

Historic Building Appraisal
Kowloon Reception Reservoir, alias Shek Lei Pui Reception Reservoir
(Dam & Valve House)
Kam Shan Country Park, Sha Tin, New Territories

The Kowloon Group of Reservoirs is located in Kam Shan Country Park, north of Kowloon. They include: Kowloon Reservoir (九龍水塘), Kowloon Byewash Reservoir (九龍副水塘), Shek Lei Pui Reservoir (石梨貝水塘), and Kowloon Reception Reservoir (九龍接收水塘) which is also known as Shek Lei Pui Reception Reservoir (石梨貝接收水塘). ***Historical Interest***

Kowloon Reception Reservoir was constructed in 1924-1926. Its capacity is 33.15 million gallon and its direct catchment area is 96 acres. The construction work was carried out by Messrs. Trollope & Colls (Far East) Ltd. This Reception Reservoir received the water from Shing Mun River through the North and South tunnels under Beacon Hill.

The **Dam** (水壩) of **Kowloon Reception Reservoir** lies across a small valley above Shek Lei Pui Treatment Works (石梨貝濾水廠) which was constructed in several stages from 1925 to 1939. The Dam is of mass concrete gravity construction faced with masonry. The area downstream of the Dam is occupied by Shek Lei Pui Treatment Works which is used to filter the raw water of Kowloon Reception Reservoir and to supply water to Hong Kong Island through a harbour pipe line. A walkway runs along the top of the dam with parapet walls, balustrading and coping stones on either side. ***Architectural Merit***

The **Valve House** (水掣房) is situated at the east end of the dam. It is a square structure which projects from the rear face of the dam. It is constructed of rusticated granite blocks with a flat concrete roof, parapet walls and an ornamental cornice all round the building. It is fitted with a steel door, steel framed windows, guard bars and a cantilevered steel cat-walk. The Valve House is fitted with manually controlled valves to control the water draw-off and flow rates through the dam.

The dam and valve house have no particular architectural style but can be classified as **Utilitarian**. As early 20th century civil engineering works they should be regarded as having considerable built heritage value. All the structures appear to retain their original authentic appearance. ***Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity***

The social value of the structures lies in the role they have played in the development of water supply in Hong Kong. They are now part of the local rural landscape and are popular places to visit. ***Social Value & Local Interest***

Kowloon Reception Reservoir is one of a group of reservoirs in the Kowloon Hills which are all interconnected. After flowing through this network of reservoirs, the water from mainland China or local rainfall is finally treated either in Shek Lei Pui Treatment Works, Tai Po Road Treatment Works or Shatin Treatment Works, and thereafter discharged into public mains for ready supply.

Group Value

The question of adaptive re-use does not really arise since the reservoir structures were purpose-built and cannot be used for any other purpose than that for which they were designed.

Adaptive Re-use