Working Paper: WP/CMPB/7/2012

The Interface Issues on Construction of Cycle Track and the Associated Supporting Facilities from Tai Tung to Sai Kung Town with Country Park Areas



1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 In 2004, a feasibility study for the project (CE 52/2002(HY) - "Cycle Track Network in New Territories – Feasibility Study" (hereafter referred to as the FS) was undertaken to examine the provision of a cycle track network together with supporting facilities in the New Territories. The FS came up with a recommended network strategy stretching from Sai Kung in the east, Fanling/Sheung Shui in the north and Tuen Mun in the west. The proposed Sai Kung Section of cycle track from Tai Tung to Sai Kung Town (hereafter referred to as "the Project") along Sai Sha Road and Tai Mong Tsai Road as shown in Figure 1.1 forms part of the three major sections of the planned Extension Phase of the Cycle Track Network.

1.2 Project under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap.208)

1.2.1 As some sections of the Project encroaches into Country Park areas, according to Country Parks Ordinance (Cap.208), consultation with the Country and Marine Parks Board is required and prior written consent from the Country and Marine Parks Authority must be obtained before commencement of any works within Country Park areas.

1.3 Objectives of this Working Paper

1.3.1 The purpose of this working paper is to provide information on the nature and extent of environmental impacts arising from the construction and operation of the Project on Country Parks. An EIA study for this Project has been conducted in accordance to the statutory requirements and the draft report has been submitted. The EIA study is under finalization stage. This working paper aims at highlighting the findings of the EIA with reference to the affected areas within the boundary of Country Parks with supplementary information.



2. Project Description

2.1 Project Scope

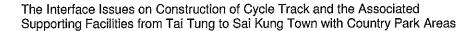
- 2.1.1 The proposed cycle track from Tai Tung to Sai Kung Town Section is approximately 7km in length with a minimum width of 3.5m (Figure 1.1). Its northern end will connect with the proposed cycle track from Nai Chung to Tai Tung to be provided under a separate project entitled "Sai Sha Residential and Recreational Development Sai Sha Road Widening", whereas its southern end will end at the outskirt of Sai Kung Town Centre.
- 2.1.2 Four Resting Stations will be provided for this Project including canopy shaded area, benches and bicycle parking racks.

2.2 Summary of Project Area within Country Parks

2.2.1 Although encroachment of works areas into the Country Parks has been minimized as far as practicable, there are several Country Park areas where direct impact by the proposed works is unavoidable (Figure 1.2 and Table 2-1). Some affected areas which are outside the Country Parks but within the allocated land under the maintenance of AFCD are also summarised in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Proposed works areas within Country Parks and allocated land under AFCD maintenance

Location	Affected Area	(m²)
Tai Mong Tsai BBQ Site No. 1 in Ma On Shan Country Park	•	0
Tai Mong Tsai BBQ Site No. 2 in Ma On Shan Country Park	1	,704
Tai Mong Tsai BBQ Site No. 3 in GLA-DS 257 outside Sai Kung West Country Park		201
Sai Kung West Country Park near Sai Sha Road Picnic Site No. 7		226
Sai Sha Road Picnic Site No. 6 in Ma On Shan Country Park	1	,208
Sal Sha Road Picnic Site No. 5 in Sal Kung West Country Park	. 1	,642
GLA-TP 330 outside Sal Kung West Country Park		219
Sal Sha Road Picnic Site No. 4 in Ma On Shan Country Park		297
Sal Sha Road BBQ Site No. 3 in Ma On Shan Country Park		19
Sai Sha Road BBQ Site No. 2 in Ma On Shan Country Park	•	0
Sal Sha Road BBQ Site No. 1 In Ma On Shan Country Park		0
Ma On Shan Country Park near Kei Ling Ha San Wal		731
Ma On Shan Country Park near proposed Resting Station (S04)		534
Ma On Shan Country Park near Nga Ylu Tau		747
1	Total 7,	,528





2.3 Construction Programme

2.3.1 The construction works will be carried out in two stages. Construction of the Stage 1 cycle track between Sai Kung Town and O Tau is expected to commence by end 2014 for completion by end 2017. The Stage 2 construction for the section between O Tau and Tai Tung is expected to commence by end 2017 for completion by end 2020.



Summary of Affected Areas of Country Park

Habitat and Tree Losses in Country Park and Areas Managed by AFCD

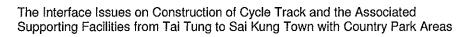
3.1.1 The habitat loss and proposed tree treatments in each patch of Country Park being affected is summarized in **Table 3-1**. Trees proposed to be felled are all common species such as *Acacia confusa* and *Macaranga tanarius*. More detailed information can be found in the standalone **Tree Survey Report**.

Recreational Impact

- 3.1.2 There are interfaces between the proposed cycle tracks and existing barbeque site (BBQ) along Sai Sha Road and Tai Mong Tsai Road, alignments were refined to avoid direct encroachment to the BBQ facilities as far as possible. Some BBQ sites which were unavoidably be affected will be compensated by reprovision of areas of similar sizes from temporary works areas as shown in Figures 2.7b and 2.7e. The affected and reprovided areas are summarized in Table 3-2.
- 3.1.3 During the operation of the proposed cycle tracks, 4 resting stations with bicycle parking racks, canopy shaded area and benches will be provided for the cyclists and visitors along Sai Sha Road and Tai Mong Tsai Road. **Table 3-3** summarized the locations and the size of the 4 proposed resting stations.

Table 3-1 Habitat Loss and trees affected in Country Parks and GLA Managed by AFCD

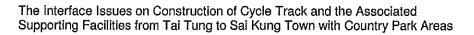
Habitat	Permanent Loss (m²)	Temporary Loss (m²)	No. of trees to be retained	No. of trees to be transplanted	No. of trees to be felled
Tal Mong Tsai BBQ Site No	o. 1 in Ma On Shan Country I	Park			
Developed Area	0	0	0	0	2
Sub-total	0	0	0	0	2
Tai Mong Tsal BBQ Site No	o. 2 in Ma On Shan Country F	Park			
Woodland	248	409	14	0	15
Shrubland	455	520	6	3	28
Developed Area	17	56	, 0	0	2
Sub-total	720	984	, 20	3	45
Tal Mong Tsai BBQ Site No	o. 3 in GLA-DS 257 outside S	al Kung West C	Country Park		
Developed Area	0	201	0	0	2
Sub-total	0	201	0	0	2





Habitat	Permanent Loss (m²)	Temporary Loss (m²)	No. of trees to be retained	No. of trees to be transplanted	No. of trees to be felled
Sai Kung West Country Park near Sa	il Sha Road Picnic	Site No. 7			
Developed Area	0	226	1	0	0
Sub-total	0	226	1	0	0
Sai Sha Road Picnic Site No. 6 in Ma	On Shan Country	Park			
Woodland	282	426	5	4	9
Developed Area	136	364	0	0	5
Sub-total	418	790	5	4	14
Sai Sha Road Picnic Site No. 5 in Sa	Kung West Count	ry Park			
Developed Area	133	1509	0	0	0
Sub-total	133	1509	0	0	0
GLA-TP 330 outside Sai Kung West	Country Park				
Shrubland	85	134	1	0	4
Sub-total	85	134	1	0	4
Sai Sha Road Picnic Site No. 4 in Ma	On Shan Country	Park			
Woodland	23	28	0	0	3
Plantation	77	123	3	0	0
Developed Area	0	45	0	0	0
Sub-total	101	196	3	0	3
Sai Sha Road BBQ Site No. 3 In Ma C	n Shan Country P	ark			
Shrubland	0	5	2	0	0
Developed Area	0	14	0	0	0
Sub-total	0	19	2	0	0
Sai Sha Road BBQ Site No. 2 in Ma C	n Shan Country P	ark			
Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0
Sai Sha Road BBQ Site No. 1 in Ma C	n Shan Country P	ark			
Woodland	0	0	3	0	1
Sub-total	0	0	3	0	1
Ma On Shan Country Park near Kei L	ing Ha San Wai				
Woodland	0	6	0	0	0
Shrubland	544	181	3	0	40
Sub-total	544	187	3	0	40

Ma On Shan Country Park near proposed Resting Station (S04)





	Permanent Temporary Loss (m²) Loss (m²)		No. of trees to be	No. of trees to be	No. of trees to be felled	
			retained	transplanted		
Woodland	0	5	0	0	0	
Developed Area	387	142	4	0	13	
Sub-total	387	147	4	0	13	
Ma On Shan Country Park near Nga Yiu Tai	J				•	
Woodland	238	256	15	0	31	
Developed Area	101	152	5	1	6	
Sub-total Sub-total	339	408	20	1	37	
All affected areas maintained by AFCD						
Total Woodland	791	1129	37	4	59	
Total Plantation	77	123	3	0	0	
Total Shrubland	999	706	11	3	72	
Total Developed Area	775	2508	10	1	30	
Total in Ma On Shan Country Park	2509	2731	60	8	155	
Total in Sai Kung West Country Park	133	1735	1	0	0	
Total In GLA maintained by AFCD outside Country Parks	85	335	1	0	6	

Table 3-2 Affected and reprovided BBQ areas

Location	Figure	Affected BBQ Area (m2)	Reprovided BBQ Area (m2)
Tai Mong Tsai BBQ Site No. 2 in Ma On Shan Country Park	2.7b	24	. 39
Sal Sha Road Picnic Site No. 6 outside Country Park	2.7e	23	21
Total		47	60

Table 3-3 Proposed Resting Stations

Location	Resting Station	Area (m2)
Near the junction of Sha Kok Mei Road and Tai Mong Tsai Road	S01	Subject to detailed design
Near Tai Mong Tsal BBQ Site No. 3	\$02	20
Shui Long Wo near Sai Sha Road BBQ Site No. 7	S03	25
Near Kei Ling Ha San Wai in Ma On Shan Country Park	S04	103



Assessment of Impacts of Country Parks

Construction Phase

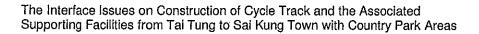
- 4.1.1 The proposed Project would cause permanent loss of approximate 791 m² woodland, 77 m² plantation, 999 m² shrubland, and 775 m² of developed area within Country Parks. The ecological impact due to habitat loss within Country Parks is considered as minor due to the small sizes of affected habitat, high commonness of the affected roadside plant species and low abundance of fauna species associated with the fringe of vegetation on roadside.
- 4.1.2 Potential construction disturbance to off-site habitats in close proximity is evaluated as minor in view of the low density of fauna community inhabiting the Project Area which lies closely alongside the existing carriageways. In view of the low frequency of wildlife crossing the existing carriageway, the potential impact of impediment of wildlife corridor and subsequent impact of habitat fragmentation due to the proposed cycle track which lies alongside the existing carriageways is considered negligible.
- 4.1.3 Approximate 4,059 m² of BBQ or Picnic sites area will be temporary affected by the proposed construction works. The temporary affected area will be reinstated upon completion of construction. The potential recreational impact of Country Parks is anticipated to be low, as the proposed construction will be in phases and the area to be temporary affected is small.

Operation Phase

- 4.1.4 During operation phase, the increase in visitors and cyclists to the natural environment would not result in a significant impact on ecology, owing to the presence of a certain level of background disturbance from the existing road traffic along Sai Sha Road and Tai Mong Tsai Road.
- 4.1.5 Approximate 1,372 m² of BBQ or Picnic sites area will be permanently affected by the operation of the cycle tracks and associated facilities. In which, the loss of BBQ or Picnic site facilities of 47 m² will be reprovided in the adjacent area of approximate 60 m². The net loss of 1,312 m² is considered to be of low recreational impact, in view of the areas to be lost are at the fringe of the BBQ sites, the provision of Resting Stations with canopy shaded area and benches would provide alternative facilities for the visitors.

Mitigation Measures

4.1.6 With an aim to mitigate the impact identified, a suite of mitigation measures have been proposed with priority of avoidance, minimization and compensation. These include avoidance of habitats with high ecological value, minimize encroachment into Country Park areas and BBQ site facilities, clearly define works site boundary, alternative construction method to reduce the works area as far as possible to minimize the number of trees to be affected and provision of





compensatory planting for unavoidable loss of trees. With good site practice and proper implementation of proposed mitigation measures, no unacceptable residual impact on Country Park is expected.

