Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square,
Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.B, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

**Visual Impact Assessment** 

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Prepared By:

**SCENIC Landscape Studio Limited** 



Report Title	Visual Impact Assessment
Project Title	Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.B, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

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#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 SCENIC Landscape Studio Limited have been commissioned to undertake the Visual Impact Assessment for the Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.B, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long
- 1.2 The visual impact assessment (VIA) is required to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Scheme which is the subject of the S16 application. The VIA will demonstrate that the proposals can be accommodated within the existing landscape and visual context without significant impacts to the semi-rural / urban fringe area.
- 1.3 The VIA assesses the source and magnitude of the Proposed Scheme on the existing visual character and amenity within the context of the site and its environs. The report concludes by making specific recommendations for alleviating any potential visual impact caused by the Proposed Scheme. The report is prepared in accordance with TPB PG-No. 41 'Guidelines on submissions of Visual Impact Assessment for Planning Applications to the Town Planning Board'.

## 2.0 Existing Site Description

- 2.1 The Application Site has a total site area of about 31,068 m² and comprises a Development Area, where the proposed Temple is to be located, the existing Kwan Ti Square, and a proposed upgraded access road connecting the Development Area with Tai Tong Shan Road to the north. The Application Site falls within an area zoned "Recreation" ("REC"), "Green Belt" ("GB") and "Open Storage" ("OS") on the Approved Tai Tong Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/YL-TT/20. The development area (or the Temple site) has an area of about 17,393 m² and is covered by "REC" and "GB" zones.
- 2.2 The site is located at the south-eastern edge of the broad valley plain which extends north towards Yuen Long and is contained by uplands of the Tai Lam County Park to the South, East and West. The lower slopes of these uplands are typically wooded, with more open grassland / scrubland evident towards the ridgeline formed by Kun Um Shan and Sacred Eagle rock in the west. There are numerous grave sites on the hillsides on the lower hill slopes to the west of the Application Site. The immediate vicinity of the site is dominated by commercial leisure and recreation facilities, including eco parks, horse riding facilities, camping grounds and motor sport circuits. Further north, there are village development and warehouses associated with light industrial premises predominate across the valley floor.
- 2.3 The Development Area is currently vacant, with Kwan Ti Square, an open-air religious facility located to the immediate north. The existing Development Area levels range from around +23.75 to +34.74 mPD in the west to between +27.57 to +39.20 mPD in the east with these existing slopes supporting more than 500 nos. existing trees and open areas of rough grassland. The access road that forms part of the application site is around one kilometre in length and has intermittent tree planting at both sides of the road.

## 3.0 Description of the Proposed Scheme

- 3.1 The Proposed Scheme consists of a several buildings and associated courtyards in a formal arrangement along a west to east axis, rising up the valley side slope. The development works with the natural hilly terrain of the Development Area, rising from the West from approximately 25.25mpd to around 38mpd to the East, where the Grand Hall of the "Supreme Kwan Ti" is located. Other components of the temple complex are arranged either side of this formal sequence of buildings, to utilise the irregularly shaped site area. The complex is entered from the lower, western area through a sequence steps, ornamental gate structures and courtyards / formed as a stepped building platforms and terraces at levels +24.75mPD, +30.5mPD, and +37.25mPD, addressing the arrival to the main temple building; the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple located near the upper portion of the site. Behind this building to the north lies a Scripture library, connected to the main temple building via a courtyard.
- 3.2 The "Supreme Kwan Ti Temple" is a stand-alone Religious Facility comprising several built elements. The primary religious building blocks cluster around the central East to West axis and adopts the traditional Chinese architectural order of "Three Courts Three Halls". The three courts comprise, the Court of Harmony, the Ceremonial Main Court, and the Inner Court. These are integrated with buildings and connected to adjacent facilities via walkways and gateways. The tallest building (+73.99mPD), the Grand Hall of the "Supreme Kwan Ti", is based on a nine-column bay formation with trussed gables and a pitched roof. An 18m high Kwan Tai Statue will be housed inside the Grand Hall which has an overall height of 35.999m. The Grand Hall is 45m wide, 25m deep, with eaves overhanging to 5m.
- 3.3 To the south a Hall of Manifestation sits between a lower arena area and a Hall of Enlightenment to the east. To the north the edge of the site is then occupied by amenity type blocks including toilet facilities and a staff canteen (Abbots and Staff Lounge) and maintenance offices. These various blocks are separated by visual corridors and setbacks, helping to break down the building massing into smaller scale components.
- 3.4 The proposed access road extends around the eastern and southern edges of the site, connecting to a proposed vehicular drop of at the lower western portion of the site, adjacent to the pedestrian entrance gateways (Gate of Unity and Gate of Harmony). The site is currently accessed from the north via an existing access road with a junction connecting to Tai Tong Shan Road. This access road serves the site and adjacent lots, including visitor attractions and associated car parking facilities.

#### 4.0 Baseline Conditions

### Visual Envelope

- 4.1 The extent of the Visual Envelope (VE), the zones of visual influence (ZVI) are presented as **Figures**4.4 and 4.5 **Visual Envelope and Visually Sensitive Receivers**. The VE, the area from which the Proposed Scheme will be seen, is shaped primarily by a combination of the existing landform, mature tree growth, and elements of built development infrastructure.
- 4.2 Although the Assessment Area for the VIA is normally delineated according to the TPB PG No. 41, as being around three times the overall Building Height of the Proposed Development Scheme, it is instructive to map the actual VE and ZVI to get a more accurate picture of the locations which will have a view of the proposals and how much of the Proposed Scheme can be seen.

- 4.3 To the east, west and south the VE is formed by the wooded hill slopes of Tai Lam Country Park. Within the ridgelines defining the extent of the VE, the intricacies of the terrain surrounding the site and the patterns of tree growth function to then determine the visibility of the application site.
- 4.4 The application site is located at the head of a broad valley which extends northwards towards Yuen Long, with the VE extending across the valley to the north and locally defined by buildings and mature tree growth on the valley floor in this northern area.
- 4.5 Within the VE there are a number of Zones of Visual Influence (ZVIs) which represent areas from which there are different degrees of visibility of the proposals. These are as follows:
  - Primary Zone of Visual Influence Area from which the majority of the development can be seen is largely contained within the Development Area boundary and its immediate surroundings owing to the screening effect of existing mature tree growth and elements of built development at adjacent lots.
  - Secondary Zone of Visual Influence Area with more limited visibility of the Proposed Scheme due to intervening obstacles including a combination of existing built development and vegetation. As such the visible part of the Proposed Scheme is largely limited to the central and upper portions of the proposed temple complex.
  - Tertiary Zone of Visual Influence For the most part views of the Proposed Scheme are obscured or screened by intervening visual obstacles including landform, mature tree growth and built development including warehouse type development and village houses. Any views are limited to glimpsed views of the upper portion of the proposed temple complex.
  - Quaternary Zone of Visual Influence Area with elevated, long distance, partial and glimpsed views of the Proposed Scheme from the upland ridges to the south and West. The visible part of the Proposed Scheme will range from being fragmentary views to being more widespread open views however from these locations the proposals form a small part of a large, panoramic view. The degree of visibility of the Proposed Scheme is determined by the elevation of the viewing position and the viewing angle.
- 4.8 The importance of identifying the ZVIs is that this provides a clearer picture of the actual visibility of the Proposed Scheme and demonstrates that given the nature of the existing landscape, there are few locations where the whole development would be visible and for the most part views are limited to the upper sections and roofs of the proposed buildings. The extent of the VE and the ZVIs are presented as **Figures 4.4 and 4.5 Visual Envelope and Visually Sensitive Receivers.**

## **Visual Elements**

- **4.9 Figures 4.1 to 4.3** shows the visual elements which shape the visual outlook and amenity of the area. These include attractors such as wooded and grassy hillsides which surround the Development Area, and mature trees growing on the slopes to the south, east, and west. The mature vegetation serves to contain views from many trails and footpaths which traverse the area.
- **4.10** Visually detracting elements include infrastructure development such as overhead electricity lines and pylons, and road development in urban areas and across the hillsides. To the north, sprawling village development, industrial warehouses, and some open-air storage areas are located on the valley floor.
- **4.11** Although the Tai Tong Natural Trail and Tai Lam Nature Trail pass to the east and southeast of the Application Site, it is assessed that views of the Proposed Scheme will be largely obscured by existing trees and topography. It should be noted that once the route passes to the south and

- southwest of the Application Site views are almost completely contained by the dense vegetation lining these trails.
- **4.12** The photographs demonstrate that the Proposed Scheme can be accommodated within the landscape without causing significant visual impacts given that the Proposed Scheme is located at the margins of the urban area which, although predominately low rise, is relatively dense and includes three storey village houses and warehouse type development. In addition, human interventions are evident within the surrounding wooded hillsides including grave sites, rural roads and a network of High Voltage electricity pylons.
- **4.13** The ability of the local landscape to accommodate development and obscure views is an important consideration in assessing the potential impacts of the Proposed Scheme and its effect (if any) on the local landscape and visual context.

# **Vantage Points**

- 4.10 The Vantage Points (VPs) are identified as views from key strategic and popular local vantage points, as well as viewing locations from public areas and leisure attractions adjacent to the Application Site / Development Area. For the purposes of the assessment and in accordance with current approaches the VPs are based on publicly accessible and popular locations. Priority is given during the selection to public viewpoints, open spaces, and key pedestrian routes. Twelve vantage points have been identified which characterise the following types of view towards the site:
  - Elevated views from recreational facilities and hiking trails overlooking the site;
  - Low Level views from urban areas within the valley floor to the north of the site;
  - Views from public area immediately bordering the Application Site.
- 4.11 Based on the targeting of publicly accessible locations, the representative VPs are listed below with a brief description of the existing view and their locations presented as **Figure 7.1 Location of Photomontage Vantage Points**.
  - Vantage Point 01: View looking west from lookout point at Tai Tong Barbeque Site (VSR 1);
  - Vantage Point 02: View looking south-east from rest pavilion at lower slopes of Kun Um Shan (VSR 2);
  - Vantage Point 03: View looking east from service road below Sacred Eagle Rock (VSR 3);
  - Vantage Point 04: View looking north from picnic spot along Tai Lam Nature Trail (VSR 4);
  - Vantage Point 05: View looking south from active play area at Tai Tong Tsuen (VSR 5);
  - Vantage Point 06: View looking south from riverside footpath near Wong Ngai Tun Tsuen Road (VSR 6);
  - Vantage Point 07: View looking south-east from footpath near Yeung Ka Tsuen (VSR 7);
  - Vantage Point 08: View looking south from rest pavilion at Tai Tong Shan Road (VSR 8);
  - **Vantage Point 09:** View looking south from visitor car park entrance at Tai Tong Organic Eco Park (VSR 9);
  - Vantage Point 10: View looking north from lotus pond at Tai Tong Lychee Valley (VSR 10);
  - Vantage Point 11: View looking north-east from a footpath beside a playground in Tai Tong Organic Eco Park (VSR 11);
  - Vantage Point 12: View looking south-west from Tai Tong Shan Road near Po Leung Kuk Jockey Club Tai Tong Holiday Camp (VSR 12).
- 4.12 Some of these locations are over a relatively short distance from the Application Site owing to the screening effect of the existing development, landform, and mature vegetation in the immediate surroundings. More distant vantage points from popular public areas are also illustrated to help define the nature of impacts (if any) on the wider visual context of the site.

## **Sources of Visual Impact**

- 5.1 The primary source of visual impact in the operational stage will be due to the introduction of a new development within a relatively rural location.
- 5.2 The key issues to be addressed by the visual impact assessment will include:
  - The introduction of new development within a sub-urban landscape, although the proposal will be adjacent to existing leisure related development and set within existing landform (wooded ridges) at the valley edge.
  - Development of a responsive architectural design and the associated mitigation measures to
    minimise potential visual impacts as far as possible which responds to both the existing
    context and the future planning context. This includes the creation of boundary setbacks and
    buffer areas along key facades of the development and the adoption of stepped height profiles
    to respond to the visual context.
  - Landscape and visual mitigation for the vehicular access from Tai Tong Shan Road.
  - Sensitive design of the site formation works particularly and design of structures along the site boundary.
- 5.3 The predicted visual impact for each of the VPs is described in section 7.0 together with the proposed mitigation measures (section 6.0) in accordance with TPB PG-No. 41.

## 6.0 Visual Mitigation Measures

- The proposed mitigation measures during the operational phase of the project are described below and shown on **Figure 3.1 Proposed Scheme: Urban Design Considerations**.
- 6.2 Operational stage landscape and visual mitigation measures include two key levels of approach, the primary and secondary mitigation. The primary mitigation measures are based on the location and overall form of the Proposed Scheme whilst the secondary mitigation measures look to how the Proposed Scheme can be treated to mitigate any potential impacts. It is the primary mitigation measures which shape the form of the architectural scheme and have the biggest effect on the mitigation of the potential visual impacts. The proposed mitigation measures include the following:

# **Primary Mitigation Measures**

- Setting the development at the valley edge where it is flanked by wooded ridges forming the lower slopes of the hillside backdrop. As illustrated on **Figure 3.2**, the development is flanked by wooded ridges at the edge of the valley which help accommodate the development within its landscape context. The larger components of the development (including the main temple building and Hall of Manifestation) are set towards the eastern side of the site where they are in closer proximity to this embracing wooded landform backdrop.
- Creation of a responsive development platform design which aligns to the existing site
  contours to create a more visually complex development form and ensure better integration
  with the immediate landscape and visual context. <u>Development platforms are created at levels</u>
  +24.75mPD, +30.5mPD, and +37.25mPD, which relate to range of existing site levels from west
  to east (approx. +23.75 mPD to +39.20 mPD). This approach also serves to reduce the scale of
  the proposed site formation works.
- Adoption of stepped building height profile with lower height buildings of the temple complex located to north and south of the main temple building (Grand Hall of the Supreme Kwan Ti), creating a more subtle transition between the existing landscape and the development. <u>As</u>

illustrated on **Figure 3.1**, lower structures are located towards the site boundary. This includes the eastern edge of the site where the Abbots and Staff Lounge and Hall of Enlightenment are typically 16.5m height and structures at the western edges of the site (Gate of Unity, Sword and Arts Arena, Toilet Block), which are 13.3m 7m, 6m height respectively. Intermediate height buildings (Gate of Divinity 24m height, Hall of manifestation 25.5m height and Scripture Library 25m height are then located next to the Grand Hall (approx. 36m height) at central eastern part of the site, such that a stepped profile in the overall development massing is achieved.

- Creation of setbacks and landscape buffers from the access road around southern and eastern sides of the Development Area and setback from the adjacent Kwan Ti Square at the northern boundary of the Development Area. As illustrated on Figure 3.1, these vary with the outline of the buildings but can achieve a 10m setback or more for much of the boundary, allowing for the establishment of secondary mitigation measures (landscape planting buffers).
- The incorporation of approximately <u>8m</u> and 25m wide visual corridors with building separations between the proposed buildings and gate structures which serves to create a more visually permeable development form and avoid potential wall effects. <u>It should also be noted that several of the structures at the lower, western part of the site are either gateways or walkways, with open sides, which increase the visual permeability of this part of the development.</u>
- Articulation of the temple buildings then also creates a smaller scale composition which serves
  to create areas of light and shade on the building façades breaking up the visual mass of the
  development. The intricate forms of gateways, walkways and minor structures on the roofs of
  ancillary buildings also help create a more complex development form with a less bulky
  appearance than might otherwise be the case.

## **Secondary Mitigation Measures**

- Other measures include the use of colour and finishes for the architectural façade to minimise the prominence of the scheme. This might also include the use of earth colours and muted tones for the main part of the building façades. The concept for the temple roofs is to create a bronze copper colouration which resonates with the autumnal hues of the surrounding hillside vegetation. In addition, using of natural materials which blend with the surrounding environment and subtle, matt colouration for parts of the eave structures can help avoid excessive light reflection from metallic surfaces.
- Landscaping including tree planting for the Application Site particularly along the access road
  and around the periphery of the temple site to create landscape buffers which serves to bolster
  the screening effect of the existing environs. The measures also serve to enhance the sense of
  visual and landscape integration with the immediate context.
- Utilisation of heavy standard trees within buffer planting areas of the site to create a more mature landscape with an immediate effect.
- Introduction of comprehensive urban design parameters as part of the detailed design stage of the project to establish the future character of the development from an architectural and landscape perspective. This includes the use of high quality hard and soft landscape measures including planting, paving, site furniture, lighting, and seating.
- 6.3 It should be noted that the final architectural design and the appearance of the buildings is subject to detailed design stage of the project.

## 7.0 Residual Impacts

- 7.1 The residual visual impact is defined as the impact remaining after all practical methods of mitigation have been implemented. A series of computer-generated images or photomontages are presented as **Figures 7.2** to **7.13**. The locations have been selected to demonstrate the range of viewing angles and viewing distances in relation to identified VPs, demonstrate the schemes 'fit' into the existing and future rural context, and demonstrate the degree of visibility from surrounding locations.
- 7.2 The photomontages show the existing situation and Proposed Scheme before and following the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. Where the proposals are not visible, or views partially obscured a red dashed line is used to indicate their approximate location. The locations of the vantage points are shown on **Figures 7.1**.
- 7.3 The text below provides a brief description of each of the views selected for the photomontages and provides an appraisal of visual changes (visual composition, visual obstruction, the effect on public viewers and the effect on visual resources) in accordance with TPB PG-No. 41.

# Vantage Point 01: View looking west from lookout point at Tai Tong Barbeque Site (VSR 1) (Figures 7.2 refers).

7.4 This vantage point, at an elevation of +115.0mPD, located at approximately 430m from the application site, is available to leisure users of the Tai Tong Barbeque Site to enjoy a panoramic view of a distant mountain ridge from an elevated location. The existing view is framed to the north and south by foreground tree groups with the middle ground obscured by mature tree growth on the valley slopes below. The foreground is characterised by open grassy areas of the BBQ site and slopes bordering Tai Tong Shan Road. Beyond the road the valley floor is largely obscured by intervening vegetation and mature tree growth framing views to the mountains beyond. The view of these uplands includes the summit of Chuk Ko Yan Leng (+422 mPD) and the ridgeline formed by Kun Um Shan and Sacred Eagle Rock. The mature vegetation and landform in the foreground and middle ground serves to obscure views of the Application Site.

## 7.5 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: High

This vantage point is available to leisure users of the Tai Tong Barbeque site at an elevated location. The location is a popular leisure destination by virtue of the countryside setting and distant views available over the landscape. This open space is located within Tai Lam County Park and to the north this space provides a public viewpoint (with interpretation panel) overlooking the plains towards Yuen Long. As such it is seen as an important sensitive receiver to assess from the selected vantage point. As there are few elements of built development within the existing view the sensitivity of this view from a public perspective is likely to be high.

### 7.6 Visual Composition: Not affected

Owing to the screening effect of intervening landform, the mature vegetation in the middle ground and the relatively small scale of the proposals their visual composition would not be apparent in views from this location.

#### 7.7 Visual Obstruction: Not affected

The proposals would not cause any visual obstruction in views from this location due the screening effect of the intervening landform and mature vegetation.

## 7.8 Effect on Public Viewers: Not affected

There will be no impact on the public viewers at this location owing to the screening effect of the intervening landform and mature vegetation which screens the development from view.

#### 7.9 Effect on Visual Resources: Not affected

The resources which comprise this view include Tai Tong Shan Road, the grassland at the edge of the road, the mature tree growth in the middle ground and the upper wooded hillslopes and ridgeline formed by Kun Um Shan and Sacred Eagle Rock and Chuk Ko Yan Leng (+422 mPD) in the background. The upland landscape and mature vegetation form an important visual resource contributing to an overall quality of the existing view. However, there will be no effect on visual resources as views of the Proposed Scheme from this location will be obscured by the intervening mature landform vegetation.

# 7.10 Overall visual Impact: No impact

Views of the proposed scheme will be obscured by the intervening landform and mature vegetation and as such there would be no visual impact.

# Vantage Point 02: View looking south-east from rest pavilion at lower slopes of Kun Um Shan (VSR 2) (Figures 7.3 refers).

7.11 This vantage point is at an elevation of approximately +75mPD and is located on the western side of the valley approximately 1600m from the Application Site. It offers a panoramic view over the valley extending from Yeun Long in the North to Tai Tong in the South against a background of upland ridges of Tai Lam Country Park and more distant views of Tai Mo Shan (+957 mPD) and Kai Kung Leng (+572 mPD). The vantage point is a viewing pavilion on a hiking trail leading Kun Um Shan, offering open views over the low-rise development of the valley floor including sprawling villages, industrial warehouses and powerlines contained by the mountain backdrop and the high-rise development at the edge of Yuen Long. Views looking southeast towards the Application Site are partially obscured by the tree growth of a small ridge extending from the hills to the south. The main characteristics of the view are the wooded hillslopes and the vegetation and built development on the valley floor, with the long-distance views revealing the mountains to the east.

## 7.12 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

This vantage point is only available to a small number of hikers on this relatively inaccessible trail. Given a combination of the long viewing distance to the Application Site (1600m), the size of the panorama available, and the prominence of existing development on the valley floor in the middle ground of the view, the sensitivity of the public view is considered to be medium.

## 7.13 Visual Composition: Apparent / Compatible

The proposed visual composition would be apparent, and it is considered compatible with the landscape context and the scale of other developments in the area. In terms of the visual composition, the disposition and orientation of the Proposed Scheme will be partially apparent from this location with views being limited to the roof and upper parts of the proposed buildings within the Application Site. Views of the lower portions of the Proposed Scheme will be obscured by intervening landform and vegetation. Given a combination of the limited visibility and the adoption of sensitive architectural design including relatively small building blocks and stepped building height profile the proposals are considered compatible with the scale and form of the developments in their immediate vicinity.

## 7.14 Visual Obstruction: Partially blocked but not significant

The Proposed Scheme will to lead some visual obstruction in views from this location however this is largely limited to the small portion of wooded hillside vegetation immediately to the east of the Application Site. Owing to the long viewing distance the proposed development forms a very small part of the view. For the most part visual access to the upland and valley landscapes are unaffected and so the blockage of this view forms a relatively small part of the overall panoramic view available from this location.

#### 7.15 Effect on Public Viewers: Small

This limited view of the Proposed Scheme is available to a relatively few hikers. The visible part of the proposals forms a relatively small part of the overall panoramic view and will tends to be perceived as a very small extension to the existing low-rise but densely developed valley floor. As such it is considered that the Proposed Scheme will not have a significant impact on public viewers.

## 7.16 Effect on Visual Resources: Small

Despite the extensive development of the valley floor the quality of the existing visual resources apparent in this view are considered to be good owing to the relatively rural character of the landscape and the prominence of the surrounding mountain landscape including a distant view of Tai Mo Shan. The scheme will result in a small loss of the wooded backdrop of the scene however this is a small proportion of the landscape resources which comprise this view. As such the impact on visual resources is not considered to be significant.

## 7.17 Overall visual Impact: Slight adverse

Given the long viewing distance, the panoramic nature of the existing view, the adoption of a responsive architectural design and the scale of existing visible development on the valley floor relative to the scale of the visible portion of the Proposed Scheme, the predicted visual impacts will be slight adverse. The view from VP2 is directed across the urban settlement of the valley floor from a relatively low elevation and illustrates the compatibility in scale and composition with this urban foreground setting. Most of the temple is screened by wooded ridges with only the upper area and rooftop visible in the view; illustrating the role of topography (wooded ridges) in helping to screen and blend the proposals into their existing landscape context.

# Vantage Point 03: View looking east from service road below Sacred Eagle Rock (VSR 3) (Figures 7.4 refers).

7.18 This vantage point at an elevation of approximately +265mPD and approximately some 1960m distance from the Application Site offers an open view to the valley floor towards Yuen Long and the mountain backdrop to the east. This view will be available to hikers or trail walkers traversing the mid slopes below Sacred Eagle rock. The components of the view are similar to vantage point 02, however the more elevated and southerly viewpoint demonstrates the visual relationship between the proposed development and the wooded slopes at the valley edge where the existing low-rise development across the valley floor. From this distant location the Application Site is a very small component of the view which is partially obscured by a wooded ridgeline extending from the uplands at the southern end of the Tai Tong Valley.

## 7.19 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

This vantage point is only available to a relatively few hikers on the Service Road at an elevated location. Owing to the screening effect of intervening wooded ridges the degree of visibility towards the Application Site is partial, being limited to the upper portions and the main roof of the building. Given a combination of the wide panoramic nature of the existing view, the distance to the Proposed Scheme (1960m) and that there are alternative views to the north and northeast the sensitivity of the public view is considered to be medium.

#### 7.20 *Visual Composition*: Apparent / Compatible

Despite the relatively open nature of the view towards the Application Site views of the Proposed Scheme would be limited to the upper portions of the built elements. Although very distant the visual composition would be apparent with the creation of separate built elements with a scale which is similar to other developments in the area. The use of a terraced or stepped development platform (following the existing contours); the use of a stepped building height profile rising from west to east and the creation of a visual corridor between the blocks contribute to the compatibility of the visual composition.

## 7.21 *Visual Obstruction*: Partially blocked but not significant

The Proposed Scheme will lead to some minor visual obstruction in views from this location however owing to the distant nature of the view this is largely limited to a small portion of the vegetation immediately to the east of the Application Site. For the most part visual access to the upland and valley landscapes are unaffected and so this minor blockage forms a very small part of the overall panoramic view available from this location.

#### 7.22 Effect on Public Viewers: Small

Given the viewing distance, the panoramic nature of the existing view and the relatively small scale of the visible portion of the Proposed Scheme the effect on the public viewers is considered to be small.

#### 7.23 Effect on Visual Resources: Small

Despite the significant portion of the view comprising existing urban development on the valley the quality of the existing visual resources apparent in this view are considered to be good owing to the low-rise, semi-rural character and the scale and enclosure formed by the surrounding mountain landscape. The visible section of the Proposed Scheme will lead to a very small loss of view of the hillside vegetation however this is a small proportion of the landscape resources which comprise this view. As such the impact on visual resources is not considered to be significant.

## 7.24 Overall visual Impact: Slight adverse

Given the viewing distance, the panoramic nature of the existing view, the adoption of a responsive architectural and landscape design and the scale of existing visible development on the valley floor relative to the scale of the visible portion of the Proposed Scheme the predicted visual impacts will be slight adverse. Whilst from a similar distance and direction as compared to VP2, this vantage point is from a much higher elevation, where the screening effect of low wooded ridges is diminished. However, from this vantage point the development visually forms part of the developed valley floor area, and its massing is compatible with some of the larger warehouse type structures within this view.

# Vantage Point 04: View looking north from picnic spot along Tai Lam Nature Trail (VSR 4) (VSR 4) (Figures 7.5 refers).

7.25 This vantage point from the Tail Lam Nature Trail is located to the south of the Application Site at an elevation of approximately +140mPD and at some 1360m distance. It offers a panoramic view of the landscape to the north, west and east over the wooded uplands of Tai Lam Country Park. This is also one of the few locations along this trail where the opening of the woodland canopy allows views into the valley below. Views looking north towards the Application Site are wholly obscured by the wooded topography. The main characteristics of the view are the wooded hillslopes with distant views of power transmission lines, the only evident component of development.

## 7.26 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

This vantage point is only available to a relatively few hikers on the Tai Lam Nature Trail at an elevated location. Given a combination of the viewing distance to the Application Site (1360m), the size of the panorama available, and the screening effect of the existing vegetation the sensitivity of the public view is considered to be medium.

#### 7.27 Visual Composition: Not affected

Owing to the screening effect of intervening landform and wooded vegetation and the relatively small scale of the proposals when viewed from this distant vantage point their visual composition would not be apparent in views from this location.

#### 7.28 Visual Obstruction: Not affected

The proposals would not cause any visual obstruction in views from this location due the screening

effect of the intervening landform and vegetation.

## 7.29 Effect on Public Viewers: Not affected

There will be no impact on the public viewers at this location owing to the screening effect of the intervening landform and mature vegetation which screens the development and its associated impacts from view.

#### 7.30 Effect on Visual Resources: Not affected

The upland landscape clothed in woodland vegetation form an attractive visual resource contributing to an overall quality of the existing view. However, there will be no effect on visual resources as views of the Proposed Scheme from this location will be obscured by the intervening mature landform and vegetation.

## 7.31 Overall visual Impact: No impact

Views of the proposed scheme will be obscured by the intervening landform and mature vegetation and as such there would no visual impact.

# Vantage Point 05: View looking south from active play area at Tai Tong Tsuen (VSR 5) (Figures 7.6 refers).

7.32 Views looking south from this location at an elevation of approximately +14mPD and a distance of 1100m extend across sports court and concrete hard stand in the foreground towards the urban area of Tai Tong Tsuen. This is a low-rise urban area typically comprising 3-4 storey housing blocks interspersed with mature tree groups. Beyond this the ridgeline formed by Kun Um Shan and Sacred Eagle Rock are background elements towards the east side of the view.

### 7.33 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Low

This vantage point is available to recreational users of the sports courts and residents from the nearby villages. The existing view is characterised by a combination low rise buildings and tree groups associated with the village area, with limited distant views of the naturalistic hillside landscapes that surround the valley floor. The view is degraded to an extent by the large expanse of concrete and given that the view is only likely to be experienced periodically short the sensitivity of this view towards the Application Site is considered to be low.

## 7.34 Visual Composition: Not affected

Owing to the screening effect of intervening low-rise development and tree clusters and the relatively small scale of the proposals when viewed from this distant vantage point the visual composition of the proposed development would not be apparent in views from this location.

## 7.35 Visual Obstruction: Not affected

The proposals would not cause any visual obstruction in views from this location due the screening effect of the intervening urban area.

#### 7.36 Effect on Public Viewers: Not affected

There will be no impact on the public viewers at this location owing to the screening effect of the intervening existing development which screens the proposed development and its associated impacts from view.

#### 7.37 Effect on Visual Resources: Not affected

There will be no effect on visual resources as views of the Proposed Scheme from this location will be obscured by the intervening trees and built structures within the existing landscape.

## 7.38 Overall visual Impact: **No impact**

Views of the proposed scheme will be obscured by the intervening valley floor development and as such there would no visual impact. This vantage point demonstrates the screening effect of the close-nit village development in screening the temple from such areas of the developed valley floor.

# Vantage Point 06: View looking south from riverside footpath near Wong Ngai Tun Tsuen Road (VSR 6) (Figures 7.7 refers).

7.39 This Vantage point is from a well-used footpath within the river corridor where the more open urban structure allows views towards the proposed temple through intervening existing development. The view looking south from this valley floor location at an elevation of approximately +17mPD and at a distance of around 750m extend across the existing nullah channel in the foreground towards greenhouses and other low-rise structures to the south of Tai Tong. Beyond this the landscape is rural in character with the mature tree growth along the valley sides giving way to the low wooded hills of the Tai Lam Country Park. High Voltage Power transmission lines are prominent features of the middle ground and background of the view. A combination of the existing mature tree growth and the landform of an intervening ridge serves to obscure views of the Application Site.

# 7.40 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

This vantage point is available to walkers using the riverside footpath and residents from the villages located to the south of Wong Ngai Tun Tsuen Road. The existing view is characterised by a combination of the channelised river and its associated bridges and railing structures in the foreground and the naturalistic semi-rural landscape in the middle and backgrounds, including the low hills of Tai Lam Country Park. The view is degraded to an extent by the low rise but large footprint developments of greenhouses and warehouses in the middle ground and the powerlines crossing the landscape. Given pedestrians are likely to have a transitory experience of this view towards the Application Site the sensitivity is considered to be medium.

## 7.41 *Visual Composition*: Apparent / Compatible

Despite the relatively open nature of the view towards the Application Site views of the Proposed Scheme would be limited to the upper portions of the built elements due to intervening landform and vegetation. Although quite distant the visual composition would be apparent with the use of a terraced or stepped development platform (following the existing contours) and the use of a stepped building height profile rising from west to east. The effect of these measures would be to contain the building mass below the level of ridgeline when viewed from this vantage point.

## 7.42 *Visual Obstruction*: Small blockage of views

As only the roof structures of the development would be visible the loss or blockage of views of the wooded hillslope backdrop would not be significant. Moreover, views of the existing woodland and upland backdrop would only be affected in the central portion of the view, with alternative views to the south east and south west. Given these factors there would be small blockage of views.

#### 7.43 Effect on Public Viewers: Low

Given the nature of the existing view, with some existing development and powerlines visible within the landscape, the screening effect of the intervening existing mature tree growth and landform and the limited visibility of the proposals together with the relatively short duration of views the effect on public views is likely to be low.

## 7.44 Effect on Visual Resources: Small

Given that only a small portion of the Proposed Scheme would be visible and that the main visual resources which comprise the view namely the mature tree growth of the valley landscape and the backdrop of the hill slopes of the uplands of the Tai Lam Country Park would not be significantly affected, and the effect on visual resources will be low.

## 7.45 Overall Visual Impact: Slight Adverse

Given the scale of the visible proportion of the proposals, and its setting into the landscape (below the ridgeline) and the screening effect of the existing wooded ridge between the application site and this vantage point, the overall visual impact would be slight adverse. The view demonstrates that where the valley floor development is less dense views towards the site are available, however the presence of wooded ridges and tree groups closer to the site help to reduce visual impacts. Although the upper portions of the building and main temple roof are visible in this view, they do not break the ridgeline behind the site.

# Vantage Point 07: View looking south-east from footpath near Yeung Ka Tsuen (VSR 7) (Figures 7.8 refers).

7.46 This vantage point is located at an elevation of approximately +17mPD and the views extend some 650m east towards the Application Site. The view is towards the edge of the urban area of the valley floor and characterised by rural farmland giving way to a wooded landscape of mature tree growth with the ridgeline of the Tai Lam Country Park forming the backdrop. This tree growth is arranged along low ridges extending from the uplands to the south and at this low elevation this existing landform and vegetation almost entirely screens the proposed development from view and demonstrates that even quite large structures can be accommodated within the landscape without detracting from its overall visual amenity.

## 7.47 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

This vantage point is experienced by a limited number of villagers and pedestrians at this relatively remote area at the southern edge of the valley plain. The rural scene is bucolic however its naturalistic and tranquil qualities are affected to some extent by the existing powerlines passing through the landscape and glimpsed views of low-rise built development in the middle ground of the view. As such it is considered to have a medium sensitivity to change.

## 7.48 Visual Composition: Not apparent

Despite the top of the main temple roof (Grand Hall of the Supreme Kwan Ti) being at a height of +69mPD the building profile does not break the outline of ridgeline when viewed from this vantage point. Owing to the screening effect of the mature tree growth to the east of the Application Site only a small part of the Proposed Scheme would be visible, with views being limited to a portion of the roof of the main temple building. As such the visual composition of the Proposed Scheme will not be apparent in views from this location.

#### 7.49 *Visual Obstruction:* Small blockage of views

Given the limited visibility of the proposals from this location there would not be any significant visual obstruction.

## 7.50 Effect on Public Viewers: Small

Only a part of the upper roof of one of built components which make up the Proposed Scheme would be visible and as this forms a small part of the panoramic view available from this location the overall the effect on public viewers will be small.

### 7.51 Effect on Visual Resources: Small

Owing to the small portion of the Proposed Scheme being visible from this location the loss of visual resources in terms of the backdrop of wooded slopes would be small.

### 7.52 Overall visual Impact: Slight adverse

The screening effect of the intervening landform and dense tree growth obscure much of the view of the proposed scheme. The view demonstrates the beneficial screening effect of the local landform at the valley edges, where intervening wooded ridges help accommodate the development within the landscape. As described above only a part of the roof of Grand Hall would

be visible above the canopies of the trees. As such the Proposed Scheme forms a small part of the overall panoramic view and so the predicted visual impact will be **slight adverse**.

# Vantage Point 08: View looking south from rest pavilion at Tai Tong Shan Road (VSR 8) (Figures 7.9 refers).

7.53 Views from this location at a distance of some 530m and at an elevation of +40mPD, looks south from a Rest Pavilion located at the junction of the access road to the site with Tai Tong Shan Road. The existing view is characterised by a combination of Tai Tong Shan with roadside trees in the fore and middle ground obscuring any views out to the uplands of the Tai Lam Country Park in the background. The landscape is wooded and rural in character with the mature tree growth along Tai Tong Shan Road and the valley sides of the low hills of the Tai Lam Country Park. A combination of the existing mature tree growth and intervening landform obscures views of the Application Site.

### 7.54 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

This vantage point is available to the drivers on Tai Tong Shan Road and walkers using the pavilion located at the junction with the access road to the site. Given a combination of the nature of the existing view, with its attractive wooded character, the screening effect of the mature vegetation to the south and that drivers and walkers will have a transient experience of the view this view is considered have a medium sensitivity.

#### 7.55 Visual Composition: Not affected

Owing to the screening effect of the mature vegetation and the relatively small scale of the proposals their visual composition would not be apparent in views from this location.

#### 7.56 Visual Obstruction: Not affected

The proposals would not cause any visual obstruction in views from this location due the screening effect of the intervening mature vegetation and landform.

#### 7.57 Effect on Public Viewers: Not affected

There will be no impact on the public viewers at this location owing to the screening effect of the intervening mature vegetation and landform.

## 7.58 Effect on Visual Resources: Not affected

There will be no effect on visual resources as views of the Proposed Scheme from this location will be obscured by the intervening trees and built structures within the existing landscape and none of the existing vegetation, including the existing trees along the access road that are visible from this location, will be affected by the proposed development scheme.

# 7.59 *Overall visual Impact*: No impact

Views of the proposed scheme will be obscured by the intervening mature vegetation <u>at the road</u> <u>corridor</u> and as such there would no visual impact.

# Vantage Point 09: View looking south from visitor car park entrance at Tai Tong Organic Eco Park (VSR 9) (Figures 7.10 refers).

7.60 This vantage point, at an elevation of +23mPD and at a distance of approximately 210m, looks south across the visitor's car park towards the Application Site. The existing view is characterised by a combination of the hardstand of the parking area in the foreground and the adjacent vegetation around its periphery, beyond which the view extends to a backdrop formed by the wooded hillslopes and ridgeline of the Tai Lam Country Park. From this close vantage point, the lower parts of the Proposed Scheme will be partially obscured by the existing foreground vegetation however the middle and upper portions of the development shall be visible against the ridgeline.

## 7.61 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

This vantage point is available to the vehicle travellers and visitors to the Tai Tong Organic Eco Park and adjacent leisure attractions. Whilst the foreground of the view is an extensive concrete hardstand the background of the view is of low wooded hills of Tai Lam Country Park, which, despite some power lines and low-level structures, present a relatively unified, naturalistic appearance. As such, the sensitivity of this view and the degree of visibility towards the Application Site are considered to be medium.

#### 7.62 *Visual Composition*: Apparent / Compatible

Despite the relatively open but framed nature of the view towards the Proposed Scheme, the composition of the built development would be apparent with the use of separate blocks, stepped building height profile and the terraced or stepped development platform (following the existing contours) helping to reduce the scale and prominence of the proposed buildings. In addition, the lower portion of the proposals are partially obscured by the intervening tree growth. Whilst the development would be a taller structure that the existing one to two storey buildings in the vicinity, the setting of the development into the existing slopes at the valley edge, in combination with the aforementioned mitigation measures has enhanced the developments compatibility with its surroundings. Given these factors the visual composition of the visible portion of the proposals is considered to be apparent / compatible.

#### 7.63 Visual Obstruction: Medium

The Proposed Scheme would occupy a portion of the middle ground of the future view from this location replacing part of the view of the wooded hillslopes, small portion of sky view and ridgeline of the mountain backdrop to the south. However, the view of the wooded hillslopes to the east and west of the valley would be unaffected. It should be noted that only middle and upper portions of the Proposed Scheme would be visible with views of the bottom part of the proposals being obscured by the existing landform and retained existing tree growth.

# 7.64 Effect on Public Viewers: Medium

Although the Proposed Scheme will occupy the middle ground of the existing view the proposed landscape buffer planting of trees and shrubs will contribute to its mitigation. This together with the scale of the visible proportion of the proposals will result in the effect on the public viewers being medium.

#### 7.65 Effect on Visual Resources: Medium

The implementation of the development proposals would lead to the loss of views of part of the wooded hillslopes to the south of the Application Site, a small portion of sky view and the ridgeline which forms the distant backdrop. However visual access to the wooded hillslopes to the west and south of the valley and most of the sky view and part of the ridgeline in the background would be maintained. The establishment of the setback and landscape buffer at the northern end of the Proposed Scheme and the growth to maturity of the proposed trees would address the loss of greenery. As such the effect on visual resources is considered to be medium.

# 7.66 Overall visual Impact: Slight / Moderate Adverse

Despite the Proposed Scheme being relatively close to the viewing position, at day one prior to mitigation the impact on the views from this location would be moderate adverse, however with the adoption of the proposed mitigation measures including the proposed setback from the northern boundary and landscape buffer planting would serve to obscure views of the Proposed Scheme to mitigate the potential impact resulting in an overall slight/moderate adverse impact. Other mitigation measures include the use of colour and finishes for the architectural façade for the temple structures.

# Vantage Point 10: View looking north from lotus pond at Tai Tong Lychee Valley (VSR 10) (Figures 7.11 refers).

7.67 The vantage point is located at the valley floor within the Tai Tong Lychee Valley Visitor Facility. It is at an elevation of +20mPD, from a pedestrian bridge which crosses the lotus pond, and located at a distance of approximately 100m from the Proposed Scheme. The Lychee Valley is a popular visitor attraction, and the view is available to multiple leisure visitors. This view looks north to towards the site, which occupies an elevated position above the lotus pond. The existing view is framed by mature tree growth on both sides which extends to form a green buffer between the pond and the Application Site.

## 7.68 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

This vantage point is available to many leisure users, with the location being a leisure attraction where thematic built elements are prevalent. The sensitivity of the view is further influenced by a combination of the existing landscape and visual amenity of the view, the viewing distance to the Application Site and the enclosure formed by the surrounding landform and mature tree growth, where views of the southern portion of the Application Site are obscured by existing tree growth. Considering these factors the sensitivity of the public view is considered to be medium.

#### 7.69 Visual Composition: Apparent / Compatible

Despite the relatively screened and framed nature of the view towards the Proposed Scheme, the composition of the built development would be apparent with the use of separate blocks, stepped building height profile and the terraced or stepped development platform (following the existing contours) helping to reduce the scale and prominence of the proposed buildings. In addition, the lower portion of the proposals are partially obscured by the intervening tree growth. Whilst the development would be a taller structure that the existing one to two storey buildings in the vicinity, its form and function are compatibility with the leisure-oriented surroundings. Given these factors the visual composition of the visible portion of the proposals is appraised as apparent / compatible.

# 7.70 Visual Obstruction: Small

The Proposed Scheme would occupy a portion of the middle ground of the future view from this location replacing part of the view of a small portion of sky view and tree top areas. It should be noted that only middle and upper portions of the Proposed Scheme would be visible with views of the bottom part of the proposals being obscured by the existing landform and retained existing tree growth.

#### 7.71 Effect on Public Viewers: Small

Only a part of the upper roof which make up the Proposed Scheme would be visible. The nature of the development is compatible with the leisure function of the existing area and with the addition of new mitigation planting at the southern edge of the site the overall the effect on public viewers will be small.

#### 7.72 Effect on Visual Resources: Small

Owing to the small portion of the Proposed Scheme being visible from this location the loss of visual resources in terms of the backdrop of sky and the tops of existing trees, which would be removed to facilitate construction, would be small.

#### 7.73 Overall visual Impact: **Slight adverse**

The screening effect of the intervening dense tree growth obscure much of the view of the lower and middle portions of the proposed scheme. As described above only a part of the roof of Grand Hall would be visible above the canopies of the trees. As such the Proposed Scheme forms a small part of the overall view and so the predicted visual impact will be slight adverse.

# Vantage Point 11: View looking northeast from a footpath beside a playground in Tai Tong Organic Eco Park (VSR 11) (Figures 7.12 refers).

7.74 The vantage point is located at a footpath beside a playground in Tai Tong Organic Eco Park. It is at an elevation of +22mPD and located at a distance of approximately 100m from the proposed scheme. Tai Tong Organic Eco Park is a popular theme park offering education, recreation, and farming related activities. This view looks northeast towards the site, which occupies an elevated position in the view. The view is framed to the left by a row of trees next to the children play facilities and a two-storey temporary structure to the right. In the midground of the view, there are mature tree groups growing along a stream course which form a buffer between the playground and the temple site.

### 7.75 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

The vantage point is available to the recreation visitors to the Tai Tong Organic Eco Park, including children and their families. Whilst the foreground of the view is dominated by built elements including paved surfaces, play structures and a building, the background of the view is composed of dense tree groups along aligned to a stream and valley slopes, presenting a relatively naturalistic appearance. As such, the sensitivity of this view and the degree of visibility towards the Application Site are considered to be medium.

# 7.76 Visual Composition: Apparent / Compatible

Given that the trees growing on the temple site will be removed, the built development would be apparent. However, with the adoption of primary mitigation measures such as block separation, stepped building height profile and the terraced or stepped development platform (following the existing contours), the scale and the prominence of the proposed building will be reduced. The lower portions of the development would be obscured by the retained dense tree growth outside the site and new tree planting within. Given these factors the visual composition of the visible portion of the proposals is considered to be apparent / compatible.

## 7.77 Visual Obstruction: Medium

The Proposed Scheme would occupy part of the middle of the future view from this location, replacing a view towards a wooded slope. It should be noted that only middle and upper portions of the Proposed Scheme would be visible, with views of the lower part of the proposals being obscured by the existing landform and retained existing tree growth, and existing foreground development.

#### 7.78 Effect on Public Viewers: Medium

Although the Proposed Scheme will occupy the middle ground of the existing view, the proposed landscape buffer planting of trees and shrubs will contribute to its mitigation. This together with the scale of the visible proportion of the proposals will result in the effect on the public viewers being medium.

#### 7.79 Effect on Visual Resources: Medium

The implementation of the development proposals would lead to the loss of views of part of the wooded landscape at the western side of the Application Site, and a small portion of sky view. However visual access to the wooded land to the northwest would be maintained. The establishment of the setback and landscape buffer at the western end of the Proposed Scheme and the growth to maturity of the proposed trees would address the loss of greenery. As such the effect on visual resources is considered to be medium.

#### 7.80 Overall visual Impact: Slight / Moderate Adverse

The Proposed Scheme is relatively close to this vantage point and at Day 1, prior to mitigation, the impact on the views from this location would be moderate adverse. However, with the adoption of the proposed mitigation measures including the terraced building platform from west to east,

setbacks and adoption of a stepped height profile, in combination with landscape buffer planting, would serve to lower the perceived height and obscure views of the Proposed Scheme resulting in an overall slight/moderate adverse impact. Other mitigation measures include the use of colour and finishes of façade for the temple structures will let the development integrate better with the surrounding environs and create visual interest from this vantage point, which is mainly experienced by leisure users.

# Vantage Point 12: View looking south-west from Tai Tong Shan Road near Po Leung Kuk Jockey Club Tai Tong Holiday Camp (VSR 12) (Figures 7.13 refers).

7.81 This vantage point, at an elevation of +82.0 mPD, located at approximately 500m from the Development Area, is available to visitors of the Po Leung Kuk jockey club Tai Tong Holiday Camp and leisure users of Tai Lam Country Park. The existing view is framed to the south and north-west by the margins of Tai Tong Shan Road and vegetated slope (6NW-D/C 74). The location is selected as it is the only location near the entrance to Tai Tong Holiday Camp where there is a break in the dense roadside vegetation allowing views out to the wider landscape, including a section of the ridgeline of Kung Um Shan. The foreground is characterised by the hard surface of the carriageway and vegetation on the slopes bordering Tai Tong Shan Road. There is a narrow view out towards the valley floor, with most such areas largely obscured by vegetation and landform in the foreground, which also serves to obscure views of the Proposed Scheme.

#### 7.82 Sensitivity of Public Viewers: Medium

This vantage point is available to visitors accessing the Po Leung Kuk jockey club Tai Tong Holiday Camp and leisure users of the Tai Lam Country Park, and in particular those accessing the nearby Yuen Tsuen Ancient Trail. As this location is a road/ footpath with low traffic density, the sensitivity of this view from a public perspective is likely to be medium.

## 7.83 Visual Composition: Not affected

Owing to the screening effect of intervening landform, the vegetation in the middle ground and the relatively far distance and low elevation of the proposals, the visual composition would not be apparent in views from this location.

## 7.84 Visual Obstruction: Not affected

The proposals would not cause any visual obstruction in views from this location due the screening effect of the intervening landform and vegetation.

#### 7.85 Effect on Public Viewers: Not affected

There will be no impact on the public viewers at this location owing to the intervening landform and vegetation which screens the development and its associated impacts from view.

## 7.86 Effect on Visual Resources: Not affected

The visual resources which comprise this view include Tai Tong Shan Road, the vegetated slopes at the edge of the road, the mature tree growth in the background and the portion of visible ridgeline formed by Kun Um Shan in the background. The mature vegetation in the valley forms an important visual resource contributing to an overall quality of the existing view. However, there will be no effect on visual resources as views of the Proposed Scheme from this location will be obscured by the intervening landform and vegetation on the slope.

# 7.87 Overall visual Impact: No impact

Views of the proposed scheme will be obscured by the intervening landform and vegetation, and as such there would no visual impact.

#### 8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 The existing landscape and visual amenity are characterised by a semi-rural context. The Application Site is located on a gently sloping site comprising tree planting and rough grassland and bounded on three sides by wooded slopes forming the foothills to the wooded hillsides of Tai Tam Country Park and connecting to the northwest with a broad valley extending towards Yuen Long. A detailed review of the Application Site and its immediate context has revealed that the visual envelope and the zones of visual influence are largely contained near the Application Site. This is due to the low-lying nature of the valley floor, and a combination of the existing landform, the density of the existing mature tree growth and the proximity of existing built development which serve to contain and, in some locations, obscure views.
- 8.2 The Proposed Scheme consists of a several buildings and associated courtyards in a formal arrangement along a west to east axis. The development works with the natural hilly terrain of the Development Area, rising from the West from approximately 25mpd to around 38mpd to the East, where the Grand Hall of the "Supreme Kwan Ti" is located. Other components of the temple complex are arranged either side of this formal sequence of buildings, utilising the irregularly shaped site area.
- 8.3 The adoption of a stepped development platform (following the existing contours) for the main temple complex creates a more subtle transition between the existing landscape and the development proposals. Separating the proposals into several components, the adoption of stepped building height from east to west; and the creation of visual corridors in a north south and east west direction serves to create a more visually permeable building mass and avoids a potential wall effect. Other mitigation measures include the creation of a landscape buffer with tree and shrub planting around the periphery of the Application Site, within setbacks from the Application Area boundary.
- 8.4 The proposed temple complex shall be visible in elevated views from hiking trails on the more open hillsides to the west, however these are relatively distant vantage points, and the development makes up a very small component of what is already a low rise but densely developed view of the valley floor. Where localised views are available over open countryside the existing topography (particularly wooded ridges at the valley edges) and tree groups flanking the temple complex tend to screen the lower portions of the buildings.
- 8.5 Owing to the close-nit density of the valley floor development and the presence of landform and mature tree clusters the development is largely screened from most areas of the valley floor to the north. Any glimpsed views that do exist from more open parts of the urban fabric are anticipated to be relatively distant view of the upper parts of the Temple Complex only. Selected vantage points demonstrate variations in the relationship between the different parts of the publicly accessible urban area and the proposed temple development and provide an impression of how the presence of intervening structures, vegetation and landform function to help minimise visibility of the proposals. Full views of the temple complex are largely contained within the site and its immediate surroundings. Even in relatively close views retained trees and landform at either side of the site will help to blend the proposals with the existing landscape context.
- 8.6 The selection of vantage points has been comprehensive covering all the potential viewing angles from publicly accessible locations. As is clearly demonstrated by the photomontages there are few locations from where the Proposed Scheme can be seen in it's entirely. In most locations views of the proposals are largely obscured by the intervening landform, mature vegetation and built structures. In the few locations where there will be views of the proposals these are largely partial or glimpsed with a small part (often the upper portion and roofs) of the scheme being visible.

S16 Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.B, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

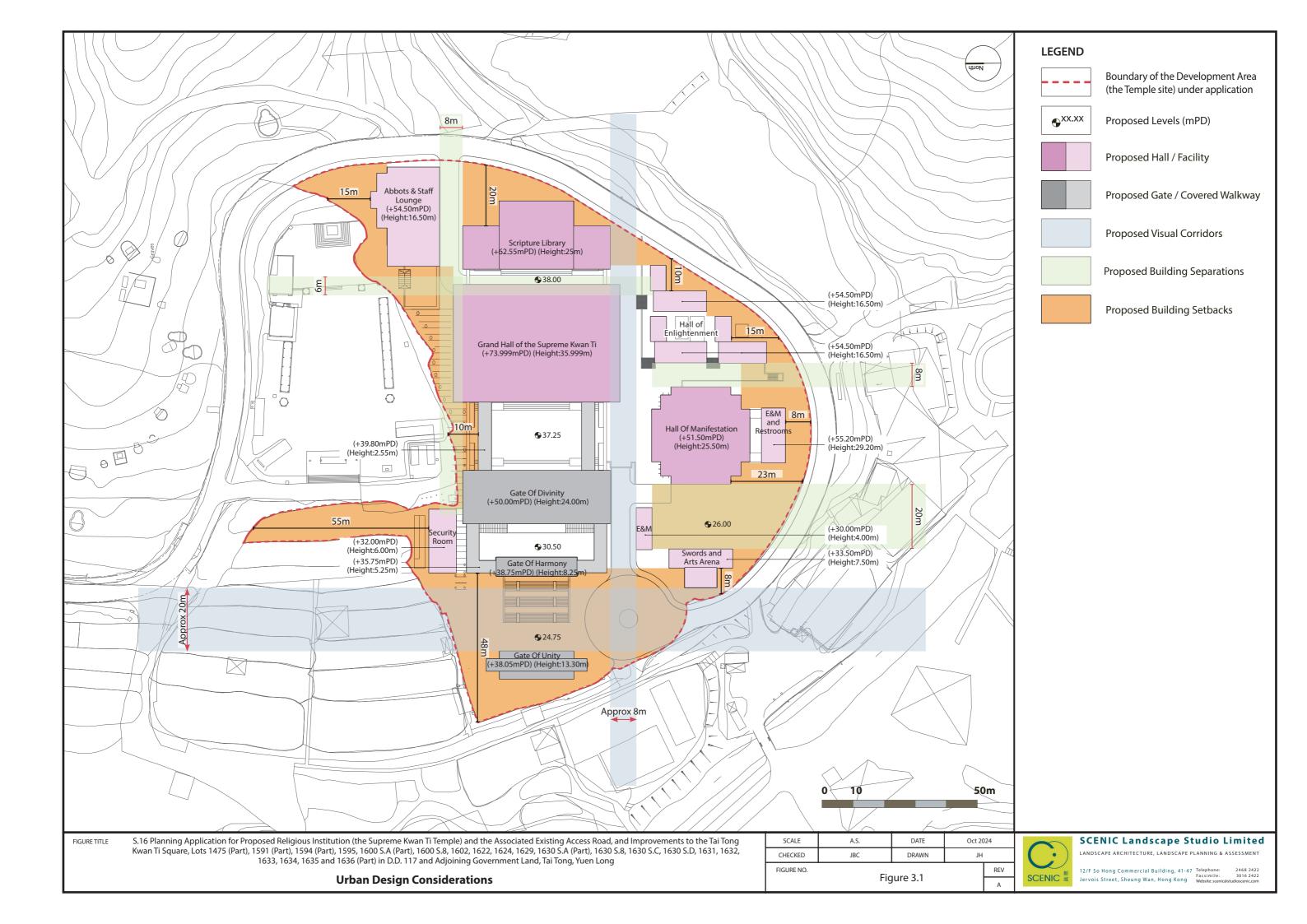
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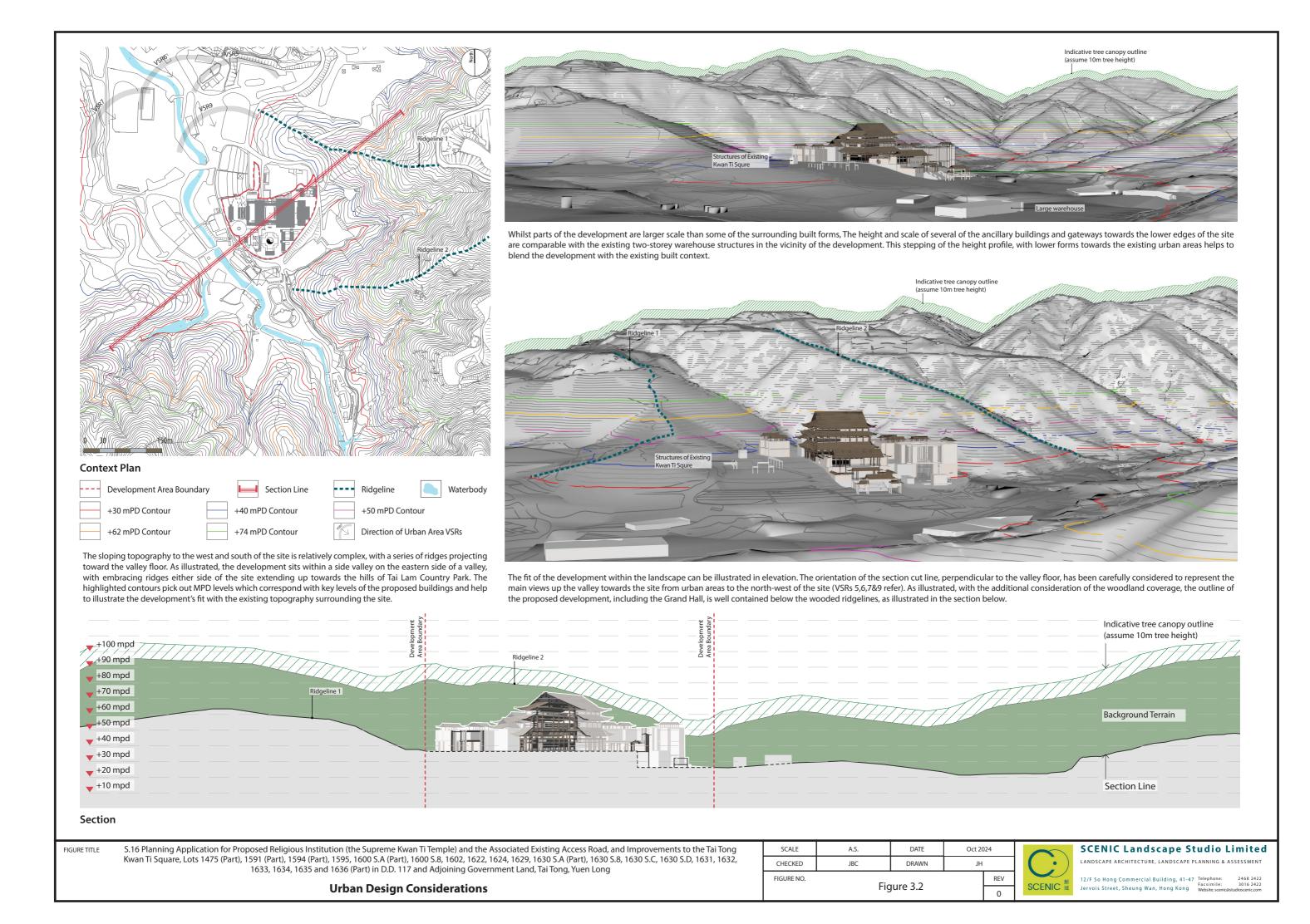
- 8.7 The photomontages show a scheme which although located within a semi-rural environment fits comfortably within its context. This 'comfortable fit' is in part due to the architectural enhancement measures designed into the Proposed Scheme which have been described above and partly due to its setting, the scale of adjacent developments and the lack of visual access. It would be unrealistic to think that there would be no adverse impacts however this must also be considered in terms of the nature and extent of existing and future views. Most of the impacts are localised to the area immediately adjacent to the site, where the temple is not incompatible with the adjacent leisure and recreational surroundings. Generally, the predicted visual impacts from the vantage points with a view will be slight adverse.
- 8.8 Given the factors described above together with the adoption of a responsive architectural design the implementation of the Proposed Scheme would not significantly detract from the existing landscape and visual amenity of the local area. Given the factors described above the proposals are considered visually compatible with their existing and future context and are deemed acceptable with the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures.

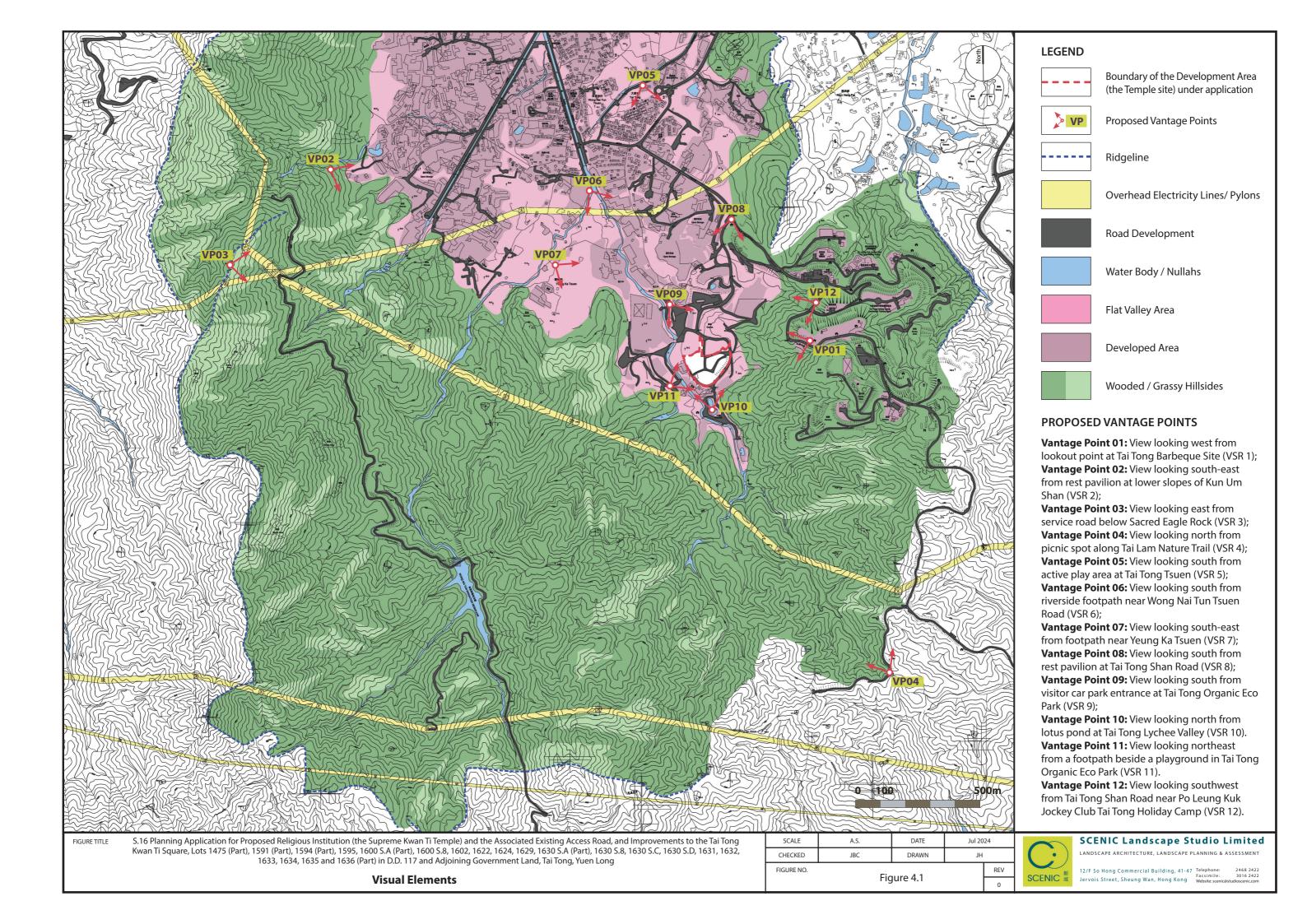
S16 Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.B, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

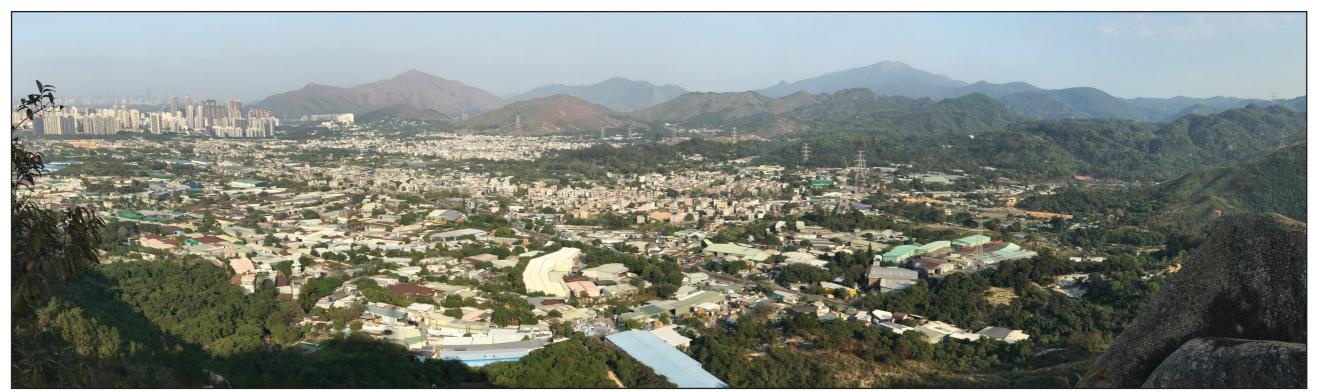
Visual Impact Assessment

**Visual Impact Assessment Figures** 









A The application site is in a valley location surrounded by existing development and wooded hillsides. The visual envelope and zone of visual influence are shaped by a combination of the existing landform, including a backdrop of ridgelines and hills, road development, low-rise development in the valley floor and mature tree growth. The proposed development nestled into topography at the head of the valley at the southern edge of the developed valley floor. To the north the high-rise edge of Yeun Long defines the edge of the broad, valley landscape.





The undulating wooded hills are an attractive landscape element forming the visual context of the site. However, these are not untouched by development. Winding minor roads are relatively well accommodated within the undulating, wooded terrain. However large-scale high voltage power lines are prominent features within the landscape and graves sites are also visible on some of the lower slopes at the valley edge.

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.A, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

SCALE A.S. DATE Jul 2024 CHECKED JBC DRAWN FIGURE NO. REV Figure 4.2



FIGURE TITLE





The valley floor is densely developed, with a combination of village development, warehouses associated with light industrial uses and channelised nullahs interspersed with occasional tree covered knolls and tree groups at property boundaries. Whilst the village areas tend to have an intricate human scale, the warehouses and nullahs are comparatively large-scale visual elements within the urban areas.

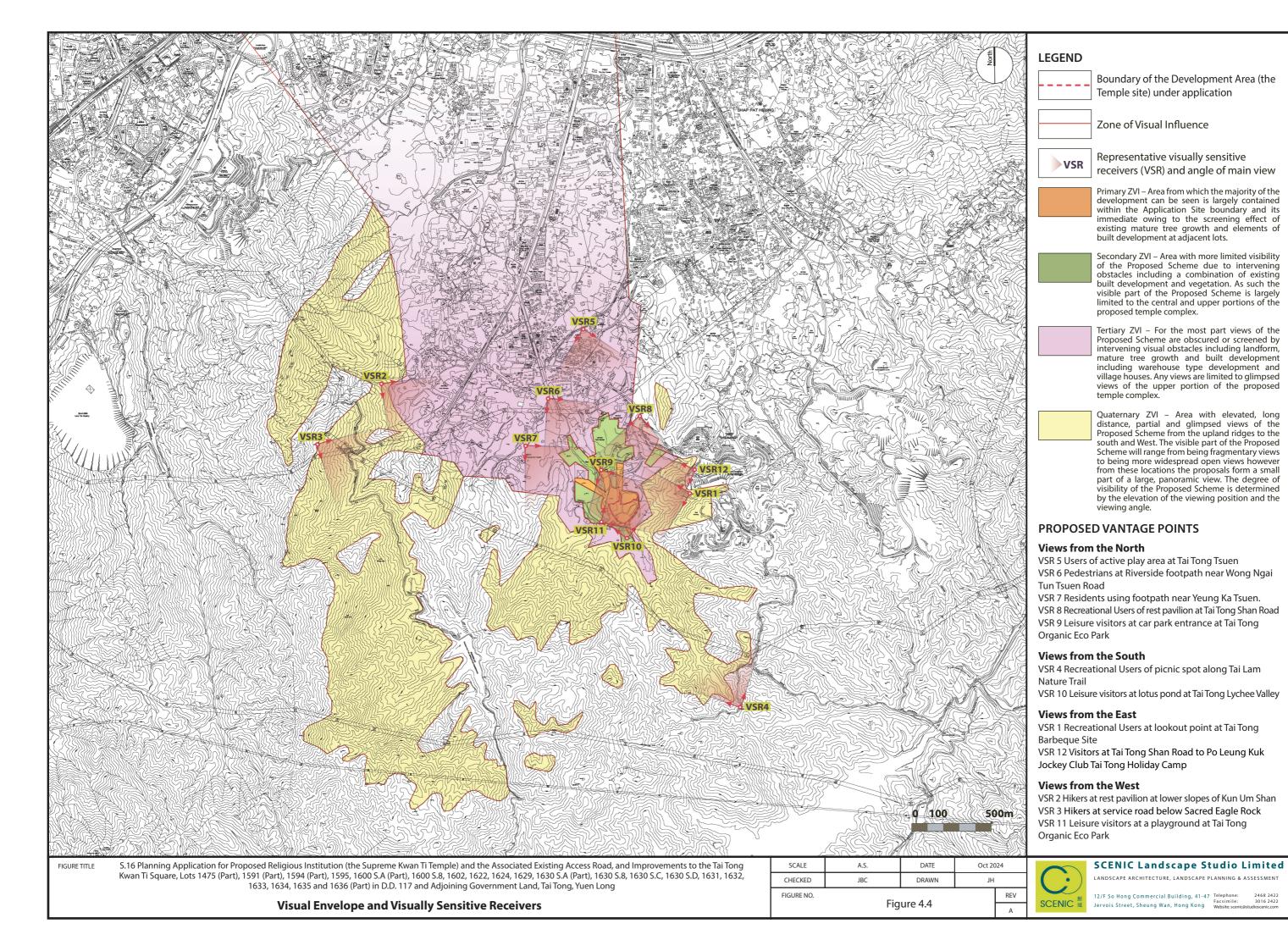


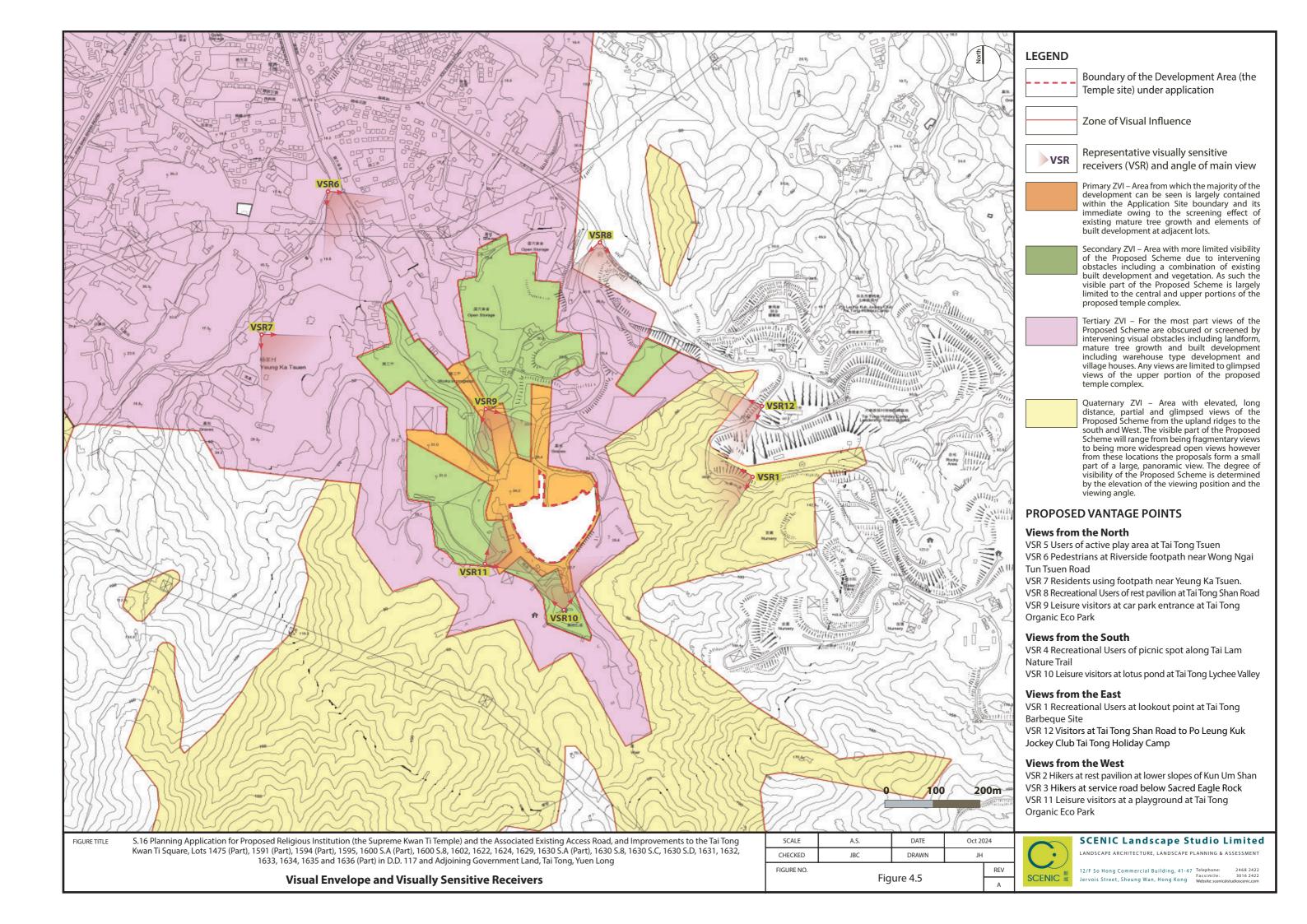
In elevated views the valley floor appears relatively broad and open however the tight knit pattern of village development functions to contain eye level views within the village areas.

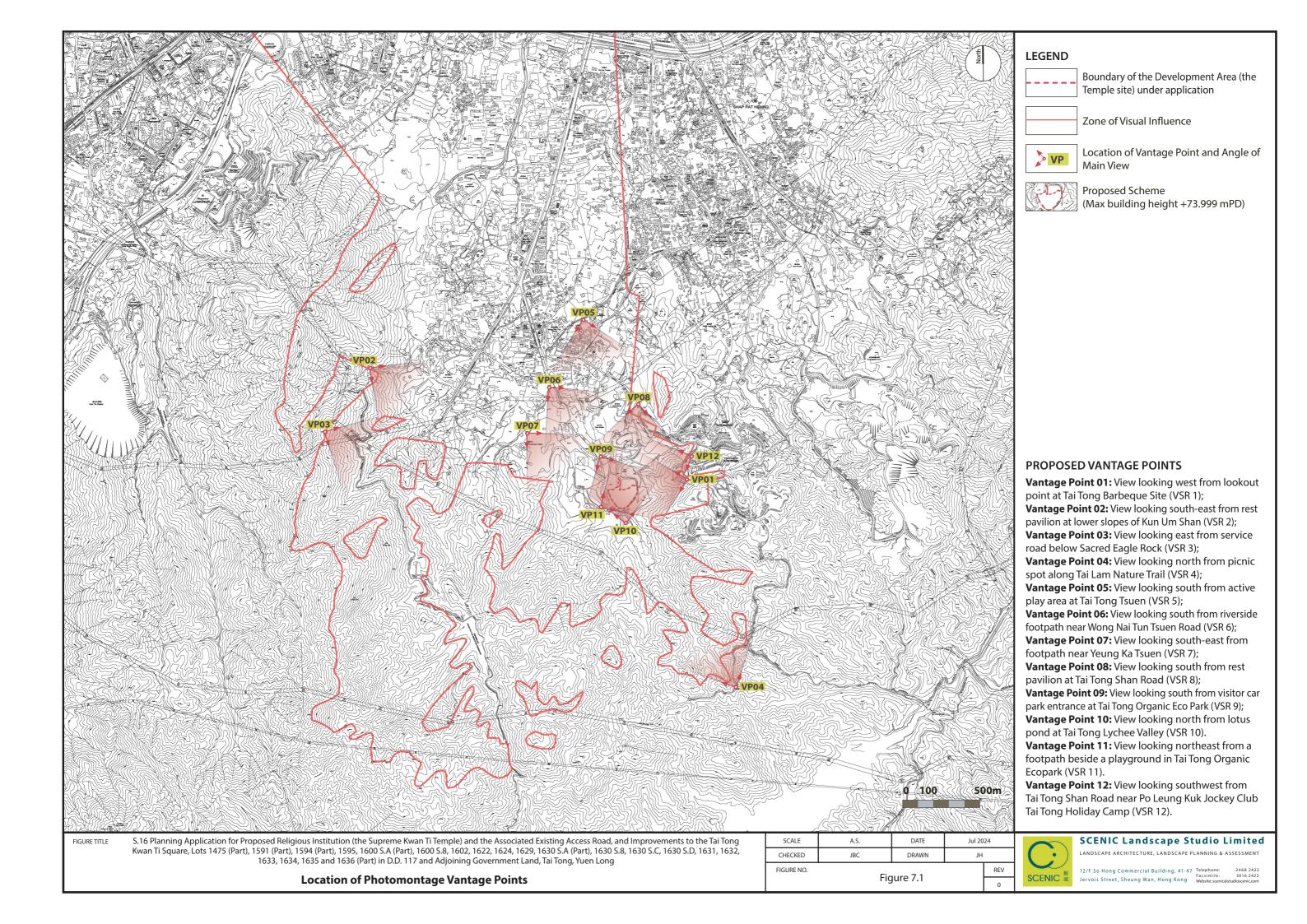
FIGURE TITLE



The High-Rise development at the south of Yeun Long provides a backdrop to the north of the valley, with the skyline contrasting with the low-rise development of the valley plain.







Chuk Ko Yan Leng — (+422mPD)



Vantage Point 01: View looking west from lookout point at Tai Tong Barbeque Site (Existing Situation)

Approximate location of Proposed Development



Vantage Point 01: View looking west from lookout point at Tai Tong Barbeque Site (Proposed Scheme)

FIGURE TITLE

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

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FIGURE NO. Figure 7.2



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**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 01 (VP01)

Viewing distance: 430m

+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +115mPD

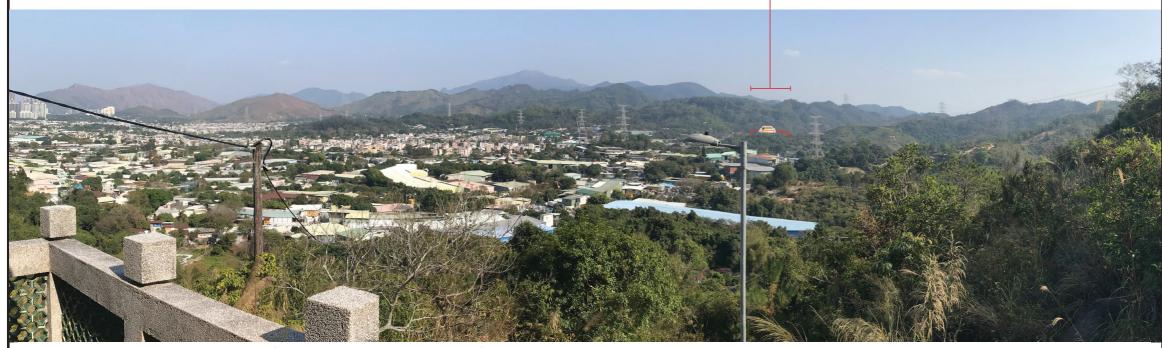
Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:

12/F So Hong Commercial Building, 41-47 Telephone:
Facsimile:
Website:scenic@e

Tai Mo Shan Kai Kung Leng -(+572mPD) (+957mPD)

Vantage Point 02: View looking south-east from rest pavilion at lower slopes of Kun Um Shan (Existing Situation)

- Approximate location of Proposed Development



Vantage Point 02: View looking south-east from rest pavilion at lower slopes of Kun Um Shan (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long FIGURE TITLE

**Visual Impact Assessment: Photomontages** 

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	Figure 7.3		۸	



12/F So Hong Commercial Building, 41-47 Telephone:
Facsimile:
Website: scenic@st

**Location Plan** 

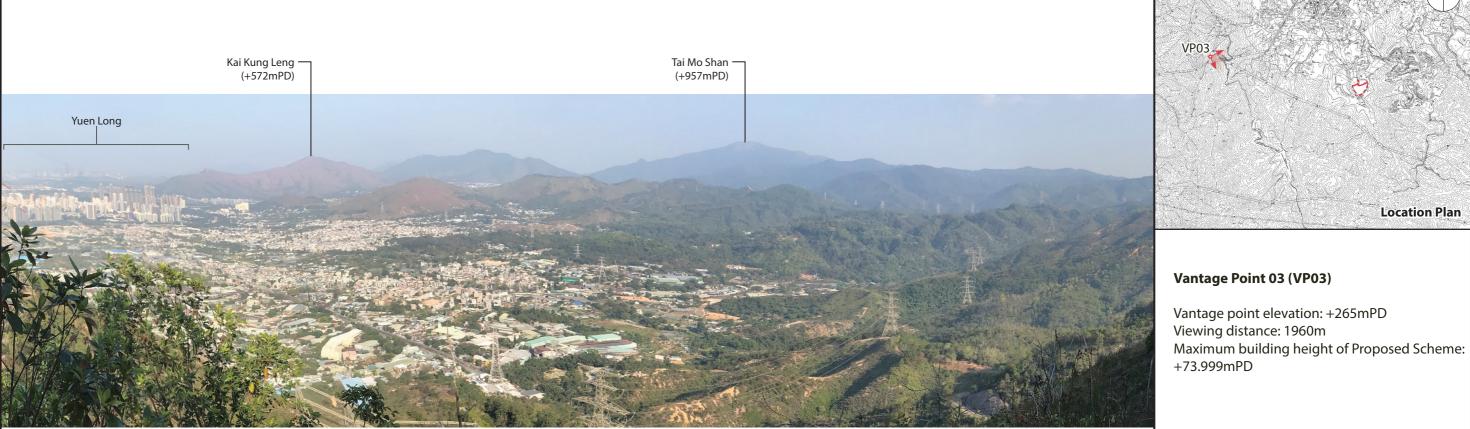
Vantage Point 02 (VP02)

Viewing distance: 1600m

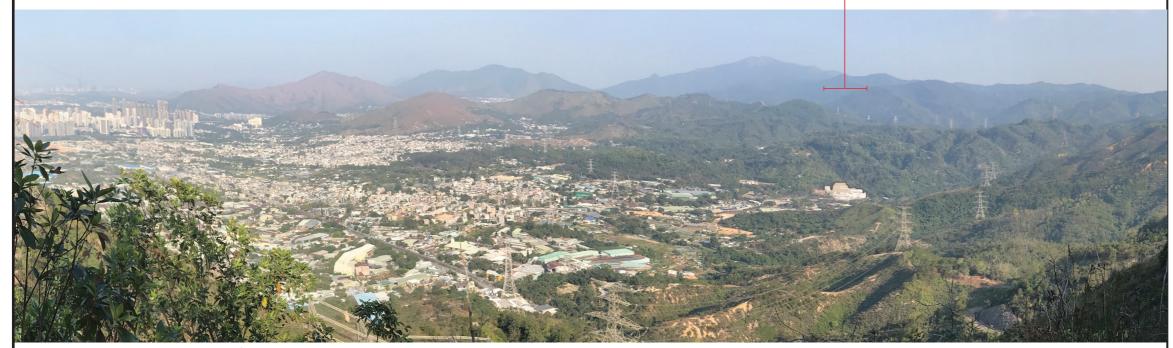
+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +75mPD

Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:



Vantage Point 03: View looking east from service road below Sacred Eagle Rock (Existing Situation)



Vantage Point 03: View looking east from service road below Sacred Eagle Rock (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long FIGURE TITLE

**Visual Impact Assessment: Photomontages** 

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Figure 7.4



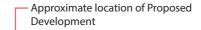
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**Location Plan** 

12/F So Hong Commercial Building, 41-47 Telephone:
Facsimile:
Website: scenic@st



Vantage Point 04: View looking north from picnic spot along Tai Lam Nature Trail (Existing Situation)





Vantage Point 04: View looking north from picnic spot along Tai Lam Nature Trail (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A (Part), 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

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FIGURE NO. Figure 7.5



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**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 04 (VP04)

Viewing distance: 1360m

+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +140mPD

Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:

12/F So Hong Commercial Building, 41-47 Telephone:
Facsimile:
Website: scenic@st



Vantage Point 05: View looking south from active play area at Tai Tong Tsuen (Existing Situation)



Vantage Point 05: View looking south from active play area at Tai Tong Tsuen (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.A, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

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Figure 7.6

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**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 05 (VP05)

Viewing distance: 1100m

+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +14mPD

Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:



Vantage Point 06: View looking south from riverside footpath near Wong Ngai Tun Tsuen Road (Existing Situation)



Vantage Point 06: View looking south from riverside footpath near Wong Ngai Tun Tsuen Road (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long FIGURE TITLE

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Figure 7.7

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Facsimile:
Website:scenic@

**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 06 (VP06)

Viewing distance: 750m

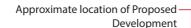
+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +17mPD

Ridgeline of Tai Lam Country Park



Vantage Point 07: View looking south-east from footpath near Yeung Ka Tsuen (Existing Situation)





Vantage Point 07: View looking south-east from footpath near Yeung Ka Tsuen (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.B, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

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Figure 7.8

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**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 07 (VP07)

Viewing distance: 650m

+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +17mPD

Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:

12/F So Hong Commercial Building, 41-47 Telephone:

Jervois Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong Website: scenic@st

Tai Tong Shan Road



Vantage Point 08: View looking south from rest pavilion at Tai Tong Shan Road (Existing Situation)

Approximate location of Proposed — Development



Vantage Point 08: View looking south from rest pavilion at Tai Tong Shan Road (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.B, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

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 FIGURE NO.
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Figure 7.9

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**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 08 (VP08)

Viewing distance: 530m

+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +40mPD

Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:

12/F So Hong Commercial Building, 41-47 Telephone: 2468 2422 Jervois Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong Website: scenic@studioscenic.com



Vantage Point 09: View looking south from visitor car park entrance at Tai Tong Organic Eco Park (Existing Situation)



Vantage Point 09: View looking south from visitor car park entrance at Tai Tong Organic Eco Park (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.B, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

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**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 09 (VP09)

Viewing distance: 210m

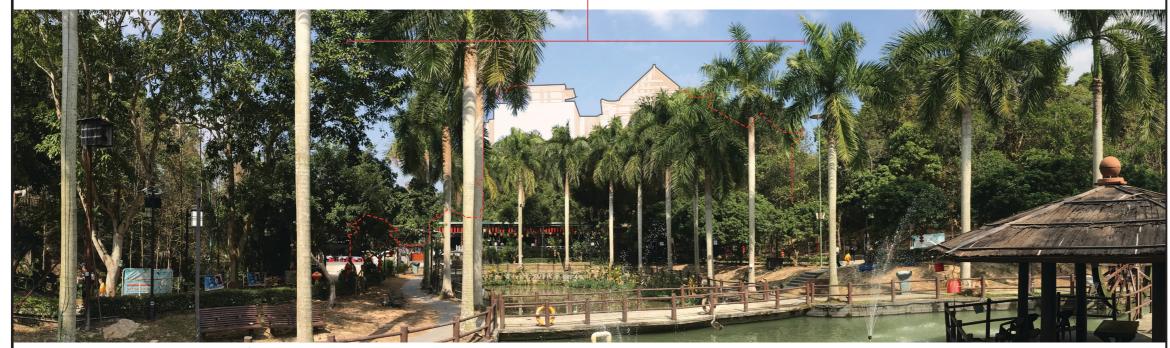
+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +23mPD

Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:



Vantage Point 10: View looking north from lotus pond at Tai Tong Lychee Valley (Existing Situation)



Vantage Point 10: View looking north from lotus pond at Tai Tong Lychee Valley (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long FIGURE TITLE

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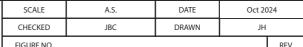


FIGURE NO. REV Figure 7.11



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**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 10 (VP10)

Viewing distance: 100m

+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +20mPD

Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:

12/F So Hong Commercial Building, 41-47 Telephone:

Facsimile:
Website: scenic@st

Website: scenic@st



Vantage Point 11: View looking northeast from a footpath beside a playground in Tai Tong Organic Ecopark (Existing Situation)



Vantage Point 11: View looking northeast from a footpath beside a playground in Tai Tong Organic Ecopark (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.B, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long FIGURE TITLE

**Visual Impact Assessment: Photomontages** 

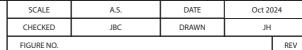


Figure 7.12



12/F So Hong Commercial Building, 41-47 Telephone:
Facsimile:
Website: scenic@st

**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 11 (VP11)

Viewing distance: 100m

+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +22mPD

Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:

Tai Lam Country Park Ridgeline of Kung Um Shan



Vantage Point 12: View looking southwest from Tai Tong Shan Road near Po Leung Kuk Jockey Club Tai Tong Holiday Camp (Existing Situation)

Approximate location of Proposed — Development



Vantage Point 12: View looking southwest from Tai Tong Shan Road near Po Leung Kuk Jockey Club Tai Tong Holiday Camp (Proposed Scheme)

S.16 Planning Application for Proposed Religious Institution (the Supreme Kwan Ti Temple) and the Associated Existing Access Road, and Improvements to the Tai Tong Kwan Ti Square, Lots 1475 (Part), 1591 (Part), 1594 (Part), 1595, 1600 S.A (Part), 1600 S.A, 1602, 1622, 1624, 1629, 1630 S.A (Part), 1630 S.A, 1630 S.C, 1630 S.D, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635 and 1636 (Part) in D.D. 117 and Adjoining Government Land, Tai Tong, Yuen Long

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FIGURE NO. Figure 7.13

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**Location Plan** 

Vantage Point 12 (VP12)

Viewing distance: 500m

+73.999mPD

Vantage point elevation: +82mPD

Maximum building height of Proposed Scheme:

12/F So Hong Commercial Building, 41-47 Telephone:
Facsimile:
Website: scenic@st