern portal stabilisation using a
401 combination of a spile canopy, steel arches, and fibre reinforced shotcrete. Due to space
402 constraints the portal here is enlarged to enable the TBM to be assembled within the tunnel.
403 Eastern tunnel TBM was a 7.21m diameter double shield with gripper system. Date taken
404 January 2010 by Koor, N.P.

405 Figure 16 – Waterproof membrane being installed in one of the drill and blast running tunnels
406 at Shek Yam for the Hong Kong Express Rail Link project. The permanent reinforced
407 concrete liner is cast *in situ* using a prefabricated formwork gantry which can be seen
408 advancing through the tunnel. Tunnel at this section is within the Needle Hill Granite which is
409 commonly porphyritic and fine grained. Further north the tunnels are within lapilli lithic
410 bearing coarse ash crystal tuff of the Tai Mo Shan Formation. Date taken May 2012 by Koor,
411 N.P.

412 Figure 17. Hong Kong University salt water cavern reservoir tunnel access during
413 construction. Tunnels and caverns excavated using drill and blast techniques with friction
414 type expansion rock bolts and shotcrete as temporary support. Cavern void can be seen at
415 the end of the tunnel - the excavator is starting the tunnel bifurcation for access to the
416 second cavern. Date taken January 2008 by Koor, N.P.

417 Figure 18. Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works cavern project – 38mm diameter core in fresh
418 medium grained Shui Chuen O Granite 404.51m to 413.18m along directional drill hole
419 CAV101. Date taken April 2016 by Koor, N.P.

420 Figure 19 – Shatin to Central Link Admiralty section slurry TBM in the launch excavation.
421 The TBM is 7.44m in diameter and is one of two machines being used to drive this section of
422 tunnelling. Date taken: April 2016 by Koor, N.P.

423 Figure 20. Hong Kong Express Rail Link approach tunnel construction using diaphragm
424 walls for the tunnel walls – tunnels constructed using the cut and cover technique.
425 Conventional clam and hammer grabs are used through reclamation fill, Marine Deposits,
426 Alluvium and completely decomposed Kowloon Granite (tools in right hand corner of
427 photograph). Walls advanced in less weathered rock using hydrofraise machines fitted with

428 milling tools. Reinforcement cage being lowered into a completed panel in centre of
429 photograph. Date taken January 2011 by Koor, N.P.

430 Figure 21. Diaphragm wall hydrofraise used to construct a riser shaft for part of the Harbour
431 Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2 project at Stone Cutters Island. The hydrofraise uses down
432 the hole motors operating with reverse circulation. The cutter drums (at the base) are fitted
433 with tungsten carbide cutters and rotate in opposite directions. These are used to excavate
434 in variable ground conditions and can cut sockets into rock with unconfined compression
435 strengths of up to 50MPa. Date taken January 2010 by Koor, N.P.

436 Figure 22. Jordan Road station box construction using cut and cover bottom up
437 methodology. Temporary support using a contiguous wall constructed using c.1m diameter
438 steel pipe piles socketed into Grade 3 Kowloon Granite. Water proofing provided by TAM
439 grouting the gap between each pipe pile with shotcrete as a surface protection. Wall
440 constructed through reclamation Fill, Quaternary Marine Clay and Alluvium and socketed
441 into Kowloon Granite. Date taken June 2007 by Koor, N.P.

442 Figure 23. Hennessey Centre basement in Causeway Bay under construction. Typical
443 bottom up construction with a pipe pile contiguous wall acting as the temporary vertical
444 support with a heavy steel internal strut system being utilised. Excavation within partly
445 weathered Kowloon Granite is by the use of stitch drilling and mechanical breaker. Date
446 taken January 2010 by Koor, N.P.

447 Figure 24. Excavation in progress for the Hong Kong High Speed Rail Link terminus in
448 Kowloon. Conventional bottom up construction used in the centre of the excavation with a
449 top down approach used through the perimeter berms. Basement excavated through
450 reclamation Fill overlying Quaternary Marine Clay and Alluvium which in turn overlies the
451 Kowloon Granite pluton which is variably weathered. Marine Clay has been jet grouted to
452 ensure stability of the perimeter berms – this can be seen as a ridge at mid-height in the
453 berm in the centre of the photograph. Date taken April 2013 by Koor, N.P.

454 Figure 25. West Island Line shaft being excavated using a pipe pile wall for support though
455 Fill and saprolite – once into good quality rock a combination of rock bolts and shotcrete is
456 used to help support the rock faces. Excavation in good quality rock being made by hydraulic
457 breaker in equigranular medium grained biotite rich Kowloon Granite. Date taken January
458 2011 by Koor, N.P.

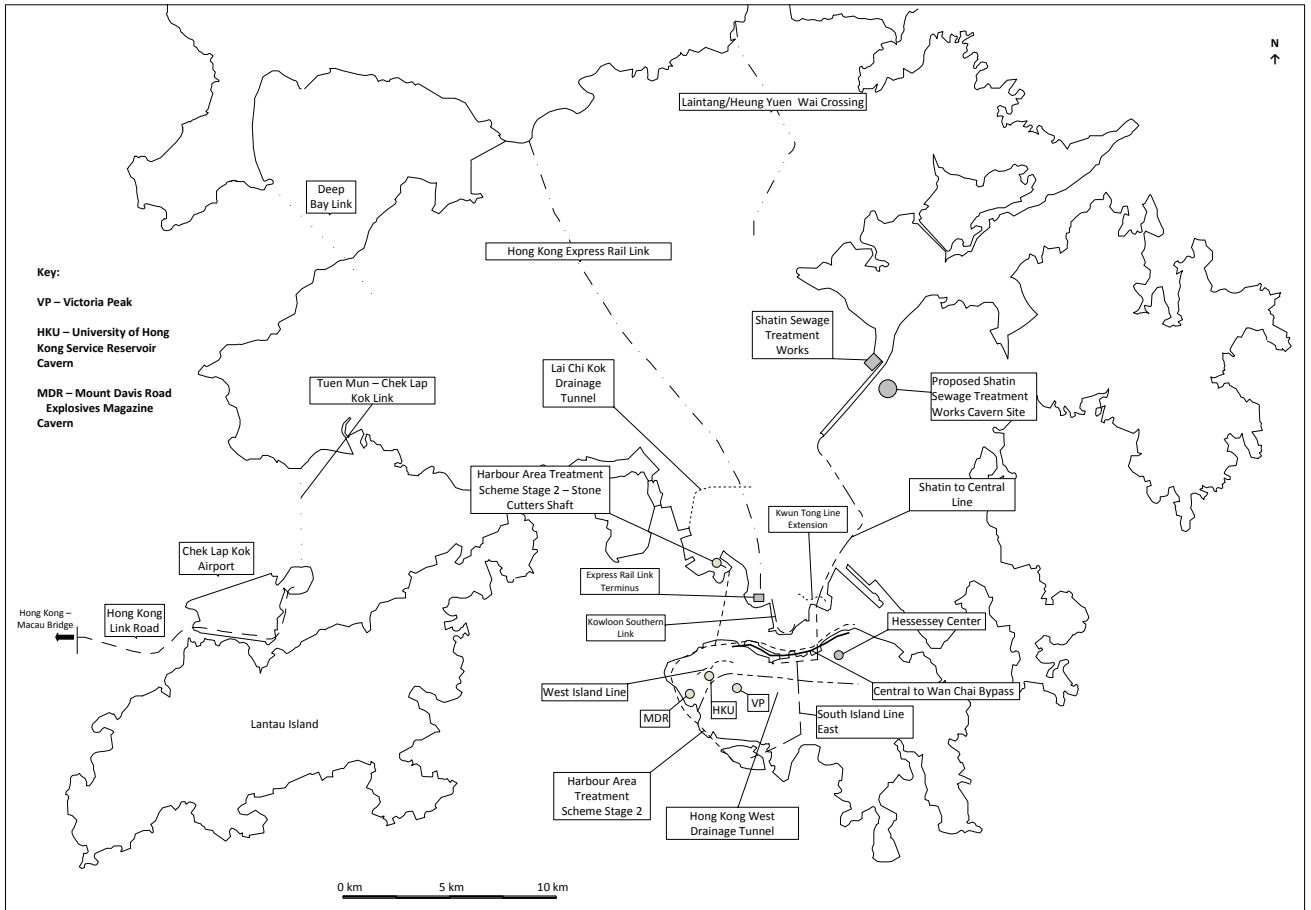
459 Figure 26. TBM lunch shaft for the Lai Chi Kok Drainage Tunnel southern drive. Good quality
460 rock is relatively close to ground surface allowing the initial support to be provided by cast *in*
461 *situ* concrete rings – once into good quality Kowloon Granite the shaft is supported by rock
462 bolts and shotcrete. Note TBM in the base of the shaft. Date taken April 2011 by Koor, N.P.

463 Figure 27. West Island Line Hong Kong University elevator shaft Entrance A during the initial
464 stages of excavation. A contiguous pipe pile (610mm diameter) wall with ring beam provides
465 vertical support in the completely decomposed Kowloon Granite. Steel struts being lowered
466 into the excavation will be used to support a steel road deck allowing traffic to pass over the
467 shaft during excavation. Photograph taken January 2011 by Koor, N.P.

468 Figure 28. Hong Kong West drainage tunnel with fresh Ap Lie Chau Formation fine ash vitric
469 tuff exposed from behind the tunnel lining. Drilling is for the initial blast for horizontal adits
470 from the tunnel which will connect to vertical interceptor shafts constructed using raised
471 boring techniques. The shafts collect surface water which is directed into the main tunnel via
472 the drill and blast adits. Date taken January 2010 by Koor, N.P.

473 Figure 29. Hong Kong West drainage tunnel raised boring surface installation consisting of
474 the hydraulic power pack and drill in the centre of the photograph – drill rod extensions can
475 be seen in the bottom left hand corner of the photograph. Date taken January 2011 by Koor,
476 N.P.

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Figure 1



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486 Figure 3.

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489 Figure 4



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491 Figure 5



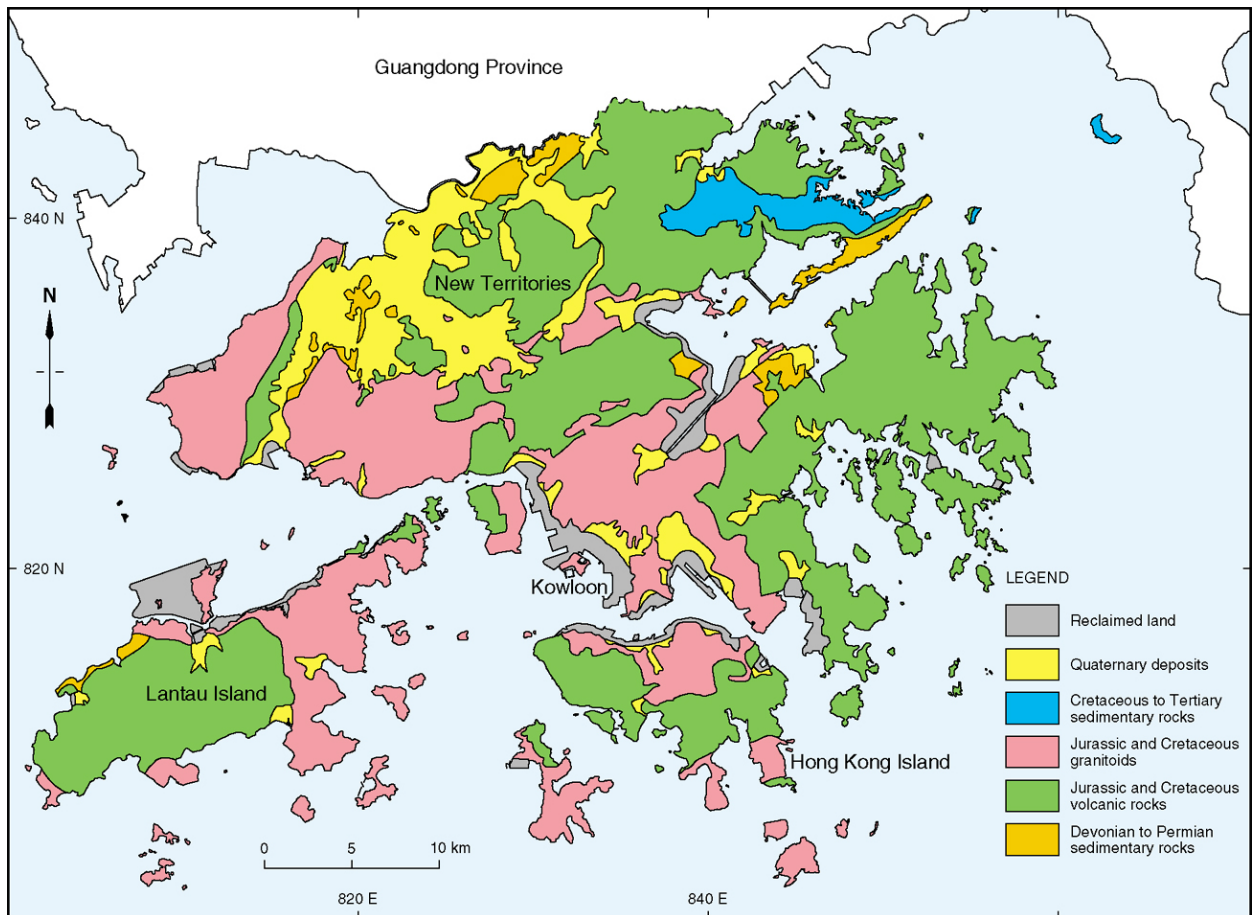
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493 Figure 6



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Figure 8



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