VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report on Visual Impact Assessment ("VIA") is prepared in accordance with the "Town Planning Board Guidelines on Submission of Visual Impact Assessment for Planning Applications to the Town Planning Board" ("TPB PG No. 41"). It is intended to evaluate the possible visual effects may be generated by the proposed private residential development scheme-cum-wetland restoration proposal both in local- and district-wide contexts within a site of about 51,070m² (round-up figure) at various lots in D.D. 104 (hereinafter collectively called the "Subject Site") (Plan 1).
- 1.2 The Subject Site falls within an area zoned "Other Specified Uses for "Comprehensive Development to include Wetland Restoration Area" only" ("OU(CDWRA)") on the Approved Nam Sang Wai Outline Zoning Plan No. S/YL-NSW/8 ("OZP") (Plan 1). In the Notes of the OZP for "OU(CDWRA)" zone, the Subject Site is restricted to a maximum plot ratio of 0.4 and a maximum building height of 6 storeys including car park. Both 'House' and 'Wetland Habitat' are column 2 uses.

2. SURROUNDING SITE CONTEXT

- 2.1 The Subject Site is located north of Kam Pok Road East, Pok Wai, Yuen Long, New Territories (**Plan 1** and **Plan 2**). It covers a total land area of about 51,070m² (round-up figure) and is presently occupied by abandoned ponds with some scattered temporary structures and paved areas.
- 2.2 The Subject Site is bounded by Kam Pok Road East to its south; Man Yuen Chuen, open storage yards and a vehicle depot to its west; existing ponds to its north and northeast; and vacant land currently zoned as "Village Type Development" ("V") to its southeast (Plans 1 and 2). Presently, the Subject Site is basically enclosed by low-rise (i.e. one to three storeys) building structures and open storage activities. High potential redevelopment/development sites to the north, west and south of the Subject Site within the same "OU(CDWRA)" zone are also available in the near future.

3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

3.1 The proposed development scheme comprises two major components: private houses and a

- wetland restoration area. The overall land-use proportion of these two development components is around 52:48, i.e. about 26,370m² (approximately 52%) being allocated for house development and about 24,700m² (approximately 48%) being planned for wetland habitat purposes.
- 3.2 The present proposed development is being formulated in a comprehensive development scheme approach. There is a total of 90 private housing units with building heights ranged from 2 storeys to 4 storeys (Plans 3b 7b). As shown in Plan 3b, a row of six 4-storey (above ground level) housing blocks is planned to be centralised at the middle of the Subject Site surrounding by 2- and 3-storey houses with a view to keep away from the existing open storage activities to its west. The remaining 2- and 3-storeys housing blocks will be located in the south-western and eastern sides of the Subject Site to allow adequate design flexibility for the proposed wetland area.
- 3.3 For provision of on-site carparking facilities, partly are planned in the form of carports for housing cluster at the southwestern side (Plan 4b) and partly are proposed at the basement level (Plan 7b). One 2-storey and one 3-storey (2-storey above ground with 1-storey basement) clubhouses are planned on the two sides of the main entrance point (Plan 3b).
- 3.4 Compared to the maximum permissible building height of 6 storeys including car park stipulated in the Notes of the OZP, the overall development profile of the proposed scheme by adopting 2- to 3-storey (above ground) houses surrounding a short row of 4-storey (above ground) houses represents the most compatible arrangement with its surrounding development settings in the area, in terms of visual effect.

4. SELECTION OF PUBLIC VIEWING POINTS

- 4.1 To assess the possible visual impact of the proposed development at this piece of wide flat land area of the Nam Sang Wai area, a total of 11 initial visually sensitive public viewing points ("VPs") were selected at the early assessment stage (i.e. 10 of them represent the local context and 1 for the district context) (Plan 8c). As the topography at this part of the Nam Sang Wai area is relatively flat and being surrounded by brownfield activities, it is rather difficult to locate any other meaningful public VPs in the local- or district-wide context.
- 4.2 However, after site inspections, only seven of them (i.e. VP2, VP4, VP5, VP6, VP9, VP10 and VP11) (**Plan 8c**) are considered appropriate for this VIA as the others cannot view the

Subject Site mainly because they are being obstructed/screened off/filtered completely by existing vegetation, trees or structures (**Plan 9**). In these seven selected VPs, six are in the local-wide context (i.e. VP2, VP4, VP5, VP6, VP9 and VP10) and VP11 represents the district-wide context.

5. ASSESSMENT ON SELECTED VPS

5.1 Photomontages of the proposed comprehensive development scheme at the seven selected VPs are being produced to facilitate this VIA exercise.

VP2 (Existing Footbridge across San Tin Highway) (Plan 10b)

- 5.2 VP2 was taken from an existing footbridge over San Tin Highway. The major visual sensitive receivers ("VSRs") are those occasional users/workers/local residents who use this footbridge to and from their nearby destinations. VP2 is about 500m southeast of the Subject Site (Plan 10b). Separating the VP2 and the Subject Site are San Tin Highway, low-rise and low-density developments (i.e. Pok Wai village and Merry Garden), temporary storage activities and Kam Pok Road East (Plans 8c and 10b). The visual backdrop of mountains and urban developments at the farther end can also be viewed at this VP. The visual sensitivity of the VSRs at this VP is low.
- Plan 10b compares the differences of visual effects between before (Photo 1) and after (Photo 2) the proposed development at this VP. Photo 2 in Plan 10b is the photomontage of the proposed development scheme at the Subject Site.
- 5.4 The photomontage of the proposed development scheme has demonstrated that the overall effects of the visual changes due to the proposed development at this VP is negligible as the existing developments/structures to the southeast of the Subject Site almost filtered/blocked the proposed development. The overall visual backdrop at this VP will remain unaffected.
- 5.5 In light of the above, the overall resultant visual impact due to the proposed development at VP2 is **negligible**.

VP4 (Kam Pok Road near Pok Wai) (Plan 11b)

5.6 VP4 was taken at Kam Pok Road near Pok Wai and is about 90m to the south-western end of the Subject Site (Plan 8c). VSRs along this section of Kam Pok Road are mainly road

- users/workers/drivers/local residents travelling to and from the existing open storage/port-backup operations on two sides of Kam Pok Road (Photo 1 in Plan 11b). The existing roadside trees/vegetations and open storage activities in front of and surrounding this VP have filtered many open views towards the Subject Site. In view of the above, the visual sensitivity of the potential public viewers at this VP is considered low to moderate.
- 5.7 Photo 2 in Plan 11b shows the likely effects of the visual changes due the proposed comprehensive development at this VP. As shown in the photomontage (Photo 2), substantial portion of the proposed development will be blocked/screened off by existing structures and vegetations. The proposed provision of ample peripheral tree plantings, which will also offer an effective softening or screening effect to enhance the visual amenity of the proposed development at this VP. This, together with the design intention to adopt 3-storey houses at the south-western side of the Subject Site and to provide only six 4-storey house blocks in the middle, helps to reduce the loss of visual openness at this VP. The resultant effects of visual changes due to the proposed development at this VP is moderate.
- 5.8 Having considered the following factors, it can be concluded that the overall resultant visual impact due to the proposed development at this particular VP is **slightly adverse**:
 - i. the proposed building heights in the proposed development only ranged from 2 to 4 storey above ground level and the building heights of those peripheral houses are limited to 2 to 3-storey, despite the maximum permissible building height of the subject Site is 6 storeys including basement carpark; and
 - ii. in future, both Kam Pok Road and Kam Pok Road East would be improved as proper public road with provision of extensive roadside amenity trees/vegetations on their two sides.

VP5 (Kam Pok Road West) (Plan 12b)

5.9 VP5 was taken at Kam Pok Road West near Ngau Tam Mei Channel (Plan 8c) and is about 200m southwest of the Subject Site. The major VSRs are road users/workers/drivers/local residents along this section of Kam Pok Road West and users of the surrounding open storage yards. Separating the VP5 and the Subject Site are those one to two storeys high open storage activities/car repair workshops (the maximum permissible building height in these areas is 6 storeys including carpark), nullah and Kam Pok Road (Photo 1 in Plan 12b). The visual sensitivity of the potential public viewers at this VP is considered low.

5.10 Photo 2 in Plan 12b shows the likely visual effects of the proposed development at this particular VP. Apart from the small part of the proposed development at the western end, the rest of the development are basically completely screened/filtered off by the existing vegetations and building structures (Plan 12b). The visual change at this VP is slight. Having considered that the maximum permissible building height of the existing brownfield areas fronting the western side of the subject site is 6 storeys including carpark, upon full development of these areas, it is anticipated that the whole proposed development will be blocked totally by such future developments at this VP. The overall resultant visual impact due to the proposed development on the local area at this VP is slightly adverse to negligible.

VP6 (Local Unpaved Track near Royal Camellia) (Plan 13b)

- 5.11 VP6 was taken at a local unpaved track near Royal Camellia about 140m north of the Subject Site. It is a secluded local 'pond side' unpaved walkway in the area (Plan 8c). Located between this VP and the Subject Site are ponds and vegetations (Photo 1 in Plan 13b). The visual backdrop at the VP contains a thin layer of mountain ridgelines and a group of electricity power lines and pylons. The main VSRs, if any, are the nearby local residents/ visitors/ farmers. As such, the visual sensitivity of viewers at this VP is low.
- 5.12 Photo 2 in Plan 13b shows the likely visual effects of the proposed development at this VP. Although a row of new peripheral trees is proposed to soften the hardlines of the building developments, the upper floors of the proposed development, particularly the 4-storey housing blocks, can still be viewed at this particular VP. Compared to maximum permissible building height of 6-storeys including basement level, the proposed 4-storey housing blocks at the middle are still one storey lower than the OZP stipulation. Therefore, the present proposed low-rise low-density housing development is not incompatible with its surrounding rural setting.
- 5.13 The overall visual change at the present proposed development is moderate, however given the low visual sensitivity of this VP, overall resultant visual impact is considered **moderately adverse**.

VP9 (KAM POK ROAD AND KAM POK ROAD EAST J/O) (PLAN 14b)

5.14 VP9 was taken at the junction of Kam Pok Road and Kam Pok Road East and is about 42m away from the Subject Site (Plan 8c). VSRs at this VP are road users, cyclists and

pedestrians. Separating this VP and the Subject Site are Kam Pok Road East, and its roadside trees, signages and railings (Photo 1 in Plan 14b). Small parts of the mountain backdrop can be viewed at this VP. As this VP is located very close to the Subject Site and there are moving vehicular traffics on Kam Pok Road, and according to the TPB PG No. 41, normal field of vision at close-up VP is at 60° vertically and horizontally without straining the human eyes, the visual sensitivity at this VP is low.

- 5.15 Photo 2 in Plan 14b shows the likely effects of visual changes due to the proposed development at this VP at normal horizontal human eye level. The existing roadside trees, signages and railings, together with the proposed peripheral planting, form an effective screening effect to soften the proposed development, in particular lower parts of the houses from this VP. The many upper floors of the 3-storey houses can be viewed at this VP and the mountain backdrop will be blocked. However, if a 60° vertical view line is taken place, these upper floors images could not be viewed very obviously in the field of vision when viewers are moving eastward on Kam Pok Road East. As such, the level of visual change due to the proposed development is slightly or moderately adverse.
- 5.16 The overall resultant visual impact due to the proposed development at this VP is **moderately adverse**.

VP10 (CYCLE TRACK ALONG KAM POK ROAD EAST) (PLAN 15b)

- 5.17 VP10 was taken on the cycle track along Kam Pok Road East and is about 32m away from the Subject Site (Plan 8c). VSRs at this VP are mainly moving viewers, including road users, cyclists and pedestrians (Photo1 in Plan 15b). Separating this VP and the Subject Site are Kam Pok Road East and its roadside trees, cycle tracks, existing noise barriers, roadside plantings, planter boxes and signages. Very thin layer of mountain backdrop can able be viewed. It is also a close-up view. The visual sensitivity at this VP is low.
- 5.18 Photo 2 in **Plan 15b** shows the likely effects of the visual changes due to the proposed development at this VP. While most of the lower parts of the development are filtered off by the existing roadside plantings and those proposed ones with the site boundary, partials of upper parts of the proposed development can still be viewed at this VP at a normal horizontal human eye level. As such, the level of visual changes due to the proposed development under the present circumstance is moderate.

5.19 The overall resultant visual impact due to the proposed development at this VP will be **moderately adverse**.

VP11 (On Kai Kung Leng) (Plan 16b)

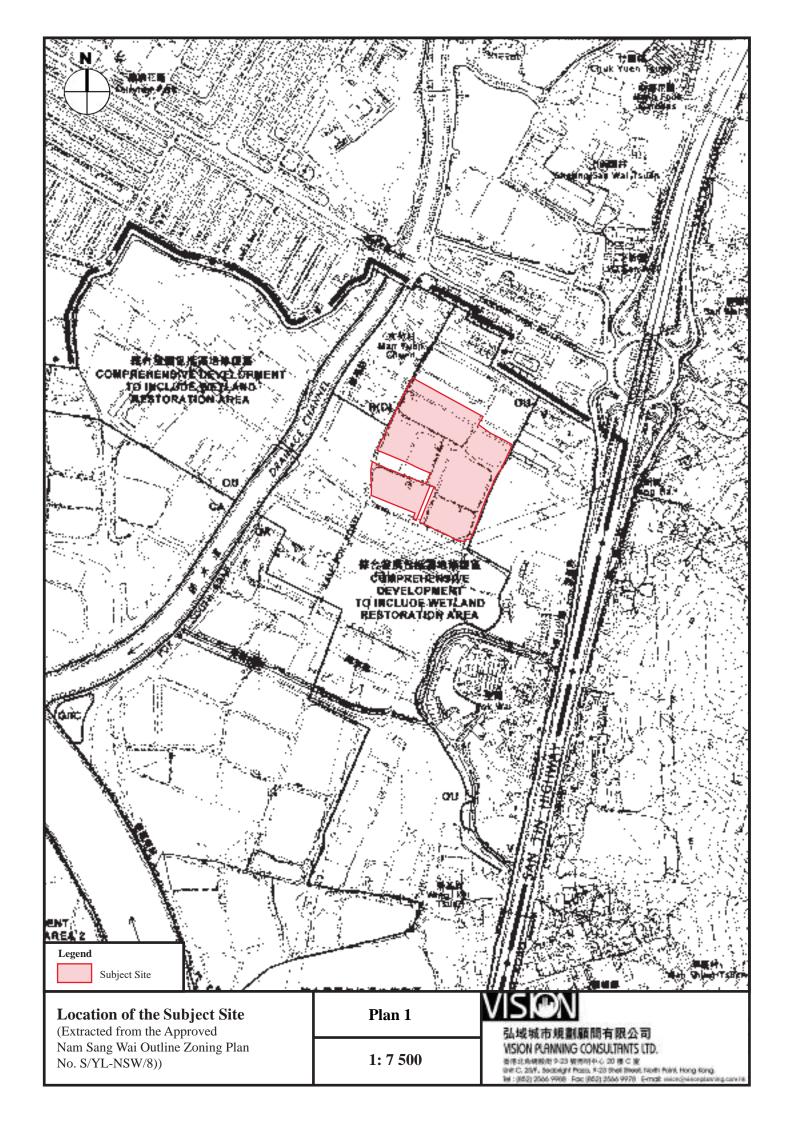
- 5.20 VP11 was taken on the hiking trail of Kai Kung Leng Peak at about +306.3mPD and is about 1.35km away from the Subject Site. It represents a district-wide visual context. VSRs at this VP have an unobstructed overall existing landscape view of the area including the Subject Site and its surrounding settings (Plan 8c and Photo 1 in Plan 16b). The visual sensitivity of viewers at this VP is medium.
- 5.21 Photo 2 in Plan 16b has demonstrated that the proposed development will result in very minor effects of the visual changes to the existing settings in the area. Indeed, the provision of sizeable wetland restoration area and the low-rise (largely 2- to 3-storey above ground), together with an ample provision of on-site tree plantings/landscaping treatments, make the overall development profile blends in well with the surrounding the existing physical settings. The overall visual changes are slightly adverse. Having considered the medium visual sensitivity of viewers and slightly adverse visual changes, the overall resultant visual impact at this VP is negligible to slightly adverse.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.2 In view of the above, it can be concluded that the present proposed compliant scheme under application for a proposed comprehensive private house (2 to 4 storeys above ground) development-cum-wetland restoration area generally blends in well with its surrounding area which now comprises predominantly of brownfield uses, ponds and low-rise low-density residential developments.
- 6.3 The results of the VIA have demonstrated that with the adoption of the special spatial design and architectural arrangements by using 2- to 3-storey tall houses enclosing a short row of 4-storey houses intertwined with ample tree planting and landscaping treatments, four out of 7 selected VPs are negligible to slightly adverse and other three are moderately adverse. The photomontage of VP11 in Plan 16b has clearly shown that the proposed development scheme blends in well totally with its surrounding developments/settings.

6.4 In light of the above, the overall resultant visual impacts due to the proposed development at the seven selected VPs in this particular part of the Nam Sang Wai area are acceptable from the visual impact standpoint.

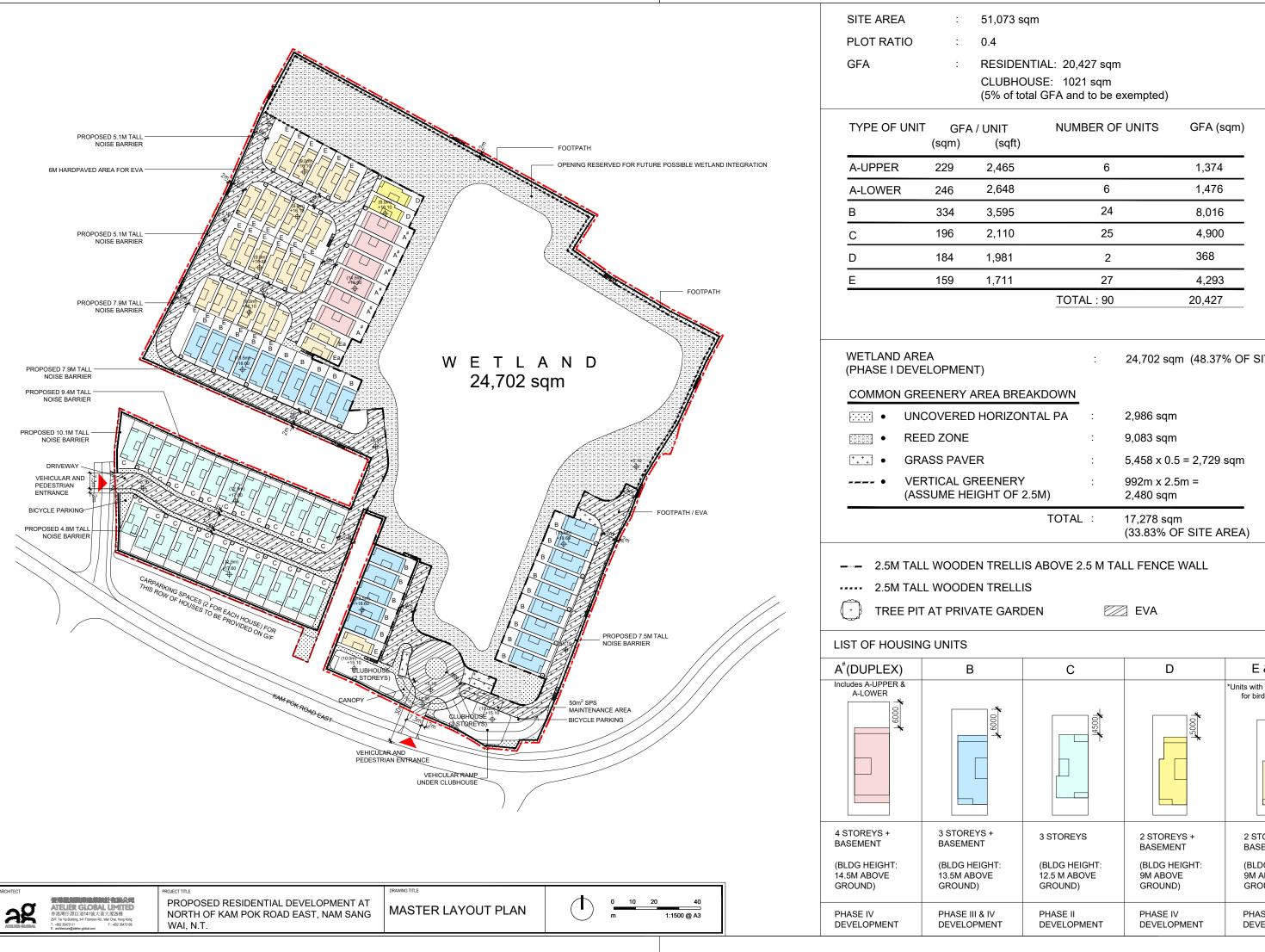
VISION PLANNING CONSULTANTS LIMITED Updated on 27.5,2024





(Aerial Photo No. E146407C taken on 19 January 2022)

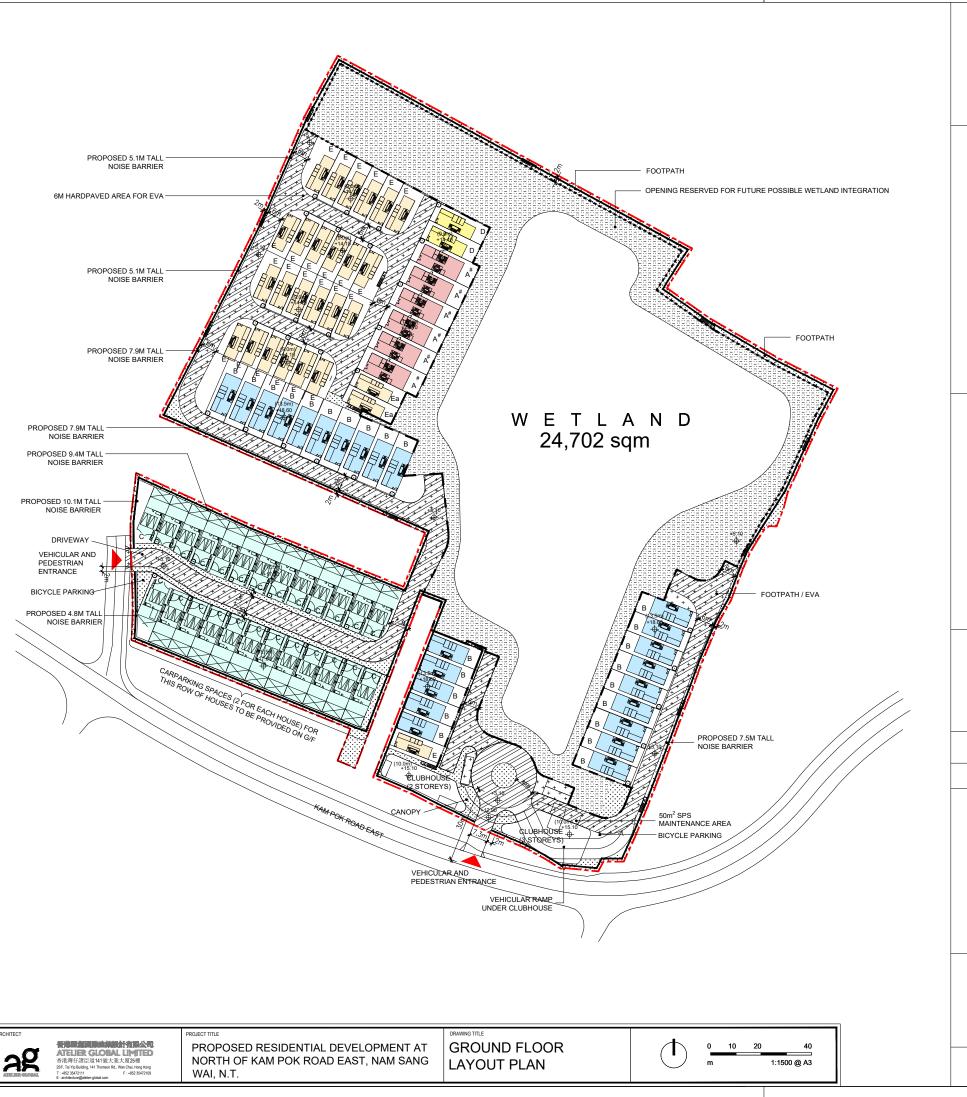
N.T.S.



Plan 3b

24,702 sqm (48.37% OF SITE AREA)

A [#] (DUPLEX)	В	С	D	E & Ea*	
Includes A-UPPER & A-LOWER				*Units with fixed clear glazing for bird-hide purpose	
0009	0009	4500	10005	400-5000	
4 STOREYS + BASEMENT	3 STOREYS + BASEMENT	3 STOREYS	2 STOREYS + BASEMENT	2 STOREYS + BASEMENT	
(BLDG HEIGHT: 14.5M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 13.5M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 12.5 M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 9M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 9M ABOVE GROUND)	
PHASE IV DEVELOPMENT	PHASE III & IV DEVELOPMENT	PHASE II DEVELOPMENT	PHASE IV DEVELOPMENT	PHASE III & IV DEVELOPMENT	



SITE AREA : 51,073 sqm

PLOT RATIO : 0.4

GFA : RESIDENTIAL: 20,427 sqm

CLUBHOUSE: 1021 sqm

(5% of total GFA and to be exempted)

TYPE OF UN	IT GFA (sqm)	. / UNIT (sqft)	NUMBER OF UNITS	GFA (sqm)
A-UPPER	229	2,465	6	1,374
A-LOWER	246	2,648	6	1,476
В	334	3,595	24	8,016
С	196	2,110	25	4,900
D	184	1,981	2	368
E	159	1,711	27	4,293
			TOTAL: 90	20,427

WETLAND AREA : 24,702 sqm (48.37% OF SITE AREA) (PHASE I DEVELOPMENT)

COMMON GREENERY AREA BREAKDOWN

• UNCOVERED HORIZONTAL PA : 2,986 sqm
• REED ZONE : 9,083 sqm

• GRASS PAVER : 5,458 x 0.5 = 2,729 sqm

• VERTICAL GREENERY : 992m x 2.5m = (ASSUME HEIGHT OF 2.5M) 2,480 sqm

TOTAL: 17,278 sqm

(33.83% OF SITE AREA)

Plan 4b

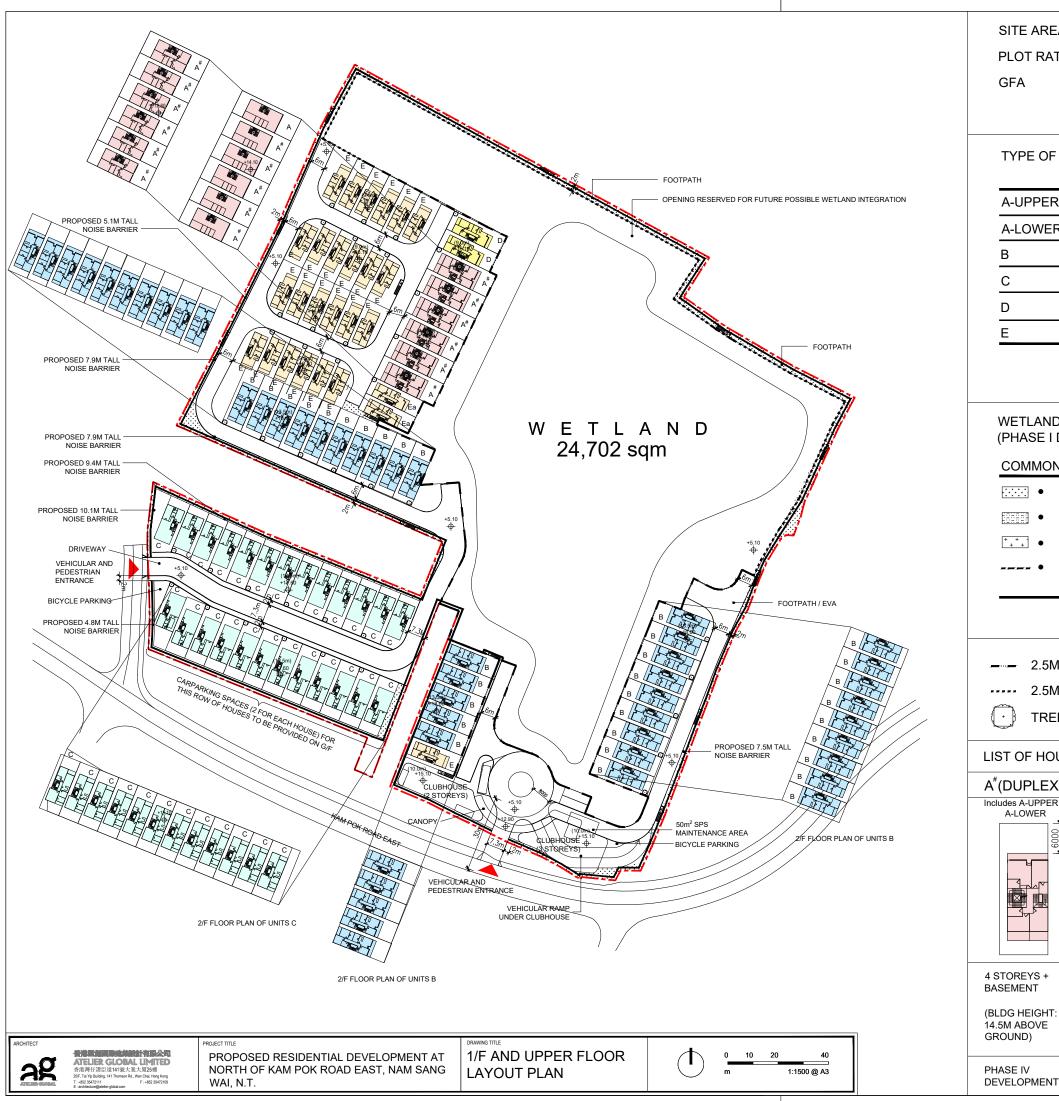
---- 2.5M TALL WOODEN TRELLIS ABOVE 2.5 M TALL FENCE WALL

2.5M TALL WOODEN TRELLIS

TREE PIT AT PRIVATE GARDEN 💹 EVA

LIST OF HOUSING UNITS

LIST OF HOUSING UNITS						
	A [#] (DUPLEX)		С	D	E & Ea*	
	Includes A-UPPER & A-LOWER				*Units with fixed clear glazing for bird-hide purpose	
	0009	7 0009	14500	700057	4000-5000	
	4 STOREYS + BASEMENT	3 STOREYS + BASEMENT	3 STOREYS	2 STOREYS + BASEMENT	2 STOREYS + BASEMENT	
	(BLDG HEIGHT: 14.5M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 13.5M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 12.5 M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 9M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 9M ABOVE GROUND)	
	PHASE IV DEVELOPMENT	PHASE III & IV DEVELOPMENT	PHASE II DEVELOPMENT	PHASE IV DEVELOPMENT	PHASE III & IV DEVELOPMENT	



SITE AREA

PLOT RATIO

GFA RESIDENTIAL: 20,427 sqm

0.4

51,073 sqm

CLUBHOUSE: 1021 sqm

(5% of total GFA and to be exempted)

TYPE OF UN	IT GFA (sqm)	/ UNIT (sqft)	NUMBER OF UNITS	GFA (sqm)
A-UPPER	229	2,465	6	1,374
A-LOWER	246	2,648	6	1,476
В	334	3,595	24	8,016
С	196	2,110	25	4,900
D	184	1,981	2	368
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			TOTAL: 90	20,427

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COMMON GREENERY AREA BREAKDOWN

UNCOVERED HORIZONTAL PA 2,986 sqm

REED ZONE 9,083 sqm

GRASS PAVER $5,458 \times 0.5 = 2,729 \text{ sqm}$

VERTICAL GREENERY $992m \times 2.5m =$ (ASSUME HEIGHT OF 2.5M) 2,480 sqm

> TOTAL: 17,278 sqm

(33.83% OF SITE AREA)

Plan 5b

2.5M TALL WOODEN TRELLIS ABOVE 2.5 M TALL FENCE WALL

2.5M TALL WOODEN TRELLIS

TREE PIT AT PRIVATE GARDEN

PHASE III & IV

DEVELOPMENT

EVA

PHASE IV

DEVELOPMENT

PHASE III & IV

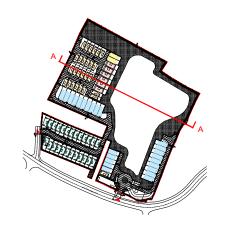
DEVELOPMENT

LIST OF HOUSING UNITS

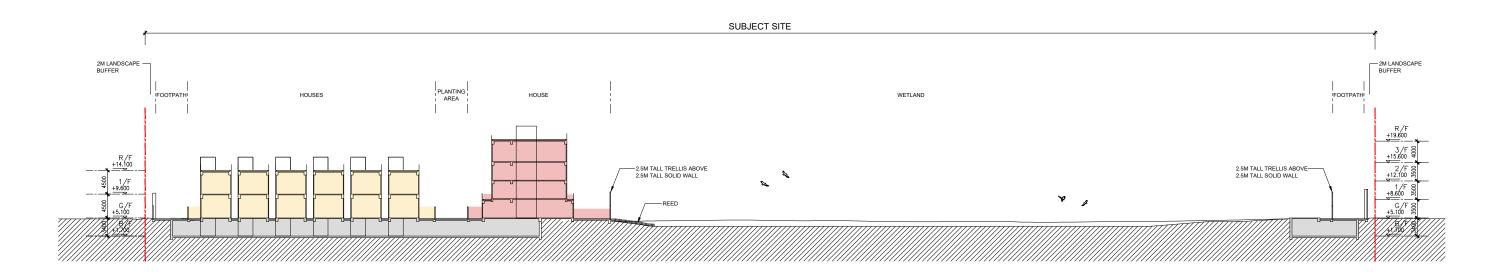
A [#] (DUPLEX)	В	С	D	E & Ea*	
Includes A-UPPER & A-LOWER				*Units with fixed clear glazin for bird-hide purpose	
0009	0009	4 500 y	*0005*	400-5000	
4 STOREYS + BASEMENT	3 STOREYS + BASEMENT	3 STOREYS	2 STOREYS + BASEMENT	2 STOREYS + BASEMENT	
(BLDG HEIGHT: 14.5M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 13.5M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 12.5 M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 9M ABOVE GROUND)	(BLDG HEIGHT: 9M ABOVE GROUND)	

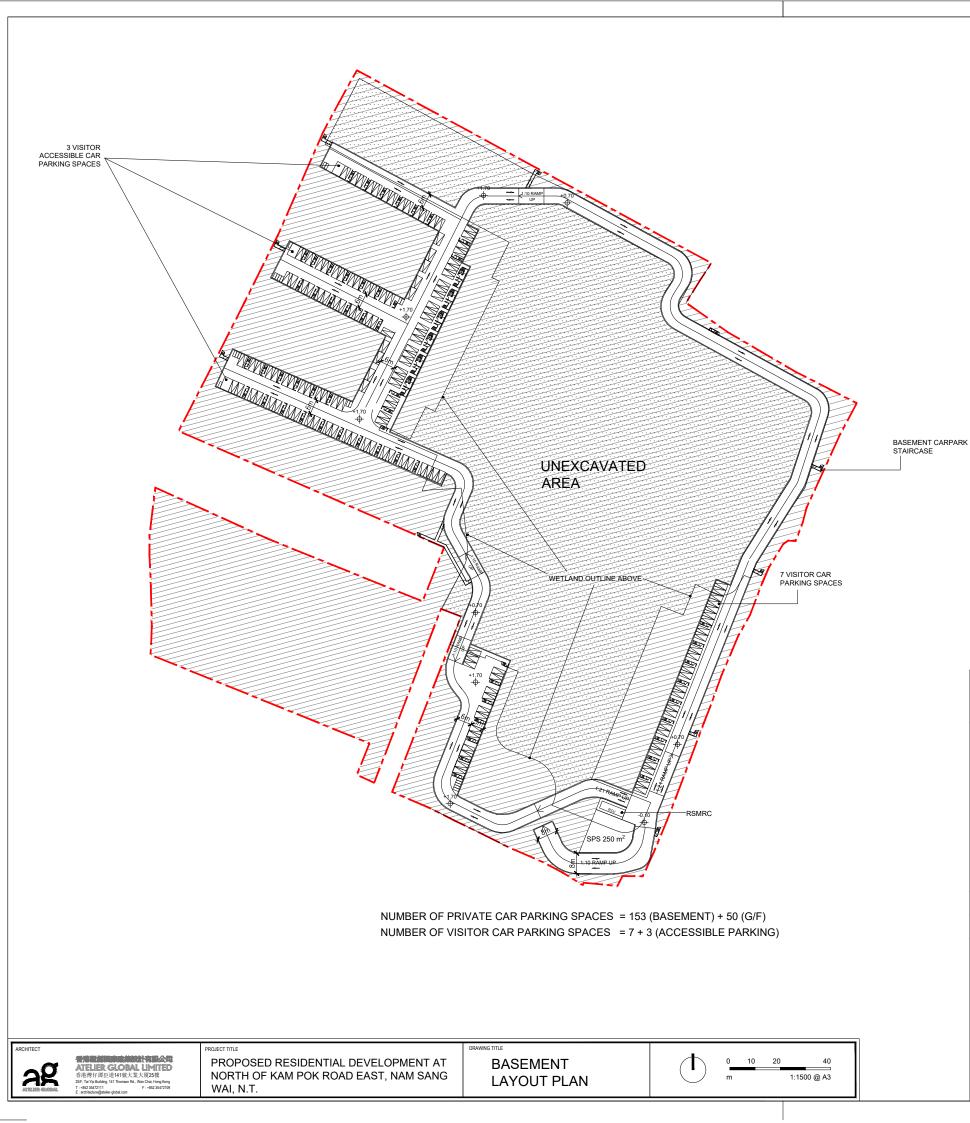
PHASE II

DEVELOPMENT



Plan 6b



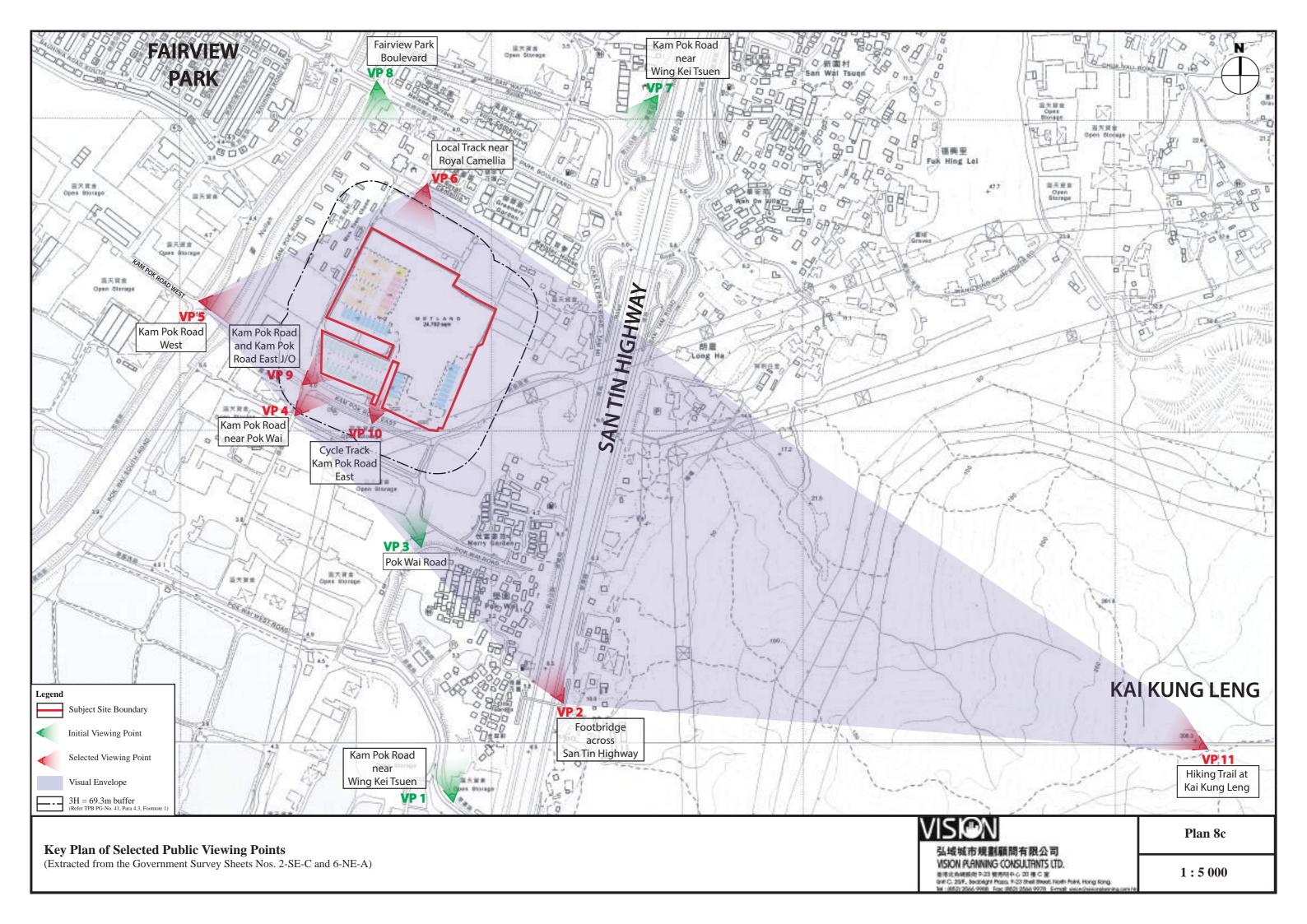


HKPSG / LEASE REQUIREMENT INTERNAL TRANSPORT FACILITIES USE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE MAX. PRIVATE HOUSING <u>RESIDENTI</u>AL - TOTAL GFA : 20,427 M² (i) RESIDENTIAL UNITS FLAT SIZE BETWEEN 130-28 49 (ii) RESIDENTIAL UNITS FLAT SIZE OVER 160 M² 82 - ACTUAL PLOT RATIO : 0.40 144 110 193 - TOTAL NO. OF UNITS: 90 SUB-TOTAL (i) FLAT SIZE BETWEEN 130 160 M²: 27 NOS. (ii) FLAT SIZE OVER 160 M²: 63 NOS. - NO. OF HOUSES: 90 REQUIRED ACCESSIBLE CAR PARKING SPACES 2 3 PRIVATE CAR PARKING SPACES **VISITOR** HOUSES ASSUMING ONE HOUSE FOR SUB-TOTAL **EVERY FLAT** 110 TOTAL 193 MOTORCYCLE PARKING SPACES TOTAL 2 LOADING / UNLOADING TOTAL 2

NUMBER OF PRIVATE CAR PARKING SPACES ON G/F: 50

WETLAND AREA ABOVE

UNEXCAVATED AREA





VP1 Kam Pok Road near Wing Kei Tsuen



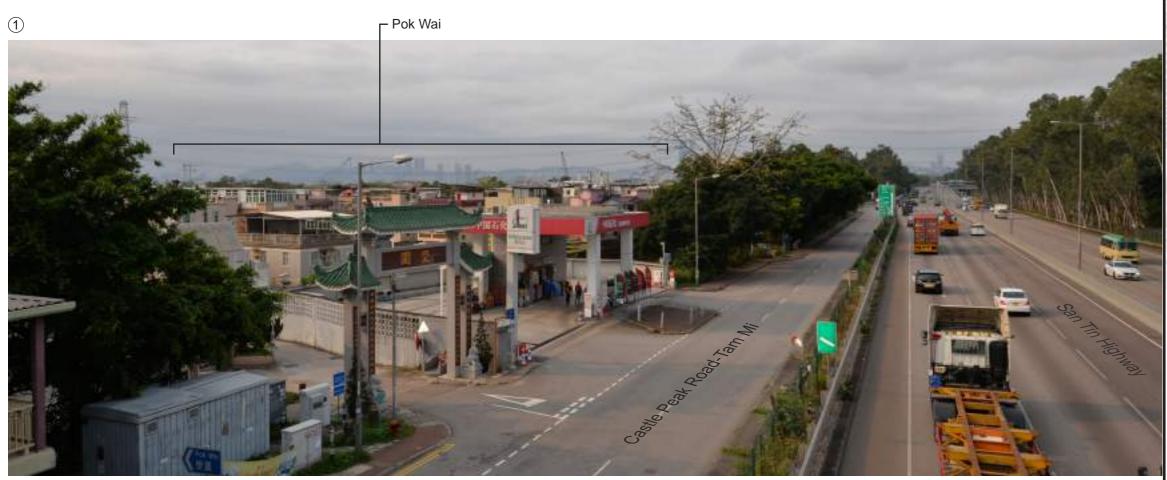
VP3 Pok Wai Road near Pok Wai



VP7 Bus stop near Har Sai Wai



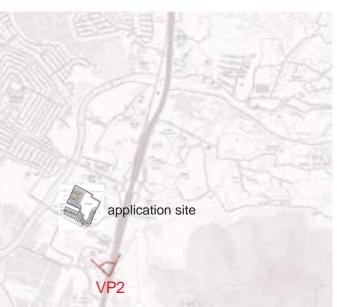
VP8 Junction of Kam Pok Road and Fairview Park Boulevard



VP2: View looking towards the Subject Site from footbridge across San Tin Highway (Existing Situation)



VP2: View looking towards the subject site from footbridge across San Tin Highway (with Proposed Scheme)



Location Plan

Viewing Point 2 (VP2) Plan 10b

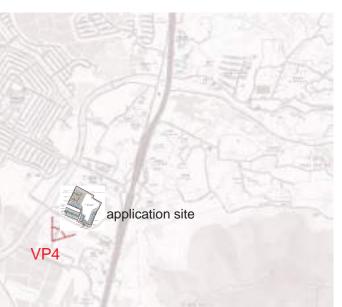




VP4: View looking towards the Subject Site from Kam Pok Road (Existing Situation)



VP4: View looking towards the Subject Site from Kam Pok Road (with Proposed Scheme)

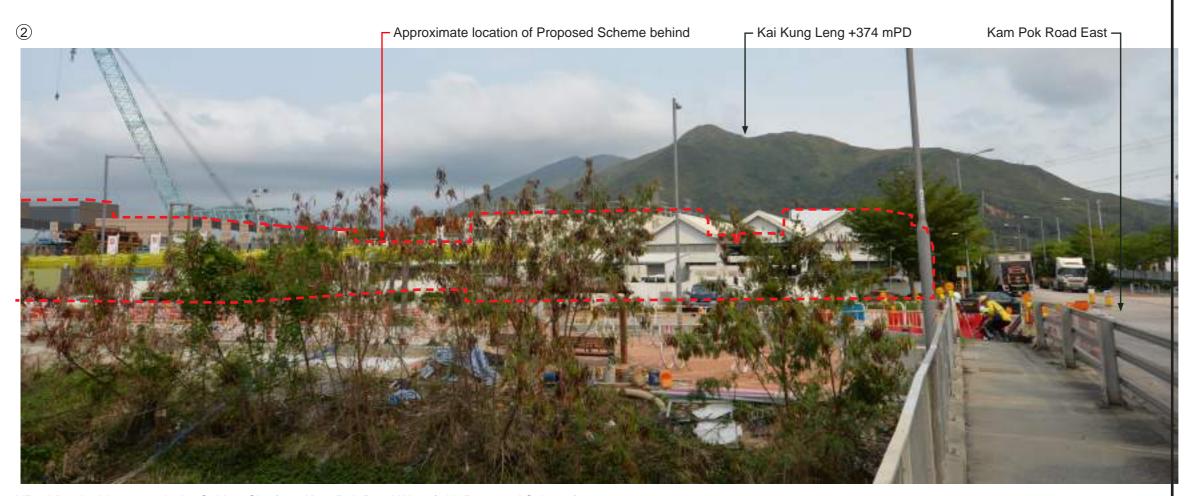


Location Plan

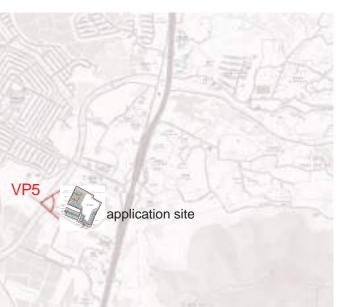
Viewing Point 4 (VP4) Plan 11b



VP5: View looking towards the Subject Site from Kam Pok Road West (Existing Situation)



VP5: View looking towards the Subject Site from Kam Pok Road West (with Proposed Scheme)



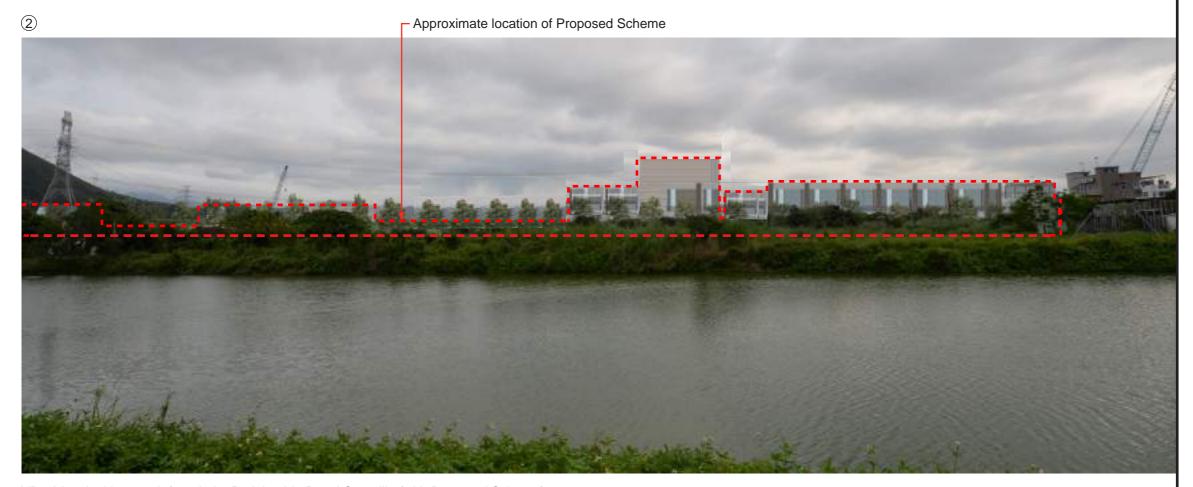
Location Plan

Viewing Point 5 (VP5) Plan 12b

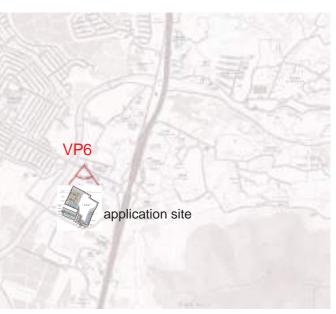




VP6: View looking south from Lake Park beside Royal Camellia (Existing Situation)



VP6: View looking south from Lake Park beside Royal Camellia (with Proposed Scheme)



Location Plan

Viewing Point 6 (VP6) Plan 13b

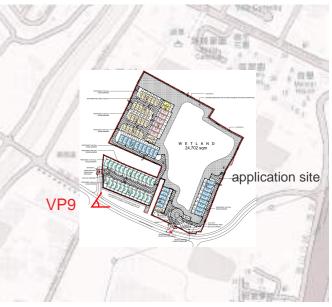




VP9: View looking at the western entrance from the T-junction of Kam Pok Road and Kam Pok Road East (Existing Situation)



VP9: View looking at the western entrance from the T-junction of Kam Pok Road and Kam Pok Road East (with Proposed Scheme)



Location Plan

Viewing Point 9 (VP9) Plan 14b





VP10: View looking at the southern entrance from cycle track along Kam Pok Road East (Existing Situation)

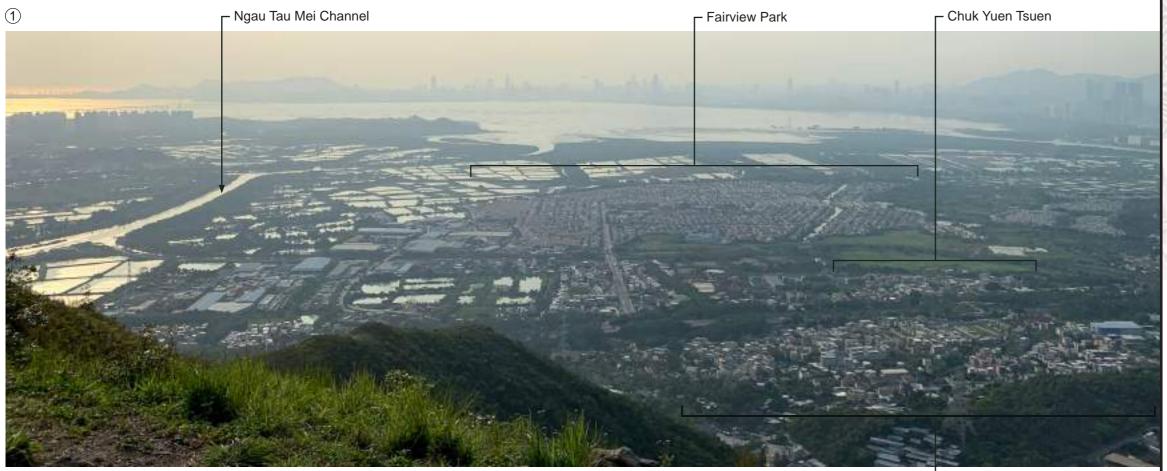


VP10: View looking at the southern entrance from cycle track along Kam Pok Road East (with Proposed Scheme)



Location Plan

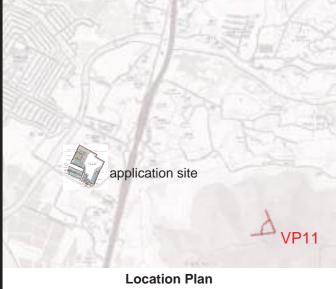
Viewing Point 10 (VP10) Plan 15b



VP11: View looking towards the Subject Site from Kai Kung Leng (Existing Situation)



VP11: View looking towards the Subject Site from Kai Kung Leng (with Proposed Scheme)



Viewing Point 11 (VP11) Plan 16b