

20 December 1995

Works Branch Technical Circular No. 25/95

Planning Environment & Lands Technical Circular No. 2/95

Preservation of Survey Monuments and Marks

Introduction

This Circular replaces the joint Works Branch Technical Circular No. 20/95 and Planning, Environment & Lands Technical Circular No. 1/95 which is hereby cancelled. It describes the importance of preserving land survey monuments and stations, and the need to consult Principal Government Land Surveyor (PGLS) or a delegated officer of the Lands Department in advance if a proposed construction project may affect a survey monument such as a trigonometrical beacon.

Background

2. The Survey and Mapping Office of Lands Department has established and maintains an accurate territory-wide network of both horizontal and vertical survey monuments which take the form of trigonometrical beacons on hilltops or benchmarks set in solid ground or stable structures. This network provides survey control for all types of mapping, cadastral, engineering and hydrographic surveys. In this network of survey monuments some have been specially determined so as to serve as the link of the Local Geodetic Datum (HK80) and the Global Geodetic Datum (WGS 84). These monuments, particularly the latter, cannot be replaced without weakening the survey Control Framework and nullifying much survey effort already spent thereon.

Policy and practices

3. Departments are therefore reminded that wherever possible, construction projects should be designed so that survey monuments are not disturbed. Departments should consult PGLS on any proposed projects to see if the projects will affect any survey monument or render it useless by blocking to see its line of sight. The consultation must be done in good time, preferably at the initial planning stage, so as to minimise possible abortive design effort and to devise remedial action as appropriate. In any case, agreement from PGLS must be obtained where the potential destruction of a survey monument is really unavoidable.

4. In connection with road works, survey marks which include stainless steel rods, steel staples, picket boxes and steel discs should also be preserved as far as possible. If disturbance is likely to take place, Senior Land Surveyor/Geodetic and Topographic Survey (SLS/G&T) of Lands Department should be advised in time to enable him to replace these marks as may be necessary.

5. Index plans and location diagrams for survey monuments and stations can be obtained from the Geodetic Record Unit, Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department at 10th Floor, Kowloon Government Offices, 405, Nathan Road, Kowloon.

6. If a survey monument has to be destroyed or becomes obsolete because of a construction project, the department supervising the project should bear the cost of reconstructing a replacement survey monument to the satisfaction of PGLS.

Enquiries

7. Enquiries on matters related to this Circular can be made to CLS/TSM, Lands Department (Tel. : 2848 2289) or SLS/G&T, Lands Department (Tel. : 2781 4330).

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