



香港觀鳥會有限公司
THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY Limited

認可公共性質慈善機構 Approved Charitable Institution of Public Character

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Secretary, Town Planning Board
15/F, North Point Government Offices
333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong
(Email: tpbpd@pland.gov.hk)

7 April 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Objection to the pond filling in Shan Pui Village, Nam Sang Wai (No .A/YL -
NSW/207)**

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) would like to raise an objection to the pond filling for developing New Territories Exempted Houses at Shan Pui Village, Nam Sang Wai. The reasons are as below:

1. Site is located in Wetland Buffer Area of Deep Bay Area

The proposed development is located in the Wetland Buffer Area (WBA) according to the Town Planning Board Planning Guidelines TPB-PG No. 12B¹. It acts as an important buffer area between the ecologically important Nam Sang Wai Fishponds and the Yuen Long Highway. The Guidelines state that a principle of “No net loss of Wetland” should be applied. The proposed filling of pond would cause a loss in wetland area and function, and will cause irreversible damage to the ecological functions of the Deep Bay Area. In order to protect the internationally important wetlands in Deep Bay Area, the proposed development should not be allowed.

2. Impact on ecologically important fishponds

The ecological value of fishponds has been proven by previous studies and is recognized by the government including the Town Planning Board. During site visits on 29 Dec 2011 and 28 Mar 2011, many wetland associated bird species were found

¹ TPB PG-No. 12B, Application for Developments within Deep Bay Area under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance

using the pond and nearby habitats (Refer to attached bird list). Wetland birds such as Little Grebe, Great Cormorant and Common Moorhen were found using the pond. The pond is therefore ecologically important. The proposed filling would cause a loss of habitats for wetland species.

3. No authorized road access

As there is no existing authorized road access at present, it is expected that new road construction would be required. The increased accessibility would cause increased disturbance to other fishponds nearby, causing a loss in ecological value of the area and decreased functions of the Wetland Buffer Area. It is also well established that opening access to fishpond areas leads to increasing cases of unauthorized dumping and fly-tipping – a negative ecological impact which has reached epidemic proportions in Hong Kong.

4. Impacts on breeding egret colonies

There is a known nesting colony of egrets and herons at Tung Shing Lei, about 600m from the application site (Figure 1). The site is the 3rd largest nesting colony in Hong Kong according to the HKBWS egretty survey conducted in 2009². The site is within the foraging distance (2 km) for breeding egrets³. Thus the construction will cause a direct loss of foraging habitat of breeding egrets in the area, resulting in a decline in breeding success of the birds. There is another construction project being carried out at the south of the site, which would produce a significant cumulative impact on foraging of the breeding egrets and herons as well as other waterbirds.

5. Ecological Impact Assessment is absent

According to Town Planning Board Planning Guidelines TPB-PG No. 12B, an ecologically impact assessment is needed to be submitted to the Town Planning Board.

Based on the above reasons, HKBWS respectfully requests the Town Planning Board to reject the application in order to avoid setting a bad precedent, and to protect the internationally important Deep Bay Area from inappropriate developments.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

² HKBWS, Egretty Counts in Hong Kong, with particular reference to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Summer 2009 Report, available at:

http://www.hkbws.org.hk/web/chi/documents/report/egret_summer_report_2009.pdf

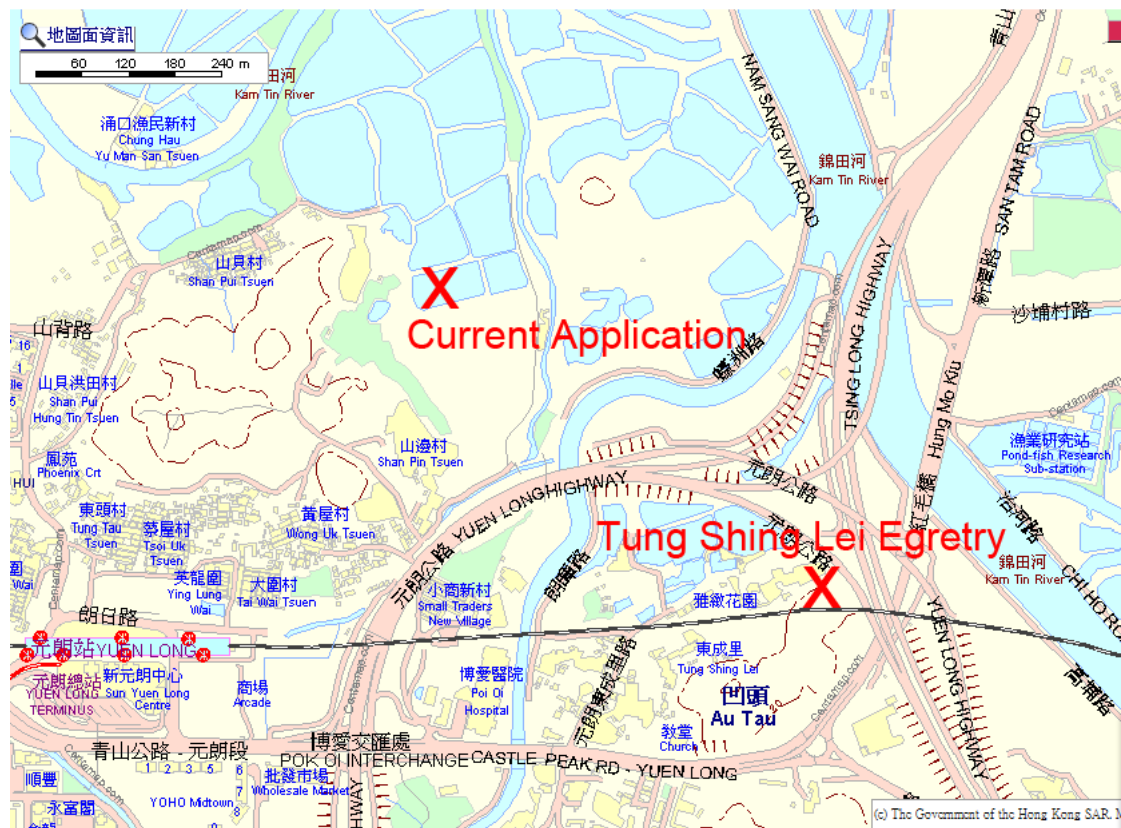
³ Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Ecology of the Birds of Hong Kong

Yours faithfully,



Cheng Nok Ming
Conservation Officer
Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Figure 1. Map of Location of Tung Shing Lei Egretty nearby the application site



No.	Species		29-Dec-10	28-Mar-11		Conservation Status	Fellowes <i>et al</i> 2002	Remarks
			nearby	NSW-207	nearby			
1	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	x				RC	
2	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			x		RC	
3	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	x	1	x		LC	
4	Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>	x			IUCN(EN), CRDB (EN)	PGC	
5	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>			x		LC	
6	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	x		x		LC	
7	Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>	x		x		RC	
8	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	x		x		PRC	
9	Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea modesta</i>	x		x		RC	many fly-overs from north on 28 Mar
10	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	x		x		RC	many fly-overs from north on 28 Mar
11	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	x	1	x		PRC	
12	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	x			PRC Class II protected animal	RC	
13	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	2			PRC Class II protected animal	RC	
14	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	x		x			
15	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	x	2	x			
16	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	x				RC	
17	Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	x					
18	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	x					
19	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	x		x			
20	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	x				LC	
21	Domestic Pigeon (Rock Dove)	<i>Columba livia</i>		3	x			
22	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	x		x			
23	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	x		x	PRC Class II protected animal, CRDB (Vulnerable)		
24	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>			x			
25	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	x				LC	
26	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	x		x			
27	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	x		x		LC	
28	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			x			
29	Collared Crow	<i>Corvus torquatus</i>	x		x	IUCN(NT)	LC	
30	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	x		x			
31	Chinese Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	x		x			
32	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	x		x			
33	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>			x			
34	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>			x			
35	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			x		LC	
36	Bright-capped Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	x				LC	
37	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	x		x			
38	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	x		x			
39	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>			x			
40	Masked Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax perspicillatus</i>		6	x			
41	Japanese White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	x		x			
42	Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>	x	16	x			
43	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	x		x			
44	Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>	x		x			
45	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	x				LC	
46	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	x		x			
47	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>			x			

48	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>			x			
49	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	x		x			
50	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			x			
51	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			x			
52	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	x		x			

Level of Concern – LC = Local Concern, RC = Regional Concern, PRC = Potential Regional Concern, PGC = Potential Global Concern, GC = Global Concern. (Fellowes et al. 2002)

Fellow, J. R. et al. (2002). Wild animals to watch: terrestrial and freshwater fauna of conservation concern in Hong Kong. In Hodgkiss, I.J. (ed.). *Memoirs of the Hong Kong Natural History Society*, No. 19, Hong Kong. pp.123-159.;