

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

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 Shek Lei Pui Reception Reservoir (石梨貝接收水塘) which is also known as Kowloon Reception Reservoir (九龍接收水塘). *Historical Interest*

Shek Lei Pui Reservoir was built in 1925 as part of the Kowloon Waterworks Gravitation Scheme Stage II. The construction work was carried out by the Hong Kong Engineering and Construction Company. The Reservoir was designed in British style and the valves are still in use and operated manually. The Reservoir was expanded subsequent to a drought in 1929 with the water storage capacity increased to 10 millions gallons. During the Japanese Occupation, anti-aircraft guns were installed to protect the reservoir from being attacked. The Reservoir now is a site of hiking and recreation.

The **Main Dam** (主壩) is situated between Shek Lei Pui Reservoir and the Kowloon Reception Reservoir for controlling water influx into the latter. The Dam is of concrete gravity construction faced with masonry. A walkway runs along the crest of the Dam with steel safety railings on either side. The rear face of the Dam is vertical and the front face is battered. There is a draw-off scour pipe at the base of the dam with manually controlled valves for releasing water into the channel leading into Kowloon Reception Reservoir. *Architectural Merit*

The **Spillway Dam** (溢洪壩) is situated at the head of the overflow channel between Shek Lei Pui Reservoir and Kowloon Reservoir for controlling water influx into the latter. Like the Main Dam, it is also of concrete gravity construction faced with masonry. There is a weir at the middle of the dam which allows water to spill over into a stepped channel leading to Kowloon Reservoir. There is a walkway on top of the dam on each side of the weir with safety railings and parapet walls.

The **Valve House** (水掣房) is situated on south side of the weir. It is a square structure built of masonry blocks with a pyramid shaped roof and projecting eaves with ornamental corbels at the corners. All the windows are blocked up. The entrance door faces the walkway.

The reservoir structures 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 *Rarity, Built Heritage Value &*

structures appear to retain their original authentic appearance

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*

Shek Lei Pui 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*