

**GEO ADVICE NOTE FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS  
UNDER TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE (CAP. 131)**

**Requirements for a Geotechnical Planning Review Report  
in support of planning applications**

1. For developments that may affect, or be affected by, natural terrain or man-made slopes or retaining walls, applicants should submit a Geotechnical Planning Review Report with their planning application. In general, a Geotechnical Planning Review Report will be required if any of the following criteria apply :-

- (i) where the maximum gradient across a site from boundary to boundary, or for a large site across any 50m long strip, is greater than  $15^{\circ}$ ,
- (ii) where a man-made slope steeper than  $30^{\circ}$ , or retaining wall, or combination of the two with a height greater than 6m exists on the site or within 6m of the site, or
- (iii) where there is ground outside the site but in the same catchment that is at an angular elevation of more than  $20^{\circ}$  from the site and there is ground sloping at more than  $15^{\circ}$  within 50m upslope of the site.

2. The essential contents of a Geotechnical Planning Review Report are :-

- (i) The appropriate portion of the published 1:5,000-scale topographical map or maps marked up to show the site boundary, the location of the features referred to in paragraph 1 above, and details of the proposed development including any site formation and the layout of any structures,
- (ii) a review of how the retaining walls and/or slopes, including natural terrain, shown on the plan may affect, or be affected by, the proposed development and in relation to this, an assessment of the geotechnical feasibility of the proposed development including an outline of any further studies that may be required, and
- (iii) a list of data sources and references used in compiling the Report. Common data sources normally include the GEO's Slope Information System, the Enhanced Natural Terrain Landslide Inventory maps, the published 1:20,000-scale geological maps, the relevant Geotechnical Area Studies Programme (GASP) Report and GEO Report No. 138 (Second Edition), all of which are available in the Civil Engineering Library which is situated within the Civil Engineering and Development Building.

3. Applications will not normally be accepted if there is very steeply sloping ground next to the site. For guidance, this should be taken as ground outside the site which is at an angular elevation of greater than  $35^{\circ}$  from the site and which is also more than 50m higher than the site. Sites subject to major past instability will also not generally be accepted for development.

4. Further information can be obtained from the Geotechnical Engineering Office, Civil Engineering and Development Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Homantin, Kowloon (tel: 2762 5401, fax: 2714 0247).