

Historic Building Appraisal
Lower Shing Mun Reservoir
(Dam, Supply Basin, Weir, Bellmouth Overflow,
Valve Tower, Footbridge, & Gate Shaft)
Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan, N.T.

Lower Shing Mun Reservoir (下城門水塘) was built **between 1961 and 1965** as part of Stage I of the Plover Cove Water Scheme and built to back up the Shing Mun (Jubilee) Reservoir 城門(銀禧)水塘. It was built on the site of an old wolfram (鎢) mine opened by a European company at various points in the slope of Needle Hill. The Reservoir was built for storing the overflow from Shing Mun (Jubilee) Reservoir and is connected to the Kowloon Group of Reservoirs and the Sha Tin Treatment Works (沙田瀘水廠).

*Historical
Interest*

The **Dam** is situated at the east end. It is formed of earth and rock with a road running along the crest of the dam. The upstream face is finished with rocks and boulders. The downstream face is sloped at a gentle gradient with berms at regular intervals. The surface of the downstream face is uniformly grassed.

*Architectural
Merit*

There is a **Supply Basin** (供水槽) at the foot of the dam with a **Weir** (導流壩) surmounted by a footbridge with steel safety railings on either side. The Weir and the footbridge appear to be constructed of concrete.

The **Bellmouth Overflow** (鐘形溢流口) and **Valve Tower** (水掣塔) are situated to the west of the north end of the dam. The bellmouth overflow appears to be constructed of concrete or reconstituted stone blocks. The valve tower, now demolished and to be rebuilt, has been of modern construction featuring glass-block walls and slate tile cladding. They are connected to the shore by a concrete **footbridge** (橋), partially demolished and now being rebuilt, with steel safety railings on either side.

Further along the reservoir road is situated the **Gate Shaft** (閘主軸) which appears to be a modern concrete construction rectangular in shape with a granite plinth. The building has its own access road from a small roundabout but is fenced off with security fencing and gates.

Although not as old as other reservoirs **Lower Shing Mun Reservoir** still has historical interest and built heritage value. No alteration works which have detrimental effect to authenticity have been carried out to the reservoir structures.

*Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

The social value of the reservoir and its structures lies in the contribution they have made to the development of water supply in Hong Kong. The

*Social Value
& Local*

reservoir is now part of the rural landscape and although it does not fall within a *Interest* country park attracts many visitors.

The question of adaptive re-use does not arise for the reservoir structures *Adaptive* which are purpose-built **Utilitarian** civil engineering waterworks structures *Re-use* which cannot be used for anything else.