

12 August 2009

Dear Editor,

Surely the easiest way to protect trees is not to cut them down unnecessarily

We refer to the email of Mr. Adrian Brady (*Surely the easiest way to protect trees is not to cut them down unnecessarily, 8 August*), asking for the reason to tag the trees on a slope at Mount Butler Road in Jardine's Lookout. We wish to provide relevant information for the reference of Mr Brady and your readers.

Highways Department is carrying out upgrading works on the slope no. 11SE-C/F11 at Mount Butler Road to enhance its stability. The upgrading works include installation of about 360 soil nails (i.e. steel reinforcement inserted into the slope) and the construction of drainage channels. The works commenced in July 2009 for completion by July 2010. No tree will be felled under the slope upgrading works.

To protect the trees on the slope, we have asked our contractor to record, prior to the works commencement, the locations of the existing trees and to tag them for monitoring. Our staff will also closely supervise the slope works and the preservation of the trees.

As regards Mr Brady's concern about the path on the western side of the slope, it is a temporary construction access for transportation of plants and equipment to the works location and will be removed upon completion of the works.

We would like to thank Mr. Brady again for his enthusiasm towards tree preservation and interest on the slope works.

Thank you for your attention.

Victor Chan
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Highways Department