



REVIVAL

Heritage Consultants Limited

Study of the Heritage Cultural Landscape of Fanling Golf Course

April 2023



STUDY OF THE HERITAGE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF FANLING GOLF COURSE

Version

Revision I April 2023
First draft March 2023

Research Team

Project Leader

Prof. HO Puay Peng

Professor of Architecture, National University of Singapore
UNESCO Chair in Architecture Heritage Conservation and Management in Asia

Dr. Ken Nicolson

Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Hong Kong, the author of the book "Landscapes Lost and Found, Appreciating Hong Kong's Heritage Cultural Landscapes" & "Water Driven, Revolutionary Cultural Landscapes"

Dr. Maxime Decaudin

Senior Lecturer, National University of Singapore

REVIVAL

Heritage Consultants Limited

Ms. HO Sum Yee, May

Director, Registered Architect, HKIA, HKICON

Ms. NG Wan Yee, Wendy

Director, HKICON

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the permission given by the following organisations and person for the use of their records, maps and photos in the report:

- Fanling Golf Club

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STUDY OF THE HERITAGE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF FANLING GOLF COURSE	i
Research Team	i
Project Leader	i
Acknowledgements	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	ii
LIST OF FIGURES	iv
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.0 THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE.....	1
Origins	1
3.0 UNESCO World Heritage Convention and Operational Guidelines.....	2
3.1 Fanling Golf Course	4
4.0 THE ORIGIN OF GOLF AND EVOLUTION OF GOLF COURSE DESIGN.....	4
4.1 Scottish Links	4
4.2 Moving Inland	5
4.3 Modern Developments.....	7
5.0 GOLF COURSES AS HERITAGE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES.....	9
5.1 World Heritage.....	9
5.2 National Heritage.....	9
5.3 St Andrews Old Course, Scotland	9
5.4 Other Heritage Golf Courses in the UK.....	11
5.5 Oakmont Country Club, Pennsylvania, United States	13
5.6 Other Heritage Golf Courses in the U.S.....	15
5.7 Hirono Golf Club, Japan.....	15
5.8 Other Heritage Golf Courses in Japan and South-East Asia.....	18
6.0 GOLF COURSES, BIODIVERSITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY.....	19
7.0 SUMMARY.....	20
8.0 FANLING GOLF COURSE	21
8.1 Introduction.....	21
8.2 New Territories 1898.....	21
8.3 Establishment of Fanling Golf Course.....	22
9.0 CULTURAL AND NATURAL SIGNIFICANCE.....	27
9.1 Historical Value	28
9.2 Course Design Value	30
9.4 Nature Conservation Value.....	34
9.5 Sustainability Value	38
9.6 Architectural Value	39
9.7 Local Value	46
9.8 Socio-cultural Value.....	49
10.0 SUMMARY.....	56
11.0 COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HONG KONG CULTURAL LANDSCAPES WITH ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY	59
11.1 Hong Kong Cemetery, Happy Valley.....	59
11.2 Kadoorie Farm.....	60
11.3 Mai Po Marshes	61
11.4 Fanling Golf Club	63
12.0 ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON HERITAGE VALUES FROM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	64
12.1 Historical and Course Design Values	64
12.2 Scenic Value	65
12.3 Nature Conservation Value.....	65

12.4	Sustainability Value	66
12.5	Architectural Value	66
12.6	Local Value	67
12.7	Socio-cultural Value	67
13.0	CONCLUSIONS	68
BIBLIOGRAPHY		70
	Official Document	70
	Books after 1911	70
	Journals	70
	Old News	71
	Other Manuscripts	71
	Other	72
APPENDIX- I Complete list of Hong Kong Open Winners (Men's and Ladies's Champions)		I
APPENDIX- II Complete list of International Tournaments held at Fanling Golf Course		I
APPENDIX- III Submission to AAB and AMO, HKSAR Government for the Grading of the Whole of Fanling Golf Course as Listed Historical Building (27 September 2021)		I

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1. Fanling Golf Course (designed cultural landscape).....	4
Fig. 2. Extract from FIFEplan Local Development Plan (2017) showing Greenbelt surrounding St Andrews Town conservation area and including the St Andrews Links Landscape of Historic Interest	11
Fig. 3. View of the Old Course before tree planting established	23
Fig. 4. Fanling Old Course, Hole 7, 'The Bog'	24
Fig. 5. Fanling New Course, 'The Ridge'	25
Fig. 6. Fanling Eden Course, 'The Ultimate'	26
Fig. 7. The three courses: Old, New, and Eden Courses and Graded Historic Buildings.....	27
Fig. 8. Hong Kong Open Championship	29
Fig. 9. Combined Layouts of Old, New, and Eden Courses	31
Fig. 10. Parkland Landscape of Fanling Golf Club	32
Fig. 11. Fanling Old Course 'Tommy Tucker'	33
Fig. 12. Chinese Swamp Cypress, Old Course'	35
Fig. 13. Mature Ficus macrocarpa, Old Course'	36
Fig. 14. High-rise Skyline'	37
Fig. 15. Hong Kong Golf Club Certified 26 May 2020	38
Fig. 16. The Clubhouse, Dormie House, C.1930s (left) and post war (right).	40
Fig. 17. Men's Club house & 18 th Green Old Coue, 1930.....	41
Fig. 18. Old Course, Mens & Ladies Clubhouse.....	41
Fig. 19. The Clubhouse, 2022.	42
Fig. 20. The Halfway House on the Old Course, 1918	43
Fig. 21. The Halfway House, 2022	43
Fig. 22. A new butterfly garden (located on the right) is added in front of the Halfway House	44
Fig. 23. The Fanling Lodge	44
Fig. 24. The Ladies Clubhouse in 1950.	51
Fig. 25. Ancestral graves and the Course.....	53
Fig. 26. Special entrance designated for the use of the villagers to access to the Course.....	53
Fig. 27. Hong Kong Cemetery's memorials in a mature landscape setting	59
Fig. 28. Kadoorie Farm terraces and woodland	60
Fig. 29. Mai Po Marshes	61
Fig. 30. Mai Po's Landscape Buffer 'Wise Use' Zoning Plan.....	62
Fig. 31. Plan highlighting in red first 8 holes of Old Course, east of Fan Kam Road	63
Fig. 32. Area 1 Existing Old Course (Holes 1 to 3) and Area 1 Housing Development	64

STUDY OF THE HERITAGE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF FANLING GOLF COURSE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to establish the heritage value of the Fanling Golf Course as a cultural landscape. The study will include the entire 172 hectares site comprising the Old, New, and Eden Courses. The concept of the cultural landscape is well established internationally, in the fields of city planning, human geography, and heritage conservation. It is closely related to Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), as one of several international tools of cultural landscape value assessment and characterisation. However, these tools and principles embedded in them have not been widely recognised or applied in Hong Kong; an exception and precedent perhaps being references to Government Hill as a cultural landscape in recent heritage studies. The advantage of interpreting, defining, and protecting a heritage site as a cultural landscape, such as the Fanling Golf Course, is that the dynamic relationship between the natural and built heritage resources are fully identified and understood before making decisions that may irreversibly damage the authenticity and integrity of the site.

The study will, therefore, begin with a review of the origin and evolution of the cultural landscape concept and the current international definitions. This will establish the framework to review the evolution of golf course design and development generally before focusing in detail on the history of golf at Fanling and the heritage significance of the site's natural and man-made resources. Comparisons will also be drawn with overseas examples of golf courses being interpreted and protected as heritage cultural landscapes.

2.0 THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Origins

The cultural landscape is a straightforward expression of the dynamic, two-way relationship between humankind and the natural environment. Nature provides the resources that we need to survive (water, food, and shelter) and when we intervene to procure those resources, we inevitably shape the landscape, e.g., building a dam to store water, planting a field to grow food, and cutting down trees or quarrying stone to build homes. The result of these activities is a cultural landscape. In time, as these basic resources are secured, allowing communities to develop, the associations that we have with the natural environment evolve and adapt to include landscapes that are expressions of, say, religious beliefs, creative artistic works, and recreational pursuits. Examples of these might be fengshui features, gardens, and parkland venues for rest, exercise, meditation, and play.

One of the earliest proponents of the cultural landscape concept was Patrick Geddes, a socio-ecologist who is widely considered to be the father of modern town planning. In 1905, Geddes restated the fundamental relationship between humankind and nature that had been neglected

during the Industrial Revolution, resulting in a polluted natural environment and impoverished inner-city communities. He summed it up in three words: Place, Work, Folk. That is, the natural environment provides the means to support the community and its activities and we should, therefore, be good stewards of those resources for a sustainable future. This principle was echoed in 1925 by the prominent geographer, Carl Sauer, who is credited with coining the term 'cultural landscape', described it thus: 'The cultural landscape is fashioned from a natural landscape by a culture group. Culture is the agent, the natural area the medium, the cultural landscape the result.'¹

In 1972, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (full title: Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage) acknowledged the value of the cultural landscape as a means to define heritage sites that exhibit what it termed, 'the combined works of nature and man.' They are 'illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal ... The term "cultural landscape" embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment.'²

3.0 UNESCO World Heritage Convention and Operational Guidelines

In 1992, Operational Guidelines were issued to supplement the Convention and define the rich variety of different cultural landscapes using three categories:

A designed cultural landscape is one that is created intentionally by man. This embraces garden and parkland landscapes characteristically constructed for aesthetic, social and recreational reasons which are often (but not always) associated with religious or other monumental buildings and ensembles. (Local examples would be Statue Square, Kowloon Park, and Hong Kong Cemetery).

An organically evolved landscape results from an initial social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperative and has developed its present form by association with and in response to its natural environment. Such landscapes reflect that process of evolution in their form and component features. They fall into two sub-categories:

a *relict (or fossil) landscape* is one in which an evolutionary process came to an end at some time in the past, either abruptly or over a period. Its significant distinguishing features are, however, still visible in material form. (Local examples would be Fan Lau Fort, Wun Yiu Village lime kilns, and Mount Davis WW2 Batteries).

a *continuing landscape* is one which retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with a traditional way of life. It is continuing to evolve while, at the same time, it exhibits significant material evidence of its historic evolution. (Local examples would be Tai O fishing Village, Government Hill, and Prince Edward Flower Market).

¹ Carl O. Sauer, 'The morphology of landscape', in *Lands and Life: A Selection from the Writings of Carl Ortwin Sauer*, ed. John Leighly (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1963), 343.

² UNESCO, *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, 1972, Article I

An *associative cultural landscape* is a landscape with definable powerful, religious, artistic or cultural associations with the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent.³ (Local examples would be feng shui landforms such as: Lion Rock, Ping Shan's 'crab', and San Tau Village's 'elephant trunk').

In recent years, landscape has taken on a more profound meaning which encompasses 'all the physical, natural and social/cultural influences that have shaped the land, together with the ways that people interact with and perceive of it, together again with the act of shaping future landscapes – the processes by which mere 'land' is transformed into landscape.'⁴ In which case, landscape possessing a wider meaning can be seen as an integrative concept, spatially comprehensive and capable of unifying the various disciplinary interest on its study, so said the authors.

The purpose for the inclusion of cultural landscape as a category of the world heritage listing is to look at the heritage not as a stand-alone object but as a continuum of constructs which relates to natural environment and societal culture. 'Cultural landscapes are at the interface between nature and culture, tangible and intangible heritage, biological and cultural diversity—they represent a closely woven net of relationships, the essence of culture and people's identity. Cultural landscapes are a focus of protected areas in a larger ecosystem context, and they are a symbol of the growing recognition of the fundamental links between local communities and their heritage, humankind and its natural environment.'⁵

How can heritage values of cultural landscape be determined comprehensively and objectively? In the assessment of built heritage, we often rely on the value-based approach. This method had been iterated in different combinations of values in various charters and country guidelines. However, these guidelines are designed mainly to assess monuments or group of buildings of outstanding aesthetic values, primarily. There are obviously other methodology for landscape assessment, including the Landscape Character Assessment, (1980s, LCA), Historic Landscape Characterisation (1992-93, HLC),⁶ and ecosystem services assessment.⁷ In addition to these approaches, we can also look at other assessment matrix for heritage cultural landscape. Stanik et. al, propose two main indicators- time depth and historic richness, to assess cultural heritage of Scottish landscapes.⁸ The Canadian approach has developed to be more comprehensive and integrated for landscape conservation with the addition of indigenous perspective on landscape.⁹ For this study we will employ the same all-embracing and comprehensive approach to understanding cultural landscape

³ UNESCO, *The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, 1992.

⁴ See Graham Fairclough, Ingrid Sarlöv Herlin and Carys Swanwick: 'Landscape character approaches in global, disciplinary and policy context, an introduction', in Fairclough, Graham, et al. eds. (2018): *Routledge Handbook of landscape character assessment: Current approaches to characterization and assessment*. London and New York, Routledge, 3-20, 8.

⁵ Chief, Mechthild Rössler (2006). *World heritage cultural landscapes: A UNESCO flagship programme 1992-2006*. *Landscape Research*, vol. 31(4), 333-353, 334.

⁶ See Carys Swanwick and Graham Fairclough: 'Landscape character: experience from Britain', in Fairclough, op.cit. 21-36.

⁷ See Anna Tengberg, et al.: 'Cultural ecosystem services provided by landscapes: Assessment of heritage values and identity', in *Ecosystem Services* 2 (2012) 14-26.

⁸ Stanik, Nils, Inge Aalders, David Miller (2018), *Towards an indicator-based assessment of cultural heritage as a cultural ecosystem service – A case study of Scottish landscapes*. *Ecological Indicators*, vol. 95 (part 1) 288-297.

⁹ See Lisa Prosper: 'Perspective on landscape: some Canadian approaches, in Fairclough, op.cit. 234-48.

values and character defining elements of Fanling Golf Course and provide a basis for the protection of the heritage of the Golf Course.

3.1 Fanling Golf Course

By definition, the Fanling Golf Club is a designed cultural landscape. Like golf courses in general, it is a parkland landscape created intentionally for recreational purposes. One of the most distinctive features of golf courses is that no two are alike. Each has its own unique character that has been determined primarily by the opportunities and constraints of the natural landscape, trends in golf course design philosophy and technology, and the skill of the golf course architect. To establish the heritage value of Fanling Golf Club's cultural landscape, it is first necessary to review the origin of the game of golf and the evolution of golf course design to provide an historical context and comparative baseline.



Fig. 1. Fanling Golf Course (designed cultural landscape)¹⁰

4.0 THE ORIGIN OF GOLF AND EVOLUTION OF GOLF COURSE DESIGN

4.1 Scottish Links

The game of golf was first played along the narrow strip of rolling grass-covered sand dunes at St Andrew's in Scotland. The earliest official record dates from 1552 when a licence permitting the public to use the common ground or 'links' (from the Anglo Saxon word 'hlinc' meaning the narrow strip or ridge between farmland and the beach)¹¹ for a variety of recreational activities, including, archery, riding, and golf. Eventually, golf became the dominant use and the naturally undulating topography dictated the alignment of the course with the putting greens being located in the flatter

¹⁰ Source: Courses on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/>

¹¹ *Scottish Golf History* <https://www.scottishgolfhistory.org/origin-of-golf-terms/links/>

areas between the dunes. Later, formed teeing grounds were added and, over time, fairways, the turfed land between the tees and greens, became more clearly defined. The sandy soil was free-draining and supported a short and salt-tolerant fescue grass that proved to be ideal for golf as well as the indigenous rabbit population that conveniently cropped it short.

Other early golf courses were established in similar links landscapes although, at that time, there was no uniform number of holes, e.g., Leith had 5 holes and Montrose 25 holes. Originally, St Andrew's had 22 holes but in the mid-18th century, this was reduced to 18 and, in 1754, the Society of St Andrews Golfers was founded. In 1834, King William IV granted Royal and Ancient status to the town of St Andrews. As the town continued to grow in importance, the golf club became known as the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. From the late 19th century, the Club became recognised as the home of golf and the governing body for the Rules of Golf with its 18-holes becoming the standard for all future courses.

St Andrew's and the other early links courses can be described as the truest test of golf. Players had to pit their skills against the natural topography and the frequently windy conditions. The courses were designed by nature with human intervention being limited to clearing some gorse bushes beside the fairways and refining the quality of the grass surface for the greens.

A plan of St Andrews, dated 1836, recorded the average width of the course to be only 140 yards with individual fairways varying between 30 and 60 yards wide. This narrowness meant that the 18 holes were arranged as two roughly parallel sets of nine holes – nine 'out' to the limit of the River Eden and nine 'home' to the clubhouse. Space was so restricted that each green had to be shared by outward and homeward holes, the homeward players being given priority to putt. By 1857, the greens had been improved and two holes provided on all but the first and last greens. Around this time, it was agreed that no further alterations would be made to the course in order to protect the integrity of the original playing conditions.¹²

This proved to be an important decision. Over time, it is common for golf club committees to desire 'improvements' to their facilities. This may comprise practical measures to lengthen holes by relocating tees and greens to reflect the greater distance that players can hit, using modern hi-tech clubs and balls. However, many course alterations are misguided tinkering to remove or add hazards at the whim of club committee members. In either case, in the absence of professional guidance and expertise, the results can be both expensive and damaging to the original character of the course. It also presents a challenge to establishing the heritage value of a course since many of its original design features may have been altered or removed.

4.2 Moving Inland

There was a limit to how many links courses could be built around the coast of Britain. As the game of golf became more popular, there was a growing demand to provide new courses inland, closer to urban populations. However, unlike the natural undulating topography that characterised the traditional links courses, the inland sites were often flat meadowland or parkland with heavier clay soils that were more difficult to drain and establish a good quality turf. Features, such as, tees, greens,

¹² A.B. Adamson, *Allen Roberston, Golfer: His Life and Times* (Grant Books, Worcestershire:1985), 14-19.

fairways, and bunkers, of the inland courses often lacked the natural line and contour of the links and were more functional and geometric in style. Over time, three distinct schools of design evolved, influenced primarily by the establishment of the golf course architect profession and advances in golf technology and construction techniques. The designers comprised both professional and amateur players with a good understanding of the game as well as the art and science of laying out a course and turf maintenance.

4.2.1 Penal School of Golf Course Design

The early inland courses were often designed by golf professionals and catered to the most skilled golfers. Hazards in the form of hedges, ditches, and trees, or linear bunkers that crossed the entire fairway at right angles to the line of play, were designed to catch and penalise the less experienced players' shots. This was particularly challenging in the early days when golf was played using wooden clubs and a feather-filled, leather ball, known as a "Feathery". This was a difficult ball to get airborne and most players were only able to hit low, running shots which could not clear the cross-fairway hazards.

The introduction of the Gutta Percha ball ("Guttie") in 1848 and the Haskell Wound ball in 1902 had a large impact on the game. The Guttie was a hard, moulded-rubber ball. It was more durable than the Feathery and could fly farther. This technological advantage was often cancelled out by the early golf course designers by simply relocating the hazards at a correspondingly greater distance. Since the new balls were easier to get airborne, bunkers were added along both sides of the fairways to catch the hooks and slices of the poorer golfer.

Understandably, the penal approach to golf course design was criticised as unfair and uninspiring. It was not in keeping with the adventurous spirit of the game as experienced on the traditional links courses. In response, a new school of thought evolved to re-establish golf as a game of strategy. It held that all courses, whether on links or inland sites, should present players of any ability the opportunity to solve challenges, avoid hazards, and, most importantly, enjoy the game.

4.2.2 Strategic School of Course Design

Around the end of the 19th century, a number of good amateur players who had a sound appreciation of golf aesthetics, turf science, and an understanding of the average golfer's abilities, turned their talents to golf course architecture.

The Scot, Alastair McKenzie, was one of the prominent forerunners of the strategic school of design and was renowned for his free-flowing, bold designs. He took inspiration from St Andrews which he considered to be the ideal, unspoiled, and natural test of golf. He summed up what he considered to be the essentials of a good golf course:

1. A really great course must be a constant source of pleasure to the greatest possible number of players.
2. It must require strategy in the playing as well as skill., otherwise it cannot continue to hold the golfer's interest.

3. It must give the average player a fair chance, and at the same time, it must require the utmost from the expert who tries for sub-par scores.
4. All natural beauty should be preserved, natural hazards should be utilized, and artificiality should be minimized.¹³

On a course designed with strategy in mind, players still faced an assortment of hazards. However, players now had a choice of alternative routes. They had to think strategically to balance risk and reward. Depending on their abilities, one player might attempt to carry the hazard, a second might take a less direct route around it, and another may choose to play short and carry it with their second shot.

This period of strategic course design, extending into the 1930s, is regarded as the Golden Age of golf. There were many notable designers in addition to McKenzie who were responsible for the design of hundreds of golf courses in Europe, North America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. One of the best examples is McKenzie's masterpiece at the famous Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, U.S.

4.2.3 Heroic School of Course Design

By the mid-20th century, golf course architects were inspired and empowered by the availability of large-scale, earth-moving machinery to sculpt new courses and tinker with existing ones to suit the evolving heroic school of design. The underlying principle of heroic design is that the player is confronted with penal hazards, such as bunkers, streams, or ponds, set on a diagonal across the line of play. Like the strategic school of design, this allows each player, regardless of ability, to choose a safer or more heroic route. The larger the risk taken, the greater the reward. Nevertheless, it can be argued that this approach can still give an unfair advantage to the stronger player.

Most modern courses will include holes of this type, whether the hazard is presented by a natural feature such as ravine, or a man-made construction. The most common expression of the latter hazard is a large pond that has been excavated from the natural terrain and sealed with an artificial pond liner. It is the antithesis of the early, relatively untouched, rolling topography of the links courses.¹⁴

4.3 Modern Developments

By the 1960s, a new era of golf development was inspired by the increased coverage of international golf events on television and continued technical improvements in turf science and greenkeeping. In particular, from the mid-1970s to today, the growth of golf in the United States has had a major influence on course design worldwide. For example, the putting green construction method, established by the United States Golf Association (USGA), meant that a consistent standard of putting surface could be created regardless of the local climate and subsoil conditions. In addition, the grass

¹³ *Dr Mackenzie's Golf Architecture*, Compiled and Arranged by H.R Grant, (Grant Books, Worcestershire: 1982), 80.

¹⁴ European Institute of Golf Course Architects, 'Golf Courses as Designed Landscape of Historic Interest' in *Historic England Research Report Series No. 42-2017*, 14-17.

on the fairways and bordering areas of rough became highly-managed and lush compared with, say, the wilder conditions found on traditional links courses in Britain.

During the building boom of the 1980s and '90s, many golf course architects favoured the American style of large, sprawling bunkers, extensive greens, and a plethora of water hazards, often in the form of photogenic lakes. This style has become the prevailing image of golf for a growing global television audience and is perhaps most notable in the rapid growth of golf in Asia where many new golf courses have been built in association with large residential and resort developments.

Golf was introduced to Western colonies in Asia in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Like their British and American counterparts, the first clubs were formed by groups of like-minded individuals who shared a love of the game. The course designs typically reflected the prevailing strategic design style. Some of the grandest surviving examples that uphold the traditional values and prestige of the early courses include: Singapore Island Country Club, Royal Selangor Golf Club (Kuala Lumpur), Bangkok Sports Club, Royal Hong Kong Golf Club, Royal Calcutta, Manila Golf Club, and Wack Wack Golf Club (Philippines).

After WW2, the growth of golf in Asia accelerated rapidly as more nations achieved independence and economic strength. The largest golf boom was experienced by Japan. During the 1970s and 1980s, the increase in players outstripped the construction of courses. The result was a supply shortage and very high club membership fees that kept the game out of the reach of all but the very wealthy Japanese players. In addition, the traditional use of a club for playing golf evolved to include corporate entertainment as well as speculative membership investment. To enhance their investment potential, new clubs sought to outdo rivals with more exclusive and luxurious facilities by employing big name professionals to design the courses and create picture postcard landscapes. Although Japan's golf 'bubble', created by the exorbitant cost of club memberships, eventually burst in the 1990s, the commercial model for luxury, resort-style golf clubs continued to define the approach to new course design in South-East Asia.¹⁵

From its humble Medieval origins on Scottish links, golf is now played on almost 40,000 courses worldwide, in 206 countries. A quarter of those courses are in the United States and around half of the Asian courses are in Japan. Apart from providing valuable green space and recreation facilities, many golf courses have become sites of significant natural and cultural heritage significance. The following section will discuss how some of the best-known golf courses have been evaluated as heritage cultural landscapes and the role of golf in protecting historic landscapes, open space, and the natural environment generally.

¹⁵ See Rudy Anderson, *A Brief History of the Business of Operating Golf Courses in Asia*, LinkedIn July 25 2014 for a discussion on the impacts of post-WW2 commercial golf course development.

5.0 GOLF COURSES AS HERITAGE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

5.1 World Heritage

For the last 30 years, UNESCO has recognised the need to acknowledge and protect heritage cultural landscapes of outstanding universal value. There are currently 127 cultural landscapes inscribed on the World Heritage List, seven of which include golf courses or parts of golf courses.¹⁶ Although these golf courses are not inscribed as the heritage cultural landscape, they are nevertheless considered to be an integral part of the protected site. Accordingly, World Heritage inscription criteria can provide helpful guidance when assessing the status of and potential threats to an historic golf course. That is, the cultural landscape should, ideally, have statutory protection; it should have a management plan in place; the integrity of the site should not be compromised; and the heritage features of the site should be authentic.¹⁷

5.2 National Heritage

The following section will discuss how different countries have evaluated and protected some of the world's most significant heritage golf course landscapes. Given the limited resources of this study, the review will focus on three case studies for comparison, namely: Scotland's St Andrews Old Course, America's Oakmont Golf Club, and Japan's Hirono Golf Club.

5.3 St Andrews Old Course, Scotland

St Andrew's Old Course is widely regarded as being the 'Home of Golf'. In 2010, the Links was nominated to be included on the UK's Tentative List for World Heritage status. Amidst stiff competition and a directive from UNESCO to developed western nations to hold back nominations to help redress the geographical imbalance of heritage sites worldwide, the application has not yet progressed. Nevertheless, the global importance of the Links is undisputed.

How then is this valuable heritage designed landscape protected in the meantime? St Andrews Old Course was established on commons land and has continued to this day to be a public facility. It is owned by the local authority (Fife Council) and operated by the St Andrews Links Trust, established in 1974. The Trust comprises eight Trustees, three nominated by Fife Council, three by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, one by the Scottish Government, as well as the local Member of Parliament.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is the nation's heritage body responsible for designating sites and places of national heritage significance, under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Designations include scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic battlefields, and maintaining an Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. In 2005, HES designated St Andrews Links and included the heritage site in the Inventory as a Designed Landscapes of Historic Interest.¹⁸

¹⁶ World Heritage cultural landscapes associated with golf courses: Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks, Cornwall and West Devoon Mining Landscape, Derwent Valley Mills, Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape, Frontiers of the Roman Empire, Great Spa Towns of Europe, and Par Force Hunting Landscape.

¹⁷ UNESCO, *World Heritage Convention: The Criteria for Selection* at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/>

¹⁸ Historic Environment Scotland, *Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes: St Andrews Links, 2013*. Online at <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/GDL00344> .

The designated site, 'St Andrews Links', comprises all four historic golf courses: the Old Course (dating from mid-1800s) and the New Course (1895), the Jubilee Course (1897), and the Eden Course (1914) as well as the Himalayas Putting Course (1867) beside the Royal and Ancient Club House. It is a truly outstanding historic cultural landscape and the many natural and cultural attributes recorded in the formal designation can be summarised as follows:

Historical

The Old Course is the finest example of the early links golf courses that were first established in Scotland in the late Middle Ages and influenced the design of later courses in the UK and worldwide. The Links has hosted numerous national and international competitions, including 28 Open Championships on the Old Course.

Course Design

The Old Course has been in play since the late Middle Ages. The original layout was dictated by the natural topography of the rolling dune landscape. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, skilful amendments were made by famous Scottish golf course designers, most notably 'Old' Tom Morris, in response to the increase in local demand as well as technical advances in the sport. The authentic character of the course with its narrow 'out and back' arrangement of holes over naturally undulating topography was retained and became the blueprint for the Strategic School of golf course design.

Scenic

The open and rolling topography of the coastal setting and the prominent Club House landmark is one of Scotland's most recognisable landscapes.

Nature Conservation

The Links comprise a diverse range of dune, gorse, heather, and grassland habitats that support important insect, bird, and small mammal species. St Andrews Links collaborates closely with nature conservation organisations to protect and improve habitat biodiversity on the course as well as the surrounding coastal landscape.

Sustainability

All of the Links courses have been certified by the Golf Environment Organisation in recognition of the environmentally-sustainable management regime. In particular, St Andrews is considered to be a model of sustainable green keeping by minimising irrigation and chemical input and maintaining a high proportion of indigenous fescues and bents, typical of traditional coastal links golf.

Archaeology

The designed landscape may contain archaeological remains of a former windmill site and burial ground. The Links as a whole is also a significant archaeological site given the long history of golf being established at St Andrews and the course modifications evident in the landscape associated with the sport's evolution over time.

Architecture

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club House, designed by George Rae and built in 1854, is one of Scotland's key sporting institutions. It is distinguished by a wealth of classical detailing and its famous balcony overlooking the Links. Both the clubhouse and the single arched Golfer's Bridge over the Swilcan Burn on the 18th hole have become iconic images of St Andrew's Old Course.

In addition to the Links being designated on the Inventory, the site is also included in a Green Belt zoning on Fife Council's Local Development Plan ('FifePlan', adopted September 2017) that rings the periphery of St Andrews Town. The same plan further identifies the Royal & Ancient Club House as being included in the St Andrews Town Conservation Area. Both Green Belt and Conservation Area zonings are intended primarily to protect the integrity and authenticity of the natural and cultural heritage resources identified within them and prevent inappropriate development.

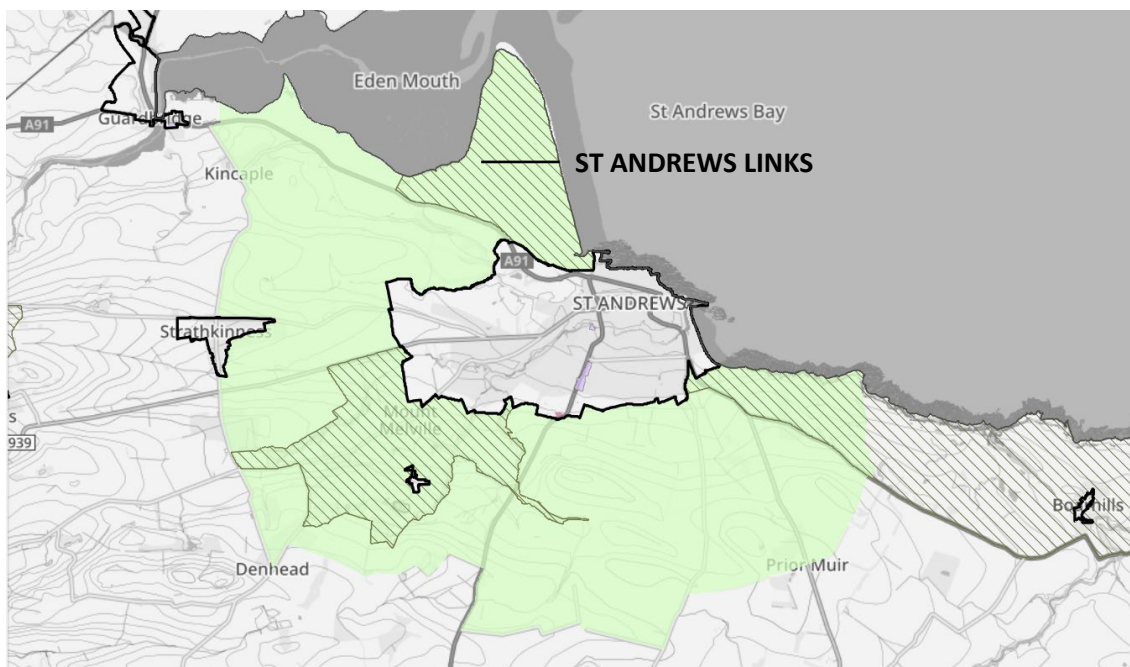


Fig. 2. Extract from FIFEplan Local Development Plan (2017)¹⁹ showing Greenbelt surrounding St Andrews Town conservation area and including the St Andrews Links Landscape of Historic Interest

5.4 Other Heritage Golf Courses in the UK

Although St Andrews Links is regarded as the most important heritage golf course landscape in the United Kingdom, and arguably the world, there are a number of other courses around the country that have been protected directly and indirectly by similar conservation initiatives.

¹⁹ Source: Fife Council Local Development Plan (FIFEplan) <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/planning-and-building2/planning/development-plan-and-planning-guidance/local-development-plan-fifeplan>

For example, Historic England compiles a Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.²⁰ Like the HES Inventory, the purpose of the HE Register is to celebrate notable designed landscapes and promote appropriate protection. The most common type of site on the inventory and register is the estate landscape. These parkland estates are commonly designated due to their association with historic events, famous architects and garden designers such as Capability Brown and Humphry Repton, and being an intact, authentic example of a distinct period in landscape design.

As the popularity of golf and the demand for inland courses grew during the 19th and 20th centuries, it was common for landowners to embellish their estates by building a golf course for their personal use or as a facility to generate income. Local authorities also built courses in public parks and gardens, along with soccer fields and tennis courts, to provide sports facilities for the local population. HE has a policy of assessing country estates with golf courses as parks rather than sporting landscapes.

While such golf courses can be identified as designed cultural landscapes in their own right, their introduction to an historic parkland landscape can potentially detract from as well as enhance the older heritage resource. HE has produced guidelines to ensure that new golf courses or amendments to existing ones in historic estate landscapes are compatible. This includes advice on the aesthetics of features such as bunkers, tees, fairways, greens, and planting that can be visually intrusive and potentially clash with the original pastoral landscape.²¹

A sensitively designed golf course creates a relatively light 'footprint' in the landscape which can be reversed if necessary. It can also provide an effective and commercially viable way to protect valuable open space from urban development. A few examples of historic landscapes that are included in the Register and have incorporated golf courses include: Edgbaston Hall Estate, Birmingham and Thorndon Hall Estate, Essex, (both parklands influenced by Capability Brown) and Osborne, Isle of Wight, the former summer residence of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

²⁰ Historic England, *Rural Landscapes: Register of Parks and Gardens Selection Guide*, Dec 2017.

²¹ English Heritage, *Golf in Historic Parks and Landscapes*, 2007 (NB: this publication is currently archived and under review).

5.5 Oakmont Country Club, Pennsylvania, United States

Golf arrived in America soon after establishment of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews. However, the War of 1812 that pitted the US against Britain put development of the game on hold for decades. It was considered inappropriate to promote the 'British' game of golf until international relations normalised which is why America's first 18-hole course, the Chicago Golf Club, was not built until 1894. The game then grew so quickly in popularity that by 1900 America had more golf courses than Britain.

Whereas the early Scottish courses, such as St Andrews, were laid out according to the natural contours of the links landscape, the early American courses coincided with the parkland movement when the landscape was deliberately shaped and sculpted to suit the designer's concept. The Oakmont Country Club, built in 1903, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was the first American parkland course. It was laid out on a pastureland with no natural hazards. Although the rolling, treeless landscape had similarities to Scottish links, the founder and designer, Henry C. Fownes, created such a challenging layout that it is regarded as the first penal course in America. It remains a tough test of golf today, comprising narrow fairways, a plethora of bunkers, and treacherous, fast-paced, sloping greens, and has been the venue for the U.S. Open more often than any other course. The club is privately owned but open to the public.²²

Oakmont's place in American golf history was acknowledged in 1987 when it was the first course to be designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Recognition and protection of sites of national historical significance was a relatively piecemeal arrangement in the U.S. until the 1935 Historic Sites Act which gave authority to the Secretary of the Interior to designate and the National Park Service to administer historically significant, federally-owned properties. Over time, privately-owned properties like Oakmont Country Club were included and now account for about half of the 2,500 NHLs.

The Secretary of the Interior will consider the following criteria when assessing NHL applications:

1. Sites where events of national historical significance occurred.
2. Places where prominent persons lived or worked.
3. Icons or ideals that shaped the nation.
4. Outstanding examples of design or construction.
5. Places characterizing a way of life.
6. Archaeological sites able to yield information.²³

The following review of the Oakmont course summarises information from the official NHL designation.²⁴ Criteria 1 and 4 are the most relevant to the course.

²² David Moore, *The History of Oakmont Country Club*. Online at www.oakmontcc.org/history-of-oakmont-country-club.

²³ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (US Department of the Interior: 1995 Revised for Internet) <https://www.scribd.com/document/3328588/National-Register-Bulletin-15-Criteria-for-Evaluation#>

²⁴ National Park Service, *National Register of Historic Places: Inventory – Oakmont Country Club*. United States Department of the Interior, 1987.

Historical

Oakmont is the oldest, top-ranked course in the U.S. and is considered to be the first comprehensive and most intact example of penal golf architecture. It is renowned worldwide for its difficulty and, to date, has hosted nine U.S. Open tournaments, more than any other course. The Oakmont greens are so fast that they led to the development of the Stimpmeter, a device designed to measure green speed, which is now used to monitor and standardise green conditions for all major tournaments. During its long history, Oakmont has witnessed many famous matches of golfing greats, notably, Gene Sarazen, Bobby Jones, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, and Jack Nicklaus.

Course Design

Oakmont was laid out in 1903 by the club founder, Henry C Fownes, as an innovative parkland course. It was the only course that Fownes designed. Although its rolling, treeless topography evoked the natural landscape of a Scottish links, it was deliberately designed to create a testing golfing challenge. The fairways were narrow with over 300 bunkers that penalised stray shots and guarded the hard, undulating, and notoriously fast greens. It was also a very long course for its time. This allowed the subsequent advances in golf technology to be accommodated without having to make major alterations to tee and green locations.

Scenic

The original course was treeless, evoking images of the barren, windswept landscape character of a Scottish links. In the early 1960s, unfavourable comparisons were drawn between the relatively bleak appearance of Oakmont and the lush landscapes of other modern courses. In response, the club committee decided to plant thousands of trees and shrubs to 'beautify' Oakmont between 1962 and 1973. The mature trees completely changed the landscape character and micro-climate of the site. However, in the early 1990s, a programme of tree felling began to reinstate the appearance of Oakmont's original landscape and the open aspect and windy conditions typical of links.

Nature Conservation

The planting and subsequent felling of 15,000 trees raises an important question about heritage conservation at Oakmont and golf courses in general. The original habitat before the golf course was built in 1903 had been treeless pastureland of relatively low ecological value. The subsequent tree planting in the 1960s was in response to the prevailing fashion to beautify golf courses across America. However, at Oakmont, the shade from the mature trees eventually caused the turf on fairways and greens to deteriorate, threatening its status as a venue for the U.S. Open. The solution was to fell the trees and restore the heritage value and treeless habitat of the original design. In the end, the restoration work was widely hailed as a success and became a model for proactive tree management at other golf courses across the country.

Sustainability

The benefits of the tree felling / landscape restoration programme at Oakmont, implemented over a 25-year period, are that morning frost burns off more quickly, the course dries faster after rain, less fertilizers are required to maintain the turf quality and irrigation water usage has been reduced by 45%. Rather than replace the former trees with lush turf that would require irrigation and fertilizers, tall fescues have been used which require little maintenance.

Architecture

The Oakmont clubhouse is a Tudor Revival structure typical of turn-of-the-century, semi-rural retreats for sportsmen. The building has undergone a number of extensions to suit the development of the club but has retained its original character and is judged to contribute to the significance of Oakmont Country Club. Other buildings of note include the Gatehouse / Manager's House, the Professional's Residence, and the Pro Shop, all of which date to the 1930s and follow the Tudor Revival style of the clubhouse.

5.6 Other Heritage Golf Courses in the U.S.

In addition to Oakmont Golf Club, three other golf courses have been designated as Historic National Landmarks, namely: Pinehurst No. 2, North Carolina; Merion Golf Club (East Course), Pennsylvania; and Baltusrol Golf Club, New Jersey. This designation provides effective protection against inappropriate development.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 has also authorised the National Park Service to establish and maintain a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) that includes cultural landscapes. There are currently 29 golf courses listed. The NRHP is intended to identify and protect important historic sites but is a lower level of grading than the NHL.

5.7 Hirono Golf Club, Japan

Hirono, located near the port city of Kobe, is Japan's most distinguished and exclusive golf club. Public access is limited to spectating during major championships. The course was designed by the talented British golf course architect, Charles H. Alison, and completed in 1932. Alison had been in Japan on another assignment at the Tokyo Golf Club and Kawana's Fuji Course when two Kobe golfers invited him to visit a portion of a large estate that they had acquired, previously owned by a feudal warlord. Alison was immediately inspired by the opportunities presented by the wooded, undulating landscape with lakes, ponds, and natural ravines and readily agreed to prepare plans for an 18-hole golf course. Although Alison was unable to remain in Japan to oversee construction, the contingent of local golfers who had initiated the project proved very capable in interpreting and implementing the design.

Unlike so many of the British inland courses that lacked natural contours and hazards, Alison was able to utilise the rich parkland landscape of Hirono to good effect. It has all the key features for which Alison was renowned: strategic, bold bunkering, small elevated greens, dog-leg fairways, and heroic carries over ravines and ponds. The bunkers in particular were designed to have an irregular

outline and more natural appearance. The dense belts of original woodland between the holes created a feeling of isolation that focuses views and adds an almost theatrical drama to each shot, particularly on the par 3 holes.

Despite being a relatively short yardage (6,925 yds from back tees), Hirono is a testing course that has played host to all the major Japanese championships. The course is maintained in immaculate condition akin to the manicured nature of an ornamental Japanese garden. However, over the years, tinkering with the layout detracted from Alison's strong design concept. In 2018, golf course architects Mackenzie and Ebert were appointed by the club to carry out a detailed review of the course and reinstate Alison's original layout as much as possible.

Ebert's restoration report recorded the key issues to be addressed.²⁵ Archive material held by the club and aerial photographs from the 1940s and 1960s revealed that the greens had become smaller, the fairways had become narrower, due largely to the growth of adjacent woodland, and Alison's famous bunkers had lost their original shape and character. In a few places, tees and greens had been completely rebuilt to lengthen the hole or even change the direct of some of the more demanding tee shots. In 1944, the course had been ordered to close due to a wartime edict and the land turned over to farming. All 18 holes were eventually reinstated by the late 1940s and a new clubhouse built in 1958.

After detailed study and discussion with the club's Restoration Committee, the Mackenzie and Ebert proposals were ratified and implemented. The greens were restored closer to their original size and shape. Fairways were widened by selective felling of trees that had encroached too far into the playing area. Finally, a lot of attention was paid to restoring the bunkers that were such a strong component of Alison's design. The finished product has been widely hailed as a triumph in landscape restoration.

How, then, is this valuable heritage site protected? Surprisingly, Hirono Golf Club is not formally recognised as a heritage cultural landscape. Under Japan's Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, Article 2 defines cultural landscapes as "landscape areas that have developed in association with the modes of life or livelihoods of the people and the natural features of the region, which are indispensable for the understanding of our peoples' modes of life and livelihoods."²⁶ The national government selects and designates cultural landscapes of especially high value as Important Cultural Landscapes. The criteria for selection are cultural landscapes that are associated with:

1. Agriculture such as rice paddies, farmland, etc.
2. Man-made grassland or livestock ranching such as hayfields, pastureland, etc.
3. Forest uses such as timber forests, disaster prevention forests, etc.
4. Fisheries such as fish cultivation rafts, Nori seaweed cultivation fields, etc.
5. Water uses such as reservoirs, waterways, harbours, etc.
6. Mining or industrial manufacture such as mines, quarries, groups of workshops, etc.
7. Transportation and communication such as roads, plazas, etc.
8. Residences and settlements such as stonewalls, hedges, coppices attached to premises, etc.

²⁵ Martin Ebert, *Article Regarding The Restoration of The Golf Course Hirono Golf Club*, Mackenzie & Ebert website, March 2019. Online at www.mackenzieandebert.com

²⁶ Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, *Our Treasure Cultural Landscapes to Future Generations: Cultural Landscape Protection in Japan*. Online at http://www.bunka.go.jp/bunkazai/pamphlet/pdf/pamphlet_en_01.pdf

To date, the criteria focus on recognising the nation's heritage of farming, fishing, forestry, and mining activities and settlements, i.e., centuries of human interaction with the natural landscape to establish and sustain the basics for survival – water, food, and shelter. By comparison, golf courses are regarded as a relatively recent intervention into the landscape, driven by a desire for leisure and recreational pursuits rather than the necessity for sustaining the nation. However, golf has played such a central role in Japanese culture for decades, it is reasonable to believe that a selection of its most famous and influential golf courses will eventually be recognised and protected as important cultural landscapes. The following summarises Hirono Golf Club's cultural and natural heritage assets.

Historical

Hirono is one of Japan's oldest parkland courses and is considered to be the best in the country. It is renowned worldwide as a challenging test of golf and has hosted all of Japan's major golf competitions.

Course Design

The course was designed by Charles Hugh Alison who had collaborated during his career with Harry S. Colt and Alistair McKenzie on many other famous courses around the world. Hirono is located within a wooded estate with undulating topography, ravines, ponds and lakes. Alison's skilful incorporation of the natural landscape features and his signature bunkers into the layout resulted in an inspiring landscape and challenging test of golf that is regarded as his masterpiece.

Scenic

The dense woodland that dominates the site, provides enclosure and focuses views within the course to create a strong sense of drama. Against the dark green backdrop of the Japanese pine, ornamental trees, such as cherry and maple, have been strategically positioned to provide stunning season floral and foliage displays. The overall effect provokes images of much-loved and manicured Japanese gardens.

Nature Conservation

The original landscape was dominated by dense indigenous pine woodland, some of which was felled to accommodate the construction of the golf course. The value of the pine woodland as a natural habitat is recognised by the club and is carefully managed in keeping with the high horticultural standards of maintenance applied in traditional Japanese gardens.

Sustainability

Over time, the green backdrop of pine woodland was supplemented by planting of various exotic and ornamental tree species to enhance the visual impact of seasonal flower and foliage displays. The gradual encroachment of the woodland onto the playing areas resulted in a narrowing of fairways. As part of the recent course restoration, tree clearance works concentrated on removal of non-indigenous species to return, as far as possible, the woodland to its original composition.

Architecture

The Hirono clubhouse was rebuilt in 1958 and is not currently recognised as having significant heritage value in its own right.

5.8 Other Heritage Golf Courses in Japan and South-East Asia

There are a number of reasons why Hirono Golf Club and other Japanese courses have not been protected as heritage designed landscapes. When the golf 'bubble' burst in the 1990s, a number of Japan's golf courses went out of business and closed. In this context, it is understandable that the country's Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties has focused on conserving historic landscapes with long-established cultural heritage, such as traditional farming and fishing communities, rather than more temporal golf courses that were created primarily as recreational facilities for urban populations.

In addition, the nature of the phenomenal expansion of golf since 1975, that started in Japan and quickly spread across South-East Asia, raised environmental concerns. Many new courses were driven by a ruthlessly commercial model of golf resort development and the 'Augusta Effect'.²⁷ The result was a glut of courses and country clubs vying for a share of a lucrative market by emulating the impossibly lush and manicured appearance of the famous Augusta National Golf Club, as seen during annual televised coverage of the U.S. Masters. It is well known that Augusta applies green paint to conceal brown patches of turf and vegetable dye to the water features to look good for the cameras.

Unfortunately, the pursuit of such illusory perfection in many of Asia's modern courses has tarnished the sport's image generally and, by association, appears to have influenced decisions to exclude golf courses as heritage cultural landscapes in Japan and elsewhere. The contrast between the purity of the early, nature-designed courses and the contrived landscapes of the modern golf resorts is profound. Poorly-designed examples of the latter have been shown to damage ecosystems during construction and require excessive amounts of irrigation water and potentially polluting fertilisers, fungicides, and pesticides to maintain the turf during operation.

Heritage cultural landscapes like the St Andrews, Oakmont, and Hirono courses, were conceived by golfers with a passion for the game, not property developers, and designed by golf course architects who skilfully 'combined the works of nature and man.'²⁸ One such designer, Alistair Mackenzie, expressed this clearly when he declared in his 1932 treatise that, 'The best golf courses are those, the holes of which have been designed and constructed to conform to the character of the ground at one's disposal.'²⁹ To Mackenzie's generation of designers, achieving a sustainable balance between a new course and its surrounding environment was second nature.

In order to address modern criticisms of the sport and re-establish its former reputation for good stewardship of natural resources, the golfing community has responded over the last 30 years by undertaking scientific studies to identify how golf courses contribute to and detract from the natural environment. Based on these studies, a number of international sustainability training and certification schemes have been established to promote best practice among golf course designers,

²⁷ Mike Bailey, 'Ten Reasons why Augusta National shouldn't make you green with envy', *Golf Pass*, 5 April, 2016. Online at www.golfpass.com

²⁸ UNESCO, *Operational Guidelines*, 1992.

²⁹ *Dr Mackenzie's Golf Architecture*, Grant Books, 1982.

managers, and maintenance teams. Today, environmental certification has become an important indicator in evaluating golf courses as sustainable cultural landscapes.

6.0 GOLF COURSES, BIODIVERSITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, a range of environmental studies were undertaken in Europe and the United States to determine the impacts caused by the construction of golf courses and their modification of natural landscapes. The studies typically reviewed the sustainable use of water for irrigation, pollution of water bodies by leaching of chemicals from fertilisers and pesticides, short and long-term impacts on species biodiversity, and ecosystem management. An article published in *Ecosystems* (2009), 'The Role of Golf Courses in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management'³⁰ collated the results of these diverse studies succinctly and the key observations and proposals are summarised below.

Overall, it was concluded that golf courses can play an important role in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management. They were shown to have a higher ecological value in 64% of comparison cases ranging from natural habitats to urban areas. However, the ecological value of a golf course is primarily determined by the kinds of habitat that they replace and their design and management regimes.

As might be expected, in areas dominated by natural habitats, human intervention, including golf course construction, generally leads to a decline in biodiversity. However, in areas of higher human impact such as farmland and urban areas, well-designed golf courses may enhance biodiversity significantly. Farmland is often impoverished by dedicating land to monoculture crops or pasture and golf courses may introduce a wider variety of tree and shrub species. In suburban landscapes, golf courses can make the largest contribution to biodiversity, especially if they have wetland habitats that are largely absent from urban settings. In addition, golf courses are dark and quiet at night, providing valuable havens for wildlife.

Golf courses were also found to support habitats for threatened and declining flora and fauna. An 18-hole golf course covers around 55 to 60 hectares, 40 to 45% of which comprises non-playing areas. On many older courses, these areas may have been retained intact for generations and contain valuable remnants of habitats that, elsewhere in the region, have become endangered through loss to urban development, e.g., Scottish coastal dunes, English heathland, and America's oak savannah and longleaf pine woodlands.

Urban planners and ecologists, tasked with protection of natural areas, recognise the potential role that golf courses can play in complementing and enhancing regional biodiversity. They have proved to be compatible land uses in green belt zoning around the urban fringe and broader ecological systems connecting open spaces, parks, and protected natural areas.

Finally, as is often the case, the devil is in the detail. Even well-designed courses can cause serious damage to the ecosystem if they are not managed and maintained responsibly. This requires, inter alia, a sustainable approach to recycling water for irrigation and use of organic, eco-friendly fertilisers and pesticides to prevent any leachates polluting adjacent habitats. To this end, international certification schemes have been developed to promote sustainable management and maintenance

³⁰ Johan Colding and Carl Folke, 'The Role of Golf Courses in Biodiversity Conservation, and Ecosystem Management', *Ecosystems* February 2009, Vol 12 No 2 (February 2009), 191-206. Online at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40603429>

of golf courses. The Golf Environment Organization (GEO) is a British certification program, established in 2006, that is most commonly used across Europe. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf (ACSP), established in 1991, is the most widely used certification, especially in the U.S. and Asia.

Ratified by the USGA, the ACSP's goals are to provide an environmental education and certification program that helps golf courses protect the environment, preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf, promote environmental sustainability and gain recognition for their efforts. Certification is awarded upon meeting environmental management standards in the following areas:

1. Site Assessment / Environmental Planning
2. Wildlife and Habitat Management
3. Chemical Use Reduction and Safety
4. Water Conservation
5. Water Quality Management
6. Outreach and Education³¹

To date, approximately 2,000 courses in the U.S. and three dozen countries worldwide have received ACSP certification.

7.0 SUMMARY

Golf courses are designed cultural landscapes that reflect the cultural and natural heritage of their community and environment. The first courses were created by keen amateur players improvising holes among the rolling coastal dune landscape of Scotland. The review of St Andrews Old Course illustrates how the constraints of the terrain dictated the layout. As a result, the course melded sensitively and sustainably within the coastal ecosystem.

As the game evolved and grew in popularity in the early 1900s, so did the level of design intervention. A new profession of pioneering golf architects designed courses with the intention of optimising the golfing experience, introducing strategic challenges, and conserving the natural features of the site. The review of Oakmont Golf Club illustrates the importance of protecting the integrity and authenticity of such landmark courses from later, inappropriate, and unnecessary interventions.

The continued rapid expansion of golf globally, particularly in Asia in the late 1900s, was driven by a more commercial focus which tainted the sport's image despite the good reputation of early Asian courses like Japan's Hirono Golf Club. Often constructed as part of residential or resort developments, many of these new, artificially-sculpted and overly-manicured courses were criticised for their environmental impacts. The golfing community responded positively by establishing training and certification programmes that promote better environmental awareness, protection, and management.

Ironically, this 'renaissance' of sustainable golf course design and management has highlighted the valuable role that many earlier golf landscapes have played in protecting and enhancing the biodiversity within their immediate surroundings as well as broader regional ecosystems. Some iconic courses, like St Andrews and Oakmont, have been designated as historic cultural landscapes and national historic monuments. However, many more well-designed golf landscapes with significant cultural and natural heritage value are yet to be fully appreciated and protected. One of

³¹ Audubon International, *ACSP for Golf*. Online at <https://auduboninternational.org/acsp-for-golf/>

those is the Fanling Golf Course in Hong Kong and the following section will review this historic cultural landscape in the context of the foregoing discussion.

8.0 FANLING GOLF COURSE

8.1 Introduction

The Hong Kong Golf Club was established in 1889 by a small group of golfing enthusiasts who laid out a few simple holes in the infield of the Happy Valley Racetrack. Unfortunately, level, open space was so scarce that the infield had to be shared with other sporting activities, such as polo and soccer, which caused considerable inconvenience and regular disputes. In 1893, the Club secured a site in Deepwater Bay to build a dedicated golf course, although there was only sufficient land to lay out 9 holes.³²

The opportunity to build a full 18-hole course first presented itself a few years later in 1898 when Britain signed the Peking Convention to lease the New Territories from China for 99 years. The New Territories cover an area of 953 km², extending from Kowloon northwards to the Sham Chun River which marks the current boundary with China. Formerly part of the Xin'an District, one of the smaller administrative districts of Guangdong Province, it was regarded as a relatively remote and poor agricultural region of southern China.

8.2 New Territories 1898

Early surveys and written accounts of this expansive area of hills and floodplains provide valuable insight into the patterns of rural indigenous settlement and land use at the turn of the last century. James Stewart Lockhart's report, 'New Territory' in 1898, concluded that, "Under Chinese rule enterprise has been at a discount, and progress has been at a standstill for centuries. The Xin'an District of today must be much the same as it was four or five hundred years ago."³³

The first records of occupation date back to the arrival of the five Great Clans (Tang, Hau, Pang, Liu, and Man) that migrated south from the Mainland into the New Territories. The Tangs were the first to arrive around 973 AD and settled mainly in the Kam Tin Valley which had the best quality farmland that yielded double rice crops. The Haus were the next clan to arrive towards the end of the 12th century. They established villages at Ping Kong, Kam Tsin, and Yin Kong; areas that were recorded as having moderate to poor quality soil with lower crop yields. Subsequent arrival of the other clans led to settlement on the New Territories' remaining areas of productive farmland, predominantly around Sheung Shui and Lam Tsuen.³⁴

The resulting cultural landscape consisted of hilly topography with several broad floodplains that supported rice-growing communities in the more fertile valleys. Lockhart's report further describes

³² Spencer Robinson, *Festina Lente, A History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club*, (Hong Kong, RHKGC: 1989).

³³ James Hayes, *A Pattern of Life: Essays on Rural Hong Kong* in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch* 1962, Vol. 2, 75-102.

³⁴ Hugh D.R. Baker, *The Five Great Clans of The New Territories*. Based on a lecture delivered on 1st March 1965, JRASHKB 1966, Vol. 6.

the scene; compact clusters of village houses on the foothills with belts of feng shui woodland and burial areas to the rear and extensive terraces of paddy fields in front. The steeper, upper hillsides had thin soil cover that supported mainly grass and brushwood that was collected for fuel. They were virtually treeless apart from sparse pine trees.

Village life was dictated by the seasons; summer and autumn rice crops with most land lying fallow in winter. The communities were relatively isolated from one another and journeys to trade at the nearest markets, such as, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan, and Yuen Long, would have taken several hours on foot following rough hillside trails. At this time, the population of the land-based, farming communities in the New Territories was estimated to be around 100,000 and, based on Lockhart's report, appears, through hard work, to have established a frugal but sustainable way of life.

8.3 Establishment of Fanling Golf Course

Negotiations between the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club (RHKGC) and the Government to lease sufficient land to build a full-size 18-hole golf course at Fanling began in 1908. The preferred site was located within the general area of the Hau clan villages and recorded as being almost treeless grazing land. The eventual resolution of the 'protracted negotiations' that then followed between the Government and local farmers was due in large part to the Tai Po District Officer, E.R. Halifax, and his good relations with the village communities as well as the Governor, Sir Henry May, who intervened to help secure the purchase of some additional private lots to achieve the necessary area for the course.

At the same time as the site search for the golf course, the Government had been keen to establish a railway to connect Kowloon with Canton and improve accessibility to the New Territories. When the Kowloon Canton Railway (KCR) line was opened in October 1910, there was an understanding between the RHKGC and KCR that selecting a site for the golf course close to the line would be mutually beneficial and help to boost membership for the club and revenue for the railway. Fanling, proved to be an ideal choice and the course, or Old Course, as it came to be known, was opened in 1911.³⁵

8.3.1 Old Course

The first basic layout appears to have been a collaborative effort between RHKGC members involved with the initial site selection, namely: T.S. Forrest, K.M. Cumming, L.S. Greenhill, and M.A. Murray. Like other golf courses of this era, the reliance on manual labour meant that the design of the Old Course was dictated largely by the rise and fall of the natural topography and retained the existing trees and ancestral graves, shrines, and urns. The relatively linear shape of the site resulted in an 'out-and-back' formation of holes similar to that of St Andrews. The first nine holes were on steeply-undulating, low-lying land with some marshy pockets around holes 7 & 8, terminating at a pavilion, built in 1916 (later called the 'Halfway House') - a shelter for players to rest and have refreshments, and an Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) / Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) recognised Grade 3 Historic Building. The second nine holes returned to the clubhouse (built in

³⁵ Robinson, *A History of the RHKGC*,

1914 and Grade 2 Historic Building) via similarly undulating terrain. To ease pressure on the Old Course, an additional 9-hole Relief Course (also referred to as the Eden Course) was built for the Ladies on an additional parcel of land acquired in 1916.³⁶

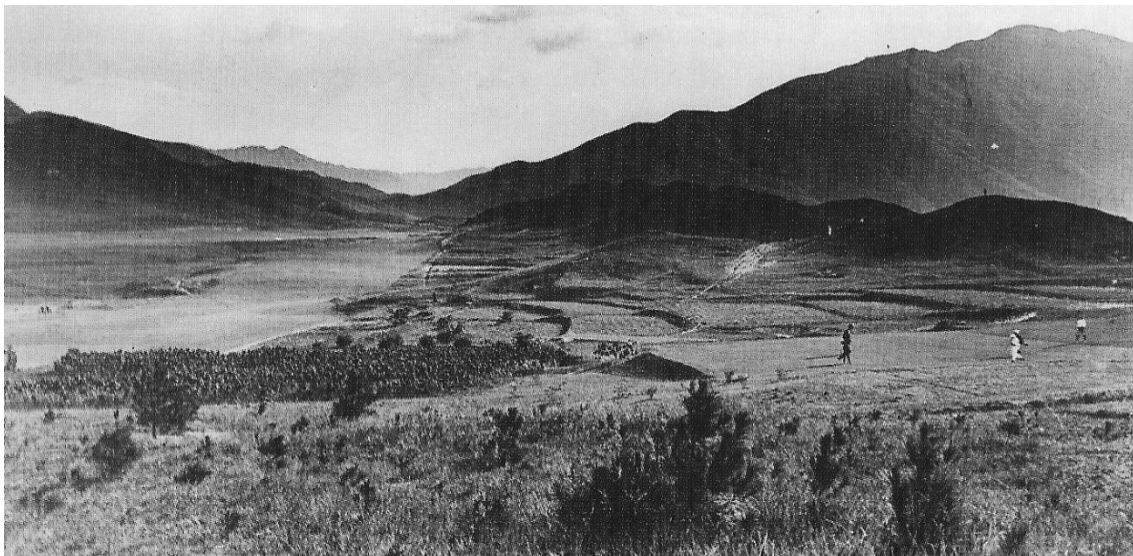


Fig. 3. View of the Old Course before tree planting established³⁷

Early photographs of the course show a sparsely-vegetated, open landscape that prompted the club to carry out structural tree planting from 1915 to 1919. The lack of an experienced professional golf designer's advice may explain why the condition of the course prior to the 1920s was relatively poor. The few bunkers that were built were not placed to good effect and the turf on the fairways did not establish well; the compacted soil turning to dust or mud depending on the season. The crab grass (*Digitaria* species) used for the greens proved to be unsuitable as a putting surface.

The situation improved significantly during the 1920s under the guidance of Mr L.S. Greenhill and Mr Kerr, who had been general manager of the Club since 1914. Under their supervision and management, a number of tees and greens were relocated to lengthen and realign holes to take more advantage of the natural terrain. Fairway contours were refined and returfing was carried out. Hazards were enhanced by additional tree planting and bunker construction. In addition to such traditional hazards, players had to avoid a number of ancestral graves and *kam taps* (bone jars) belonging to nearby villages, as well as the occasional sighting of tigers, wolves, and snakes in the undergrowth. By 1920, the majority of the *kam taps* had been relocated out of harm's way although the ancestral graves were retained within the non-playing areas and new tree belts.³⁸

As discussed above, the period from the 1890s to the 1930s was regarded as the Golden Age of golf. The new, improved Old Course of the 1920s captured the spirit of this era and was clearly influenced by the prevailing strategic style of design. The course was relatively short in length (around 6,246 yards from competition tees) with narrow fairways and small greens. These characteristics were in keeping with the early generation of courses, such as St Andrews, Oakmont,

³⁶ Robinson, *A History of the RHKGC*.

³⁷ Source: Courses on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/>

³⁸ Robinson, *A History of the RHKGC*.

and Hirono, where the challenge was not length of shot but skill and accuracy to navigate the tight fairways, fiendishly-placed hazards, and small undulating greens.



Fig. 4. Fanling Old Course, Hole 7, 'The Bog'³⁹

One of the Old Course's hazards that proved more challenging over time was the need to hit across the Fan Kam Road that passed through the site. This inconvenience was tolerated for decades but eventually, with heavier traffic, stray balls posed a serious risk of causing accidents and personal injury to road users. The necessary revisions to the course were drawn up by the architect, Michael Wolveridge, (designer of the 18-hole Eden Course), and were completed in 1977. Despite the necessary changes, Wolveridge's scheme managed to retain the Old Course's distinctive 'old-fashioned' layout and it remains a firm favourite with many members and, since its inauguration in 2015, has hosted the annual Hong Kong Ladies Open Championship (HKLO) – the first world-class ladies' professional tournament to have ever been staged in Hong Kong.⁴⁰

The HKLO is played on the Old Course due to its special turfgrasses and drainage that are designed to maintain the playability of the course in Hong Kong's very hot and humid summer conditions. The Old Course is the only golf course in Hong Kong that can host a major international event in the summer months.

8.3.2 New Course

By the mid-1920s, membership of the Club had grown so rapidly that the Committee lobbied Government for land to build a second 18-hole course. The additional land was granted in 1929 and L.S. Greenhill was appointed to design the course which was officially opened in 1931. The New Course is a tree-lined parkland, designed in the strategic style, with an 'out-and-back'

³⁹ Source: Courses on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/>

⁴⁰ Lente, *A History of the RHKGC*

configuration of holes. It is longer than the Old Course (6,520 yards from competition tees) and more gently undulating with wider fairways and an assortment of small pond and ditch water hazards.



Fig. 5. Fanling New Course, 'The Ridge'⁴¹

During the 1930s, continued improvements to all the courses were carried out and in 1934 the Fanling Lodge (Grade I Listed Building) was constructed as a summer residence for the Governor of Hong Kong. When the Japanese invaded Hong Kong in 1941, the Club was closed and the courses suffered extensive damage. The trees were cut down for fuel and most of the greens were dug up to grow vegetables. After the war, a major programme of tree planting and turf restoration works began with the Old Course, the full 18-holes being reopened by the end of 1947. The New Course refurbishment works were completed two years later and the 9-hole Eden Course was reopened by 1953. The new turfing included relaying the greens with a finely-textured and more durable grass (Uganda grass) that could perform well even through the dry season.⁴²

8.3.3 Eden Course

After WW2, the popularity of golf grew rapidly worldwide, and particularly in Asia. Once again, the courses at Fanling came under pressure and it became clear that a further 18-hole course would be necessary to cater for demand and ease pressure on the existing facilities. The only feasible site was a portion of adjoining land at Beas River, occupied by The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club (RHKJC). On its own, this land was insufficient to create an 18-hole course. However, based on advice from professional golf designers, John Harris and Michael Wolveridge, a scheme that skilfully combined the existing 9-hole Eden Course with the additional land, leased from the RHKJC, was viable. The

⁴¹ Source: Courses on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/>

⁴² Robinson, *A History of the RHKGC*.

layout was approved in 1968 and the course opened in 1971 using the now widely accepted USGA specifications for the construction and turfing of greens.

Due to site constraints, The Eden Course is relatively short (6,106 yards from championship tees) and regarded as the tightest course at Fanling, once again requiring accuracy rather than distance. Visually, it is a seamless extension of the tree-lined parkland landscape and strategic style of the Old and New Courses with areas of sloping terrain and strategically placed water hazards that double as irrigation reservoirs.



Fig. 6. Fanling Eden Course, 'The Ultimate'⁴³

The Hong Kong Open Championship was first held in 1959. Both the Old and New Courses were used to host the Open and from 1973 onwards, the Championship was played on a 'Composite Course', comprising ten holes from the Eden Course and eight holes from the New Course (6,710 yards from the championship tees). The 18th hole (named 'The Ultimate') has the largest water hazard / reservoir directly in front of the green. It has become famous as a dramatic finale to the Open, requiring an approach shot worthy of the Heroic School of golf design.

The prominent sports writer, Arthur Mills wrote of Fanling in 1933, "To enjoy his day at Fanling a man must be able to play strong, fearless shots";⁴⁴ a tradition that was clearly maintained by the Eden and Composite Courses.

⁴³ Source: Courses on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/>

⁴⁴ Robinson, *A History of the RHKGC*, 20.

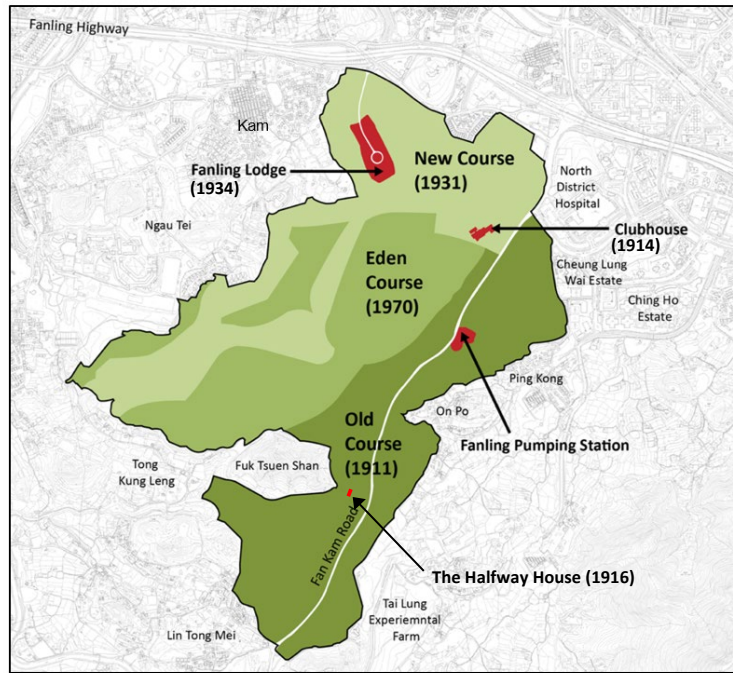


Fig. 7. The three courses: Old, New, and Eden Courses and Graded Historic Buildings⁴⁵

9.0 CULTURAL AND NATURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of a heritage cultural landscape requires assessment of the various natural, cultural, tangible, and intangible values that contribute to its unique character. We have looked at different conventions and charters around the world and based our methodology of assessment on some of them. Apart from the well-known international charters, such as Venice and Burra Charters, there are some that developed to address particularly the heritage values of cultural landscape. One of them is the Florence Declaration on Heritage and Landscape as Human Values (2014)⁴⁶. As a result of ICOMOS meeting in 2014, this declaration aims to 'move forward in defining principles, strategies, standards and practices that can contribute both to the recognition of the human values of cultural heritage, as well as to safeguarding and encouraging cultural diversity.'

For a consistent comparison with the earlier discussion of St Andrews, Oakmont, and Hirono golf courses, similar values will be used in the following appraisal of the Fanling Golf Club. We will include 8 values in our assessment:

- Historical Value
- Course Design Value
- Scenic Value
- Nature Conservation Value
- Sustainability Value

⁴⁵ From Hong Kong Golf Club.

⁴⁶ See the full declaration in

https://www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/Secretariat/2015/GA_2014_results/GA2014_Symposium_Florence_Declaration_EN_final_20150318.pdf.

- Architectural Value
- Local Value
- Socio-cultural Value

We have also included key character-defining elements of each of these 8 values. Individual values are expressed and communicated through these character-defining elements and through which we can better understand the values. We will provide a grading of each value in accordance to international practice. The grading of the values will follow the basic format used by the Antiquities and Monuments Office which, in turn, is based on principles established by the Venice and Burra Charters.

<i>NEGLECTIBLE</i>	Little or no significance	★
<i>LOW</i>	Local significance	★★
<i>MEDIUM</i>	District or regional significance	★★★
<i>HIGH</i>	Territory or national significance	★★★★
<i>OUTSTANDING</i>	International or global significance	★★★★★

9.1 Historical Value

Scotland is the undisputed 'Home of Golf'. The links courses at St Andrews are regarded as the purest test for players who want to experience golf as it was originally intended – as a game of skill and strategy, pitted against the elements, on a course subtly integrated with the natural landscape. As the sport grew in popularity, parkland courses, following the same design principles, were built to meet the demand of inland urban populations. The period between the 1890s and 1930s is regarded as the Golden Age of Golf when the sport and the strategic school of design, as promoted by prominent Scottish golf architects like Mackenzie, was embraced worldwide.

In particular, keen British golfers, familiar with such courses, played an important role in establishing golf in foreign lands. In 1889, golf was introduced to Hong Kong by a band of 13 enthusiasts, two of whom were regular players, who yearned to establish a course locally. Together, they established the Hong Kong Golf Club and set out a very simple set of nine holes on the flat infield of the Happy Valley racetrack. Despite the difficulties posed by having to share the site with other users, interest in golf grew and the (by now) Royal Hong Kong Golf Club (RHKGC) secured a former beachside picnic site in Deep Water Bay that could be dedicated for golf. An eight-hole links course was laid out and completed in 1893.

This direct connection between Scotland's golfing heritage and Hong Kong, culminated in creation of the first 18-hole courses at Fanling in 1911. It is no accident that the final complement of championship courses at Fanling came to be named after three of the prominent courses at St Andrews in Scotland ('Old', 'New', and 'Eden'). In the same way that the St Andrews clubhouse became an historic feature of the course, Fanling's clubhouse (1914, Grade 2), Halfway House

(1916, Grade 3) and subsequent Fanling Lodge (1934, Grade I I) are integral to the historic value of the cultural landscape.

The Fanling Golf Club continued to grow from strength to strength, recovering from the trauma of WW2, and played an important role in promoting golf locally, in China, and throughout South-East Asia. During the 1950s and 1960s, well-known overseas professionals made regular visits to play exhibition matches and provide coaching sessions. Recognition of Fanling as a world-class golfing venue spread and, in 1959, the Club organised the first Hong Kong Open Championship which was played over both the Old and New Courses. The Hong Kong Open has always been held at Fanling. It eventually became part of the Asian Tour and has consistently attracted the world's top golfers.



Fig. 8. Hong Kong Open Championship ⁴⁷

All three courses at Fanling have a long and fascinating history of championship golf. Since 1973, the Hong Kong Open has been played over the Composite Course which is a combination of 8 holes on the New Course and 10 holes on the Eden Course. The Old Course continues to host the Ladies Hong Kong Open Championship, its turfgrass being uniquely suited to this tournament that is held in summer due to the Ladies Tour calendar constraints. The Old Course also plays a vital logistics role for other tournaments by providing back-up areas and flexible spectator car parking required for international events.

Decades of competitions have created a colourful, intangible history of classic contests between some of the world's top professionals who have entertained hordes of local spectators and television audiences worldwide with memorable shots upon which famous matches were won or lost. Some of the illustrious players who lifted the winner's trophy are household names, including: Tom Watson, Peter Thomson, Colin Montgomerie, Bernard Langer, Rory McIlroy, Lu Liang Huan, Lin Wen-tang and Greg Norman.

⁴⁷ Source: Tournaments on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/web/pages/hong-kong-open>

9.1.1 Statement of Significance:

- The Old Course is Hong Kong's first and best example of an 18-hole course, dating from the Golden Age of golf. It is one of the oldest golf courses in Asia.
- The Old, New, and Eden Courses are recognised as being world-class courses that have played a pivotal role in promoting golf in Hong Kong and throughout South-East Asia.
- In combination, the Old, New, and Eden Courses have showcased the Men's and Ladies' Hong Kong Open Championships since 1959, as well as numerous other FGC tournaments, creating a collective memory of classic competitions between top professionals among an international golfing audience.
- The three graded buildings (Clubhouse, Halfway House, and Fanling Lodge) make a valuable contribution to the historical legacy of the cultural landscape.
- The heat and humidity-tolerant turfgrass of the Old Course has allowed hosting of the Hong Kong Ladies Open during the summer season, since 2015.
- The Old Course has played an essential role in providing logistical support for back-up areas and spectator car parking, allowing the Hong Kong Open to be hosted at Fanling annually.

Historical Value: OUTSTANDING ★★★★★

9.2 Course Design Value

The Old, New, and 9-hole Eden courses were all built during golf's 'Golden Age' and reflect the strategic school of design that was emerging and gaining favour among golf architects at the time. When the short Eden Course was extended to become an 18-hole course in 1971, the layout was consistent with this style and the distinctive parkland landscape character of the Old and New Courses.

In addition to the need to rely primarily on manual labour, the relatively compact and linear area of land acquired for the Old Course presented a number of design constraints similar to those of traditional links like St Andrews. In response, the layout of the Old Course also adopted an 'out-and-back' arrangement. The sequence of play followed the existing rise and fall of the steeply undulating terrain, skirting marshy pockets in the lower-lying, outward nine holes and utilising the similarly undulating back nine to create a good variety of holes. The relative shortness of the course was compensated by its challenging topography, narrow fairways, strategically placed bunkers, and tight greens that required accuracy and skill rather than length of shot which appealed to top and average players alike.

Despite minor changes and some improvements to the Old Course over time, in the form of tree planting, returfing, and various reconfigurations to tees, hazards, and greens, the topography, integrity, and spirit of this traditional style of course have been retained intact. Subsequent designers and caretakers at Fanling recognised the heritage value of the course as a representative example of an important era in golf course design and as a benchmark for the later New and Eden Courses.

One of those designers was L.S. Greenhill who was appointed by the Club to prepare a scheme for the New Course. Greenhill was a long-standing member of the Fanling Golf Club and, years

earlier, had been involved in the site search for the Old Course, gaining experience with the site conditions, soil types, turf species, and tree planting during the construction and later modest improvements. Such local knowledge would have been invaluable in making design decisions for the New Course.

Greenhill's scheme for the New Course was for another 'out-and-back' layout that integrated holes sensitively into the natural, undulating terrain. It is longer than the Old Course and, despite having more generous tree-lined fairways, is generally regarded as being more challenging due in part to the strategic placement of pond and ditch water hazards. The resulting design has a distinctive character which also complements the established parkland landscape of the Old Course.

Extending the former 9-hole Eden Course, which had served as a Relief Course for decades, proved a design challenge due, once again, to space restrictions. The solution proposed by the appointed professional golf architects, John Harris and Michael Wolveridge, created the additional 9 holes by skilfully weaving the extended layout through the established wooded portions of the New Course and an additional parcel of land leased from the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club (RHKJC). It is arguably the tightest of the three courses but has allowed the eclectic combination of holes from both New and Eden Courses to create the current Composite Course that hosts the Hong Kong Open and other international championships, including the World City Challenge held in March 2023.



Fig. 9. Combined Layouts of Old, New, and Eden Courses ⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Source: Robinson, *A History of the RHKGC*, 43.

The consistent reference to traditional golf design principles, established by heritage courses like St Andrews and introduced to Hong Kong via Fanling's Old Course, have been faithfully replicated in the New and Eden Courses. As a result, the three world class courses have matured together to create a unified parkland landscape of the highest quality.



Fig. 10. Parkland Landscape of Fanling Golf Club⁴⁹

9.2.1 Statement of Significance:

- The Old Course is an authentic and rare surviving example of a course in South-East Asia inspired by design principles of the Strategic School, established by traditional Scottish golf courses like St Andrews.
- The construction of the Old Course relied primarily on manual labour which is reflected in the retention and incorporation of the natural topography, existing mature trees, and ancestral graves, shrines, and urns into the design.
- Introduced hazards, such as trees, bunkers, and water features, are consistent with the Strategic School of design and provide a fair test to all golfers.
- The design of the New and Eden Courses complement and augment the Old Course, creating a unified parkland golf landscape of the highest quality and integrity.

Course Design Value: OUTSTANDING ★★★★★

⁴⁹ Source: Robinson, *A History of the RHKGC*. 42.

9.3 Scenic Value

The Fanling golf courses lie within a New Territories district originally referred to as Long Valley – a fertile floodplain between two ranges of hills called the North Downs and the South Downs. The terrain was variable, comprising extensive areas of paddy fields with pockets of boggy ground and outcrops of grassy knolls that were used for grazing. The plain was treeless apart from dense belts of feng shui woodland associated with clan villages and ancestral graves in the foothills, and isolated stands of pine on higher ground. Overall, the landscape was sparse and rather bleak with open views northwards to Shenzhen.

In keeping with traditional golf design principles, the mainly manual and unmechanised construction of the courses respected the natural topography and concentrated the majority of holes on and around the grassy knolls to minimise physical as well as visual intrusion into the predominantly agricultural landscape. The tightness of the Old Course and proximity to public paths, farmland, and ancestral graves, prompted a programme of tree planting to help define the holes more clearly and establish better protection from stray shots. This tradition was continued with the construction of the New and Eden Courses.

Over time, the belts of trees lining the fairways have matured into attractive woodland that has come to define the visual character of the Fanling Golf Club as a parkland landscape. The former agricultural land has largely disappeared and the woodland now provides relief from the adjoining land uses which are increasingly urban and visually intrusive. For golfers, the unique and irreplaceable belts of lowland secondary woodland lining the fairways provide a focus and visual reference for playing shots as well as frame some spectacular vistas of the surrounding hills and long-distance views to Shenzhen.



Fig. 11. Fanling Old Course 'Tommy Tucker'⁵⁰

⁵⁰ Source: Courses on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/>

A distinctive feature at Fanling is the presence of ancestral graves nestled within the relative safety of the tree belts beside some fairways. The significance of the graves as heritage elements has been acknowledged in the names given to holes on each course: 'Tommy Tucker'⁵¹ (Old Course), 'The Graves' (New Course), and 'The Pimple' (Eden Course). Other cultural and natural elements that have shaped the visual character and scenic value of Fanling Golf Club as a whole, particularly agriculture, topography, and vistas, have also been reflected in hole names: 'The Paddy', 'The Meadow', 'The Bog', 'The Dip', 'The Rise', and 'Shenzhen'.

9.3.1 Statement of Significance

- The Old, New, and Eden Courses were integrated sensitively into the natural terrain minimising visual intrusion.
- Hole names reflect the influence that local topography, watercourses, and views have had on the course scenery.
- Tree planting on all three courses has melded and matured to create a richly-wooded, parkland landscape that provides visual relief to the increasingly urbanised surroundings.
- The retention of ancestral graves within the belts of irreplaceable lowland secondary woodland creates a unique visual character and evokes images of the clan village / feng shui landscape context of the broader cultural landscape.

Scenic Value: HIGH ★★★★★

9.4 Nature Conservation Value

When the Old Course was opened in 1911, it occupied a small portion of a much larger cultural landscape created over several centuries by clan communities that first settled the New Territories. This organically evolved cultural landscape extended from a highland hinterland, through foothills with village communities and belts of feng shui woodland, on to a broad floodplain that supported an enormous patchwork of paddy fields, all the way to the wetlands bordering Deep Bay and the Shum Chun River.

The plot of land occupied by the golf course was on the fringe of Hau clan villages and described at the time as treeless, grassy knolls used for grazing, with small pockets of marshy ground and isolated stands of pine. Following traditional golf design principles that promoted minimal site disturbance, the course was laid out following the undulating natural terrain, avoiding unplayable marshy areas, and retaining any natural features of interest such as the undulating topography and isolated stands of pine.

⁵¹ The name of the hole 'Tommy Tucker' is derived from the sound of the Cantonese phrase 'Tuk'm tuk'a?' meaning 'Is it clear' (to play the blind approach shot).



Fig. 12. Chinese Swamp Cypress, Old Course'⁵²

This sensitive approach was the first and arguably the most important act of nature conservation carried out by the Club. One of the retained groves of pine growing in a marshy hollow beside the 7th hole of the Old Course (appropriately named 'The Bog') has since been identified as the last remnant of a wild forest of Chinese Swamp Cypress, estimated to be around 200 years old and pre-dating construction of the course. Chinese Swamp Cypress forests were once found in Southern China, Vietnam, and Laos where they are understood to have been the predominant tree species, covering over one million km², before human settlement. However, they have been so seriously depleted by over-felling and habitat destruction that they are now listed on IUCN's Red List as Critically Endangered. Of the 250 trees known to survive worldwide, 38 can be found at the Fanling Golf Club. This discovery is a sobering reminder of the vital role that heritage golf courses play in protecting vulnerable habitats that would otherwise have been lost to less sensitive development.

A second important act of nature conservation was the early decision to retain and incorporate existing high-quality trees within the Old Course design and plant belts of trees beside the fairways – a practice that was continued for the New and Eden Courses. Apart from enhancing safety on a tight layout, the tree planting in the non-playing areas (about 45% of the total site area) has matured into a rich and diverse secondary woodland, including traditional feng shui species, such as: *Aquilaria sinensis*, *Cratoxylum cochinchinense*, *Ficus microcarpa*, *Celtis sinensis*, and *Cinnamomum camphora*, that are commonly grown in the surrounding village settlements.

⁵² Source: Heritage Trees on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/web/pages/heritage-trees-at-hong-kong-golf-club>



Fig. 13. Mature *Ficus macrocarpa*, Old Course⁵³

Under the care and protection of the golf course, over 400 of the woodland trees, including rare and protected species, have reached a size and age equivalent to the ~460 specimens currently included in Hong Kong's List of Old and Valuable Trees. Animal species have also flourished within the protection of the wooded areas and associated grassland, stream, boggy marshland, and pond habitats. Recent surveys have identified a remarkable variety of bird, insect, reptile, and mammal species, most of which are endangered and protected under the Wildlife Ordinance.⁵⁴ Recognition of this valuable natural heritage has created a second role for the Fanling Golf Club as a 'nature sanctuary' and venue for conservation education.

Cultural landscapes are created by human intervention that shapes the environment. Normally, the interventions result in a reduction in biodiversity as wildlife habitats are damaged and destroyed to make way for human activities. In a few rare cases, human intervention can lead to an increase in biodiversity. Fanling Golf Club is one example of this. The first settlers in the Long Valley floodplain established a predominantly monoculture ecosystem of paddy fields which, today, has all but disappeared, being replaced by urban development. In contrast, the portion of the floodplain used to build the golf courses has evolved into a species-rich oasis of regional and even international significance. The continuous, proactive management of the landscape for golf by the FGC staff, including maintenance of trees, woodland understorey, and turf, has contributed significantly to the high ecological and conservation value.

⁵³ Source: Heritage Trees on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/web/pages/heritage-trees-at-hong-kong-golf-club>

⁵⁴ Refer to FGC's EIA submission detailing the species of conservation value



Fig. 14. High-rise Skyline⁵⁵

9.4.1 Statement of Significance

- Protection within the Old Course of Hong Kong's last surviving grove of Wild Chinese Swamp Cypress which is listed on IUCN's Red List of global, critically-endangered species.
- Establishment and management of a mature, lowland, secondary woodland landscape containing traditional feng shui, rare, and endangered species, many of which have reached a size and age equivalent to specimens included in Hong Kong's Old and Valuable Tree List.
- Protection and significant enhancement of biodiversity compared with the original site conditions and subsequent urban development in surrounding areas.
- Recognition and promotion of the wildlife habitats created and sustained by the golf courses in conservation education programmes.
- Proactive protection and responsible management of a unique, irreplaceable area of high ecological and conservation value

Nature Conservation Value: OUTSTANDING ★★★★★

⁵⁵ Source: Courses on Hong Kong Golf Club website <https://hkgolfclub.org/>

9.5 Sustainability Value

Since the 1970s, the rapid expansion of golf course construction worldwide began to raise concerns about the environmental sustainability of golf. Acknowledgement of the potential problems caused by the high volume of water required for irrigation and potential contamination by herbicides and pesticides, led to internationally- recognised sustainability certification programmes like Audubon Cooperative Society Program for Golf (ACSP) and Golf Environment Organisation (GEO) being established. These programmes promote and certify best practice in course design and environmental management.

In the 1960s, Hong Kong suffered from a serious water shortage and using scarce resources to irrigate golf courses was not supportable. The Fanling Golf Club had already begun to establish its own independent water supply by sinking a well in 1960. The city-wide water crisis inspired further efforts and, by 1963, a total of four borewells had been drilled that helped significantly to reduce reliance on the government mains supply.

During construction of the Eden Course, a number of 'water hazard' reservoirs were incorporated into the design to supplement the borewells; the largest of which is the lake that guards the 18th green. Full independence from using groundwater or potable water from the government mains was achieved in 1985 with completion of a 3 km pipeline, maintained by HKGC, from the Drainage Services Department's Shek Wu Hui Sewage Treatment Works. Instead of being discharged into the Shenzhen River, the partially treated water receives a final treatment before being used to irrigate the golf courses.

The HKGC's demonstrated commitment to achieving a sustainable irrigation system and history of good stewardship in other areas of environmental management (protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats, reduction and safe use of chemicals, and development of conservation education programmes) were formally recognised in 2020 when it was certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. The ACSP is endorsed by the USGA and, to date, only 13 golf courses in Asia have received this accolade. That the HKGC has been nominated by the World Golf Awards as the "World's Best Eco-Friendly Golf Facility" for the last three consecutive years and was a finalist in the 2021 Golf Environmental Awards, testifies to the Club's world class environmental standards.



Fig. 15. Hong Kong Golf Club Certified 26 May 2020⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Source: Audubon International website at <https://auduboninternational.org/>

9.5.1 Statement of Significance

- Traditional 'Golden Age' golf design principles that allowed sensitive integration of the courses into the existing landscape with minimal disturbance to terrain, drainage, and wildlife habitats.
- Sustainable use of resources and responsible environmental management that has protected and enhanced biodiversity.
- International recognition of HKGC's world-class, sustainable environmental management record with prestigious Audubon certification and Golf Environmental Award.
- Active public engagement to promote sustainability through conservation education programmes.

Sustainable Value: OUTSTANDING ★★★★★

9.6 Architectural Value

9.6.1 The Clubhouse

After the Old Course was opened in 1911, there was no permanent building to provide a gathering or resting place for the golfers in the Fanling Golf Course until the Dormie House, the Clubhouse was completed in 1914, a year after the railway had pushed through in 1913⁵⁷. The Clubhouse was designed by the architect, Major Edward Albert Ram, who also designed the first golf clubhouse in Happy Valley (officially opened in 1896) and the clubhouse in Deep Water Bay (1899)⁵⁸. Major E.A. Ram was a keen golfer and was the Captain of the Club in 1898 & 1900⁵⁹. Major E.A. Ram was the partner of Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs. The works done by the firm during this period and remained included the Eliot Hall (1914) and May Hall (1915) of the University of Hong Kong, The Helena May (1916) (all Declared Monuments), and the Matilda and War Memorial Hospital (Grade 2 Historic Building)⁶⁰. The firm was also entrusted to design and supervise the whole of the works of the gravitation scheme for Kowloon and the urban districts (Kowloon City and Sham Shui Po) under the supervision of the partner, Gibbs. The Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir (commonly known as Mission Hill (literally means " Bishop Hill" in Cantonese) Service Reservoir / Woh Chai Shan Service Reservoir (1904) formed an integral part of the Kowloon Waterworks Gravitation Scheme was confirmed its Grade 1 status in 2021⁶¹ and has been saved from demolition by public outcry. Another project by the firm in the rural area is Tai Po Lookout at Tai Po Kau, Tai Po, New

⁵⁷ Robinson, Spencer. *Festina Lente: A History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club*. Hong Kong: Royal Hong Kong Golf Club, 1989, p.13.

⁵⁸ T.F. R. Waters, *History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club*, Hong Kong, South China Morning Post, 1960, p.8, 11 & 14.

⁵⁹ Robinson, Spencer. *Festina Lente: A History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club*. Hong Kong: Royal Hong Kong Golf Club, 1989, p.99.

⁶⁰ AMO's Historic Building Appraisal, *Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir (commonly known as Mission Hill Service Reservoir / Woh Chai Shan Service Reservoir), Sham Hui Po, Kowloon*. Appraisal N367.

⁶¹ AMO's Historic Building Appraisal, *Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir (commonly known as Mission Hill Service Reservoir / Woh Chai Shan Service Reservoir), Sham Hui Po, Kowloon*. Appraisal N367. Gibbs worked in the Public Works Department (PWD) before he joined the firm Denison, Ram & Gibbs. He was instructed to prepare the gravitation scheme for Kowloon and urban districts in New Kowloon when he worked in PWD.

Territories. The Lookout was designed and built by Gibbs in the early 1900s and was used as his residence afterwards⁶² accorded Grade 1 in 2009.

Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibbs also designed other sports architecture during the time in early 20th century, namely the Pavilion at Hong Kong Cricket Club (1904) and Victoria Creation Clubhouse (1908), but they are all gone.

The Clubhouse of the Fanling Golf Course is a two storey building southeast facing, located near Hole No. 18 of the Old Course, and Hole No. 1 of the New Course and Hole No. 18 of the Eden Course, providing a gathering point for the start and finish of the game. The Clubhouse is distinguished by a row of six Doric columns on the ground floor forming a front porch with a shaded entrance and balcony above overlooking the spacious lawn of putting green in front of it.

The Clubhouse was originally built for male members to provide a resting and social gathering place. Male members would visit Fanling Golf Course with friends or spouses during weekends. In the old days, with the transport between New Territories and Kowloon and Hong Kong Island not as convenient as today, accommodation was provided to allow the members to stay overnight after playing golf and back to the city on the next day. After playing golf in the daytime, members would join the party in the Clubhouse, play bridges or have a rest. The Clubhouse had communal changing room, sleeping rooms, bathrooms, a bar, dining area, reading room and living rooms, etc. when it was built⁶³.

The Clubhouse though has undergone a number of alterations and extensions to suit the development of the club, it has retained its original character and integrity, and contribute greatly to the significance of the entire Fanling Golf Course. The Clubhouse was accorded Grade 2 status by AAB in 2014.

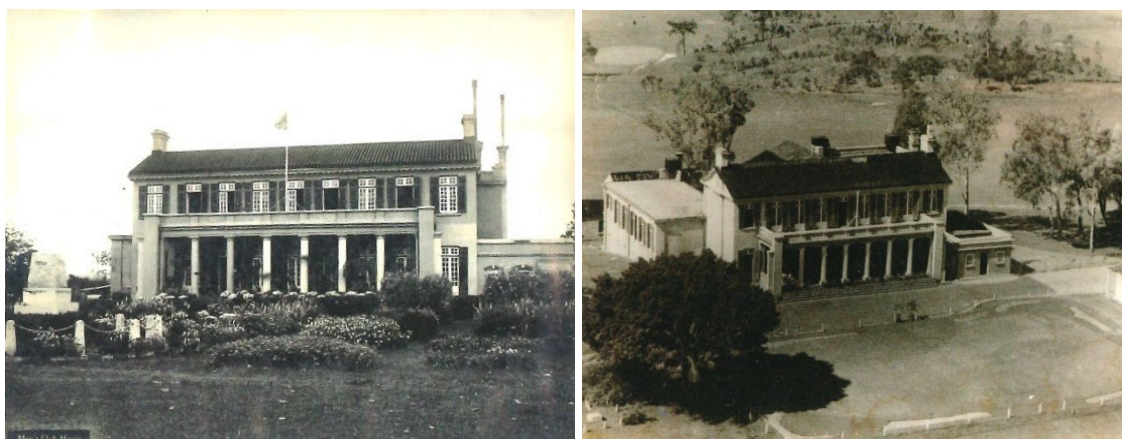


Fig. 16. The Clubhouse, Dormie House, C.1930s (left) and post war (right).⁶⁴

⁶² AMO's Historic Building Appraisal, *Tai Po Look Out*, No. 11 *Lookout Link*, *Tai Po Kau*, *Tai Po*, N.T. Appraisal 189.

⁶³ Lau Chi Pang, 劉智鵬, *Xianggang Geerfuqihui zou guo de 130 nian 香港哥爾夫球會走過的130年*, [The Hong Kong Golf Club], Hong Kong Joint Publishing, 2019, p.20.

⁶⁴ Lau Chi Pang, 劉智鵬, *Xianggang Geerfuqihui zou guo de 130 nian 香港哥爾夫球會走過的130年*, [The Hong Kong Golf Club], Hong Kong Joint Publishing, 2019, pp.28 & 85 & from Fanling Golf Club.



Fig. 17. Men's Club house & 18th Green Old Coue, 1930.⁶⁵



Fig. 18. Old Course, Mens & Ladies Clubhouse.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ From Fanligng Golf Club.

⁶⁶ From Fanligng Golf Club.



Fig. 19. The Clubhouse, 2022.

9.6.2 Halfway House

Another building structure of note is the Halfway House (the Pavilion) which was built at the 10th Tee and was donated by Sir Henry May and T.S. Forrest in memory of many happy days they had spent in these hills⁶⁷. It was erected in 1916, shown in the inscription located above the front entrance of the Halfway House:

Rest Awhile

ERECTED IN 1916 BY

SIR F.H.MAY, K C.M.G., LL., & T.S.FORREST. ESQ.

IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THE HOSPITALITY OF THESE HUTS

The Halfway House continues its original role as a resting pavilion in the middle of the golf game. It is distinguished by its appearance in traditional Qing dynasty Vernacular style, in a rectangular plan, front entrance facing southeast. It is constructed with a pitched and hipped roof finished with green glazed tiled, columns with ornamental brackets, balustrades and walls painted vermilion. The roof is decorated with curling end ridges to the hips, and a colourful ridge-board supporting two green dragons on both ends competing for a pearl. Four *Aoyu*, fish figurines are decorated on the four corners of the curling end.

The Halfway House has undergone alterations by adding a new snack shop at the rear end, and a new butterfly garden is also added in front of the Halfway House. Larval and nectar plants have been specially planted to encourage butterfly species to thrive⁶⁸, enriching the landscape vista offered to the golfers during their rest in the pavilion. Its iconic Chinese appearance located in the lush golf

⁶⁷ T.F. R. Waters, *History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club*, Hong Kong, South China Morning Post, 1960, p.15.

⁶⁸ *Ecological and Heritage Tour*, Hong Kong Golf Club. Retrieved on 10 February 2023, from website: <https://hkgolfclub.org/ecological-and-heritage-tour>.

courses has contributed to the significance of the Fanling Golf Course. It was accorded Grade 3 status by AAB in 2010.



Fig. 20. The Halfway House on the Old Course, 1918⁶⁹



Fig. 21. The Halfway House, 2022

⁶⁹ Lau Chi Pang, 劉智鵬, Xianggang Geerfuqihui zou guo de 130 nian 香港哥爾夫球會走過的130年, [The Hong Kong Golf Club], Hong Kong Joint Publishing, 2019, p.81.



Fig. 22. A new butterfly garden (located on the right) is added in front of the Halfway House

9.6.3 Fanling Lodge

After the completion of the Clubhouse and the Halfway House in 1914 and 1916 respectively in the Old Course, the Fanling Lodge was completed in 1934 by the Public Works Department⁷⁰, after the New Course was completed in 1931. It functioned as a weekend retreat residence for former Governors (now the Chief Executive)⁷¹. It is a two-storey bungalow located in the northern portion of the New Course, set in the middle of New Course Holes No. 12, 13 & 14. The Lodge is surrounded by an open greenery environment of the golf course. It was accorded Grade I status in 2014.



Fig. 23. The Fanling Lodge⁷²

9.6.4 The group value and relationship with the golf courses; integrity and rarity

The Clubhouse, the Halfway House, and the Fanling Lodge their positioning, setting, orientation, architectural design, and vista are carefully designed and planned to integrate with the overall golf

⁷⁰ Report of the Director of Public Works for the Year 1934.

⁷¹ AMO's Historic Building Appraisal, *Fanling Lodge, Kwu Tung, Sheung Shui, N.T.* Appraisal N88.

⁷² Source: 'No. N88, Fanling Lodge, Kwu Tung, Sheung Shui, N.T.' (Antiquities Advisory Board), Website: https://www.aab.gov.hk/filemanager/aab/common/historicbuilding/photo/N88_Photo.pdf. Retrieved on 20 April 2023.

course design. The Clubhouse located near Old Course Hole No. 18 provides a social gathering place after the game, with the porch and balcony overlooking a magnificent view of the Course, the hills and the plain. The Halfway House located near Old Course Hole No. 9 and 10 provides a resting stop in between the game, and the Fanling Lodge was positioned in the middle of the New Course, immersed in the greenery environment of the course.

The Clubhouse and the Halfway House were built with the Old Course in the same period in the early 20th century, to support the golfers when the Hong Kong Golf Club started to lay their first course in the Fanling rural area. They are an integral part of the Old Course, being the oldest and intact architecture that remained in the Fanling Golf Course.

Their significance would be greatly undervalued if we consider their architectural merits only as individual buildings or structures. Indeed, we should take into account the heritage value of the built heritages and the dynamic relationship between them and the courses (the natural context). From this perspective, they are considered of having outstanding value as they interweave with the historical context and landscape and contribute greatly to the integrity of the designed cultural landscape of the entire Fanling Golf Course, which is a living sport heritage, still maintained and operated in its original function over a century.

There are not many historic buildings which were built in the early 20th century that are remained in Hong Kong. They are mainly churches, missionary buildings, military structures and government buildings, or Chinese architecture in New Territories. The Clubhouse and the Halfway House, as early-built private heritages which are still kept intact and continuing their original function are rare pieces of architecture in Hong Kong. Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibbs also designed other sports architecture during the time in early 20th century, namely the Pavilion at Hong Kong Cricket Club (1904) and Victoria Creation Clubhouse (1908), however, they are all gone, further adding their rarity.

The entire Fanling Golf Course is included in the “List of New Items for Grading Assessment, item N340”, of which the assessment of the cultural heritage value is pending to be assessed by the Antiquities Advisory Board.

9.6.5 Statement of Significance

- The exterior of the Clubhouse is distinguished by the six numbers of Doric columns on the porch with the balcony above overlooking the spacious lawn of putting green in front of it and the Old Course.
- Exterior with full-height windows and French doors facing the front with an unobstructed open view, retaining the authentic pitched roof form and the chimney stacks.
- The adoption of Chinese style for the design of the Halfway House, contrasting the western-style design of the Clubhouse, gives a hint the Fanling Golf Course has an intriguing relationship between the western golf community and the indigenous Chinese villagers since the Course was established. Such historical and social relationships with the villagers are keep maintaining over a century.

- The Clubhouse and the Halfway House provide a physical and social platform for the members, golfers and their families to interact with each other. The Halfway House functions as a halfway point in a game of joy. The Clubhouse provide another social and resting point before and after the game. Together with the Courses, including the Old Courses, the New Course and Eden Course, it is more than a sports ground for golf games, but they together present a kind of social life from the time when it was built and keep evolving with the change of the social and historical context of Hong Kong. As a combined built heritage resources, they are inseparable parts of the Course in terms of physical and social context, which make the entire Fanling Golf Course of high integrity. Their value would be compromised if we assessed them only as individual buildings or structures, which would make them detach from the designed context.
- The Clubhouse and the Halfway House, as well as the Fanling Lodge, were strategically designed and positioned to embrace the Course and the landscapes, their locations are capable of giving a magnificent view of the Course, the hills and the plain, and being part of the landscape.
- The Clubhouse and the Halfway House are the few surviving sports architecture that was designed by Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibbs and the few examples of early built architecture in the early 20th century which still functioned as their original uses, adding their rarity.
- The built heritage resources in the Fanling Golf Course, the Clubhouse (Grade 2), the Halfway House (Grade 3) in the Old Course and the Fanling Lodge (Grade 1) in the New Course. They together illustrate the spirit of “ the combined works of nature and man” cultural landscape, that the Course’s architecture and the nature environment form an inseparable relationship.

Architectural Value: OUTSTANDING ★★★★★

9.7 Local Value

Since heritage is conserved to be passed on to future generations, the heritage value of Fanling Golf Course should also take into account its significance within the local context, both in terms of its uniqueness and authenticity as a historic designed landscape, but also in light of future needs of Hong Kong society.

9.7.1 The need for a holistic approach to heritage:

A quick look at conservation trends over the past twenty years shows a growing public concern for the preservation of historic buildings as a collective reaction to blatant urban fragmentation and the lack of cohesive planning. While the effectiveness of legal instruments remains limited, public protests and media campaigns against the demolition of heritage have had a slow but positive impact on conservation, starting with the successful cases of Kom Tong Hall in 2002 and King Yin Lei in 2008. More recently, a social media campaign successfully halted the demolition of the Bishop Hill Reservoir, which was designed by the same architectural firm as the Fanling Golf Course Clubhouse,

Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs. Interestingly, this piece of colonial water infrastructure was largely unknown until the start of its demolition and its heritage value was ascertained by general public outcry for its conservation, even compelling the Water Services Department to open it for public visit.

As more architectural landmarks, such as the Central Market or Tai Kwun, are being conserved, the public approach to heritage is increasingly more comprehensive, focusing on entire areas of the city rather than discrete architectural objects. A case in point is the Central Western Concern Group, which successfully mobilized local community members to prevent the demolition of former government building blocks situated on Government Hill, one of Hong Kong's major historical landscapes. Many experts have also proposed to preserve entire landscapes for their historic value, such as for instance Happy Valley,⁷³ or the old Victoria Cantonment, roughly corresponding to the neighbourhood of Admiralty, to be understood as Historic Urban Landscape.⁷⁴ However, the most iconic example is probably the case of Victoria Harbour. Since 1995, the Society for the Protection of the Harbour has been actively campaigning against further reclamation. From 2005 to 2011, the Harbour Business Forum conducted research studies and public engagement activities to preserve the value of Victoria Harbour "from negative impacts of future developments".⁷⁵ In 2012, three independent experts commissioned by the government suggested to nominate Victoria Harbour as a World Heritage Site.⁷⁶ In a recent publication, Steven Brian Gallagher considered that it could "easily satisfy the World Heritage Committee in having 'outstanding universal value', as it fulfils most if not all of the ten selection criteria."⁷⁷

These examples clearly indicate a pressing need to preserve not only historic buildings, but also their urban contexts. Even beyond the limits of the city, natural landscapes are increasingly being conserved and revitalized for their cultural significance.

9.7.2 The need to assign historic meaning to natural landscapes:

While the development of large urban parks and country parks from the 1970s to the 1990s provided public access to leisure facilities and natural sceneries, the past decade has been characterised by a growing interest in the historical and cultural value of natural landscapes. The expansion of rural tourism in previously abandoned indigenous villages in the New Territories demonstrates this trend. Supported by the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Jockey Club and private funders, entire historic landscapes are being preserved and revitalised for cultural and ecological tourism, such as for instance Yim Tin Tsai and Lai Chi Wo, both recently awarded by UNESCO for different reasons. In this context, a landscape approach to future conservation in Hong Kong is undoubtedly inevitable. Recognizing Farling Golf Course as a historic cultural landscape not only

⁷³ Ken Nicolson, *Landscapes Lost and Found: Appreciating Hong Kong's Heritage Cultural Landscapes* (Hong Kong University Press, HKU, 2016).

⁷⁴ Katherine Noelle Cummer, "Historic Urban Landscape in Hong Kong: The Evolution of the City of Victoria Cantonment" (University of Hong Kong, 2016).

⁷⁵ "Harbour Business Forum," accessed February 19, 2023, <https://www.harbourbusinessforum.com/en-us/about>.

⁷⁶ Helene Franchineau, "Victoria Harbour Snubbed over Nomination for World Heritage Site Status," *South China Morning Post*, January 20, 2013, sec. News, <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1131920/victoria-harbour-snubbed-over-nomination-world-heritage-site-status>.

⁷⁷ Steven Brian Gallagher, *Protecting Built Heritage in Hong Kong*, SpringerBriefs in Law (Singapore: Springer, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-5071-0>.

allows Hong Kong to align with national and international best practices, but also contributes to the growing need to preserve the cultural and historic significance of what has previously been simply considered as natural landscapes.

9.7.3 Local significance of FGC as a designed landscape:

Beyond its historical significance in terms of regional sport development and international design trends, the Fanling Golf Course is a unique example of designed historic landscape in Hong Kong that is still functioning as it was originally intended. While several buildings or sites (such as Tai Kwun) have been preserved and opened to the public, none of the historical parks and gardens has been formally protected as a heritage site. In fact, Hong Kong has no legal instrument for the protection of designed landscapes such as historical parks and gardens. Therefore, significant historic landscapes, such as the Parade Ground (now Cheung Kong Centre), or mid-nineteenth century private gardens, such as Green Bank (Lan Kwai Fong) or that of Jardine Matheson located along Leighton Road, have completely disappeared today. Even relatively more recent examples of designed landscapes, such as the Tiger Balm gardens, have been sacrificed to housing development, leaving behind decontextualized (and therefore devalued) historical buildings, such as the Haw Par Mansion.

Authenticity is a major criterion for the appraisal of designed historical landscapes. How many historic landscapes in Hong Kong can be said to have preserved their original character? Although the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens or the Victoria Peak Garden remain in their original locations today, they have suffered from so many design iterations and physical modifications over the years that their authenticity is questionable. Even the vernacular landscapes of most indigenous villages across the New Territories have been either developed under New Towns and Small House Policy or have vanished under the 'rewilding' of country parks.⁷⁸

While the Fanling Golf Course has been subject to minor alterations and improvements over the years, reflecting changes in landscaping techniques as well as the evolving needs of players, it remains largely true to the original intent and has been continuously used by Club members since 1911 (except during the Japanese occupation). Compared to other historic landscapes in Hong Kong, it constitutes a unique and highly authentic piece of designed landscape heritage.

⁷⁸ Mick Atha, "A Neglected Heritage: Towards a Fuller Appreciation of the Landscapes and Lifeways of Hong Kong's Rice Farming Past," *Asian Anthropology* 11 (August 2012): 129–56.

9.7.4 Statement of local significance:

- Recognising Fanling Golf Course as a historic cultural landscape not only aligns Hong Kong with national and international best practices, but also contributes to the local need to preserve the cultural and historic significance of what has previously been simply considered as natural landscapes.
- Because it has been continuously managed by the HKGC and used by its members since 1911, the Fanling Golf Course remains largely true to its original design intent and constitutes a remnant living heritage.
- Compared to other historic landscapes in Hong Kong, it is certainly one of the most unique and authentic examples of designed landscape heritage still intact and functioning.

Local Value: HIGH ★★★★★

9.8 *Socio-cultural Value*

Just like the historical development of golf in Hong Kong and China, social history and collective memories are part of Fanling Golf Course's intangible value and cannot be separated from its physical form. For the past hundred years, the three courses, but even more so the Old Course, were ascribed different meanings by members of Hong Kong Society. The historical evolution of this collective significance is a testimony of Hong Kong's larger social history.

9.8.1 Social cohesion:

In the early decades of the 20th century, the Old Course was a venue for Hong Kong's colonial society to gather and build stronger cohesion. Golf competitions were regularly organised at Fanling to emulate or pacify the oppositions between different sectors of the community. For instance, in the 1920s and 1930s, regular matches were held between Scots, Irish and Welsh versus English players, and also between members of the military playing as United Services versus civilians. Competitions equally included the business sector, with annual matches organised by large companies. For instance, in January 1926, the SCMP reported the victory of "Wayfoong" (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) over "Taikoo" (Swire).⁷⁹ A similar yearly event was reported to be organised between Wayfoong and Ewo (Jardine Matheson & Co.) in 1925.⁸⁰ Competitions at Fanling were also an opportunity to tie stronger political and economic links with other ports across the region. With the inauguration of the Shanghai Golf Club in 1926, and the opening of a course at Weihaiwei, Fanling regularly hosted "interport" competitions with players from Shanghai and Manila.⁸¹

⁷⁹ "GOLF: TAIKOO v WAYFOONG AT FANLING Win for the Bank," *South China Morning Post (1903-1941)*, January 12, 1926.

⁸⁰ "GOLF: EWO v. WAYFOONG," *South China Morning Post (1903-1941)*, March 14, 1925.

⁸¹ "INTERPORT GOLF: Triangular Tournament at Fanling THE PROGRAMME," *South China Morning Post (1903-1941)*, January 4, 1928.

9.8.2 Gender inclusion:

Compared to other popular sports in the colony such as cricket or soccer, golf was played by a relatively large portion of women from the late nineteenth century onwards. Ladies had been allowed to use the Happy Valley Course since 1895, when Commodore Boyes, then Captain, announced: "The question of granting permission to ladies to play golf has provoked a lot of discussion due to the already crowded conditions during the year, but I have decided that in the coming year I shall allow them to play on a very restricted basis."⁸² The first six-hole golf course at Deep Water Bay was in fact built because of the pressuring need to have a course for women to play. It was also agreed that every Tuesday from April to September at Deep Water Bay and from September to April at Happy Valley, ladies were given priority on the links. This meant that groups of male players should give priority to mixed groups or groups of female players on that day. This tradition continued in Fanling following the surrender of the links at Happy Valley with the first post-war Ladies' Day staged on October 21, 1947.⁸³

In the 1920 and 1930s, the Club organised many competitions for ladies with the list of participants and winners regularly reported in the newspapers. In 1921, a general meeting was called at City Hall to discuss extending the membership to women, but was rejected. In 1932, it was agreed that ladies should become associate members and pay a subscription of \$2 per month. That year, 447 ladies, essentially wives and daughters of British expatriates, were registered as players while the overall membership of the club was only 1000. The ladies Section of the Club held annual meetings at the Helena May to elect its Captain, Secretary, and Committee. At Fanling, the Relief Course, 9 holes now belonging to the Eden course, was open for ladies in 1916 and a ladies club was erected across the road from the main club building where the senior staff houses now stand. The ladies section of the Club took a greater role after WWII, organising various events, including the annual ball until 1987, and running the Club's junior section. In his publication on the Club's history Spencer Robison estimates that: "Judging from The Ladies Golf Union handbook, it is clear that The Royal Hong Kong Golf Club has one of the largest ladies' sections of any club in the world."⁸⁴ Since 2015, the Club has been hosting the Hong Kong Ladies Open, an international sport event that draws hundreds of professional and amateur players from Asia and thousands of spectators to Old Course at Fanling.

⁸² As quoted in Spencer Robison, *Festina Lente: A History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club* (Hong Kong: PRISM, 1989), 6.

⁸³ Robison, 71.

⁸⁴ Robison, 73.



Fig. 24. The Ladies Clubhouse in 1950.⁸⁵

9.8.3 A popular sport among the Chinese community:

The early success of the Fanling Golf Club inspired powerful and respected members of the Chinese community to embrace the sport and its culture. In 1929, Sir Shou-son Chow, a respected Qing official and Senior Chinese Unofficial member of the Legislative Council, requested the colonial government to grant a piece of land to build a golf course for the Chinese. Although rejected, it exemplifies the growing popularity of golf among Chinese men in the 1920s and 1930s. In Shanghai, the Golf Club was founded in 1926 with the explicit intent to promote the sport among the Chinese residents.⁸⁶ Interestingly, this legacy returned to Hong Kong in the post-WWII years, when a number of Chinese businessmen from Shanghai relocated to Hong Kong and joined the Golf Club. In 1954, led by Mr. Fisher Yu, a veteran from Shanghai, the Chinese members of the Club created their own amateur group, called the Duffers, with the purpose of teaching newcomers about the rules of golf and golfing etiquette. More experienced golfers such as Mr. K. U. Zyung and Mr. Willie Woo organized weekly events with prizes and dinners. As golf became more popular in the 1970s and 1980, membership grew with more than 360 today. Other similar groups of Chinese players developed from the Duffers, such as the "North & South" Golf Fraternity, the "Tai Pan" Group and the "Senior & Junior" Golfing Societies.

9.8.4 Junior Club

While being popular among diverse sections of Hong Kong society, golf also progressively became a cross-generational sport. Since the creation of a Junior Section playing at Happy Valley in the 1920s, Fanling started holding regular junior championships. In the 1970s, children of members could

⁸⁵Lau Chi Pang, 劉智鵬, *Xianggang Geerfuqihui zou guo de 130 nian 香港哥爾夫球會走過的130年*, [The Hong Kong Golf Club], Hong Kong Joint Publishing, 2019, p.72.

⁸⁶Back Spin, "Golf Gossip: Fanling Caddies," *South China Morning Post (1903-1941)*, April 8, 1926.

become young members and apply for full membership when turning 18 years old. The Junior Section would also provide coaches and one-on-one classes for young members.⁸⁷ More recently, the Club jointly launched the Junior Golf Development Scheme with the HKGA which provides 30 juniors with sports potential full access to practise and play at Fanling courses. Since 2014, the 'Golf For Schools' initiative gives children aged 6 to 12 the chance to try golf, while a specific golf development programme for the schools in Fanling and Sheung Shui not only offers classes to their pupils at Fanling, but since 2017, professional golf players coach PE teachers from primary and secondary schools in the North District. Providing access to facilities and training opportunities at Fanling has contributed to the success of many talented young golfers in Hong Kong.

9.8.5 The unique case of indigenous communities:

When the Course was built, extra pieces of land were acquired from the indigenous villagers and farmers in addition to the Crown land, so some graves and urns of different clans that remained in the Course⁸⁸ were not relocated but some were moved from the site⁸⁹. The oldest grave within the Course from the Tangs is around 460 years old and some graves can be dated back to Ming and Qing Dynasties which are considered culturally significant. According to the information from the grave survey report, the clan graves/urns were from clan groups of different villages, such as Hau, Tan, Liu, Man Clans, etc. Each year, there would be around 200-300 clan members come to worship their ancestors during the Ching Ming Festival in spring (Spring Ancestral Worship 春祭) and Chung Yeung Festival (Autumn Ancestral Worship 秋祭) in autumn. The Club welcomes the clan members to access the Course to worship their ancestors at two festivals and at any time throughout the year without limitation.

To the indigenous population, the fengshui of the ancestor gravesites is of paramount importance. Known as the yin-residences 陰宅, ancestor graves with auspicious fengshui of the would ensure successes of the offspring, such as peace, fertility and prosperity. How to site the grave of a clan or lineage ancestor is a major decision not taken lightly. It is possible to change the siting which will ensure continued blessing for the offspring, but again, it has to be well considered and the reading of the fengshui must also be agreed by the clan elders and even the ancestors themselves through supplication. Any development that might affect the fengshui of the graves that are considered to be important would be hotly contested. There are many instances in Hong Kong of such strong contestations, one significant example is the location of the police station above the fengshui hill of Ping Shan village that was contested when the police station was first built more than a hundred years ago, and more recently in the 1990s. Likewise, contestation relating to the fengshui of grave sites has been constantly enacted throughout the history of Hong Kong, particularly among the indigenous people. Government officials had been known to also respect the fengshui consideration

⁸⁷ Lau Chi Pang, 劉智鵬, Xianggang Geerfuqihui zou guo de 130 nian 香港哥爾夫球會走過的130年, [The Hong Kong Golf Club], Hong Kong Joint Publishing, 2019, p.41.

⁸⁸ According to the grave survey in 2013 (Digital Image Survey Limited 2013 Grave Survey Report, for the Hong Kong Golf Club), there are 68 graves and 74 urns in the whole FGC site, over 30 graves were erected in pre-1950 period.

⁸⁹ T.F. R. Waters, *History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club*, Hong Kong, South China Morning Post, 1960, p.14.

of indigenous people, itself an intangible heritage. One example is the planning of new settlement area of Sai Kung which respected the fengshui of the Tin Hau temple.

It is indeed a major achievement of the Golf Club in getting the agreement of the villagers with graves located within the newly acquired land for the Old Course. The fengshui of these graves is deemed not to have been adversely affected by the development of the golf course and the activities taking place. This is a very clear indication of how the design and building of the golf course have not affected the landform and the vegetation of the site surrounding the graves. As put forth in this report, the original design of the Old Course followed very much to original contour and landform, so much so that there had been no dispute between the Club and the villagers about the fengshui of the graves of their forebears. In addition, the activities of Spring worship at the grave site as mentioned earlier were accommodated by the Club indicating the close relationship and mutual trust between the Club and the villagers. This is truly remarkable in the context of Hong Kong social development.



Fig. 25. Ancestral graves and the Course



Fig. 26. Special entrance designated for the use of the villagers to access to the Course.

At the time when the Course was built, according to Lockhart's Report in 1900, the New Territories were primarily an agricultural district. The nearby villagers mainly earned their income from the sale of agricultural products. When the Club moved to Fanling in the 1910s, it was agreed that young villagers would be hired as caddies until their 18th birthday, when they had to take on long term jobs. This arrangement created job opportunities for young boys as the salary of a caddy was relatively high compared to what a farmer could earn. In 1965, Chinese caddies were allowed to play on the

Course while their welfare and salary improved gradually. Still today, the Club employs over 200 part-time caddies of which 70% come from the local communities, thereby preserving their involvement in heritage conservation while contributing to their socio-economic wellbeing, cultural continuum, and development needs.

Although the Club offered training opportunities, many young caddies learnt to play golf simply by watching others. With time, some of them became professional golfers representing Hong Kong or serving as a professional golf coach in the Club. One of the most significant and successful story is that of Peter Tang, who started playing at the age of 6 or 7 and became a caddie at the age of 12 or 13. At the age of 20, he started taking part in international tournaments and soon after became a professional golfer. In the 1980s, he had the opportunity to supervise the construction of Zhongshan, the first postsocialist golf course in China, where he was employed as a coach. He later served as the coach for the China National golf team and for many renowned golf players.

The delicate and mutually profitable relationship between the local villagers and the Club is a unique feature of Fanling's intangible heritage. Still today, the Club allows almost 800 indigenous villagers to play for free after 3pm. They access the Old Course through a special entrance near the second hole and line up for hours to play between the 2nd and 16th hole (15 holes in total). This feature is unique to Hong Kong, as probably no other private golf club in the world gives free access to non-members. While golf is generally considered an elitist sport, often reinforcing social class boundaries, this practice offered the relatively low income indigenous villagers the opportunity to access to the Club resources as well as benefit from its social network.

9.8.6 Statement of Significance

- As a living heritage, the value of the Fanling golf course is inseparable from its intangible heritage as it was ascribed various meanings by different groups across Hong Kong society.
- Golf was one of the most popular sports among women in Hong Kong, and the ladies section of the club played an important role in its development. The Hong Kong Golf Club has one of the largest ladies' section in the world and the Old Course is the only venue for the Hong Kong Ladies Open, one of the most important international competitions in Asia.
- As golf became popular among the Chinese community in the 1950s, Fanling Golf Course became an important venue for Chinese amateur groups and fraternities to teach newcomers about the rules of golf and golfing etiquette.
- With the creation of the Junior section in the 1920s, the various championships, and more recently, training activities at Fanling, contributed to make golf an intergenerational sport in Hong Kong.
- The co-existence of the historical graves and urns of the ancestors from nearby villages and the development of the Course presents a unique social and cultural relationship between the Club and the local villages and forms a unique cultural landscape in Hong Kong. The Fengshui of the graves has been preserved with the original design of the Old Course and the trust that continued to exist between the Club and the villagers.
- The relationship between the Club and the local villagers is still maintained for over a century and significantly contributed to the rising role of the Chinese in golf while engaging local communities in the conservation process.
- The Club's unique historical relationship with indigenous villagers around Fanling Golf Course is intrinsically linked to the Old Course. From hole 2 to 16, the Old Course is the

only part of course that has historically been open to neighbouring indigenous villagers to be used freely after 3pm. This is a feature unique to Hong Kong, no other private golf club in the world gives free access to non-members.

Socio-cultural Value: HIGH ★★★★★

10.0 SUMMARY

The heritage significance of a cultural landscape is determined by evaluating the various human activities that have shaped the natural environment into a cultural landscape over time. Unfortunately, not all such activities have a positive impact on the natural landscape. However, the HKGC's development and management of the Old, New, and Eden Courses at Fanling, for over a century, has created a designed cultural landscape of high to outstanding heritage significance. It is a priceless legacy from the Golden Age of golf, highly respected as a world-class championship venue, cherished for its wildlife habitats (including critically-endangered species), and recognised internationally for its high standards of sustainable management.

The historical value is assessed to be outstanding. The Old Course is Hong Kong's first and best example of an 18-hole course dating from the Golden Age of golf. In combination, the Old, New, and Eden Courses have hosted the Hong Kong Open since 1959 and have played a pivotal role in promoting the sport in Hong Kong and Asia.

The course design value is assessed to be outstanding. Design of the Old Course is a faithful expression of the principles established on Scottish courses like St Andrews and promoted by pioneers of golf architecture like Alistair Mackenzie. The design of the later New and Eden Courses capture the same design spirit and strategic style of the Old Course.

The scenic value is assessed to be high. The Old, New, and Eden Courses were subtly integrated with minimal visual intrusion into the existing terrain. The subsequent tree planting has matured to form a richly-wooded parkland landscape which provides welcome visual relief to the increasingly urbanised surroundings.

The nature conservation value is assessed to be outstanding. Sensitive design and management of the courses has protected Hong Kong's last remnant of Wild Chinese Swamp Cypress habitat which is listed as critically-endangered worldwide. The wooded parkland supports a wide variety of flora and fauna species that represents a remarkable enhancement of biodiversity across the site that is rare in Hong Kong.

The sustainability value is assessed to be outstanding. From the outset, adoption of traditional design principles from the 'Golden Age' of golf ensured that site disturbance was minimised and natural topographic and hydrological features were retained. Continued responsible environmental management has been recognised by certification of Fanling Golf Club as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

The architectural value is assessed to be outstanding. The Clubhouse and the Halfway House were built in the same period with the Old Course, they were integrated with the design of the Course, provide a physical and social platform for the golfers and visitors to interact with each other over a century and continue to evolve in the future. Their value would be greatly diminished if we assessed them as individual buildings or structures. Indeed, they were strategically designed and positioned to embrace the Course and the landscapes, they contribute greatly to the integrity of the designed cultural landscape of the entire Fanling Golf Course, forming an inseparable role.

The local value is assessed to be high. Compared to other historic landscapes in Hong Kong, the Fanling Golf Course constitutes a unique and authentic piece of designed landscape heritage that remains largely true to the original intent since 1911.

The socio-cultural value is assessed to be high. Over a century relationship was established based on a pleasant and profitable liaison between the Club and the indigenous villagers, which is still maintained. It is socio-culturally significant not only for the development of the Fanling Golf Club but also for the rising role of the Chinese in golf.

Historical	Outstanding	★★★★★
Course Design	Outstanding	★★★★★
Scenic	High	★★★★
Nature Conservation	Outstanding	★★★★★
Sustainability	Outstanding	★★★★★
Architectural	Outstanding	★★★★★
Local	High	★★★★
Socio-cultural	High	★★★★

<p>Authenticity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly authentic as it maintains and demonstrates the spirit and character of the “Golden Age” design principles of a golf course design. It functions as a golf course without a major break to this day, and exudes the ambience of created and mature landscape serving human use 	High	★★★★
<p>Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is holistically preserved and enhanced with all the original features intact and well maintained. The Old Course has not been affected by any recent developments at the site or neighbouring areas and thus fulfilling the UNESCO conditions of integrity as defined by the World Heritage Centre 	Outstanding	★★★★★

It is evident that the designed cultural landscape of Fanling Golf Club is not just a heritage site or a world-class venue for golf. It has evolved to become a wildlife sanctuary of local, regional, and international significance and is one of Hong Kong's rare examples of a cultural landscape that has experienced a sustained increase in biodiversity as a result of human intervention. This has important implications for future management. Primarily, it will require a dedicated conservation plan and statutory protection to safeguard the authenticity and integrity of the heritage resources from inappropriate development.

To illustrate some of the main conservation challenges that lie ahead, the following section presents three comparative case studies of local heritage cultural landscapes of enhanced biodiversity, namely: The Hong Kong Cemetery, Kadoorie Farm, and Mai Po Marshes.

11.0 COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HONG KONG CULTURAL LANDSCAPES WITH ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY

11.1 Hong Kong Cemetery, Happy Valley



Fig. 27. Hong Kong Cemetery's memorials in a mature landscape setting⁹⁰

The Hong Kong Cemetery was established in 1845 in response to the urgent need to provide a burial ground for military personnel and the civilian population in the fledging colony. It is a designed cultural landscape reflecting the style of cemetery garden that originated in Paris and had become fashionable in British and other European cities in the early 1800s. Cemetery gardens are intended to create a dignified parkland landscape with memorials set in areas of lawn with tree-lined paths and flowering shrubs.

The cemetery's location on the lower western slope of Happy Valley (the name 'Happy Valley' is a common euphemism for a cemetery) was sparsely vegetated with wild grass and scrub. Human intervention to introduce a funeral chapel, ornamental fountain, turfed terraces, and extensive tree and shrub planting transformed the character of the site significantly. By 1900, it resembled a botanical garden. While the cemetery is less carefully tended today, it has evolved into a rich wildlife habitat supporting a diverse range of flora and fauna species. The peaceful ambience and the lack of night lighting have contributed to the ecological heritage value of the site despite being located in a dense urban neighbourhood.

Unfortunately, the importance of the Hong Kong Cemetery as a heritage cultural landscape, of high historical, socio-cultural, and nature conservation value, has not been fully recognised. In the 1970s, this lack of statutory protection allowed the site to be bisected by construction of the Aberdeen

⁹⁰ Source: Ken Nicolson, *The Happy Valley: History and Tour of The Hong Kong Cemetery*, (Hong Kong, HKU Press: 2010), 8.

Tunnel and impacted by the associated visual and noise intrusion of the elevated highway. The necessary relocation of memorials and felling of established woodland seriously and irreversibly damaged the integrity of the site. The cemetery is currently managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department which does not have responsibility for or expertise in heritage conservation. Without a conservation management plan, the general condition of built and natural heritage resources continues to decline.

11.2 Kadoorie Farm



Fig. 28. Kadoorie Farm terraces and woodland⁹¹

Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) is located near Pak Ngau Shek, including Kwan Yam Shan, in the central New Territories. It is a designed cultural landscape, established in 1956 by the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) to assist the large numbers of poor farmers who migrated to Hong Kong after WW2 and settled in the New Territories. The Farm provided training in crop production and animal husbandry, supplies of agricultural materials, and interest-free loans to help the farmers get started and become self-sufficient.

Development of the 150-hectares site steadily transformed the steep and sparse hillside terrain into fertile and productive terraces that also became valuable wildlife habitats. Over time, as local agriculture declined, the role of KFBG evolved to become more oriented towards nature conservation. In 1995, this transition was marked by LegCo's passing of an ordinance to establish The Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden Corporation (KFBGC) which acknowledged and protected the natural heritage value of the cultural landscape.

The KFBGC's functions are: to manage the Farm for the public benefit as a centre for conservation and education with the aim of increasing awareness of the environment; provide a sanctuary for

⁹¹ Source: <https://www.kfbg.org/en/botanic-garden-and-nature-reserve>

animals and birds; collaborate with organisations or institutions with similar aims or of a similar nature whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere; and, support accepted principles and standards for the protection of biological diversity. The Farm's team of experienced conservation professionals regularly advise governmental and environmental NGOs, private developers, ecological consultants, and academics regarding best conservation practice. With statutory protection and a well-informed and executed management plan, the authenticity of KGBGC's mission and integrity of the cultural landscape are stable and continue to flourish.

11.3 Mai Po Marshes



Fig. 29. Mai Po Marshes ⁹²

The Mai Po Marshes are an organically evolved cultural landscape located at Deep Bay in the North-West New Territories. Originally, these wetlands comprised an extensive area of intertidal mudflats and mangroves. Over time, silt deposits raise the level of the land pushing the mangrove farther out into the estuary. This natural process of ecological succession was interrupted by human intervention to create paddy fields and, later, fishponds and *gei wai* (shallow pools for farming shrimp). The result is a complex cultural landscape of high biodiversity.

After WW2, paddy farming declined and disappeared from the Deep Bay area by the early 1980s. The remaining wetland areas came under pressure from larger-scale commercial fish farms and housing development projects. Fortunately, the ecological importance of Mai Po Marshes as a wildlife sanctuary and critical position on Asian bird migratory routes was recognised in time. The wetlands were declared to be a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1976. In 1995, Mai Po was listed as a 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention.

⁹² Source: <https://www.wwf.org.hk/en/wetlands/mai-po/>

Management of the entire 1,500-hectares Ramsar site is the responsibility of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). The department is advised by a Wetland Advisory Committee comprising a team of experts in wetland ecology, wildlife conservation, fish farming, and town planning. Since 1983, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has assisted AFCD to manage the Mai Po Nature Reserve focusing on biodiversity protection and enhancement as well as public education programmes.

In 1998, AFCD implemented a conservation strategy and management plan intended to enhance protection of the site and raise public awareness of the importance of this heritage cultural landscape. The key feature of the plan was establishment of a 'wise-use' buffer zone around the landward fringe of the wetlands. The zoning allows appropriate land uses such as fish farming and prevents inappropriate development such as housing that would otherwise encroach too close to the boundary and threaten the integrity of the wildlife habitats, particularly by noise and light intrusion.

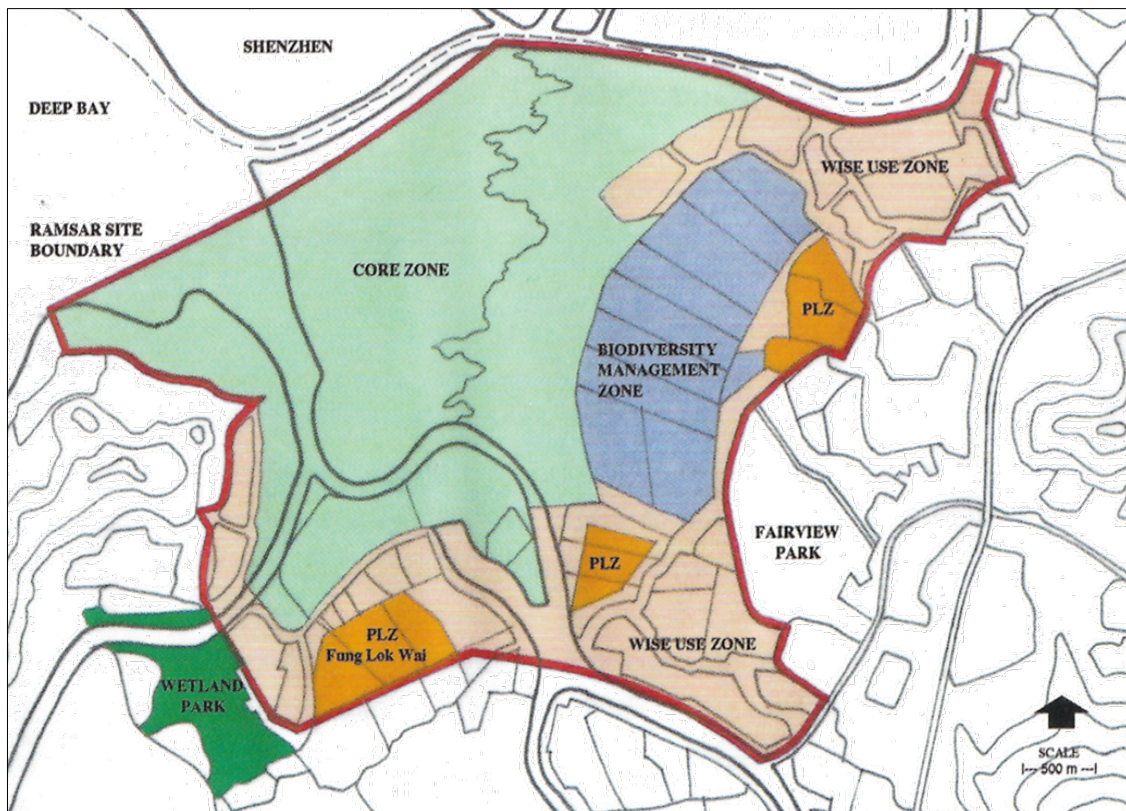


Fig. 30. Mai Po's Landscape Buffer 'Wise Use' Zoning Plan⁹³

Mai Po's statutory protection and effective management plan provide a salutary lesson in how human intervention can enhance biodiversity in sensitive cultural landscapes if the various government and non-government stakeholders are sincere in pursuing creative and sustainable solutions.

⁹³ Source: Ken Nicolson, *Landscapes Lost and Found: Appreciating Hong Kong's Heritage Cultural Landscapes*, (Hong Kong, HKU Press: 2016), 68.

11.4 Fanling Golf Club

The Hong Kong Cemetery, Kadoorie Farm, and Mai Po case studies provide valuable insight into how the heritage cultural landscape of Fanling Golf Club can be acknowledged and protected. Like Kadoorie Farm and Mai Po, the Club has an effective management plan, overseen by experienced professionals, that has established the Club as a world-class golfing venue with a proven track record in sustainable resource management. All three historic courses are highly respected internationally as authentic products of the Golden Age of golf design. Unfortunately, like the Hong Kong Cemetery, the heritage value of this unique cultural landscape has, to date, not been properly acknowledged. However, this issue is currently under review by the AAB which is considering proposals to establish a heritage grading for the ensemble of all three courses at Fanling.

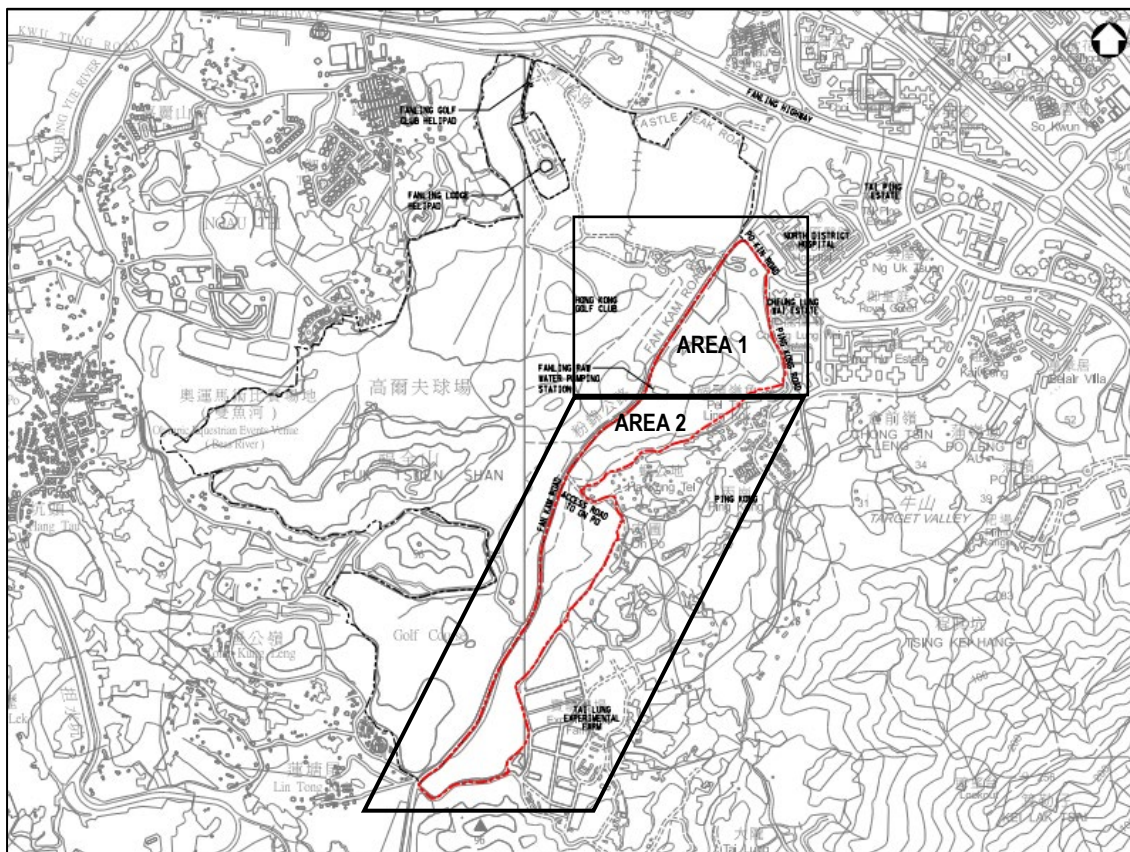


Fig. 31. Plan highlighting in red first 8 holes of Old Course, east of Fan Kam Road⁹⁴

⁹⁴ Source: CEDD, Agreement No CE 17/2019 (CE) EIA Report, *Technical Study on Partial Development of Fanling Golf Course Site – Feasibility Study*.



Fig. 32. Area 1 Existing Old Course (Holes 1 to 3) and Area 1 Housing Development ⁹⁵

Without statutory protection, the integrity of the site is at risk from the current proposal by Government to build a housing estate on a portion of the Old Course. The first 8 holes of the course (east of Fan Kam Road) will be lost; holes 1-3 to residential development (Area 1) and holes 4 – 8, including the critically- endangered Chinese Swamp Cypress habitat, to a recreational zone associated with the housing (Area 2).

12.0 ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON HERITAGE VALUES FROM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed housing development and associated compensatory tree planting cum conservation / recreation area, of around 6 hectares, will result in the permanent loss of the portion of the Old Course (holes 1 to 8) located to the east of Fan Kam Road. At the risk of stating the obvious, the loss of even one hole from a championship golf course renders that entire course unfit for competitive golf. However, in this case, the loss of the Old Course can be expected to have additional, far-reaching consequences that will reflect poorly on Hong Kong's understanding of international standards of heritage conservation and sustainability. The following review of the FGC's heritage values highlights some of the key issues.

12.1 Historical and Course Design Values

The Old Course is Hong Kong's first and best example of an 18-hole course dating from the Golden Age of golf. It is an authentic and rare surviving example of a course in S-E Asia exhibiting the design

⁹⁵ Source: CEDD, Agreement No CE 17/2019 (CE) EIA Report , *Technical Study on Partial Development of Fanling Golf Course Site – Feasibility Study*.

principles of the Strategic School, established by traditional golf courses like St Andrews – the recognised 'Home of Golf.'

Loss of this iconic, unique 112-years old course can be expected to generate international criticism that Hong Kong does not have the will or means to protect its heritage cultural landscapes or recognise the true historical value of Fanling's Old Course and its role in promoting golf in the city and in S-E Asia. Since the Old Course is integral to the current 'Outstanding' (internationally significant) historical and course design values for Fanling Golf Club as a whole, its destruction would inevitably result in these values being materially downgraded to 'Medium' or 'High' (regionally or territorially significant).

12.2 Scenic Value

Following traditional golf course design principles, the Old Course was integrated into the natural terrain with minimal visual intrusion. The belts of woodland created a unique visual character sympathetic to the clan village / feng shui landscape of the broader cultural landscape. Over time, the mature parkland landscape of Fanling Golf Club has provided visual relief to the increasingly urbanised surroundings.

The proposed housing development will degrade the unique integrity of the golf course and create a visual impact that cannot be mitigated or reinstated. The residential tower blocks are completely out of scale with the existing landscape in terms of height, volume, and overall massing. Together with the existing Cheung Lung Wai Estate which was completed in 2015, built next to the Old Course, separated by the Ping Kwong Road, as a result, it is expected that the proximity and visual dominance of the urban development will reduce the current 'High' (territorially significant) scenic value of the parkland cultural landscape to 'Low' or 'Medium' (locally to regionally significant).

12.3 Nature Conservation Value

The sensitive design of the Old Course protected vulnerable habitats, most notably, the grove of critically-endangered Chinese Swamp Cypress. Subsequent tree planting and natural propagation within all three courses matured to create a unique, lowland, secondary woodland, parkland landscape, covering 45% of the site. The result of these human interventions and proactive golf course management and maintenance since 1911 has been a significant enhancement of the cultural landscape's biodiversity. This is rare in Hong Kong.

Any loss of the unique and irreplaceable golf course parkland landscape to urban development will result in a loss of biodiversity. In the broader context of the planned Northern Metropolis, which will transform the landscape of the New Territories, any depletion or degradation of rare sites with enhanced biodiversity, like the Fanling Golf Club, would also be a serious and irretrievable loss for the wider region. International studies have shown that golf courses are vital habitat reservoirs for flora and fauna species that have been lost to inappropriate development in surrounding areas. Fanling's Old Course is a prime example of this.

It is also recognised that urban development can have direct and indirect impacts. By nature, golf courses are dark at night and quiet by day, reverting to nature every evening. Apart from physical destruction of a portion of the Old Course, including felling over 1,000 mature trees, the proximity of the proposed housing development to Fanling Golf Club will degrade adjacent habitats, particularly from construction works in the short term and from noise and light disturbance in the long term. Accordingly, the 'Outstanding' (internationally significant) landscape conservation value can be expected to decline to 'Medium' (regionally significant).

12.4 Sustainability Value

Design principles established during the 'Golden Age' of golf promoting minimal disturbance to the natural environment were hallmarks of traditional courses like Fanling's Old Course. They laid the foundation for what came to be known decades later as 'sustainable' environmental management. Criticism that some modern golf courses fell short of these standards led to an international sustainable certification process to promote best practice in golf course design and management - something that HKGC had been pioneering in Hong Kong for decades and for which it received Audubon certification.

To allow the loss of a portion of the Old Course to housing development would be to disregard and undermine the world-class sustainability model applied so effectively at the Fanling Golf Club. The model reflects UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals which comprise striking a balance between three aspects of sustainability - economic, social, and environmental. The Old Course merits an 'Outstanding' (internationally significant) sustainability value to reflect the remarkable achievement of the FGC in all three aspects. Whereas, the proposed housing development may be argued in terms of economic and social aspects, it would fail to achieve a commensurate level of environmental sustainability. Therefore, the resulting loss of the Old Course would reduce the sustainability value to 'Medium' or 'High' (regionally to territorially significant).

12.5 Architectural Value

The Clubhouse and the Halfway House were built together with the Old Course, they form an integral part of the Old Course with their strategic positioning reflecting their original functions. The Clubhouse located near the first and last hole of the Old Course provides a social gathering place before and after the game; and the Halfway House located near the 9th and 10th hole of the Old Course, provide a resting place in the middle of the game; The Fanling Lodge was built immersed in the New Course environment after the completion of the New Course. These built heritages together interweave with the historical context and landscape, their architectural value cannot merely focus on individual structure, but also their contribution to the integrity of the designed cultural landscape of the entire Fanling Golf Course, their relationship with the original course setting and vista, and the social functions that provided, all adding merits to their architectural value, as well as the value of the cultural landscape with "the combined works of nature and man".

The loss of a 32 hectares portion of the Old Course to housing development implies that it would discontinue the association of the heritage buildings and their original landscape (decontextualised) and eventually destroy the integrity of the whole designed cultural landscape. The proposed

residential tower blocks (located less than 100m from the nearest) will also destroy the vista in front of the Clubhouse. Such visual impact cannot be mitigated. As a result, the architectural value would be severely compromised as we can now only assess them as individual buildings or structures. This would degrade their original role as being the built heritage resources that synthesize with the natural heritage resources making the Fanling Golf Course a 'combined works of nature and man'. Therefore, the resulting loss of the Old Course would reduce the architectural value to "Medium".

12.6 Local Value

With the closure of the Old Course and its partial redevelopment for housing, the Fanling Golf course will lose its value as a piece of designed landscape heritage. In the context of Hong Kong, Authenticity is a major criterion for the appraisal of designed historical landscapes. Very few historic landscapes in Hong Kong can be said to have preserved their original character and used as 'living heritage'. Most significant historic landscapes, such as the Parade Ground (now Cheung Kong Centre), or mid-nineteenth century private gardens, such as Green Bank (Lan Kwai Fong) or that of Jardine Matheson located along Leighton Road, have completely disappeared today. Even relatively more recent examples of designed landscapes, such as the Tiger Balm gardens, have been sacrificed to housing development, leaving behind decontextualised (and therefore devalued) historical buildings, such as the Haw Par Mansion. While the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens or the Victoria Peak Garden remain in their original locations today, they have suffered from so many design iterations and physical modifications over the years that their authenticity is questionable. Although the Fanling Golf Course has remained largely true to its original intent since 1911 (making it an ideal local candidate for statutory protection), the partial demolition of the Old Course will irreversibly damage its uniqueness and authenticity, reducing its local significance to medium.

12.7 Socio-cultural Value

The Club's unique historical relationship with indigenous villagers around Fanling Golf Course is intrinsically linked to the Old Course. The development of the new housing blocks will put at risk the historical arrangement between almost 800 local villagers and the Golf Club, where free golf is provided on the Old Course every day of the week. Since they are allowed to play on the Old Course from the 2nd to the 15th hole, their options will be seriously limited if the first 8 holes of the Old Course are gone. Even if only one grave is to be moved on Old Course (near Hole 2), the public housing project will also certainly affect the fengshui of the graves housed at the site and mitigation measures will have to be implemented to the satisfaction of the villagers. But most importantly, such a piecemeal approach to the site would be at odds with current conservation theory and practice while reproducing the mistakes from the past. Indeed, the recent promotion of a holistic and dynamic understanding of heritage addresses a contemporary conservation paradox: that of monuments and sites devoided of their communities and associated practices vs. intangible heritage without location and any material anchors. Although the second half of the Old Course might remain intact, it would lose its intangible heritage significance while the history of the Old Course as a whole would have lost its status of the oldest 18-hole championship course in Asia and

also corresponding landscape. In addition, the Hong Kong Ladies Open Championship (HKLO) is played on the Old Course due to its special turfgrasses and drainage that are designed to maintain the playability of the course in Hong Kong’s very hot and humid summer conditions. The Old Course is the only golf course in Hong Kong that can host a major international event in the summer months. Therefore, reducing the Social Value of the Old Course to “low”.

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON HERITAGE VALUES FROM PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT			
★ denotes anticipated minimum loss in value grading			
	BEFORE	AFTER	
Historical	Outstanding	Medium to High	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Course Design	Outstanding	Medium to High	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Scenic	High	Low to Medium	★ ★ ★ ★
Nature Conservation	Outstanding	Medium	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Sustainability	Outstanding	Medium to High	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Architectural	Outstanding	Medium	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Local	High	Medium	★ ★ ★ ★
Socio-cultural	High	Low	★ ★ ★ ★

13.0 CONCLUSIONS

Interpreting the Fanling Golf Club as a historic cultural landscape has provided a more holistic understanding of the heritage significance of the site. By synthesising the different cultural, natural, tangible, and intangible character-defining elements that define the dynamics and spirit of the site, it is clear that the FGC is much more than the sum of its parts. It is not just a historic, world-class golf facility. It has evolved to become a wildlife sanctuary of local, regional, and international significance and is one of Hong Kong’s rare examples of a cultural landscape that has experienced a sustained increase in biodiversity as a result of human intervention.

When the Old Course was built, the New Territories looked very different from today. The former paddy field and clan village landscape has been largely replaced by towering New Towns, thundering transport infrastructure, and hectares of container storage and lorry parks. Biodiversity throughout the New Territories has plummeted and, with further large-scale urban development in the pipeline, will continue to decline. Without the establishment of the golf courses, it is highly unlikely that the critically- endangered grove of Wild Chinese Swamp Cypress would have survived, or the wooded parkland landscape would have flourished to become a sanctuary for wildlife.

In an increasingly urbanised New Territories, the heritage resources of biodiverse cultural landscapes like the Fanling Golf Club, Kadoorie Farm, Mai Po Marshes, remnants of farmland in Long Valley, and clan villages with feng shui woodland, should be treasured, protected, and nurtured individually

as well as collectively. The UNESCO Sustainable Development Guidelines and experience with successful local conservation management schemes, like the Mai Po Ramsar site, can provide helpful pointers in how to achieve this.

The UNESCO SDGs challenge communities around the world to recalibrate attitudes towards how we balance economic, social, and environmental goals. Urban development is a necessary consequence of economic sustainability but it should not result in a net loss of quality of life for society (social sustainability) or degradation of biodiversity (environmental sustainability).

This study has demonstrated that the cultural and natural heritage value of the Old, New, and Eden Courses are of high to outstanding significance, i.e., of territorial and international importance. The proposed loss of a portion of the Old Course to accommodate the construction of a housing estate would be a grave and irreversible error of judgement that can be expected to receive international criticism, exposing Hong Kong's inability to appraise and protect its heritage cultural landscapes in accordance with global conservation and sustainability principles.

Alternatively, this study presents an opportunity. It provides the basis for decision makers to acknowledge the true heritage value of Fanling Golf Course and embrace the cultural landscape concept as a means to introduce effective area conservation in Hong Kong. It demonstrates the importance of synthesising built and natural heritage resources to understand the 'combined works of nature and man'. To find an authentic heritage site in Hong Kong, that has been in operation for over a century, has maintained its integrity, and is managed sustainably, is rare indeed. The heritage cultural landscape of Fanling Golf Course is a world-class role model of which Hong Kong should be proud. It should be protected into perpetuity by an appropriate land use zoning and not depleted.

By looking at the past awardees of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, the Hong Kong Golf Club and the Fanling Golf Course has fulfilled many of the criteria for the awards, such as upholds the key dimensions of sustainable development- economic, social and environmental; with social impact (significantly contribute to the rising role of the Chinese in golf); through nature-based solutions and emphasise on ecological restoration (demonstrated commitment to social-economic and communal development - achieving a sustainable irrigation system and history of good stewardship in other areas of environmental management, i.e. protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats, reduction and safe use of chemicals, and development of conservation education programmes) and is recognised internationally when it was certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for its high standard of sustainable management; and through its multi-pronged strategy to safeguard the living cultural landscape in all its manifestations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Official Document

- AMO's Historic Building Appraisal. *The Clubhouse, Hong Kong Golf Club Fanling Golf Course*. Appraisal N210.
- AMO's Historic Building Appraisal. *Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir (commonly known as Mission Hill Service Reservoir / Woh Chai Shan Service Reservoir), Sham Hui Po, Kowloon*. Appraisal N367.
- AMO's Historic Building Appraisal. *Fanling Lodge, Kwu Tung, Sheung Shui, N.T.* Appraisal N88.
- CEDD. *Technical Study on Partial Development of Fanling Golf Course Site – Feasibility Study*. Agreement No CE 17/2019 (CE) EIA Report.
- Public Works Department, *Report of the Director of Public Works for the Year 1934*.

Books after 1911

- Adamson, A. B., and Allen Roberston. *Golfer: His Life and Times*. Worcestershire: Grant Books, 1985.
- Cummer, Katherine Noelle. *Historic Urban Landscape in Hong Kong: The Evolution of the City of Victoria Cantonment*. Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong, 2016.
- Dr Mackenzie's Golf Architecture*. Compiled and Arranged by H.R Grant. Worcestershire: Grant Books, 1982.
- Fairclough, Graham, Ingrid Sarlöv Herlin and Carys Swanwick, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Landscape Character Assessment: Current Approaches to Characterization and Assessment*. London and New York: Routledge, 2018.
- Lau Chi Pang, 劉智鵬. *Xianggang Geerfuqihui zou guo de 130 nian 香港哥爾夫球會走過的130年* [The Hong Kong Golf Club]. Hong Kong: Joint Publishing, 2019.
- Leighly, John, ed. *Lands and Life: A Selection from the Writings of Carl Ortwin Sauer*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1963.
- Nicolson, Ken. *Landscapes Lost and Found: Appreciating Hong Kong's Heritage Cultural Landscapes*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2016.
- Nicolson, Ken. *The Happy Valley: History and Tour of The Hong Kong Cemetery*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010.
- Robinson, Spencer. *Festina Lente: A History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club*. Hong Kong: Royal Hong Kong Golf Club, 1989.

Journals

- Atha, Mick. "A Neglected Heritage: Towards a Fuller Appreciation of the Landscapes and Lifeways of Hong Kong's Rice Farming Past." *Asian Anthropology* 11 (August 2012): 129–56.
- Chief, Mechtild Rössler. "World Heritage Cultural Landscapes: A UNESCO Flagship Programme 1992-2006." *Landscape Research* 31, no. 4 (2006): 333-353.
- Colding, Johan, and Carl Folke. "The Role of Golf Courses in Biodiversity Conservation, and Ecosystem Management." *Ecosystems* 12, no. 2 (February 2009): 191-206. www.jstor.org/stable/40603429.
- Gallagher, Steven Brian. *Protecting Built Heritage in Hong Kong, SpringerBriefs in Law*. Singapore: Springer, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-5071-0>.
- Hayes, James. "A Pattern of Life: Essays on Rural Hong Kong." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch*, no.2 (1962): 75-102.
- Stanik, Nils, Inge Aalders and David Miller. "Towards an Indicator-based Assessment of Cultural Heritage as a Cultural Ecosystem Service – A Case Study of Scottish Landscapes." *Ecological Indicators* 95, part 1 (2018): 288-297.

Tengberg, Anna, Susanne Fredholm, Ingegard Eliasson, Igor Knez, Katarina Saltzman and Ola Wetterberg. "Cultural Ecosystem Services Provided by Landscapes: Assessment of Heritage Values and Identity." *Ecosystem Services* 2 (December 2012): 14-26.

Old News

"GOLF: TAIKOO v WAYFOONG AT FANLING Win for the Bank." *South China Morning Post*. January 12, 1926.

"INTERPORT GOLF: Triangular Tournament at Fanling THE PROGRAMME." *South China Morning Post*. January 4, 1928.

Franchineau, Helene. "Victoria Harbour Snubbed over Nomination for World Heritage Site Status." *South China Morning Post*, January 20, 2013. sec. News. www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1131920/victoria-harbour-snubbed-over-nomination-world-heritage-site-status.

Spin, Back. "Golf Gossip: Fanling Caddies." *South China Morning Post*. April 8, 1926.

Waters, T.F. R. "History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club." *South China Morning Post*. 1960.

Other Manuscripts

Grave survey in 2013 (Digital Image Survey Limited 2013 Grave Survey Report, for the Hong Kong Golf Club).

UNESCO. *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. 1972. Article 1.

UNESCO. *The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. 1992. Website

"Fife Council Local Development Plan (FIFEplan)." Fife Council. www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/planning-and-building2/planning/development-plan-and-planning-guidance/local-development-plan-fifeplan.

"Botanic Garden and Nature Reserve." Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden. www.kfbg.org/en/botanic-garden-and-nature-reserve.

"Harbour Business Forum." Accessed February 19, 2023. www.harbourbusinessforum.com/en-us/about.

"Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes: St Andrews Links." Historic Environment Scotland. 2013. portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/GDL00344.

"Mai Po Nature Reserve." WWF. www.wwf.org.hk/en/wetlands/mai-po/.

"Our Treasure Cultural Landscapes to Future Generations: Cultural Landscape Protection in Japan." Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan. www.bunka.go.jp/english/report/publication/pdf/pamphlet_en_01.pdf.

"The Florence Declaration on Heritage and Landscape as Human Values." ICOMOS. 2014. www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/Secretariat/2015/GA_2014_results/GA2014_Symposium_FlorenceDeclaration_EN_final_20150318.pdf.

"World Heritage Convention: The Criteria for Selection." UNESCO. whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/.

Anderson, Rudy. "A Brief History of the Business of Operating Golf Courses in Asia." LinkedIn. July 25 2014. www.linkedin.com/pulse/20140725174126-14330677-a-brief-history-of-the-business-of-operating-golf-courses-in-asia.

Audubon International website. auduboninternational.org. Bailey, Mike. "Ten Reasons why Augusta National shouldn't make you green with envy." *Golf Pass*. 5 April, 2016. www.golfpass.com.

Courses on Hong Kong Golf Club website. hkgolfclub.org.

Ebert, Martin. "Article Regarding The Restoration of The Golf Course Hirono Golf Club" Mackenzie & Ebert. March 2019. www.mackenzieandebert.com.

Moore, David. "The History of Oakmont Country Club." Oakmont Country Club. www.oakmontcc.org/history-of-oakmont-country-club.

National Park Service. "National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation." (US Department of the Interior: 1995 Revised for Internet) Scribd. www.scribd.com/document/3328588/National-Register-Bulletin-15-Criteria-for-Evaluation#.

Scottish Golf History website. www.scottishgolfhistory.org/origin-of-golf-terms/links.

Other

Baker, Hugh D.R. *The Five Great Clans of The New Territories*. Based on a lecture delivered on 1st March 1965, JRASHKB 1966, Vol. 6.

English Heritage. *Golf in Historic Parks and Landscapes*. 2007 (NB: this publication is currently archived and under review).

European Institute of Golf Course Architects. "Golf Courses as Designed Landscape of Historic Interest." *Historic England Research Report*, series no. 42-2017.

Historic England. *Rural Landscapes: Register of Parks and Gardens Selection Guide*. December 2017.

National Park Service. *National Register of Historic Places: Inventory – Oakmont Country Club*. United States Department of the Interior, 1987.

APPENDIX- I Complete list of Hong Kong Open Winners (Men's and Ladies' Champions)

Hong Kong Open Winners

- 2019** Wade ORMSBY (AUS)
- 2018** Aaron RAI (ENG)
- 2017** Wade ORMSBY (AUS)
- 2016** Sam BRAZEL (AUS)
- 2015** Justin ROSE (ENG)*
- 2014** Scott HEND (AUS)
- 2013** Miguel Angel JIMENEZ (ESP)
- 2012** Miguel Angel JIMENEZ (ESP)
- 2011** Rory MCILROY (NIR)*
- 2010** Ian POULTER (GRB)
- 2009** Gregory BOURDY (FR)
- 2008** LIN Wen-tang (TPE)
- 2007** Miguel Angel JIMENEZ (ESP)
- 2006** Jose Manuel LARA (ESP)
- 2005** Colin MONTGOMERIE (SCT)
- 2004** Miguel Angel JIMENEZ (ESP)
- 2003** Pdraig HARRINGTON (IRE)*
- 2002** Fredrik JACOBSON (SWE)
- 2001** Jose Maria OLAZABAL (ESP)*
- 2000** Simon DYSON (GBR)
- 1999** Patrik SJOLAND (SWE)
- 1998** KANG Wook-soon (KOR)
- 1997** Frank NOBILO (NZL)
- 1996** Rodrigo CUELLO (PHL)
- 1995** Gary WEBB (USA)
- 1994** David FROST (SAF)
- 1993** Brian WATTS (USA)
- 1992** Tom WATSON (USA)*
- 1991** Bernhard LANGER (GER)*
- 1990** Ken GREEN (USA)
- 1989** Brian CLAAR (USA)
- 1988** HSIEH Chin-sheng (TPE)
- 1987** Ian WOOSNAM (WALES)*
- 1986** Seichi KANAI (JAP)
- 1985** Mark AEBLI (USA)
- 1984** Bill BRASK (USA)
- 1983** Greg NORMAN (AUS)*

1982 Kurt COX (USA)
1981 CHEN Tze-ming (TPE)
1980 KUO Chi-hsiung (TPE)
1979 Greg NORMAN (AUS)*
1978 HSIEH Yung-yo (TPE)
1977 HSIEH Min-nan (TPE)
1976 HO Ming-chung (TPE)
1975 HSIEH Yung-yo (TPE)
1974 LU Liang-huan (TPE)
1973 Frank PHILLIPS (AUS)
1972 Walter GODFREY(NZL)
1971 Orville MOODY (USA)*
1970 Isao KATSUMATA (JAP)
1969 Teruo SUGIHARA (JAP)
1968 Randall VINES (AUS)
1967 Peter THOMSON (AUS)*
1966 Frank PHILLIPS (AUS)
1965 Peter THOMSON (AUS)*
1964 HSIEH Yung-yo (TPE)
1963 HSIEH Yung-yo (TPE)
1962 Len WOODWARD (USA)
1961 Kel NAGLE (AUS)*
1960 Peter THOMSON (AUS)*
1959 LU Liang-huan (TPE)

*indicates a major champion

Hong Kong Ladies Open Winners

2019 Liu Yan (CHN)
2018 Saranporn Langkulgsetterin (THA)
2017 Supamas Sangchan (THA)
2016 Tiffany Chan (HKG)
2015 Lee Jeong Hwa (KOR)

APPENDIX- II List of Major Tournaments hosted at Farling Golf Course

Major Tournaments Hosted

The Club has arguably the most experience of any golf club in Asia in hosting professional and elite amateur golf tournaments:

- The **Hong Kong Open**, which has been sanctioned by both the European and Asian Tours, since 1959. From 1959 to 1969, the event was staged on the Old and New Courses. Since 1970, a composite course of holes from the New and Eden Courses has staged the event. Winners include Rory McIlroy, Tom Watson, Peter Thomson, Justin Rose, Padraig Harrington, Greg Norman and Jose Maria Olazabal.
- The 2023 **World City Championship**, which was sanctioned by the Asian Tour and represented the first international golf event to be staged in Hong Kong for over 3 years. The tournament, held 23-26 March, was won by Taichi Kho, who became the first Hong Kong player to win on the Asian Tour. The event was part of the Open Qualifying Series, meaning the top 4 players not already exempt qualified for The Open Championship, which will be played at Royal Liverpool in July 2023.
- The **Hong Kong Ladies Open**, which has been sanctioned by the China LPGA, the LPGA of Taiwan and the Asian Ladies Golf Tour, has been staged on the Old Course since 2015.
- The 1976 **Colgate-Hong Kong Open**, which was sanctioned by the LPGA Tour and won by Judy Rankin.
- The 1990 **Johnnie Walker Asian Classic**, a European and Asian Tour co-sanctioned event won by Nick Faldo on the Composite Course.
- The 1996 **Alfred Dunhill Masters**, an Australasian and Asian Tour co-sanctioned event won by Bernhard Langer on the Composite Course.
- The **World Amateur Team Championship** in 1984. The Club was selected to host the 2020 World Amateur Team Championship but the event was cancelled.
- **US Women's Open International Qualifying** in 2019 on the Old Course.
- The Club has also hosted numerous regional elite amateur events, including the **Asia-Pacific Amateur Golf Team Championship** (Nomura Cup), the **Southeast Asian Amateur Golf Team Championship** (Putra Cup) and the **Asia-Pacific Amateur Ladies Team Championship** (Queen Sirikit Cup).

APPENDIX- III Submission to AAB and AMO, HKSAR Government for the Grading of the Whole of Fanling Golf Course as Listed Historical Building (27 September 2021)



Submission to the Antiquities Advisory Board and Antiquities and Monuments Office, HKSAR Government for the Grading of Whole of Fanling Golf Course as Listed Historical Building

27 September 2021

Fanling Golf Course (FGC) - CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORY

1.1. Report Introduction

1.1.1. Study Background and Objectives

CEDD is currently conducting and imminently completing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), started in summer 2019, for the development of the first 3 holes of FGC's unique Oldest Course to 9,000 high-rise housing units for a population of 25,000-30,000 people by 2029. CEDD have called this development the Fanling Golf Club-Partial Development (FGC-PD). This will lead to the loss of the first 3 and oldest golf holes of the unique Old Course of HKGC which were constructed in 1911. The Grade II listed Clubhouse, is located within the FGC-PD's EIA Study Area, and the FGC-PD's high-rise housing would be located less than 100 metres from the nearest.

This cultural heritage section of FGC was first conducted by ERM-Hong Kong Limited in 2018. This has been updated by Executive Counsel Limited in 2021, and reviewed by Prof. Lau Chi-pang of Lingnan University who is the author of the 2019 book on Hong Kong Golf Club history .

This report and its annex are intended to be shared to AAB and AMO, following a visit by the AAB Chairman and staff of AMO (in May 2021) to assist with their deliberations and understanding of the conservation value of the entire FGC. Architectural Conservationist Curry Tse Ching Kan has also helped to review the building heritage and the community impact of FGC.

Photo 1 Banyan Tree of 116 years old in the Old Course



The 2018 findings were shared to the Taskforce on Land Supply and Development Bureau in 2018, and the Development Bureau, Environment Bureau and Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in 2019.

1.1.2. HKSARG's and Home Affairs Bureau's Position on HKGC FGC

The HAB is of the view *“that the FGC is an indispensable facility in promoting golf sports in the community, supporting elite sports development and promoting Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events (HKSARG Reply to LegCo question LCQ19: Supply of Land and Housing 2 Dec 2020).*

The FGC currently opens up a lot of time slots for non-members and is also a major training base for the Hong Kong Golf national squads including youngster golfers. Moreover, the Hong Kong Open, the only European and Asian Tour co-sanctioned tournament in the territory, has been held continuously for over 60 years in the FGC. According to relevant international sanctioning authority (i.e. European Tours), apart from meeting the requirements of the authority on the golf course, there should also be convenient transportation and sufficient supporting facilities, including warm-up areas for golfers, sufficient space for activities and car parking spaces for accommodation of a large number

of audience. Currently, only the FGC can meet the above-mentioned requirements for holding major golf events in Hong Kong.

The Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course (KSCGC) is the only public golf course in Hong Kong. The design and facilities of the course are mainly for general golfers and not for major events. The FGC is located in lowland area but the KSCGC is developed in hilly areas. Most of the areas along the fairway are either hill slopes or sea front. There is insufficient space to accommodate audience or for expansion. In consideration of the positioning of the KSCGC, mode of operation, course design and geographical location, the KSCGC can hardly replace FGC.

HAB have stated a number of factors should be considered for reprovisioning of the FGC, such as the area of the reprovisioning site, works and technical constraints, environmental and ecological constraints (including ways to mitigate the impacts on the existing ecology, trees and heritage conservation of the golf course), sufficiency of transportation support, coordination with supply of public sports facilities and views of the district in where the reprovision site is located etc.

As mentioned above, in HKSARG's HAB's consideration that the FGC is an indispensable facility in promoting golf sports in the community, supporting elite sports development and promoting Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events".

1.2. Methodology

The Study has undertaken the following tasks:

A baseline study was conducted by ERM in 2018 to collect and collate the available information to analyse the archaeological and cultural heritage potential of the FGC. This included a desktop review of the following documents to identify any features, sites or potential within the FGC:

- List of declared monuments protected by the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Chapter 53);
- Lists and archives kept in the Reference Library of Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), including Sites of Archaeological Interest, declared monuments, etc.;
- Publications on local historical, architectural, anthropological, archaeological and

other cultural studies, such as, Journals of the Royal Asiatic Society (Hong Kong Branch), Journals of the Hong Kong Archaeological Society, AMO Monograph Series and so forth;

- Other unpublished papers, records, archival and historical documents through public libraries, archives, and the tertiary institutions, such as the Hong Kong Collection and libraries of the Department of Architecture of the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Public Records Office, photographic library of the Information Services Department and so forth;
- Any other unpublished archaeological investigation and excavation reports kept by the AMO;
- Relevant information from AMO's website;
- Footpath worthy of a detailed analysis in the future;
- Historical documents in the Public Records Office and the Hong Kong Museum of History and so forth;
- Cartographic and pictorial documents; and old and recent maps and aerial photos kept by Maps and Aerial Photo Library of the Lands Department;
- Existing geological and topographic information;
- Historical land use change;
- Information available from the HKGC;
- Literature review of relevant books and journals;
- Field study at nearby villages;
- Site visits and discussions with representatives from the HKGC familiar with the historical development of the FGC.

Baseline information was analysed to establish the archaeological and cultural heritage potential within the FGC with reference to AMO's Guidelines for Archaeological Reports (as at April 2011).

1.3. Baseline Conditions

1.3.1. Topographical Background

A baseline study was conducted to collect and collate the available information to analyse the archaeological potential of the FGC. This included a desktop review of the following documents to identify any archaeological features, sites or the FGC is located immediately to the south of the Fanling Highway, west of Luen Wo Hui and southeast of Kwu Tung. The FGC is bounded to the south by Chan Uk Po and Lin Tong Mei, to the east by Ping Kong,

north by Castle Peak Road (Kwu Tung section) and west by Kam Tsin and Ngau Tei. The Fan Kam Road cut across the FGC from north to south.

The FGC lies on a large valley extending from Shenzhen in the north to Tai Po at the head of Tolo Harbour towards the southeast. The FGC site is bounded to the southeast by small hills and a number of small natural terrain catchments are present in these areas. Wa Mei Shan at the southeast of the area peaks at an elevation of about 200m. Before the development of the FGC, the site was used as agricultural area and the hillside area has been used as burial area. The topographical condition is presented in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1 Topographical Condition



Note: not to scale

1.3.2. Geological Background

The solid geology of the FGC site is belonged to the Tai Mo Shan Formation (JTM). The superficial deposit of the area is alluvium (Qa) and debris flow deposits (Qd and Qpd).

No archaeological works have ever been conducted in the FGC site, only a few archaeological works have been conducted in the adjacent area.

Field investigations (including test pits and auger holes) have conducted at Po Leng (Po Leng Site of Archaeological Interest) in 1999 (1) and 2002. A small quantity of Song and Ming to Qing Dynasties ceramic sherds were unearthed and collected from these investigations.

1.3.3. Historical Background

1.3.3.1. General History of Hong Kong

Archaeological discovery indicated that Hong Kong's history could date back to Neolithic period over 6,000 years ago. Historical writings concerning the area of Hong Kong became more since the Tang Dynasty (618-907) probably due to the growing prosperity and heavy Chinese immigration to the Guangdong area during the Tang Dynasty (Ng 1983:20).

1.3.3.2. History of Fanling Area

The FGC is now covered by the North District administrative region in Fanling. The earliest record on local villages in Fanling area where the FGC locates is the Xin'an Gazetteer 1688 edition and the villages recorded in close proximity to the FGC at that time is listed in **Table 1**. In a later edition, 1819 edition, of the Xin'an Gazetteer, the number of villages adjacent to the FGC was increased to eleven as listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Historic Village in the Area Adjacent to FGC

Historic Village	Clan Groups	Location in relation to FGC	1688	1819
1 Ping Kong	Lius	By the east boundary of the old course of FGC	√	√
2 Tsiu Keng	Haus/Wongs/Chans/Leis/Pangs/Loks/Tangs/Wongs	About 1,000m south of FGC	√	√
3 Fanling	Pangs	About 1,280m northeast of FGC	√	√
4 Lung Yeuk Tau	Tangs	About 2,820m northeast of FGC	√	√
5 Sheung Shui	Lius	About 1,370m north of FGC	√	√
6 Ho Sheung Heung	Haus	About 1,190m northwest of FGC	√	√
7 Tsuang Pak Long	Wongs	About 350m north of FGC		√
8 Shek Wu Hui	Lius	About 930m north of FGC		√
9 Kam Tsin	Haus	About 260m northwest of FGC		√
10 Kwu Tong	About 10 clan groups including the Chan, Yiu, Cheung, Chung, Chow, Tseung, Man and Hau etc.	About 1,600m northwest of FGC		√
11 Yin Kong	Haus	About 480m northwest of FGC		√

According to the records of the Xin'an Gazetteer in the 24th year of the Reign of Jiaqing (嘉慶)(A.D. 1820) and the Lockhart's Report (1900), the New Territories was primarily an agricultural district. Village life revolved around two crops of rice a year. In the past, the community was largely an agricultural one with the raising of animals a thriving trade in cattle, pigs and poultry (mainly chickens, geese and ducks)" (北區區議會, 1994).

Most of the low-lying areas in the FGC were dominated by paddy fields and the higher-level grounds were natural small hills during the early 20th centuries. However, the fields were

progressively converted to cultivation fields for fruit and vegetables in the 1960-70s.

1.3.3.2.1. Tradition and Practices of Ancestral Worship in FGC of Nearby Clan Members and Villagers

Southern Song philosopher Zhu Xi (朱熹) once mentioned “The ancestors may have gone long ago, but the worship cannot go without sincerity”. (祖宗雖遠，祭祀不可不誠). This principle on ancestral worship is widely circulated among the rural villages in Hong Kong¹. Indeed, the indigenous inhabitants in Hong Kong are very proud and respectful to their traditions. Although in recent years, there were growing numbers of villagers moved abroad or to urban areas in Hong Kong, they still come back to the village and participate in the ancestral worship in their clans every year. Broadly speaking, there are two occasions for large-scale ancestral worships to take place each year, one near Ching Ming Festival in spring, also called Spring Ancestral Worship (春祭), while another worship would take place at Chung Yeung Festival, also called Autumn Ancestral Worship (秋祭). Members of the same branch of the clan, or even the whole clan and village would gather and conduct ancestral worship. For example, the Tang Clan has a grave in FGC that could be dated back to the Ming Dynasty. Each year, there would be around 200-300 clan members came to worship their ancestor at 10th of September of the Lunar Calendar, according to the record from the FGC. After the worship, senior members of the clan would distribute some “fortune money” to the juniors as a good luck wish.

¹ 蔡志祥，「祖先的节日、子孙的节日——香港新界粉岭围彭氏的太平洪朝、清明和太平清醮」，《温州大学学报(社会科学版)》2010年第4期，第24页。

Photo 2 Oldest Grave of Tang Clan (~460 Years of History)



1.3.3.3. History of Hong Kong Golf Club in Fanling

FGC bears rare and unique witness to the transformation of Hong Kong from the pre-colonial days to modern times. The history of FGC is culturally intertwined with the social and economic development of Hong Kong. In particular, the Fanling area, which used to be a traditional Chinese agricultural society, experienced a revolutionary change brought by FGC before the arrival of the British, as described earlier in this report.

After the New Territories was colonised by British in 1898, there was improvement of transportation, such as the construction of Tai Po Road, Castle Peak Road and Hong Kong's first cross-boundary railway, Kowloon-Canton Railway was operated in 1910. Regular fare contributions by golfers were one of the major income sources for the KCR. For instance, golfers brought in around HK\$10,000 to KCR; an enormous amount in that era. It attracted wealthy merchants such as Sir Ho Kai, Sir Robert Ho Tung and other merchants to purchase land for developments in the New Territories, in particular along major roads. Some of these merchants were strongly affected by western concept, which can be reflected by the building style (colonial style) of some buildings located by the Castle Peak Road such as the Home of the Loving Faithfulness, Oi Yuen and Enchi Lodge at Kwu Tung.

Meetings and events of significant historical reference were often held at FGC. For instance, Lee Kuan-yew, the first Prime Minister of Singapore, met Governor David Trench at FGC in 1967 right after the large-scale leftist riot in Hong Kong.

In 1911, the Hong Kong Golf Club (formerly known as the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club) applied for leasing 114 acres area in the Fanling Valley for construction of a full size 18-hole golf course and it was approved by the government in 1912. Until December 1913, the course, known as the Old Course, after its historical link with the St. Andrews' Old Course in Scotland (as shown in **Annex I**), was ready for proper competition play with a clubhouse known as "Dormie House" (it was probably the club house as shown in the 1959/60 survey map (see **Figure 4**) to the right of Fan Kam Road). Before the "Dormie House" was completed, a matshed was built for lunch break. In 1913 another matshed (Ladies' Pavilion) was erected for ladies but also served as a gathering point for men. In 1916, Sir Henry May and T.S. Forrest donated to build a halfway house in the style of a Chinese pavilion. It is now a Grade III historic building as listed in **Table 2**. In 1931, a second 18-hole course was opened (known as the New Course). After the Japanese Occupation, rehabilitation of the course in Fanling was conducted. A new halfway house, with Chinese design roof tiles was built during 1956 (see **Figures 3/4** at south of Fanling Lodge for its location) to match the Fanling Lodge (see **Table 2** for details) built in 1934. In 1959, the first Hong Kong Open champion was held at the FGC at the time that is still organised yearly until now.

1.3.3.3.1 Design Specialty of FGC

The unique Old Course was intentionally designed and built by hand and in harmony with the nature in 1911 to allow "natural elements" to play a role in the golf matches. The fairway of the unique Old Course was designed to follow the flow of the irregular lines of nature landscape, topography, landform, existing graves, urns and shrine locations and nature and important trees that were preserved and conserved in 1911 by the Old Course architect. This was designed so that it would create the least harm to the surrounding environment as well as letting the land dictate the play and give rise to a layout that is unique in style and character and different from anything else in Hong Kong, and indeed China. Very few golf courses today adopt a similar design of the Old Course as golf courses are standardised nowadays to work with the modern rules. Thus, its loss of this unique Old Course would be significant locally, nationally to China and internationally and the Old Course is irreplaceable.

Golf course historian and designer Paul Jansen has emphasised that the unique Old Course

was the first instalment of the “Golden Age” of golf course architecture in China. It is also representative of a period in golf course Architecture (1900-1939) where golf courses were inspired in large by the Old Course at St Andrews, Scotland. This period also produced the greatest number of golf courses currently ranked in the top 100 across the globe. The Old Course’s design is tailor-made for the old rules, which is unique and could not be found elsewhere in the region (See Annex I of Paul Jansen’s views on FGC).

With more than a century of history, the HKGC is among the four oldest sports clubs and the oldest golf club in Hong Kong. According to the historical accounts of FGC, researched and authored by Lau Chi-pang, Professor, Department of History at Lingnan University, FGC was the first 18-hole golf course for the HKGC, Hong Kong and China. Governor Sir Frederick Lugard was named the first president of the Club after its expansion to Fanling. The selection of Fanling as the site for an official residence in the New Territories by Governor Sir William Peel cannot be separated from the appealing surroundings of the Fanling site. Unlike many modern golf courses, FGC’s design is a classical tree-lined golf course design that respects the natural landscape of Fanling Valley as well as the graveyards of the major clans of the New Territories; and was designed strategically within the site’s natural restrictions to create challenging obstacles that enhance the fun of the sport. The design underscores the respect the Club has for the heritage and tradition of the clans throughout its 100 years of establishment. The uniqueness of FGC is best articulated by Alister MacKenzie (1870-1934), one of the best golf architects in history and designer of Augusta National and Cypress Point. He talked about the Fanling site favorably in his book titled *The Spirit of St. Andrews*: “...We have since discovered that Fan Ling is a course in China and it has the reputation of being one of the best in the Orient.”

Captain Edward Albert Ram, the architect who designed the Bishop’s Hill Service Reservoir (recently Grade I listed), was also the architect of FGC’s Grade II listed Clubhouse (1914) and many important historical buildings in Hong Kong, including the Matilda Hospital and Helena May. All these buildings were built in the similar period of time. We believe, based on the similarity on building style and time, the same conservation logic that applied on the Bishop’s Hill Service Reservoir should be applied to the whole FGC for historical complex listing. Since the 1914 Clubhouse is an inseparable part of FGC, and any indirect impact to its environs or direct impact damage on the Clubhouse from FGC-PD high-rise would harm the Clubhouse’s surroundings and environs and also the FGC’s ability to welcome guests, host golf competitions and serve as a venue for international tournaments such as the

historic HKO, community and charitable events. According to international standards of grading, it is noted that the whole FGC should be considered as one single venue.

Photo 3 Princess Alexandra, youngest granddaughter of King George V and Mary of Teck. During her visit in 1961 with Governor Sir Robert Black



FGC is also a fine example of the co-existence of Western culture and Chinese heritage. It is where most of the first generation of local golfers originated. It is also one of the few recreational facilities dating back to early British rule of the New Territories that survived the Second World War, the Japanese occupation and the post-war economic depression.

FGC is home to three architectural gems of golf course design. It is a ‘mecca’ for golf aficionados from around the world and is recognised as being one of the top 100 golf club on the planet, according to its status as a “Platinum Golf Club of the World”.

Numerous legends of the game have played at FGC, including the likes of Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Peter Thomson, Greg Norman, Tom Watson, Rory McIlroy among many others.

1.3.3.3.2. FGC’s Contribution to HK Golf

FGC contributed a lot for the development of golf in HK since it was built. Almost all the first generation of local professional golfers have some form of connection with the HKGC. Many of them are indigenous villagers whose homes are or were close to FGC. They either

enjoyed free access to the facility or caddied there in their youth. Over time they learned golf and made it their lifetime career.

Those with potential were offered sponsorships by HKGC members to take part in regional and international tournaments. These include:

Tang Shue Cheun – Hong Kong’s first Chinese professional golfer. A villager who caddied at FGC in his youth. Took part in the 1970 Hong Kong Open and represented Hong Kong on the Far East Golf Circuit in 1971.

Lai Wai Chi – now a professional golf coach. A villager who caddied at FGC in his youth. Represented Hong Kong on the Far East Golf Circuit in 1971.

Cheng Kee-hung – now the longest serving golf professional at HKGC. A villager who caddied at FGC when he was young. Went on to play internationally, and was the first Chinese golfer to compete in the Papua New Guinea Open in the 1980s.

Investors in the first golf courses in mainland China were also intimately connected with the HKGC. Chung Shan Hot Spring, the first golf club in modern China, was founded by long-time members of HKGC, and it was an influx of Hong Kong golfing talent to mainland China that saw the first China golf teams being set up and compete, including at the Asian Games.

Figure 3 Boundary of the Three Courses of FGC

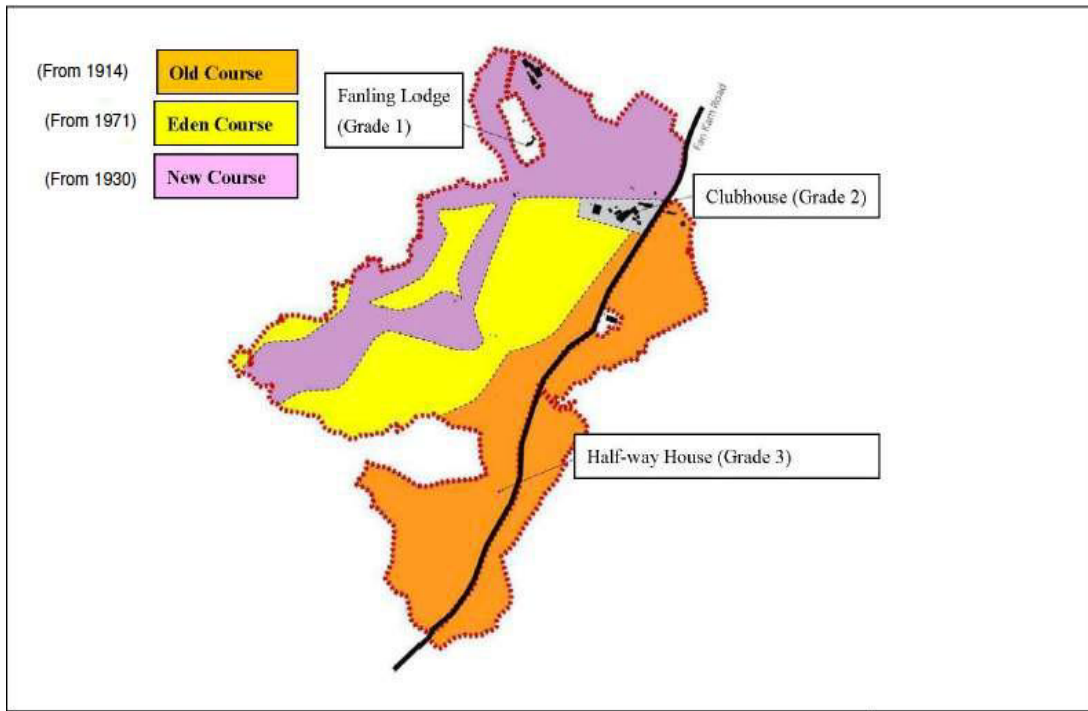
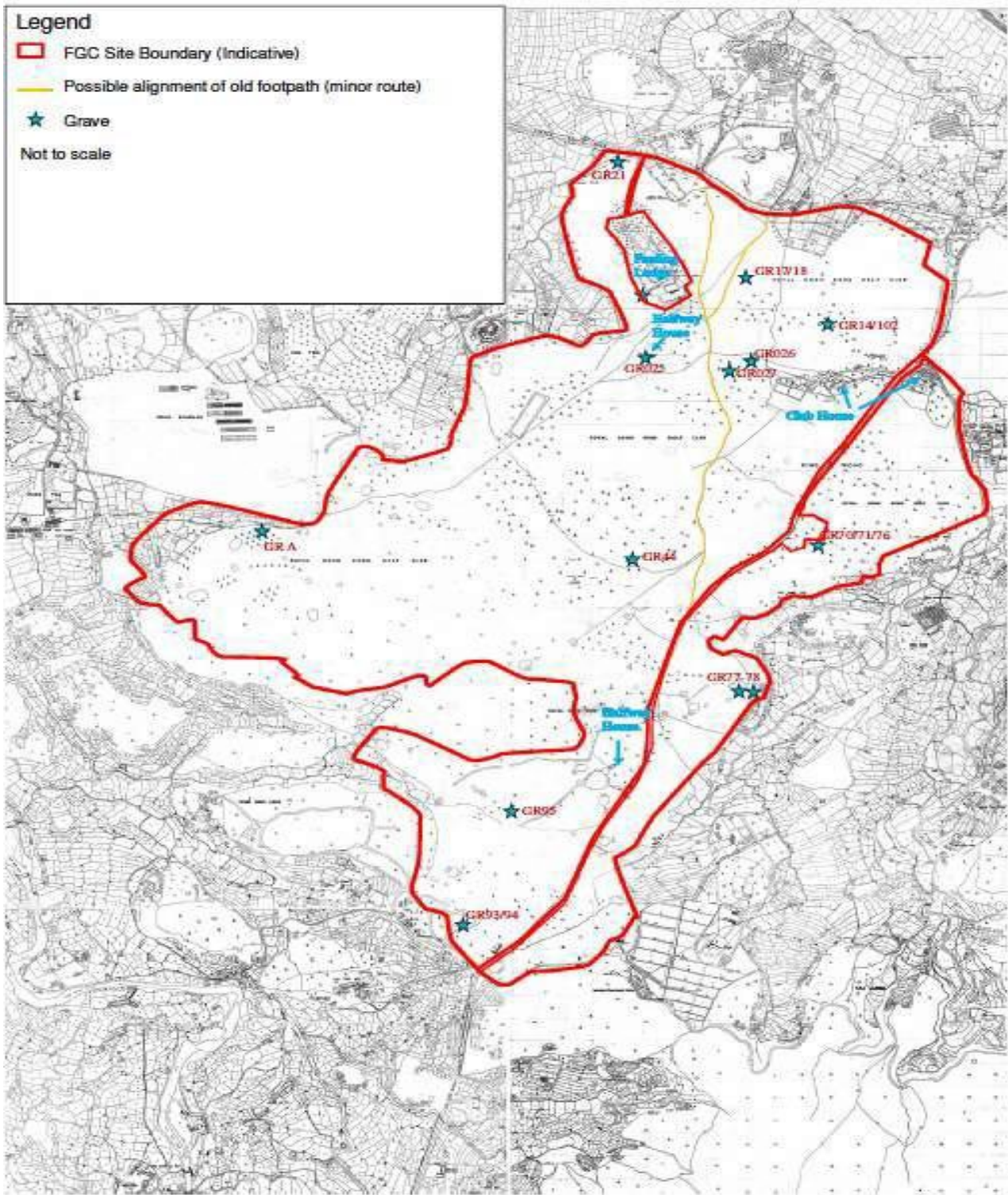


Figure 4 The Club House in the 1959/60 (1:1200) Survey Map



In 1971, the third 18-hole course (Eden Course) was opened. It was designed to create 54 competition holes within the same land boundaries that previously encompassed 36 (see **Figure 3**). As a result, the FGC is up to the international standard and the World Amateur Team Championships was first held at FGC in 1984.

1.3.3.4. Modern History: A Proud, National Contribution 2008 Beijing Olympics in FGC

The 2008 China's Beijing Olympics was among one of the most popular, if not the most popular, Olympics games in HK history. Beijing was the host of the 2008 Olympics, which is the first time for China to host the Olympics and brought huge national pride and excitement to Chinese people, including Hong Kong people as well. When it was known that Hong Kong would help to host the equestrian competitions (for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2008), extra senses of commitment and motivation were induced among the Hong Kong people to be involved in the Olympics and present the best image of Hong Kong to the world. Media and businesses had a wide coverage and held many welcoming activities regarding the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which attracted many citizens to actively and passionately participated in these events with good receptions.

The FGC had left a footprint in the Olympics as well since it proudly served as a sporting venue for the cross country equestrian competitions. Part of the FGC (New and Eden Courses), alongside with the Beas River Country Club, were borrowed and transformed as the venue for the equestrian competitions by the Hong Kong Jockey Club. Jumps were inserted and supporting facilities were built inside FGC to assist in hosting the competitions. Although after the Olympics and Paralympic Games 2008, the New and Eden Courses resumed their function as golf courses, some jumps were retained there for proud national posterity's sake and as a memory of this national contribution and experience.

The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games equestrian competitions held by Hong Kong was widely considered as a success. It attracted thousands of tourist and equestrian competition lover to visit Hong Kong and watch the competitions. The estimated revenue from hosting the equestrian competitions were as much as HK\$300 million. The facilities and services provided to athletics and tourists had also received notable appreciations around the globe, which boosted Hong Kong's reputation as a host for major international sports events.

Photo 4 German Rider Hinrich Romeike Competing at FGC during 2008 Olympics



1.3.3.5. Cultural Heritage Resources within the FGC Site

As discussed in **Section 1.3.3.3.**, the FGC site itself is of historic significance. Due to its long history, there are numerous cultural heritage resources contained in the FGC site.

1.3.3.5.1. Graves

A grave survey was conducted in the whole FGC site in 2013². A total of 68 graves and 74 urns were recorded. According to the information of the grave survey report, the clan

² Digital Image Surveys Limited 2013 Grave Survey Report, for the Hong Kong Golf Club.

graves/urns were from clan groups such as:

- Hau clan from Kam Tsin and Ping Kong;
- Tang clan from Lung Yeuk Tau;
- Liu clan from Sheung Shui Heung;
- Lam and Tse clans from Lin Tong Mei;
- Kan and Lau clans from Tsung Pak Long;
- Man clan from San Tin;
- Kan clan from Tai Tau Len;
- Wong clan of Kong Hai Tsuen;
- Lee clan of Hung Tau Tsuen; and
- Pang, Lai, Chung, Cheng, Wong, Yiu, Au Yeung, Law and Sung clans

**Photo 5 Grave of the Kan Clan Built in Qing Dynasty (Over 250 Years Old).
It was Repaired in 2008 in the Same Location.**



As some of the urns/graves have no headstone information/the headstones inscriptions are not legible, the clan groups that these graves/urns belong to could not be identified. A site visit of selective graves was conducted to evaluate their cultural heritage significance. Eight of graves in FGC are confirmed that they can be dated back to Ming and Qing Dynasties with considerable cultural heritage values, with the oldest one ~460-year-old. In addition, a

review of the photos in the grave survey report and the 1959/60 and 1968 survey maps (see **Figures 4 and 5**) indicated that about 30 of the graves are potential pre-1950 graves but the headstone inscriptions are not legible from the photos. Further site inspection, rubbing of headstone inscriptions and minor digging to examine some (about four) of the headstones will be required to assess their historical and cultural significance. The above information suggested that the hillslope areas in the FGC where the concentrated graves are found have been used as burial ground for a long period.

It was also found that one of the graves that was not included in the grave survey report is also likely a pre-1950 grave from Ng clan of Sha Po village. Furthermore, review of 1959/60 and 1968 survey maps identified another grave (GR A in **Figures 4/5**) which was also not reported in the grave survey report. It is also potentially a pre-1950 grave.

1.3.3.6. Archaeological Potential

Figure 4 shows a possible alignment of an old foot path³ from a 1959/1960 survey map but this could be verified in site visits conducted in 2018, and thus further detailed analysis would be required to investigate its presence and any significance further.

1.3.3.6.1. An Ancient Heritage Landscape

Tree research by Prof CY Jim at the Education University has showed many trees at FGC are older than 110 years on the Old Course. The oldest trees on the Old Course are 212 years old predating the golf course by >100 years. Similarly, many trees throughout FGC are >110 years old which does show that mature trees were conserved by the Old Course architect along with shrines, graves, urns, landforms and topography to minimise impact to natural, archaeological and heritage resources.

³ ERM 2014 *Study on Old Trails in Hong Kong - Final Study Report* for Antiquities and Monuments Office.

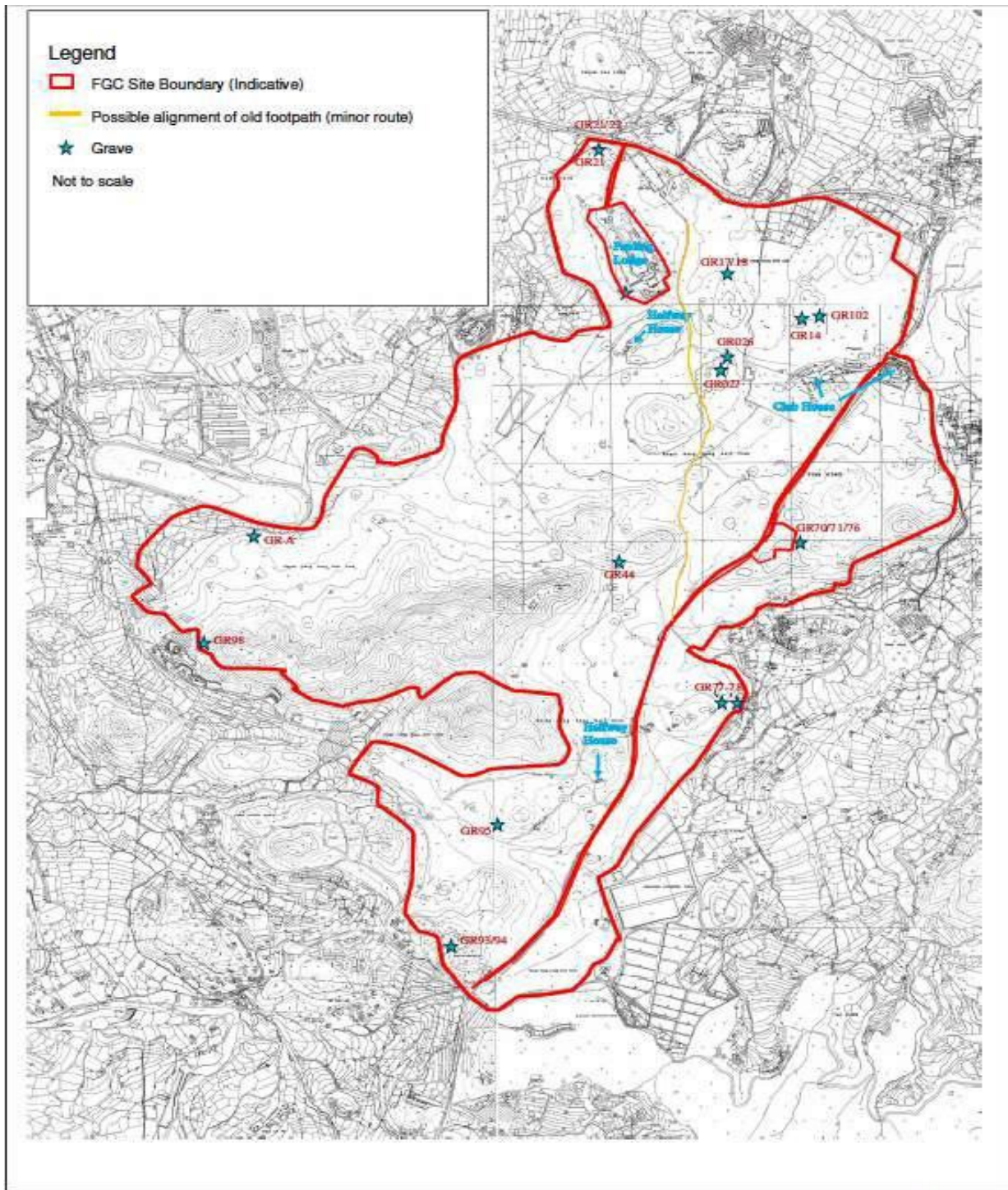
Photo 9 >200 Years Old and Critically Endangered Chinese Swamp Cypress



In 1993, the category of cultural landscapes was included within the scope of World Heritage Convention. From that time onwards, numerous complexes were nominated or included on World Heritage List under this category of cultural landscapes, including golf courses such as Scotland's St. Andrew's. According to golf historian Paul Jansen, the FGC Old Course constructed in 1911 drew design inspiration from the Old Course of St. Andrew's, Scotland. A striking feature of golf course design during that period was to present the golfer with challenging shots inherent in the landscape. It was of utmost importance to make use of existing natural features in the design, making it a journey of discovery. The FGC Old Course preserves this character-defining element where the land dictates the play and give rises to a layout that could not be found elsewhere in Hong Kong and China.

According to architectural conservationist Curry Tse, if we follow the UNESCO definition of cultural landscape and IUCN guidelines on assessing the natural values, the entire Fanling Golf Course can be unhesitatingly viewed as a cultural landscape that reflects an idealised fusion between human and nature. Listing the whole of FGC could be a visionary milestone of heritage conservation policy and implementation in Hong Kong, as it can show Hong Kong's cultural heritage conservation has been catching the international trend. It could be a significant step forward in the field of heritage conservation in Hong Kong.

Figure 5 1959/1960 Survey Map (1:1200) of the FGC Area



1.3.3.6.2. Historic Buildings

There are three graded historic buildings listed by AMO within or by the FGC site as detailed in **Table 2**. Their locations are shown in **Figure 3**.

Table 2 Graded Historic Buildings within the FGC Site

Historic Building	Grading	Construction Year	Description
Clubhouse, The HKGC Fanling Golf Course, Fan Kam Road, Fanling, N.T.	2	1914	It was built in 1914 to provide a resting and socialising place for the male members of the golf club. During the Japanese occupation (1941-1945), most of the greens of the golf course were used for vegetables cultivation. After the war, the clubhouse was restored in 1950s and during the 1970s and 1990s, two extensions were built ⁴ . Located in EIA Study Area for FGC-PD.
Halfway House, The HKGC Fanling Golf Course	3	1916	The Pavilion (Halfway House) is located on the Fanling Old Golf Course of the HKGC. It was constructed in 1916 as a resting place for ladies and became a gathering point for gentlemen after the 18 th hole match. It was built in traditional Chinese Qing Vernacular style. It was restored in 1998 and altered as a snacks corner ⁵ .
Fanling Lodge, Kwu Tung, Sheung Shui, N.T.	1	1934	It was built in 1934 as a retreat where Hong Kong Governors (now Chief Executives) could spend weekends and holidays. It is a two-storey bungalow in the middle of the HKGC. It was taken over by Japanese during the World War II period and was used as a campus of the Rural Teachers' Training College between 1946 and 1948. The lodge experienced further changes of use along its history ⁶ .

The FGC is dubbed one of Asia's most scenic and historic courses. It is also the site of

⁴ http://www.aab.gov.hk/historicbuilding/en/N210_Appraisal_En.pdf

⁵ AMO http://www.aab.gov.hk/historicbuilding/en/805_Appraisal_En.pdf

⁶ http://www.aab.gov.hk/historicbuilding/en/N88_Appraisal_En.pdf

the Hong Kong Open champion since its inception in 1959, which means that it is historically and socially important⁷. The Hong Kong Open is also potentially an intangible cultural heritage of Hong Kong.

1.4. Cultural Heritage and Historical Evaluation on the FGC-PD

Despite the fact that all 3 graded historical buildings and ancestral graves would be preserved in the Green Belt Zone under the Partial Development (FGC-PD), the overall cultural landscape would be completely changed if the Old Course is no longer in use as a golf course and be converted to high-rise housing. All of the graded historical buildings would lose their cultural heritage meaning, environs and context.

The internationally renowned HKO was first played in 1959 on the Old Course of HKGC and should the development of FGC-PD be implemented the unique historic Old Course would be lost, and as such it would impose an adverse impact on the cultural heritage and history of FGC and HKO, and may even result in the cease of the HKO.

In addition, there are total 142 graves and urns in the FGC. Over 30 pre-1950 graves are scattered around the FGC site and at least 8 of the pre-1950 graves can be dated back to Ming and Qing Dynasty, with the oldest one from the Tangs and is around 460 years old.

Local clans intentionally chose the hillslope areas in FGC as burial areas because it is believed that hillslope could serve as a support for the ancestor and the clan in the Feng Shui perspective. In fact, the locations of most of the graves in FGC were examined and specifically chosen by Feng Shui masters at that time. The graves are of authentic appearance as well. There were seldom a complete relocation/reconstruction work for the graves as it would be considered as disruptive for ancestors and risks damaging the Feng Shui of the grave, or even the whole clan. All the repairment works for the graves in FGC took place at the same location as the graves were originally in. They were relatively minor and necessary in order for the graves to look proper and serve as a gathering place for ancestral worship purpose.

⁷ http://www.aab.gov.hk/historicbuilding/en/N210_Appraisal_En.pdf

The review also identified an old footpath alignment ran across the FGC from the old maps which is likely a minor route that connected the villages with historical significance. The literature review also indicated that there were halfway houses in the form of matshed built in the 1910s but they are no longer exist. These are areas considered to have considerable archaeological, historical or cultural significance that worth/need further study and recommended below to obtain field data for further detailed evaluation of localised area or spot of cultural significance.

It is worthy to note that FGC has been coexisted with nearby villages and clans in the past 110 years. FGC was one of the first employers in Fanling during the 1910s. The Club hires many nearby villagers as caddies or other supporting staff to provide a better living for them. Many families and villagers have been working for the Club for several generations. Some of the employees (mainly caddies) had a taste on golf while working for the Club and developed an interest on playing golf. Some of them went on to become professional golfers and represent Hong Kong at international level.

Also, FGC respects villagers' tradition and living habits. Villagers are allowed to conduct ancestral worship in FGC at any time in the year if they wish without any limitation for their access to the FGC. Even if international competitions like the HKO is happening, the villagers can still go to worship their ancestors in FGC as usual. All the Club would do is to apply traffic control and issue a special notice to staff and golfers to remind them of possible stationing crowd for ancestral worship.

1.5. Cultural Heritage Potential of FGC

There are 3 graded historical buildings inside FGC, namely the Clubhouse (Grade II), Halfway House (Grade III) and the Fanling Lodge (Grade I). The Clubhouse and Halfway House were built more than a century ago. They are of recognised historical importance and architectural characteristics and should be preserved promptly with the best effort to avoid any direct and indirect impact to them or their surroundings and environs. For the 1916 Halfway House, since it is built to serve only for the Old Course, the historical context of the Halfway House would be voided if the unique Old Course could not serve as a full 18-hole golf course anymore.

Photo 7 Early Appearance of the Halfway House (1916)



Photo 8 Early Appearance of the Clubhouse (1914)



Archaeology only forms part of cultural heritage. Cultural heritage to be covered in a cultural heritage impact assessment will normally include both archaeological and built heritage resources. In the process of this desktop review of the archaeological potential of the FGC site, a number of historic graves have also been identified in the FGC site with considerable cultural heritage significance which have not been comprehensively studied before.

In addition, it is understood that the FGC has a wider significance (not only the archaeological significance but also historical, social and cultural heritage significance), which may potentially be impacted partly or wholly if the FGC site is handed over to the Government for FGC-PD housing development. However, the overall cultural heritage significance of the FGC site has not been comprehensively studied before (which shall not only include significance of individual built heritage resource of the FGC but the consolidated cultural resources of the FGC as a whole and its Intangible Cultural Heritage for Hong Kong, see Section 1.5.1. It is therefore recommended that the overall cultural significance of the FGC be assessed following the assessment criteria established by AMO on historic building assessment before further action is taken⁸.

1.5.1. Intangible Cultural Heritage

China has ratified the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in 2004. The Hong Kong SAR Government has also agreed to comply the obligations of the Convention with effect from December 2004. A territory-wide survey of ICH in Hong Kong has been conducted and an inventory of 480 ICH items in Hong Kong was established. In August 2017, a list of 20 ICH items was identified in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong for prioritising the allocation of resources for implementation of necessary safeguarding measures to preserve them. Besides, the AAB in September 2018 decided to entrust the independent assessment panel of the AMO to revisit the heritage grading of FGC, and Section 1.6 is provided to assist their deliberations and understanding of the heritage conservation value of FGC and the uniqueness of the 1911 Old Course to be lost.

⁸ AMO. Historic Building Assessment Form; [information on line]; available from http://www.aab.gov.hk/form/special_meetings/AAB-SM-B.pdf; internet. [Access on 5 June 2018]

The Hong Kong Open, which is co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the European Tour and held consecutively for 61 years since 1959, FGC is the oldest golf course in Hong Kong and China and also the second-oldest course in Asia, after the Royal Calcutta Golf Club's course in India. Other than Augusta National Golf Club in the United States, FGC is the only site in the world that has hosted the same professional tournament for more than 50 years. It is considered that the Hong Kong Open is of unique historical and social significance and may potentially be considered as an ICH that contribute to add cultural heritage value to the FGC. It is recommended that the AMO/AAB report Hong Kong Open to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office to consider if it shall be added in the list of ICH inventory of Hong Kong or the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong.

Photo 6 Lu Liang-huan, inaugural HK Open champion, would later become the Club's Pro and Godfather of China's Golf History



1.5.2. Possible FGC-PD EIA Ordinance, Cultural Heritage and Landscape and Visual Impacts

The FGC-PD would firstly lead to the loss of the first 3 holes of Hong Kong's oldest, rare and unique Old Course, dating back to 1911. The loss of 3 holes would essentially lead to the loss of one whole course, the Old Course, as the game of golf is played on 18 holes.

100m tall high-rise housing FGC-PD development on the holes nearest (<100m) to the graded and listed Clubhouse would materially affect the surroundings and heritage environs of this, 1914, listed heritage asset.

High-rise construction of FGC-PD could adversely affect the foundations of this >100-year-old listed building and may affect the drainage and water table in its vicinity.

Visually and in terms of landscape, the location of the >100m tall FGC-PD high-rise less than 100m (distance) from the Clubhouse will have significant and irreversible adverse landscape and visual impacts (LVIA) to the Clubhouse, by adversely impacting its environs and surroundings irreversibly.

1.6. References

English

Digital Image Surveys Limited 2013 *Grave Survey Report*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong Golf Club (unpublished).

Empson, Hal., 1992, *Mapping Hong Kong - A Historical Atlas*, Government Information Services, Hong Kong.

ERM In-house Geology data dated to 2000, obtained from Lands Department.

ERM-Hong Kong Limited (ERM). 2014a *Study on Old Trails in Hong Kong - Desktop Study Report*. Hong Kong: Antiquities and Monuments Office.

ERM 2014b *Study on Old Trails in Hong Kong - Final Study Report*. Hong Kong: Antiquities and Monuments Office.

Jen, Y. W., 1967, 'The Travelling Palace of Southern Sung in Kowloon' in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch*, Vol. 7:21-38.

Ng, Y. L. Peter, 1983, *New Peace County: a Chinese Gazetteer of the Hong Kong Region*, Hong Kong University Press, Hong Kong.

Peacock, B.A.V. and Nixon, T.J.P. 1988. *The Hong Kong Archaeological Survey: Subsurface Investigation Reports - Paper No. 1*. Antiquities & Monuments Office (Hong Kong).

Robinson, Spencer 1989 *Festina Lente A History of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club*. Hong Kong: The Royal Hong Kong Golf Club.

Stewart Lockhart on the Extension of the Colony of Hongkong (Lockhart Report), section "Roads", 1900: 190-191.

The Hong Kong Golf Club 2014 *Along the Fairways of History*. Hong Kong: The Hong Kong Golf Club.

Aplin, Graeme. (2002). *Heritage: Identification, Conservation, and Management*. South Melbourne, Australia: Oxford University Press.

Appadurai, Arjun. (1986). *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chan, S. C. (2001). Selling the Ancestors' Land: A Hong Kong Lineage Adapts. *Modern China*, 27(2), 262-284.

Chan, S.C., Graeme Lang and Lars Ragvald. (2005). "Temple and the Religious Economy" *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion* 4(1):1-27. Cheung, Sidney (1999). *The*

Meanings of a Heritage Trail in Hong Kong. *Annals of Tourism Research*, vol. 26, no. 3, pp. 570-588.

Cheung, Sindy. (2003). *Remembering Through Space: The Politics of Heritage in Hong Kong*. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 7-26.

Daly, P., & Winter, T. (Eds.). (2012). *Routledge Handbook of Heritage in Asia*. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge.

Faure, David. (1984). *From Village to City: Studies in the Traditional Roots of Hong Kong Society*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Faure, David, (2003). *Hong Kong: A Reader in Social History*, Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.

Harrison, R. (2013). *Heritage: Critical Approaches*. Milton Park, Abingdon; New York: Routledge.

Hase, P. H. (2013). *Custom, Land and Livelihood in Rural South China: The Traditional Land Law of Hong Kong's New Territories, 1750-1950*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Haviland, William, Prins, Herald, McBride, Bunny. (2017). *Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge*. Boston: Cengage Learning.

Hayes, James (2012). *The Great Difference: Hong Kong's New Territories and Its People 1898-2004*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Hobsbawm, Eric. (1992). *In The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hoffman, B. T. (Ed.). (2006). *Art and Cultural Heritage: Law, Policy and Practice*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Kaminski, J., Benson, A. M., & Arnold, D. (Eds.). (2014). *Contemporary Issues in Cultural Heritage Tourism*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge.

Ku, A. (2010). *Making Heritage in Hong Kong: A Case Study of the Central Police Station Compound*. *The China Quarterly*, 202, 381-399.

Kwong, Chi Man; and Tsoi, Yiu Lun (2014). *Eastern Fortress: A Military History of Hong Kong, 1840-1997*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Lai, Celine (2015). "Archaeological Museums And Tourism In China: A Case Study Of The Sanxingdui Museum" *Museum Management and Curatorship*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 75-93.

Leask, A., & Fyall, A. (Eds.). (2006). *Managing World Heritage Sites* (1st ed.). Oxford; Burlington, Mass: Butterworth-Heinemann.

- Leung, Maggie W.H. and Soyez, D. (2009). Industrial Heritage: Valorising the Spatial, Temporal Dynamics of Another Hong Kong Story. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 15: 57-75.
- Liu, T.(2003). A Nameless but Active Religion: An Anthropologist's View of Local Religion in Hong Kong and Macau. *The China Quarterly*, 174, 373-394.
- Lo Shuk Ying. (2006).Monuments To Hong Kong's World War IIDead, 1945-2005.*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch*. Vol. 46.
- Lu, Tracey L-D. (2008). "Some Issues on the Management of Archaeological Sites in Mainland China" *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites*, Vol. 10 (4): 353-366.
- Lu, Tracey L-D.(2009). "Heritage Management in Post-colonial Hong Kong" *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, Vol. 15(2-3): 258-272.
- Meacham, W. (2009). *The Archaeology of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Pearce, Susan M. (1993). *Museums, Objects, and Collections: A Cultural Study*. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.
- Rajagopalan, Desai, Rajagopalan, Mrinalini, & Desai, Madhuri. (2012). *Colonial Frames, Nationalist Histories: Imperial Legacies, Architecture And Modernity*(Ashgate studies in architecture series). Farnham, Surrey ; Burlington, VT: Ashgate.
- Siu, Helen F. and Ku, Agnes S. (2008) *Hong Kong Mobile: Making a Global Population*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Smith, Laurajane. (2006). *Uses of Heritage*. London; New York: Routledge.
- Smith, L., & Akagawa, N. (Eds.). (2009). *Intangible Heritage*. London; New York: Routledge.
- Starr, F. (2013). *Corporate Responsibility for Cultural Heritage: Conservation, Sustainable Development, and Corporate Reputation*. New York: Routledge.
- Timothy, D. J., & Nyaupane, G. P. (Eds.). (2009). *Cultural Heritage and Tourism in the Developing World: a Regional Perspective*. London; New York: Routledge.
- Waldron, Arthur. (1993). "Representing China: The Great Wall and Cultural Nationalism in the Twentieth Century." In *Cultural Nationalism in East Asia*, ed., Harumi Befu, pp. 36-60. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California.
- Watson, James L. and Rubie S. Watson (2004) *Village Life in Hong Kong: Politics, Gender, and Ritual in the New Territories*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press.
- Watson, Rubie S. (1995). "Palaces, Museums, and Squares: Chinese National Spaces." *Museum Anthropology* 19(2): 7-19.

Watson, Rubie S. and James L. Watson. (1997). "From Hall of Worship to Tourist Center: An Ancestral Hall in Hong Kong's New Territory. *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, 21(1): 33-35.

Yu Siu-wah. (2014). "Ng Wing Mui (Mui Yee) and the Revival of the Sineung (Blind Female) Singing Style in Cantonese Naamyam (Southern Tone)" *Journal of the Chinese Oral Performing Literature*. 33.2, Dec: 121 -134

Tse, Ching Kan (2021). Recommendation of the Fanling Golf Course as a Cultural Landscape for Inscription in Heritage Grading.

Chinese

Prof CP Lau (Lingnan University, Hong Kong: History of HKGC (2019)

李吉甫撰，1983，〈卷三十四〈嶺南道一〉〉，《元和郡縣圖志》，北京：中華書局，890 頁。

王象之撰，1992，〈卷八十九廣州〉，《輿地紀勝》，第三冊，北京：中華書局。

北區區議會，1994，《北區風物志》，香港：北區區議會。

歐陽修、宋祁撰，1975，〈卷四十三上〈地理志七上〉〉，《新唐書》，北京：中華書局，1095-1096 頁。

徐松輯，1957，〈食貨廿八〉，《宋會要輯稿》，北京：中華書局，5288 頁

Internet

Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO). Historic Building Assessment Form; [information on line]; available from http://www.aab.gov.hk/form/special_meetings/AAB-SM-B.pdf; internet. [Access on 5 June 2018]

AMO. List of Sites of Archaeological Interest in Hong Kong as at November 2012; [information on line]; available from http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Monument/form/list_archaeolog_site_eng.pdf; internet. [Access on 10 May 2018]

AMO. *List of 1,444 Historic Buildings with Assessment Results (as at 22 March 2018)*; [information on line]; available from <http://www.aab.gov.hk/form/AAB-SM-chi.pdf>; internet. [Access on 10 May 2018]



AMO. Historical Building Appraisal No. 805; [information on line]; available from http://www.aab.gov.hk/historicbuilding/en/805_Appraisal_En.pdf; internet. [Access on 10 May 2018]

AMO. Historical Building Appraisal No. N88; [information on line]; available from http://www.aab.gov.hk/historicbuilding/en/N88_Appraisal_En.pdf; internet. [Access on 10 May 2018]

AMO. Historical Building Appraisal No. N88; [information on line]; available from http://www.aab.gov.hk/historicbuilding/en/N210_Appraisal_En.pdf; internet. [Access on 10 May 2018]

Intangible Cultural Heritage Office. [information on line]; available from http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/ICHO/en_US/web/icho/what_is_intangible_cultural_heritage.html; internet. [Access on 4 June 2018]

Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited (ARUP), 2013, *North East New Territories New Development Areas Planning and Engineering Study - Investigation Environmental Impact Assessment Report*, Hong Kong: Planning Department and Civil Engineering and Development Department; [information on line]; available from https://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/register/report/eiareport/eia_2132013/index.htm; internet. [Access on 12 May 2018]

Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited (ARUP), 2017, *Preliminary Feasibility Study on Development of New Territories North - Executive Summary*, Hong Kong: Planning

Department and Civil Engineering and Development Department; [information on line]; available from [https://www.pland.gov.hk/pland_en/p_study/comp_s/ntn_study/ntn_es\(eng\).pdf](https://www.pland.gov.hk/pland_en/p_study/comp_s/ntn_study/ntn_es(eng).pdf); internet. [Access on 12 May 2018].

Maps

Map of the Colony of Hong Kong Including New Territories 1903-04. Scale 2 inches to 1 mile. Southampton: Ordnance Survey Office, 1915.

Map of Hong Kong and of the Territory leased to Great Britain under the convention between Great Britain and China signed at Peking on the 9th of June 1898/Intelligence Division, War Office; heliozincographed at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1899. Southampton: Ordnance Survey Office, 1899.

The Government of the HKSAR, "Survey Sheet No. 76-NW-B," Scale 1: 1200, 1960

and 1968-07. (Obtained from Lands Department).

The Government of the HKSAR, "Survey Sheet No. 76-NW-C," Scale 1: 1200, 1960 and 1968-07. (Obtained from Lands Department).

The Government of the HKSAR, "Survey Sheet No. 76-NW-D," Scale 1: 1200, 1959 and 1968-08. (Obtained from Lands Department).

The Government of the HKSAR, "Survey Sheet No. 76-SW-A," Scale 1: 1000, 1961 and 1968-08. (Obtained from Lands Department).

The Government of the HKSAR, "Survey Sheet No. 76-SW-B," Scale 1: 1000, 1961 and 1968-07. (Obtained from Lands Department).

The Government of the HKSAR, "Survey Sheet No. 76-SW-C," Scale 1: 1000, 1961 and 1968-08. (Obtained from Lands Department).

The Government of the HKSAR, "Survey Sheet No. 76-SW-D," Scale 1: 1000, 1961 and 1968-07. (Obtained from Lands Department).

Annex I



The Hong Kong Golf Club (Old Course): A landmark for Golden Age Architecture in Asia

An architect's perspective

The Old Course at the Hong Kong Golf Club (Fanling) represents the first installment of the “Golden Age” of golf course architecture in China. It's also representative of a period in golf course Architecture (1900 - 1939) where golf courses were inspired in large by the Old Course at St Andrews, Scotland. This period also produced the greatest number of golf courses currently ranked in the top 100 across the globe.

The primary mark of a golf course designed and built during this period was to discover and then present the golfer with challenging shots inherent in the landscape. It was of the utmost importance to make the fullest use of existing features: holes were designed to possess a striking individuality though some gift of nature, anything stereotyped would be avoided and all construction work would follow the irregular lines of nature. This is evident throughout the Old Course where the land dictates the play and gives rise to a layout that is unique in style and character and different from anything else in Hong Kong and indeed China. What other golf courses in the region would you find blind shots and crossing holes that are common place at Fanling and other golden age venues?

Much of the St Andrews charm lies in its quirkiness and evolution and the same can be said for the Old Course at Fanling. Like St Andrews the Old Course has been refined over the years to keep up to date with advances in technology, new infrastructure surrounding the facility and because of continual vegetation growth and expansion but very little of the quirkiness and unconventional has been taken away and thus still remains a showpiece for any budding golf course architect or golf historian. The primary inspiration back when the Old Course was built in 1911 was the Scottish way of playing close to the ground which differs greatly from the modern courses built post 1950 where the layout requires the golfer to attack the target more through the air. This is evident on the Old Course where it would be possible to get around with a putter and where there is typically always an open route into a green or landing area.

During the golden period in the early twentieth century match play was the preferred format for playing golf. This allowed architects more freedom to create daring and unconventional holes that would often produce high scores. Golf is very different today. Stroke play is the primary competition where the goal is to complete a round in the fewest number of shots. Anything that is deemed too quirky or unconventional and requires an element of luck is seen in the negative because it's possible that a player will produce a high score which will impact the end score. This is one of the reasons why there are few courses left that look and play like the Old Course at Fanling today.

During the golden age period of architecture "luck" was regarded as part of the legitimate fun of the game, without which as a sport the game would suffer. The attraction that counted most was the test of ingenuity in getting round difficulties and overcoming new and unexpected situations. Contrary to this modern golf course architects and superintendents are asked to do everything in their power to eliminate luck, which limits more creative design concepts and unconventional golf. The outcome being that all of our modern golf courses have become relatively standardised in their demands and hazards to the point that the golfer seldom encounters a bad lie in the fairway or bunker, or a bad bounce on his approach. Today anything remotely challenging and out of the ordinary is quickly criticized as "unfair". This includes a blind tee shot or uneven lies which are all common place on the Old Course.

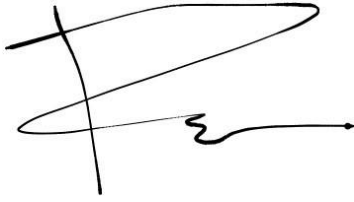
To go further modern architecture has had a tendency to apply so many standards of "fairness" that all holes have begun to look and play alike. One of the undeniable strengths of the Old Course is the variety of the holes. Not one hole looks or plays the same and the route constantly changes direction allowing golfers an opportunity to appreciate different views and terrain. Furthermore, the modern game has become plagued by a "mechanical number driven" mind set and as a result most golf courses are judged on mathematical lines. If a layout does not conform to a particular sequence, holes don't follow a set formula or the course does not stretch to well over 7,000 yards and play to par 70 (or more) it's not considered a worthy test. To put it simple the Old Course is one of only a few golf courses outside of Great Britain and Ireland that rebuffs this thinking. Instead the course carries a classic old school look and feel where holes are original and don't follow any formula - see for instance the green site on the Meadow (Hole No. 1) or the drive on the Twins (Hole

No.2) and Tommy Tucker (Hole No. 10) and even the crossing shot on the Horizon (Hole No. 13). These are all unique golf situations you would not find anywhere else in the region.

In addition to this the layout is 'out and back' (like St Andrews and so many of the other classic golf courses of the golden age era) which is also testament to its uniqueness in a day and age where the majority of golf courses return to the clubhouse and go back out again.

There is a little bit of the St Andrews Old Course strategy and nuance in every golf course of the golden age including on the Old Course at Fanling. Golfers are required to think a little as they plot their way around the course all the time aware of the beauty of the surroundings and the abundant wildlife that wanders free there. Manufactured features - prevalent on so many of the modern courses in Asia and beyond - are few and far between. Instead the principal inspiration in the design was to seize on any natural features and accentuate the best golf points on them. On the Old Course the existing ground contours, big and small, influence the play strategy from start to finish and provide worthy hazards, negating the need to build man made features at a cost and lesson for any client or budding golf architect. The original charm of golf was its simplicity and naturalness and helped by the fact that back at the turn of the twentieth century golf courses were built using horse drawn slip scrapers and man's hand, which gave rise to the notion that its best to use what is there versus create something new. So much of the quirkiness and unique character of the Old Course is as a result of the multitude of natural features that remained during the construction and continue to determine the play strategy.

The principal thought in designing and building golf courses of the golden age era was to limit the hand of man and in doing so provide a constant adventure in a natural setting like is the case at St Andrews and the Old course at Fanling. Much like what the National Golf Links of America did for golf in the USA (and note it was also built in 1911) this was the first "great" eighteen-hole golf course built in China and testament to the achievement that a course had been produced - outside of Great Britain and Ireland - where every hole is a good one and presents a new problem. Most important, it laid the platform for the growth of the game of golf in the region.



Paul Jansen
February 2021