



香 港 觀 鳥 會

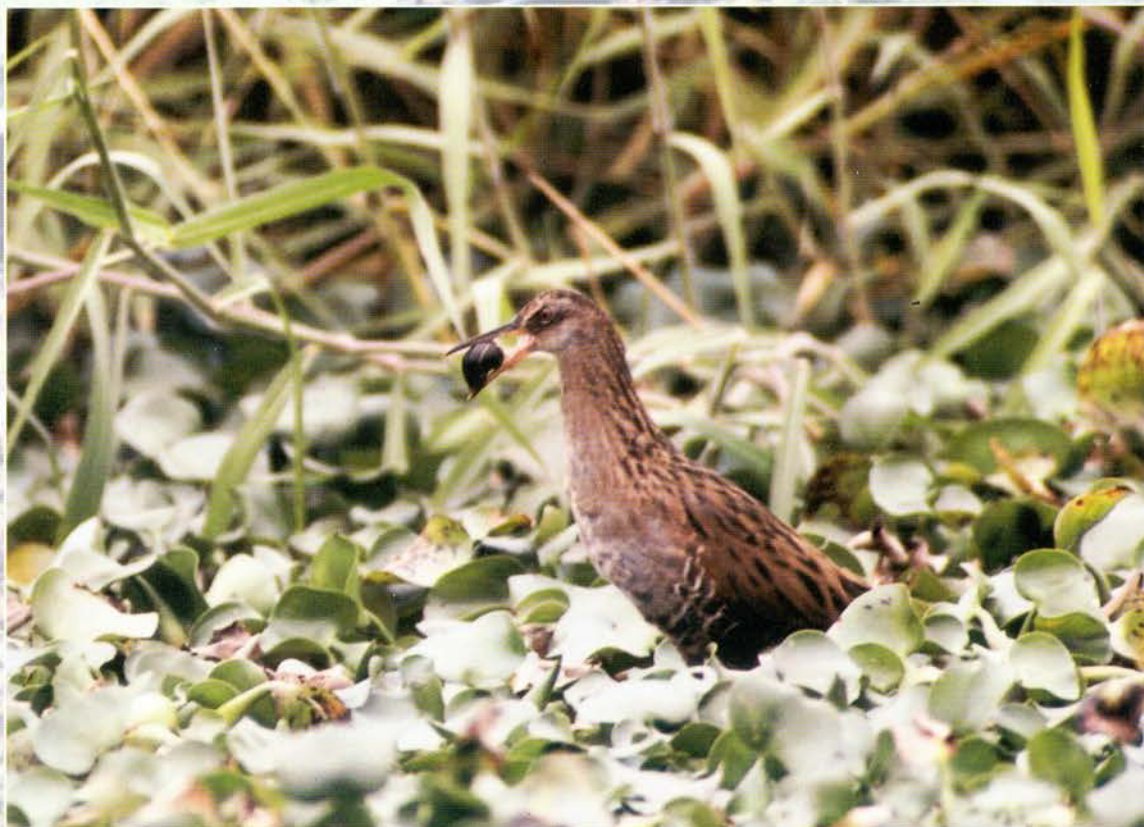
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通 訊 Bulletin 174

*Save Long Valley*  
保護塋原濕地



普通秧雞 (塋原)  
Water Rail (Long Valley)

盧嘉孟  
Lo Kar Man



塋原環境一覽

A view of Long Valley

蘇毅雄

Samson So



你想看見高架鐵路貫穿塋原嗎？

(想像圖)

Or not !

(Imaginative picture)



塋原——好一個大自然教室

Long Valley : Wonderful green treasure

香港鄧鏡波書院

Hong Kong Tang King Po College

# HKBWS Bulletin No. 174 Special Issue : Save Long Valley

## 香港觀鳥會通訊第174號 特刊：保護塋原濕地

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望原環境一覽  
A view of Long Valley

蘇毅雄  
Samson So



你想看見高架鐵路貫穿望原嗎？  
Or not !

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## Introduction 引言

Long Valley is the largest remaining freshwater wetland in the northwestern New Territories, a unique place where farming activities still thrive.

Within the 25 hectares of farmland, which is about twice the size of twice Victoria Park, more than 210 bird species have been recorded, nearly half the Hong Kong list. Of these, three species are "vulnerable" and eight are "near-threatened" by global standards. Long Valley's importance is comparable to Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve.

Unfortunately, the Government's development plan will destroy the future of this green treasure. Besides the KCRC plan to build the Sheung Shui - Lok Ma Chau spur line across the Long Valley floodplain, the Government's proposed Fanling Bypass will also enter Long Valley and fragment the plain. Fragmentation of habitat will lead to increased environmental disturbance, which will seriously affect the site as a haven for wildlife.

Last year, there were breeding records of Painted Snipe at this piece of wetland. HKBWS data show that there are only 20-30 birds resident in Hong Kong. Following the destruction of Kam Tin marsh by railway development, is the last remaining site for Painted Snipe Long Valley.

Destroying Long Valley will reduce the chance of birds' survival. Habitat destruction is permanent and cannot be compensated for. The impact is not only on reducing the space for survival for wildlife, but will also cause soil and water quality deterioration. Farming activities, and the relationship between flora and fauna will also be affected.

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has produced "Save Long Valley". With the aim of introducing the importance of this piece of wetland, the close relationship between freshwater wetland and birds, as well as ecology and local cultural characteristics, We hope to encourage our members and the general public to understand the importance of biodiversity in Hong Kong, to reflect on problems that the environment faces and to express their views.

燕崗／松柏塢北面的一片土地(塢原)是香港西北部平原餘下最大片的淡水濕地，亦是少數仍可保留作濕地農耕活動的地點之一。

這片土地面積只有二十五公頃，相等於兩個維多利亞公園的土地，卻可以從中找到超過二百種鳥類(是香港已知鳥類數目的一半)，足可媲美米埔自然保護區。根據國際標準，這片土地所錄得的鳥類中，有十一種分別列為「瀕危(vulnerable)」和「受威脅(near-threaten)」品種，足可反映此地的保護價值。

可是，政府的發展計劃，將會打擊這片香港珍貴的野生生物寶庫。繼九廣鐵路公司計劃建設由上水連接至落馬洲鐵路支線，路政署現又計劃建築一條連接古洞北與粉嶺北的六線公路(粉嶺繞道)。從生態學角度來看，該鐵路會將這片天然濕地環境割成小塊，增加環境受到的干擾，因而大大減低野生動物生存和棲息的機會。

去年香港觀鳥會首次發現淡水濕地特有的珍貴鳥類——彩鵝的繁殖紀錄，實在是一件令人興奮的事。這種鳥在香港估計只有二十至三十隻的留鳥，隨著錦田濕地受鐵路工程破壞之後，現時大部份紀錄都集中在塢原這片小生境內。

可惜的是，若這裡的濕地受到破壞，會大大降低倚賴這種生態環境為生的鳥類生存的機會。破壞了的生態環境是無法挽回的，生境一旦遭受破壞，所影響的不只是動植物的生存空間，甚至是土壤、水源、農耕活動、動植物的關係等。

為了讓各位認識這片獨特的生態環境、濕地生境與鳥類的密切關係、農耕土地的生態價值，以及探討這片富有香港文化特色的土地，本會特別印制這一期特刊，希望大家進一步瞭解香港生物多樣化的重要性，並對生境面臨破壞作出回應，為保護這片生態環境共同努力。



Mike Kilburn

The Society has moved up a gear in its efforts to preserve Long Valley. In recent weeks the Society has met with the Transport Department and KCRC to lodge a formal objection to the routing for the railway spur line, which cuts right across the most important part of the valley - only the second formal objection made by the Society in 42 years (the first was to the plans for Fairview Park, out of which official protection for Mai Po eventually appeared).

The ecological significance of the valley as the last area of wet agricultural land in Hong Kong is beyond dispute, not only for Painted Snipe, but also for Japanese Quail, Bluethroat and as a site for over 200 other species.

An appeal by the Society has resulted in letters from members, bird tour companies and respected conservation organisations from all over the world stating the value of Long Valley.

What is at issue now is whether the SAR government is prepared to stand by its commitment to sustainable development and take steps to ensure a viable future for the valley - which in the opinion of the Society is not one which includes a viaduct carry a train every few minutes across the centre of the marsh.

In presenting the SAR Government's plans for Pollution-free New Towns at Kwu Tung North and Fanling North Gordon Siu, the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands stated that Long Valley would be protected as an area of ecological and cultural importance.

However, KCRC has argued that for various technical, economic and legislative reasons the alternative routes proposed by HKBWS are not viable. KCRC has proposed mitigation measures which the Society will not even address until every option for using a route which would avoid the valley has been considered.

HKBWS believes that by taking a holistic approach which involves all the departments with a stake in the development of the NE New Territories and a determination to preserve the valley, that a solution can be found. It seems that Mr Siu believes this too.

The Society has continued to raise the public profile of the issue, which has seen the publication of letters and articles in the English and Chinese press and television coverage by TVB News.

本會為保護塱原的工作已經展開，近幾個星期，本會會見了運輸署和九廣鐵路代表，提出反對上水至落馬洲鐵路支線貫穿塱原的路線規劃。這是本會創會四十二年以來第二次提出正式反對（第一次是反對興建錦繡花園，結果換來米埔自然保護區的成立）。

毫無疑問，塱原的重要價值在於它是香港碩果僅存的濕地農田，不單只可找到彩鸕，還有鸕鶿、藍點類和數達二百多種的鳥類。

本會保護塱原的行動，獲得來自四方八面的支持，包括會員、世界各地的生態旅遊公司和環保團體均紛紛致函表示反對破壞塱原。

現時到了香港特別行政區政府決定要否對可持續發展的承諾採取行動，以保障塱原不受破壞——本會實在不敢想像將來每隔幾分鐘便有列車在貫穿塱原濕地的高架天橋上行駛的情景。

在介紹特別行政區政府有關古洞北和粉嶺北環保新市鎮的計劃時，規劃環境地政局（現為規劃地政局）局長蕭炯柱先生認為塱原應保留為一具有生態和和文化價值的處所。

但是，九廣鐵路公司以一些技術、經濟和法律方面的理由，拒絕接受本會提出的取代方案。雖然他們提出了種種補救建議，但是，除非所有能夠避免禍及塱原的路線建議都得到認真研究，否則本會也無意對這些補救措施作出回應。

香港觀鳥會相信只要所有和新界東北發展有關的部門一同作出全面性的考慮，並決心保護塱原，總能夠找出解決問題的方法。看來這也符合蕭炯柱先生的意願。

經過一番努力，中英文報章上出現了一些有關的公眾的來信和討論，無線電視新聞報導也介紹了塱原的情況。本會仍將繼續發動公眾關注這次事件。

## What is wetland 濕地是甚麼？

In general, wetland is an area where land and water connect, which is permanently or seasonally covered by water. It may be natural, e.g. mudflats in Deep Bay, rivers and coral reefs, or man-made, e.g. fishponds and farmlands. The wet soil in wetlands support animals and plants which are specially adapted to wet conditions. Farmland in Long Valley is a good example of freshwater wetland.

濕地泛指水陸交界的環境，長久以來或隨季節變化而被水淹蓋的地帶。這種生態環境可分為天然的，如後海灣的泥灘、河流或珊瑚礁；以及人工的，如魚塘、田地等。濕地上的潮濕泥土能夠提供養份和資源給各種特別適應在潮濕環境中生長的動植物。燕崗/松柏塱農地（塱原）便是濕地農田的一個好例子。

# The Importance of Long Valley 塱原的重要價值



Photo by: Samson So 攝影：蘇毅雄

Long Valley is widely acknowledged to be of importance to birds, and it is noteworthy that over 210 species have been recorded from Long Valley since 1993 (almost 50% of the species recorded in Hong Kong).

## Why is Long Valley an important site?

- \* Due to its hydrology and water supply, it functions as a freshwater wetland
- \* It has minimal habitat fragmentation
- \* It has low levels of human disturbance
- \* It has a high degree of micro-habitat diversity

## Freshwater wetland

This combination of features makes Long Valley almost unique in Hong Kong. The only similar wetland would be Kam Tin, which is facing even greater levels of development. While there are protected freshwater wetlands in Hong Kong, none that are important for birds are protected. Many similar areas have been lost to or substantially damaged by development (e.g. Ha Tsuen, Fairview Park, Lok Ma Chau, and Yuen Long marshes).

## Fragmentation

Fragmentation is a key issue here. From the ecological point of view, the smaller the area of habitat, the lower the number of species can be found. In Hong Kong, there are no small wetlands that support avian communities of any ecological value. For example, Lok Ma Chau has suffered serious fragmentation because of the drainage works there; as such, it is now very poor for freshwater wetland species. For example, the gallinago snipe are far less common there now, and although it once bred there, Greater Painted-snipe no longer occurs there.



Photo by: Henry Lui 攝影：呂德恒

眾所周知，塱原是一片對鳥類非常重要的土地。據本會資料顯示，塱原自一九九三年至今，共錄得超過二百一十三種鳥類，相等於香港已知鳥類品種數目的一半。

為甚麼塱原是一個重要的地方？其主要原因是它的水文和水源供應，使它成為一片淡水濕地；從生態學角度來看，這片土地十分完整，受到「片斷化」的影響不大，加上人為干擾少，以及因農耕而造就的小生境為各種不同鳥類提供所需。

## 淡水濕地

綜合以上種種天然因素，塱原成為香港得天獨厚的生態環境。類似的濕地生境可以錦田找到，可惜的是錦田面臨更加大的發展壓力。雖然這地有所謂保護淡水濕地的措施，但是沒有一個可以用來保護鳥類的。很多類似的環境如廈村、錦繡花園、落馬洲和元朗沼澤，現已被發展所毀滅或破壞。

## 生態環境片斷化

生境片斷化是本地一個嚴重的問題。生態學上，愈細小的生態環境面積，可支持生物品種的數量愈小。在香港的細小面積濕地內，我們再找不到任何可以支持雀鳥群落的生態系統。舉例來說，落馬洲現在進行的渠務工程，使這地受到嚴重的片斷化影響，可找到的淡水濕地品種寥寥可數。例如gallinago類沙錐，雖然曾在香港繁殖，現在已不再常見；又例如在這地已很難找到彩鶺了。

## 人為干擾

塱原是香港碩果僅存，少人為干擾的地帶。很多在塱原找到的品種都容易受人為干擾影響，例如灰頭麥雞，喜愛在較少人為干擾和開闊平地出沒，塱原是本地剩餘可乎合這條件的土地。



## Human disturbance

For Hong Kong, Long Valley is a relatively undisturbed area. Many of the species that are found in Long Valley and Kam Tin are easily disturbed, for example, Grey-headed Lapwing. Such species require large, open areas with low levels of disturbance; Long Valley is really the only remaining site that satisfies these criteria.

## Micro-habitats

The mix of micro-habitats at Long valley, while unplanned, helps support a whole suite of wetland specialists, from Greater Painted-snipe to Bluethroat. It is also important to understand that many of these are either absent, or present in much lower densities within the Ramsar site, as that area is either the wrong, or sub-optimal habitat for these species.

Besides the Deep Bay area, Long Valley is another place in Hong Kong where we can find globally threatened species. The criteria used to define important species are:

### 1. Globally threatened species.

Birds to Watch 2 (Collar *et al.* 1994) is published by BirdLife International, and lists all of the threatened bird species in the world. Species are allocated a category according to the degree of the threat to each taxon. Classes relevant to Hong Kong are:

<b>Critical:</b>	extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future
<b>Endangered:</b>	facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
<b>Vulnerable:</b>	facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future
<b>Near threatened:</b>	those taxa close to qualifying for the threatened categories.

### 2. Regionally Important Species

Rose and Scott (1997) give population estimates for waterfowl world-wide, and set the 1% world or migration route population levels for identifying wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention criteria. Using this 1% threshold, Carey and Young (1999) identified 41 species occurring within the Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site which can be considered to certainly or possibly to fit the Ramsar criteria. Of these a number are regularly recorded at Long Valley in such numbers that it is considered that the loss of Long Valley will result in significant adverse impacts on the Hong Kong population of these species.

## 小型生態環境

塱原有各式各樣的小型生態環境，在未受規劃的影響下，這地支持了多種不同種類的濕地特有雀鳥品種：由彩鸛至藍點類。不過最重要是要明白這些品種除了松柏塱以外，在內後海灣國際重要濕地是很難找到的，就算有數量也不多，主要原因是後海灣不是合適牠們，或者只是牠們次要的生境。

除了後海灣以外，塱原是香港另外一處可找到多種根據國際標準列為全球受威脅的鳥類，當中的等級劃分如下：

### 1. 國際性瀕危鳥種：

國際鳥盟 (BirdLife International) 1994年出版的全球受威脅鳥類名錄 *Birds to Watch 2: World List of Threatened Birds* (Collar *et al.* 1994) 列出全世界的瀕危鳥類品種，其依據是按鳥類各科 (taxon) 所受威脅的程度，劃分出不同類別。適用於香港的有下列幾個類別：

<b>極度瀕危：</b>	指野生種群極有可能在短期內絕種。
<b>高度瀕危：</b>	指野生種群已經降低至瀕臨滅絕的臨界程度，而且致危因素仍在繼續，甚有可能在短期內絕種。
<b>瀕危：</b>	指野生種群數目已明顯下降，如不採取有效保護措施，將會成為「高度瀕危」品種。
<b>受威脅：</b>	指野生種群已接近全球性瀕危等級。

### 2. 地區性重要鳥種：

Rose and Scott (1997) 評估了全球水禽的數量，並為確立國際重要濕地 (Ramsar site) 定出了辨定的準則——該濕地在正常情況下容納了某鳥類品種全球數量的百分之一或以上，又或是其過境遷徙群中百分之一或以上的數量。Carey and Young (1999) 用這1%的臨界線指標分析後詳列了米埔及內後海灣國際重要濕地上的四十一種地區性重要鳥類。在這些鳥類中，很多都可以在塱原找到。若塱原的環境受破壞，香港後海灣地區內出現的地區性重要鳥種的數量將會備受影響。

### 3. 在香港狹佈的鳥種

顧名思義，這些鳥類 (包括非繁殖鳥) 的分佈非常局限，只在香港少於三個地點錄得。

### 3. Restricted range species in Hong Kong

Species (including non-breeding species) which are found or breed at fewer than three sites in Hong Kong.

### 4. Declining species in Hong Kong

Species (including non-breeding and locally extinct species) for which there is certain or probable long-term decline in Hong Kong.

### 5. Locally important species

Species which do not fit in the above categories, but for which locally important populations are regularly found within the Long Valley area. These are identified as species for which the highest annual count was within the study area in at least three years for either of the two five-year periods (1988-92 and 1993-7). These species include some that are reasonably widespread in Hong Kong; however, due to their abundance there, Long Valley is considered an important site for sustaining the long-term biodiversity of Hong Kong.

### 4. 在香港數量下降的鳥種

屬於這個類別的鳥種(包括非繁殖或地方性絕跡品種)，其數量目前已肯定或可能持續下降。

### 5. 地方性重要鳥種：

指未包括在上述類別中，而又在塋原濕地經常出現的重要鳥種。地方性重要鳥種的準則是：在一九八八至九二年間與及在一九九三至九七年間的兩次五年鳥類普查中，至少有三年在該地方錄得這些品種佔全港分佈量最高的紀錄。這些品種中，即使有部分在香港廣泛分佈，在塋原，牠們的數量出眾，正好說明香港能夠成為持續生態多樣化的地區，塋原實在功不可沒。

### Species recorded at Long Valley that meet the above criteria

塋原可找到合乎上述界定的品種

Globally threatened species 國際性瀕危鳥種		Regionally Important Species 地區性重要鳥種	Restricted range species in Hong Kong 在香港狹佈的鳥種	Declining species in Hong Kong 在香港數量下降的鳥種	Locally Important Species 地方性重要鳥種
VULNERABLE 瀕危	NEAR-THREATENED 受威脅				
Greater Spotted Eagle 鳥鵰	Schrenck's Bittern* 紫背蒼鷺*	Chinese Pond Heron* 池鷺*	Bonelli's Eagle 白腹山鵟	Watercock* 董雞*	Chestnut Bittern* 栗葦鷺*
Imperial Eagle 白肩鵟	Black Vulture 禿鷲	Little Egret* 小白鷺*	Northern Hobby* 燕隼*	Pheasant-tailed Jacana* 水雉*	Japanese Quail* 鶉鴉*
Japanese Yellow Bunting 硫黃鶉	Grey-headed Lapwing 灰頭麥雞	Common Teal* 綠翅鴨*	Greater Painted-snipe* 彩鶉*	Black-naped Oriole 黑枕黃鶉	Common Snipe* 扇尾沙錐*
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler 小蝗鶯	Asian Dowitcher 半蹼鶉	Black-winged Stilt* 黑翅長腳鶉*			Pintail Snipe* 針尾沙錐*
	Japanese Waxwing 小太平鳥				Swinhoe's Snipe* 大沙錐*
	Red-billed Starling* 絲光椋鳥*				Richard's Pipit* 田鸚*
	Chestnut-checked Starling 紫背椋鳥				Bluethroat* 藍點類*
					Common Stonechat* 黑喉石鶯*
					Zitting Cisticola* 棕扇尾鶯*

Species with asterisk in the tables are recorded regularly at Long Valley  
表格中附有星號代表該品種經常在塋原錄得

# Development in Long Valley 塋原受到的發展威脅



燕崗/松柏塋濕地破壞示意圖 (資料來源：明報)  
Map showing destruction of Long Valley (Source: Ming Pao)

Long Valley is threatened by the proposed Fanling Bypass under the development plan of the Kwu Tung North by Planning Department, and a proposed spurline between Sheung Shui KCR Station and a new terminal at Lok Ma Chau by KCR. Both of these infrastructures will cut through the heart of the ecologically important Long Valley and fragment it.

While considerable development is planned for the Fanling, Sheung Shui, and Kwu Tung area, it is not unreasonable to expect that this be undertaken without significant adverse impacts to Long Valley.

Therefore, we would like to see the complete long-term avoidance of:

- \* On-site activities such as developments and roads that lead to the loss of wetland habitat
- \* On-site activities that may degrade the habitat or have detrimental impacts on associated flora and fauna, e.g. pollution
- \* Off-site activities that may degrade the habitat or have detrimental impacts on associated flora and fauna e.g. noise disturbance from construction activities, housing or roads.



Photo by: Robin Fung 攝影：馮寶基

目前，規劃署計劃在新界古洞北進行發展，建議中的粉嶺繞道、九廣鐵路擬建的上水至落馬洲鐵路支線都將經過塋原中心，把這一片生態學上重要的地方割裂成多個小塊。

當計劃發展粉嶺、上水和古洞一帶時，必須考慮對塋原帶來的壓力。因此，我們期望由即時起，完全避免：

- \* 在濕地生境上有諸如道路建設等發展項目，導致失去這種生態環境；
- \* 在濕地生境地上有任何發展，產生如污染等問題，以致生境地質素下降及危害該地的動植物；
- \* 在濕地生境地以外進行的項目，產生如工程噪音、房屋和道路等問題，以致生境地質素下降及危害該地的動植物。

## NENT

The NENT review is supposed to be a strategic look at development in the NE New Territories. As such, we believe that as part of the process, there should be a strategic review of the ecological impacts of any development in the area. By this, we mean that the importance of areas such as Long Valley should be placed within a Hong Kong context, and that the conclusions from other government studies be reviewed as part of that process.

As part of this development, there will be a considerable loss of wet agricultural land in the Fanling/Sheung Shui areas. This will require mitigation; it is our consideration that this mitigation should be undertaken at Long Valley, through enhancement management of selected areas. Any development in this area, for example the proposed Fanling Bypass, totally compromises this option.

## 新界東北

新界東北審核是現時發展新界東北一帶的戰略性研究。本會相信，任何計劃發展的地區都需要進行生態影響評估。其間，塋原的重要性應從香港整體的角度來評價。政府其他相關研究的結果也應在評審過程中一并考慮。

在發展的同時，粉嶺/上水一帶會失去相當數量的農耕濕地，實在需要有些補償措施。本會認為保護塋原，進而作出一些必要的改善，正是合適的補償。倘若在這裡進行發展項目，如粉嶺繞道等，不正是與此背道而馳嗎！

## Wetland Compensation

Government is currently undertaking a highly expensive project (Wetland Compensation) that will identify all wetlands in Hong Kong, and identify those of ecological importance. Given that we are confident that Long Valley will rank very highly in terms of birds, we consider any decision about development there should either be delayed until the results and recommendations of that project are known, or incorporate the preliminary findings.

## 濕地補償

香港特區政府現正推行一項大型濕地補償調查，找出香港所有濕地，並辨識它們的生態價值。眾所周知，尤以鳥類而言，塋原有極高的生態價值。因此，本會認為涉及塋原的任何發展項目的決定都應暫延，直至上述調查的結論及建議公佈為止。至低限度也應在決定時採納該調查的初步結果。

## Uniqueness

Long Valley supports a bird community that is almost unique in Hong Kong. Should it be developed or suffer a significant reduction in its ecological value, a whole suite of freshwater dependent bird species will be lost from Hong Kong, permanently.

## 香港唯一的淡水濕地

塋原作為香港碩果僅存的淡水濕地生境，哺育著一群賴它為生的野生雀鳥，一旦被發展項目取而代或使其生態環境受到重大損害，香港將永遠失去這獨特的鳥類種群，有誰願意呢？



Photo by: Henry Lui 攝影：呂德恒

# HKBWS "Save Long Valley" Campaign

## 香港觀鳥會「保護塋原濕地」運動

Major events of the HKBWS "Save Long Valley" Campaign:

香港觀鳥會「保護塋原濕地」運動流程表:

12/1/1999

**Letter to EPD at the time when KCRC applied to EPD for an EIA study brief.**

本會就有關九廣鐵路之環境影響評估研究大綱申請致信環保署



20/11/1999

**Letter to Mr Gordon Siu, SPEL**

本會致信規劃環境地政局(現為規劃地政局)局長蕭炯柱先生



28/11/1999

**Long Valley - help the Society find support from overseas visitors**

本會就塋原事件呼籲海外人士支持



7/12/1999

**Objection to Proposed Sheung Shui - Lok Ma Chau Spur Line**

本會就上水 - 落馬洲鐵路支線向運輸局提出正式反對



15/12/1999

**Open Letter to Fellow Citizens of Hong Kong and on-line signature campaign for protecting the Long Valley**

本會發公開信呼籲市民支持保護塋原濕地

並於互聯網上發動簽名運動



8/1/2000

**HKBWS and WWFHK co-organized the "Take a Closer Look at Long Valley"**

本會與世界自然(香港)基金會合辦

「燕崗/松柏塋濕地生境多面睇」活動



13/1/2000

**Planning and Development Studies on NE and NW New Territories: Views of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society**

本會對規劃署新界東北及西北規劃及發展研究的意見



15/3/2000

**Representative of HKBWS interviewed by Highways Department and KCRC**

本會代表會見路政署及九廣鐵路之代表

12/1/1999

**Letter to EPD at the time when KCRC applied to EPD for an EIA study brief**

**本會就有關九廣鐵路之環境影響評估研究大綱申請致信環保署**

12 January 1999

The EIA Ordinance Register Office  
Environmental Protection Department  
27th floor, Southorn Centre  
130 Hennessy Road  
Wanchai  
Hong Kong

Dear Sir,

***Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line***

I refer to the application for an environmental impact assessment study brief to proceed with an environmental impact assessment study for the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line submitted by Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation.

The impact on the wetland with Ramsar buffer zone is naturally a major concern and should receive full attention in the EIA study. However, it is equally important that attention should be given to the impact on the diversity of habitats along the whole proposed route, such as de facto wetland in Long Valley in the vicinity of Shek Sheung River and Beas River, active wet/dry agricultural land, reed beds, scrub and fung shui woods.

This mixture of habitat is supporting a complex array of fauna species, among which birds feature prominently. In particular, the Long Valley flood plain is now practically the last place in Hong Kong where a good representation of birds on the open plain could be found. (Plains like Shek Kong, Ping Shan and Ha Tsuen used to offer similar open plain habitat but they have succumbed to "development" and no longer provide the functions of such a habitat.) It is therefore a most valuable biodiversity resource in Hong Kong. The present brief has not given enough emphasis to this issue. We strongly feel that this should be attended to properly.

We note in the document a reference to a future plan to connect the spur line to the West Rail at Kam Tin. Thus the spur line represents one more stage in a series of rail construction in the New Territories, taking up more and more open plain land in the area. It is therefore necessary to assess not just the incremental impact of this individual project but the cumulative impact of the series of projects.

While individual projects by themselves might not be sufficient to cause significant damage to the ecology of Hong Kong, their cumulative effects may potentially cause, for example, the extirpation of species which are assumed to be common at present. We strongly advocate that in the case of KCRC projects in the NT, EIA studies should always evaluate the "cumulative" effect, especially in respect of ecology and biodiversity issues.

This Society is keenly interested in the subject. We would appreciate being kept informed about the progress of the EIA study and being consulted at key stages in the planning, design and construction processes.

Yours sincerely,

C Y Lam  
Chairman

c.c. Conservancy Association  
WWF HK

12/1/1999

Letter to EPD at the time when KCRC applied to EPD for an EIA study brief

本會就有關九廣鐵路之環境影響評估研究大綱申請致信環保署

20/11/1999

**Letter to Mr Gordon Siu, SPEL**

**本會致信規劃環境地政局局長(現為規劃地政局)蕭桐柱先生**

*Letter to Mr Gordon Siu, SPEL, dated 20 November 1999:*

Dear Sir,

We would like to congratulate you for presenting to the public the government's new and innovative orientation in planning and development. We are pleased to learn from press reports today that conserving nature and heritage feature prominently as the key guiding principles in formulating plans for Ku Tug North and Fanning North.

We are particularly glad to read that Long Valley, that is, the flood plain bounded by Tsung Pak Long, Yin Kong and Ho Sheung Heung, is recognised as an ecologically important site and will be preserved. We sincerely hope that this is a commitment which all parties will honour.

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society believes that it is possible to manage Long Valley to conserve its unique ecological functions as well as to bring benefit to the Hong Kong community as a whole. We would be happy to discuss our ideas with relevant government departments.

Yours sincerely,  
CY Lam  
Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*  
28/11/1999

**Long Valley - help the Society find support from overseas visitors**

**本會就望原事件呼籲海外人士支持**

*Long Valley - help the Society find support from overseas visitors*

We want to build a case of preserving Long Valley for its ecological values. One way of doing it is to get the views of overseas visitors who have been there, as an "objective" outside view with the benefit of a world perspective. Your help is sought to help the Society collect such views.

I have sent messages to a few visitors and ex-residents of Hong Kong. A sample letter is given below. If you know of anyone who have visited Hong Kong in the last couple of days, please pass my letter to them and ask them to respond to me directly by e-mail: [chairman@hkbws.org.hk](mailto:chairman@hkbws.org.hk).

I hope you still remember Long Valley, actually a small flood plain near the railway going to China. It is a place where more than 200 species of birds have been recorded and is effectively the last refuge for Painted Snipes in Hong Kong. It is the last piece of inland freshwater wetland in the once-upon-a-time extensive plain in the northwestern part of Hong Kong. That active wetland agriculture is being practised here is a contributing factor to the observed bird diversity.

We are hoping to build a case to protect the place from proposed railway and highway "development".

I hope you could help us with a few lines which we could present to the media in Hong Kong as well as government officials on your impression of Long Valley. It would naturally be impolite if I dictate what you should say. However, we would appreciate it if you would tell us, from the point of view of a foreign visitor, why you think the place should be preserved, quoting birds and/or the farming you see. Were you in Hong Kong for business or specifically for bird watching on that occasion? Do you have a record of how many species you recorded during your visit? Can you help

20/11/1999

**Letter to Mr Gordon Siu, SPEL**  
**本會致信規劃環境地政局局長**  
**(現為規劃地政局)蕭桐柱先生**

28/11/1999

**Long Valley - help the Society find support from overseas visitors**  
**本會就望原事件呼籲海外人士支持**

望原是國際知名的觀鳥好去處，主要原因是它生物多樣化的特色。這地可找到超過香港總數一半的鳥類，加上傳統農耕作業為這地增添和諧氣氛，成為各國觀鳥者、大自然愛好者喜愛的地方。

為了保留松柏壩這片雀鳥天堂，香港觀鳥會於十一月二十八日，於互聯網新界組上要求曾到松柏壩的外國訪客，表達意見，結果在短短三天內，支持從四方八面湧至。

[Ed - For replies from overseas visitors, please see page 26 to 27. 編者按：有關海外觀鳥者的回應，請見第26至27頁]

us with some ideas on what we could do at Long Valley to make it interesting to foreign visitors, in addition to local visitors?

We are badly in need of your feedback. The railway and road projects are being presented to certain government bodies in early December and we have another month or so to work out our proposed plans for the place for submission to the government as an alternative to the published plans.

Any help from you will be greatly appreciated. If you do give us those few lines requested above, please kindly also give me your full name and contact details. (Reporters and government officials I imagine wish to be assured that the comments come from a real person.)

Also, if you know of any people who have been to Long Valley, please pass this message to them and request them to help us as well.

MANY MANY THANKS!

Yours sincerely,  
C Y Lam  
Chairman  
Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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**7/12/1999**  
**Objection to proposed Sheung Shui - Lok Ma Chau Spur Line**  
**本會就上水 - 落馬洲鐵路支線向運輸署提出正式反對**

7/12/1999  
*Objection to proposed  
Sheung Shui - Lok Ma Chau  
Spur Line*  
本會就上水 - 落馬洲鐵路支線  
向運輸署提出正式反對

7 December 1999.

Mr. W. F. Ng,  
Secretary for Transport,  
Murray Building,  
Garden Road,  
Central,  
Hong Kong.

Dear Sir,

**Objection to Proposed Sheung Shui - Lok Ma Chau Spur Line**

Reference is made to Gazette Notice No. 5774 dated 4 October 1999. This is to communicate the objection of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the location of that segment of the spur line between Sheung Shui and Chau Tau which will cross "Long Valley", that is, the plain bounded by Ho Sheung Heung to the north, Yin Kong and Tsung Pak Long to the south and the KCR railway line to the east. This is not an objection to the construction of the spur line per se.

The objection is based on the following points:

- (a) Long Valley is of very high ecological value and its loss is not replaceable;
- (b) the proposed location of the spur line will lead to fragmentation of the habitat, which is a well-established cause of the collapse of natural habitats;
- (c) the loss of Long Valley will deprive the Hong Kong community of a great asset for the viewing of birds and other facets of nature co-existing in harmony with the traditional way of life in the New Territories;
- (d) the destruction of the Long Valley habitat will be a major blow to the maintenance of biodiversity which is one of the eight key guiding principles in the Government's committed policy on sustainable development;
- (e) alternative routes avoiding the Long Valley are available for the spur line and prospects are that these alternatives are cheaper to build;

- (f) the Planning and Development Studies on North East and North West New territories are still going on and public consultation has yet to complete, making it inappropriate to fix the location of the spur line now;
- (g) the Environmental Impact Assessment of the project is not yet completed and the Hong Kong community has no opportunity up to now to see the results of that assessment;
- (h) development potential exists for Long Valley to benefit the Hong Kong community as a whole through the maximization of its ecological value and transforming it into a resource for biodiversity conservation, public education, tourism and job creation.

Long Valley is ecologically important because of the unique combination of a number of factors viz. (a) it functions as a freshwater wetland, (b) it has minimal habitat fragmentation, (c) it has low levels of human disturbance, and (d) it has a high degree of micro-habitat diversity. Being at the high end of the food chain, bird diversity is well recognized as an indicator of biodiversity and the state of health of the environment. Over 210 species of birds have been recorded from Long Valley since 1993, which is almost one half of the species recorded in Hong Kong. Out of these species, three are Vulnerable and eight are Near-threatened by global standards. Four species have populations of regional importance. Three species, including the extremely beautiful Painted Snipe, have restricted ranges in Hong Kong. Indeed, Long Valley is believed to be the last viable habitat for Painted Snipe after the destruction of its favoured habitat in Kam Tin by West Rail works. Long Valley also contains three species of birds with rapidly declining populations, including Pheasant-tailed Jacana, another bird that depends on wetland habitat. Furthermore, Long Valley holds locally important populations of ten other species. Therefore, there is no question about the ecological importance of Long Valley in Hong Kong.

There used to be extensive areas of similar habitat in the northwestern plains of the New Territories. However, plains in Shek Kong, Kam Tin, Ping Shan, Ha Tsuen, Tin Shui Wai, San Tin, etc., have successively succumbed to disorderly encroachment of container parks, dumping grounds and so on. If Long Valley is lost, it is not possible to find a replacement. It will be a loss forever.

As mentioned above, Long Valley has attained its high level of ecological importance because it does not suffer from habitat fragmentation. The proposed spur line cutting through Long Valley will do the fragmentation job. It is therefore not acceptable.

The Hong Kong population lives in a crowded urban environment and is badly in need of opportunities that would allow them to get in touch of nature and enjoy the pleasant sight of open space filled with natural life including both plants and animals. Birds are what most people associate with easily and happily. Long Valley provides that kind of opportunity. The open space at Long Valley with its contents in the form of birds co-existing harmoniously with traditional farming therefore is a valuable asset for Hong Kong. The proposed location of the spur will destroy this asset and so is not acceptable.

The Chief Executive of HKSAR has recently announced in the policy address a commitment to the practice of sustainable development. The public consultation document on the subject clearly indicates "biodiversity" as one of the eight guiding principles for sustainable development. The proposed route of the spur line will destroy the value of Long Valley in terms of biodiversity. Therefore it contravenes the publicly proclaimed policy of the HKSAR Government.

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has examined possible alternative routes for the spur line as well as the West Rail Phase II line. The latter line is found in figures given in the public consultation document on Development Proposals for Kwu Tung North, Fanling North and Ping Che/Ta Kwu Ling. We show in the attached map "A" two alternative schemes. The total length of the new tracks in alternative "1" (AB + CD) and that in alternative "2" (A'B' = C'D') are both about the same as that of the proposed routes crossing Long Valley. Indeed alternative "1" is the shortest of the three. Because the two alternatives we offer allow the railway to run on the ground in most places, there will be no need to build elevated viaducts for the railway tracks.

They will therefore be cheaper options. Thus we see that it is possible to construct the proposed spur line without destroying the natural habitat and biodiversity at Long Valley, and possibly saving some money too. There is no reason why the Hong Kong community should pay the double price of (a) a more expensive railway line and (b) the loss of a piece of ecologically



valuable land. Adoption of the alternative routes, preferably alternative "1", will be a 3-way win-win situation for the natural environment, KCRC and the Hong Kong community.

As a matter of general principle in governance, we find it extremely odd to see the spur line pushing ahead while public consultation about the Planning and Development Studies on North East New Territories is still going on. We believe in the genuine sincerity of the HKSAR Government in conducting such consultations and hope that that sincerity is fully reflected by putting the spur project in perspective, that is, as part of the public consultation mentioned above. Thus, it is inappropriate to allow the proposed spur line to go ahead at this time, especially since it would cut through and effectively destroy a piece of irreplaceable land of high ecological value.

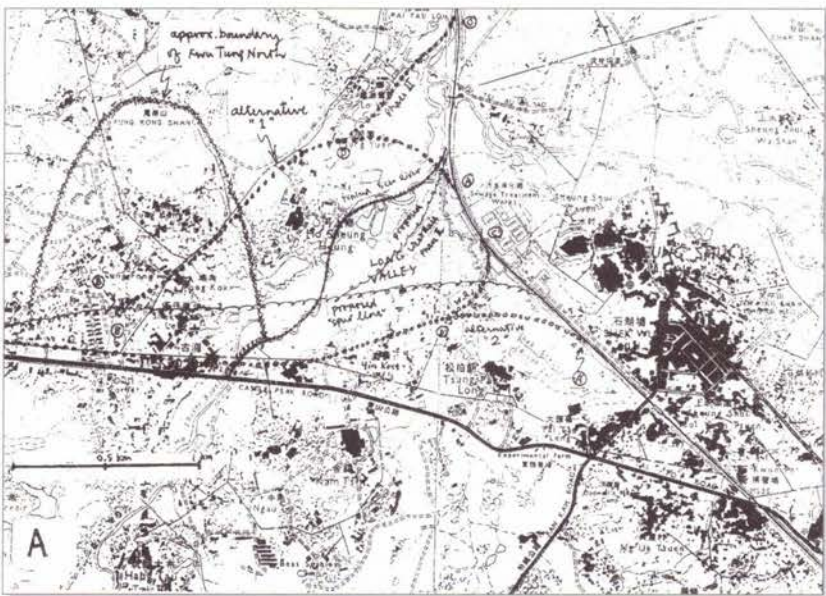
In the same spirit, we object to giving the go-ahead to the proposed spur line as it is presently located when the Environmental Impact Assessment is still going on.

Finally, we would like to point out that by maximizing the biodiversity of Long Valley and by the introduction of appropriate management strategies, potential exists to turn Long Valley into a site that would make useful contribution to the welfare of the Hong Kong community. It could be transformed into a resource for biodiversity conservation, public education, tourism and job creation. (The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, as a responsible locally-based organization concerned about the overall well-being of Hong Kong, is in the process of preparing a proposal along this line for presentation to the HKSAR Government.) To let the proposed spur line as it is located now to proceed would be to forfeit this opportunity. This would be doing a disservice to Hong Kong.

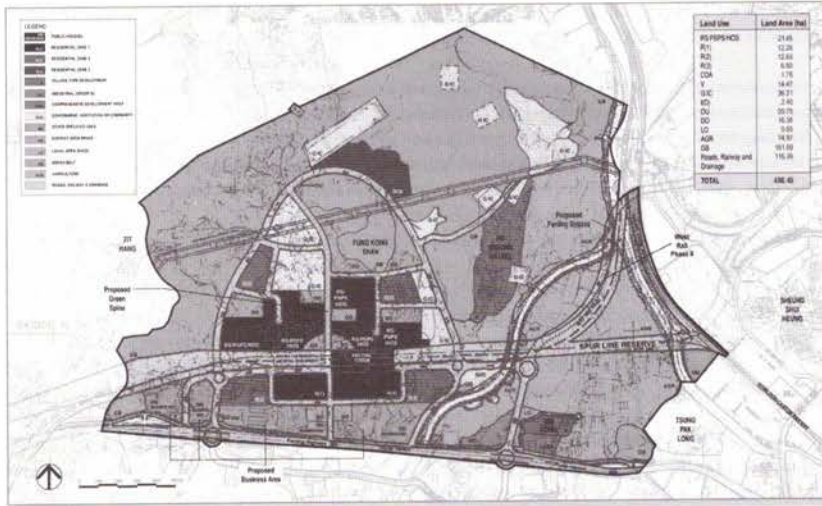
Based on the above discussion, we object to the location of that segment of the spur line between Sheung Shui and Chau Tau which will cross "Long Valley". We shall be happy to discuss further with the Administration in relation to this objection if you so wish. To contact the Society quickly, please communicate by fax (23693606) or by e-mail ([chairman@hkbws.org.hk](mailto:chairman@hkbws.org.hk)).

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ng Cho-nam  
Conservation Officer



Suggested alternative route  
本會建議之可行路線



Reference map (Source: Planning Department)  
參考地圖 (資料來源: 規劃署)

運輸局局長吳榮奎先生：

### 反對建議中的上水 - 落馬洲鐵路支線

這封信回應一九九九年十月憲報第五七四號通告。香港觀鳥會現向貴署提出反對上水至洲頭間的鐵路支線段穿過「塱原」。「塱原」指北為河上鄉、南面為燕崗和松柏塱以及東為九廣鐵路東的平原。本會不是反對支線的建設。

有關反對是根據下列各點：

- (a) 塱原是一處極具生態價值的地方，一旦破壞，是不能補償的；
- (b) 計劃中的鐵路支線會導致該生態環境片斷化，這是構成自然環境崩潰的重要原因；
- (c) 失去塱原會剝奪香港廣大市民在新界觀賞鳥類，以及自然生態與傳統農耕和諧共存的天然資產；
- (d) 破壞塱原對香港政府可持續發展政策八項基本原則中其中維持生物多樣化一項造成重大打擊。
- (e) 支線有其他不穿過塱原的路線可走，而且建築成本有可能更便宜；
- (f) 新界東北和西北規劃發展研究現時正是公眾諮詢階段，此時確定鐵路支線並非理想時刻；
- (g) 建設項目的生態環境影響評估尚未完成，香港市民仍未有機會看到評估的結果；
- (h) 通過發揮其生態價值，成為自然保育、公眾教育、旅遊和創造職位的資源，塱原具有對香港市民有利的發展潛力。

塱原在生態學上重要性源自各種獨特的因素組合：(a) 它有淡水濕地的功能；(b) 生態環境片斷化的情況甚少；(c) 甚少人為干擾；與及(d) 這地包含了各種不同的小型生態環境。由於鳥類住於食物鏈的頂級，因而牠們的種類數量被認為是生物多樣性的指標和環境健康的象徵。自一九九三年起，塱原共錄得超過二百一十種鳥類，佔全港種數的一半。其中有三種和八種分別根據國際準則被評定為瀕危(vulnerable)和受威脅(near-threatened)等級。四種是地區性重要鳥類，另外三種，包括彩鶉，只在香港少數地方找到。事實上我們相信塱原是繼錦田受西鐵工程破壞後最後一處適合彩鶉的生態環境。在塱原可找到三種數量正在下降的鳥類，包括雉雞這種以濕地賴以維生的鳥類。此外，松柏塱亦是十種鳥類大量聚居的地方。因此，毫無疑問，塱原有極高的生態價值。

從前新界西北有大片類似的洪泛平原生境，可惜石崗、錦田、坪山、廈村、天水圍和新田等地的平原相繼被佔據，變成露天貨櫃場、堆填區等。失去塱原，便再無法可找到可以取代的地方，因而造成永久的損失。

正如先前所說，生境地沒有割裂片斷化是塱原達致高度生態重要性的原因。建議中的鐵路支線會將塱原切開並將之片斷化，因此是不能接受的。

香港市民在擠迫的城市居住，十分需要讓他們有機會接觸大自然，欣賞生意盎然的開闊空間，以及在其中生息的植物和動物。鳥類是對眾人來說都容易觀察和帶來歡樂，而塱原正提供了一處

中文譯本

合適的地方。望原開闊的環境、鳥類和傳統農耕和諧共存，是香港的寶貴資產。建設貫穿望原的支線，為了狹窄的商業利益從而犧牲了這個大家共有的天然財產。建議中的鐵路支線會破壞這項天然財產，是不能接受的。

香港特別行政區行政長官最近在施政報告內公佈並承諾會實行可持續發展。有關公眾諮詢文件明確列出生物多樣性是可持續發展中八項指導原則中其中一項。計劃中鐵路支線會破壞望原的生物多樣性，與香港特別行政區政府宣佈的公眾政策互相抵觸。

香港觀鳥會嘗試調查了鐵路支線和西鐵二期的其他可行路線。後者路線是我們在古洞北、粉嶺北、坪輦/打鼓嶺的發展建議的公眾諮詢文件中發現的。在本信件附帶地圖A，我們建議了兩條可行路線的方案。選擇"1"(AB + CD)與選擇"2"(A'B' + C'D')新可行路線的長度基本上是與計劃中在望原興建的大致一樣，而選擇"1"相對來說是最短的。兩個替代路線部份都是讓鐵路在地面行走，毋須興建高架鐵路天橋，這因此應該是更經濟的選擇。要香港市民承擔昂貴的鐵路，同時又失去一片具有生態價值的土地，是完全不合情理的。採用我們提議的替代路線，尤其是選擇"1"，將會是一個天然環境、九廣鐵路和香港市民的三贏局面。

從管理香港的全盤角度看，在新界東北計劃及發展研究進行公眾諮詢期間，該鐵路支線已堅決展開工作，實在有悖常理。我們相信香港特別行政區政府舉行這個公眾諮詢的誠意，並希望政府的誠意在該鐵路支線這個項目中得到充分反映，即是要把鐵路支線納入成為公眾諮詢的一部份。因此本會認為現時鐵路支線堅決進行是不恰當的，尤其是因為該路線會將這個無可取代的高生態價值土地割裂及毀滅。

基於同樣原則，本會反對該計劃中的鐵路興建計劃在現時環境影響評估尚未完成的情況下便開展工作。

最後，本會必須指出，只要將望原生態多樣化的特點充分發揮，加上恰當的管理策略，這片土將可以發展成對香港普羅大眾的利益有所貢獻的地方。我們認為望原可以改造成一個提供生態多樣化資源、公眾教育、旅遊和創造職業的資源。(香港觀鳥會是一個立足本地，關注全港整體福利的團體，正擬一份有關計劃稍後呈交香港特別行政區政府)。容許鐵路按現時計劃興建，香港將會喪失一個發展機會，是有害無益的。

基於以上的討論，本會反對上水至落馬洲橫跨望原的鐵路路段。如有需要，本會樂意與政府進一步商討有關是項反對的問題。聯絡本會最快莫如傳真2369 3606或電郵chairman@hkbws.org.hk。

香港觀鳥會自然保育委員  
吳祖南 謹啟

一九九九年十二月七日

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**15/12/1999**  
**Open Letter to Fellow Citizens of Hong Kong and on-line signature campaign for protecting the Long Valley**  
**本會發公開信呼籲市民支持保護望原濕地並於互聯網上發起簽名運動**

*Hong Kong Bird Watching Society*  
*Open Letter to Fellow Citizens of Hong Kong.*

To: Fellow citizens of Hong Kong  
From: Hong Kong Bird Watching Society  
Date: 15 December 1999.

Dear Friends,

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society wrote formally to Secretary for Transport on 7 December 1999, objecting to the construction of the KCRC Sheung Shui - Lok Ma Chau spur line across the Long Valley flood plain. This is only the second time the Society has raised objections to the

15/12/1999  
Open Letter to Fellow  
Citizens of Hong Kong and  
on-line signature campaign  
for protecting the Long  
Valley  
本會發公開信呼籲市民支持保  
護望原濕地並於互聯網上發起  
簽名運動

Government regarding the destruction of natural habitat in its 42 years of history. I would like to explain to you why we did it. Furthermore, I urge you to write in your own capacity to the Hong Kong Government to express your concern.

Long Valley is about the size of one to two Victoria Park and is the last remaining piece of land representative of the flood plain in the northwestern part of the New Territories. Since the 1970's, we have seen the loss of Sekkong, Kam Tin, Ping Shan, Ha Tsuen, Tin Shui Wai, Fairview Park, San Tin, Lok Ma Chau, etc. The natural habitat in the once extensive plain is now on the verge of disappearance. Birds dependent on the diversity of micro-habitats in the freshwater wetland environment of the plain are driven to a corner and there is nowhere to retreat further. Once Long Valley is gone, there is no replacement in Hong Kong. Open plains, leisurely farming practices, harmonious co-existence of Man and Bird - these will become faded images in the memory of the older generation and unimaginable things in the mind of the younger generation. Natural and cultural heritage will evaporate. Could we sit back and let it happen?

Long Valley is unique. More than 210 bird species have been recorded here since 1993, nearly half the Hong Kong list. Three of the species are vulnerable and eight are near-threatened by global standards. Of the rest, four are regionally important, three have very restricted range in Hong Kong (such as Painted Snipe), three are rapidly declining, and eight have locally significant populations at Long Valley (including several Snipe species).

Experienced bird watchers typically score more than 50 species at Long Valley during each visit. Novices could also easily score 40 species under guidance. Those who have travelled to Europe or North America will know that such concentration of bird species in a small place like Long Valley is truly incredible.

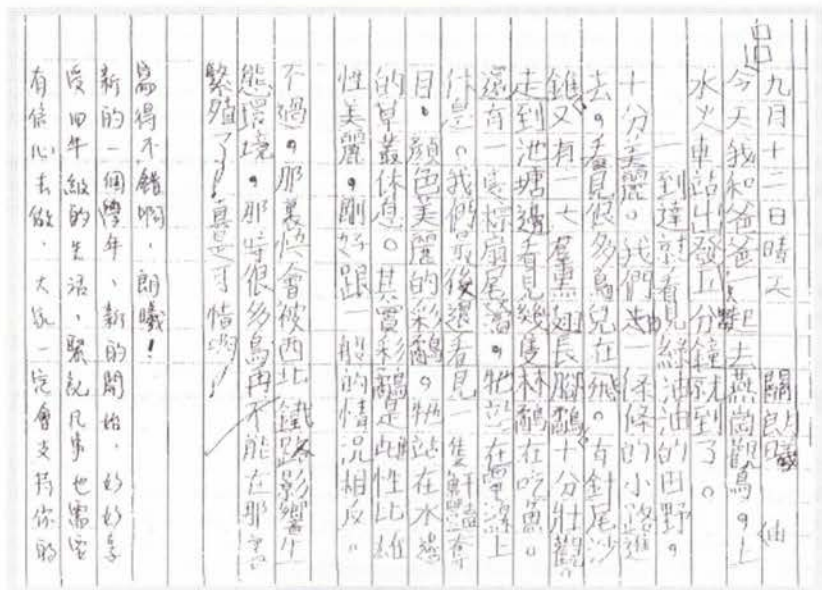
Obviously, once Long Valley is lost, birds will suffer and so would the biodiversity of Hong Kong. The Government is promoting "sustainable development". Biodiversity is one of the eight guiding principles. Allowing the railway to pierce into the heart of Long Valley is indeed sad and miserable.

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society considers that alternative routes exist for the spur line and that there is no reason why it must penetrate into Long Valley. The alternative routes avoid the flood plain and we estimate that the cost of construction of the line would therefore be cheaper. Leaving Long Valley alone will be a three-way winning formula for KCRC, the public and the natural environment. We have presented this point to Secretary for Transport in our objection.

**Unfortunately, there are more threats than the spur line.** In plans published by the Government in connection with the Planning and Development Study on North East New Territories, the Fanling Bypass (a highway) and West Rail Phase II (a railway) will enter Long Valley from the northeast and fragment the plain COMPLETELY. The Study is at the moment going through public consultation. **I sincerely urge you to write to Planning Department in your personal capacity,** to say why Long Valley is important and to state explicitly your objection to the penetration of roads and railways into the plain. When you write, please do ask for an acknowledgement of receipt of your letter and state your address, so that they know that objections are coming from all corners of Hong Kong. Also, please copy your letter to Secretary for Transport, Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, and the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (addresses below).

The Hong Kong Government is a responsible and listening government. The objection raised by the Society against Fairview Park in the early seventies led to the declaration of Mai Po Marshes as a protected nature reserve and its eventual designation as an internationally important wetland under the Ramsar Convention. It has also raised the public's awareness of the importance of wetland and conservation. If we work hard enough, I am sure that Long Valley will be here to stay and that our people will appreciate even more the value of the natural habitat and the joy of sharing our world with birds.

Finally, I would like to invite you to read an article written by Matthew Kwan, one of our young members, after a visit to Long Valley in September this year. (You will see a couple of his bird sketches in the autumn issue of the bulletin.) If you do not read Chinese, briefly, he said:



"I went to watch birds at Long Valley with my father. It was five minutes from Sheung Shui. The fields were green and beautiful. I saw many birds: Pintail Snipes, impressive flock of Black-winged Stilts, Wood Sandpipers feeding near a pond, Fantail Warblers, and finally the striking Painted Snipe resting near the water's edge.

But the natural habitat will be destroyed by the railway soon. Birds cannot breed there! It is sad!"

The place opens up his vistas; the birds give him the joy of life. How could we let Long Valley disappear? How could we deprive Matthew and children like him the right of such enjoyment and force them to grow up in the confines of the urban concrete jungle?

Please, **pick up your pen and write!**

Yours sincerely,  
C Y Lam

#### Addresses

Planning Department Sub-regional Planning Section,  
Planning Department, 16/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, Hong Kong. Fax: 25228524. E-mail: spdp@pland.gov.hk

Secretary for Transport  
Transport Bureau, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong. Fax: 28684643.

Secretary for Planning, Environment & Lands  
Planning, Environment & Lands Bureau, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong. Fax: 25241298.

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society  
GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong. E-mail: hkbws@hkbws.org.hk

致：香港市民  
發件人：香港觀鳥會  
日期：1999年12月15日

親愛的朋友：

香港觀鳥會於12月1日正式致函運輸局局長反對九廣鐵路上水至落馬洲支線穿越燕崗及松柏塢北面的洪泛平原(英文俗名：“Long Valley”，以下簡稱「望原」)。香港觀鳥會成立四十二年來，這是第二次為生態環境受破壞向政府正式提出反對，我有責任向大家解釋。此外，我亦促請大家以個人名義，為了望原直接向香港政府表示關注。

中文譯本

望原大概是一至兩個維多利亞公園般大小，是新界洪泛平原殘餘的最後一片。七十年代以來，石崗、錦田、屏山、廈村、天水圍、錦繡花園、新田、落馬洲等地相繼淪陷，原來的開闊平原自然生態環境喪失殆盡。依靠淡水濕地平原多樣化小型生態環境存活的鳥類處境淒涼，來到望原已退無可退。此地一毀，全港境內再沒有替代之所。開闊平原、悠閒農活、人鳥和諧共存，此後變成老一輩回憶中虛幻影像，新一代生活中的遙不可及。自然和文化傳承就此中斷。我們能袖手旁觀嗎？

望原得天獨厚，自1993年，共錄得210鳥種以上，幾乎佔香港鳥種二份之一。其中有三個瀕危(vulnerable)鳥種、八個受威脅(near-threatened)鳥種、四個有地區性重要鳥種、三種祇在香港極少數地區出現(突出的例子是彩鷗)、三種鳥的數目在香港不斷減少。此外，有八種的種群佔有香港總「鳥口」的重要比例，沙雉等屬於這類。

資深鳥友到望原觀鳥每次都錄得50種以上，跟米埔不遑多讓。初學者在鳥友的引導下，錄得40種亦不太難。到過歐美觀鳥的朋友大概都知道，鳥類如此密集，可說不可思議。

顯而易見，望原一去，鳥口凋零，香港生物多樣化將受沉重打擊。政府現提倡可持續發展，而生物多樣化更是八大指導原則之一。此時修築鐵路直插望原心臟，把它打個支離破碎，實在是可悲、可惜、可怕！

香港觀鳥會認為九廣鐵路支線可走的路線不祇一條，穿過望原並非必要。事實上，我們估計由於不用穿過洪泛平原，其他路線的建築費可能更為便宜。放過望原，九鐵、市民和生態環境三方面都有利。這點我們向運輸局局長提交反對意見時亦提及了。

不幸地，除了九鐵支線的威脅，在政府公佈的新界東北部規劃和研究的草圖中還有粉嶺繞道和西鐵二期，都從東北方插入望原，把這片土地徹底割碎。目前研究正在進行公眾諮詢。我想請大家，切勿要以個人名義，去信規劃署，講述望原的重要性和明確反對鐵路和公路進入望原。去信務請寫你的地址，讓他們知道反對意見來自香港所有角落。大家發信請送副本到運輸局和規劃環境地政局，以及香港觀鳥會。

香港政府是一個負責任和聆聽意見的政府。香港觀鳥會七十年代初期反對興建錦繡花園，換來政府宣佈米埔為自然保護區，以及日後成為拉姆爾公約下的國際重要濕地，並提高了市民對濕地和自然保育的認識。祇要我們努力，望原一定可以保存，市民亦可進一步了解生態環境、鳥類和人類融洽相處之道。

最後我邀請大家閱讀一篇由小會員關朗曦寫的燕崗觀鳥後記。燕崗的田野和鳥類給他生活帶來廣闊的視野和生命的喜悅。

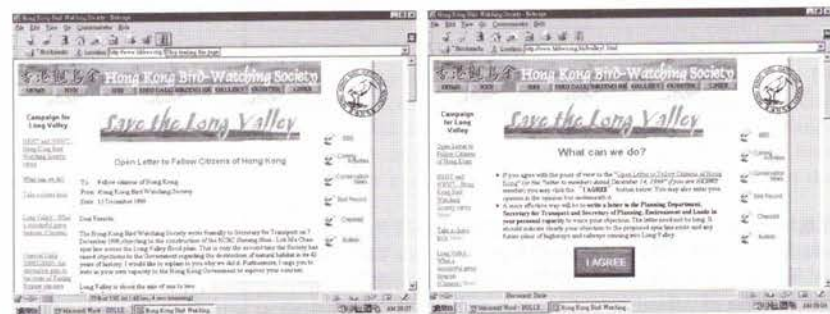
我們怎能忍心看著望原湮沒？我們怎能剝奪朗曦和其他小朋友的權利，把他們的成長困在石屎森林之中？

請提筆寫信吧！

林超英  
1999.12.14

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## A vote via the Internet 網上投票



[Ed - Letters to Planning Department, Secretary of Transport and Secretary of Planning by HKBWS and HKBWS members are selectively published at Page 22 to 36.

編者按：有關香港觀鳥會與會員致信與規劃地政局、運輸署和規劃署的信件已刊載於第22至36頁]

A vote via the Internet  
網上投票

HKBWS has designed a website on "Save Long Valley", introducing the importance of Long Valley, updated information, a collection of newspaper and Society action. It has also included a section of getting the support of webpage visitor, by name collection on the internet. A total of 43 endorsement signatures have been collected. Detail of information can be refer to <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/lvalley.html> (English version)

香港觀鳥會設計了一個以保護塋原為主題的網頁，介紹塋原濕地的重要性，並提供最新資料，包括信件和剪報與及本會採取的行動，其中還有一個在收集各網友保護塋原的同意簽名。現時已收集了43個名字。有關網頁可在<http://www.hkbws.org.hk/lvalley.html> (中文版)查閱。

8/1/2000

**HKBWS and WWFHK together "Take a Closer Look at Long Valley"**

**香港觀鳥會與世界自然(香港)基金會合辦「燕崗/松柏塋濕地生境多面睇」活動**

With the aim to introduce Hong Kong students to this piece of wetland, to help them understand the close relationship between freshwater wetland and birds, as well as ecology and local cultural characteristics, The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong co-organized a "Take a Closer Look at Long Valley" field visit on January 8, 2000. It attracted more than 60 participants, including school students, teachers and mass media. Through this trip, we succeeded in encouraging students to study the importance of biodiversity in Hong Kong, to reflect on problems that the environment faces and express their views.

為了讓學生認識這種香港獨特的生態環境，感受一下在課堂內外難得一見的景緻，了解濕地生境與鳥類的密切關係、農耕土地的生態價值，以及探討這片富有香港文化特色的土地，香港觀鳥會與世界自然（香港）基金會於二〇〇〇年一月八日合辦「燕崗／松柏塋濕地生境多面睇」野外考察活動。當日活動吸引了超過六十位參加者出席，包括學生、老師和新聞界工作者。是次觀察活動讓學生體驗香港生物多樣化的重要性，並對該生境面臨破壞作出回應，為保護這片生態環境共同努力。



Photo by: Henry Lui 攝影：呂德恒



Source: Bulletin of the Environmental Campaign Committee No.101

資料來源：環境保護運動委員會通訊第101期

8/1/2000

**HKBWS and WWFHK co-organized the "Take a Closer Look at Long Valley"**

**香港觀鳥會與世界自然(香港)基金會合辦「燕崗/松柏塋濕地生境多面睇」活動**

[Ed - HKBWS has received views and comments from students on Long Valley issue, please see pages 38 to 41. 編者按：本會於活動後收到很多學生的寶貴意見，詳見第38至第41頁]

13/1/2000

**Planning and Development Studies on NE and NW New Territories  
Views of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society  
香港觀鳥會對規劃署新界東北及西北規劃及發展研究的意見**

*Planning and Development Studies on NE and NW New Territories  
Views of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society*

**Introduction**

1. These views are submitted in response to the call from the Director of Planning for public views on the initial land use proposals formulated under the first stage of the two studies. The views are based on information available in the consultation digests issued by the Planning Department.

**Basic selection criteria**

2. The HKBWS welcomes the inclusion of "protection of high quality ... ecological ... resources..." as a basic selection criterion in the studies.
3. The Chief Executive of the HKSAR announced in his 1999 policy address that the government will embrace the concept of sustainable development in the future. The maintenance of biodiversity and natural resources is a key guiding principle of sustainable development. Both are aspects of ecology. Thus the protection of ecological resources falls in line with the adoption of sustainable development as the foundation of HKSAR policies.
4. The concern of the HKBWS is that this declared selection criterion for the studies is apparently not reflected in the proposed development plans, especially that for Kwu Tung North which will be the focus of this Society's comments.

**Planning principles**

5. There is no reference to the protection of ecologically important sites in the list of principles, in spite of a figure labelled "preserved wetland area" on p. 4 of the consultation digest on NENT. The HKBWS considers that it is essential to have this explicitly adopted as a planning principle, so as to be consistent with the sustainable development concept.

**Feasibility of the proposed plans**

6. The consultative document states that "no major problems have been identified". The HKBWS would like to point out that a major problem exists with the proposed development plan for Kwu Tung North, in respect of the transport infrastructure planned east of the town.

**The problem**

7. The consultation digest presents the Sheung Shui - Lok Ma Chau spur line as a fait accompli. The Society contends that the exact location of the spur line should be a subject of further deliberation. The route of the spur line as shown in fig. 11 on p. 7 of the digest passes through the heart of "Long Valley", the flood plain bounded by Ho Sheung Heung to the north, Yin Kong and Tsung Pak Long to the south and the KCR railway to the east. It would fragment and destroy a site of high ecological value, contrary to the spirit of the basic spirit of protection of sites of ecological importance. The HKBWS has lodged a formal objection to this route, under the provisions of the Railway Ordinance.
8. On the same ground, the HKBWS objects to the indicated location of the proposed Fanling Bypass and West Rail Phase within the Long Valley.
9. The HKBWS is concerned that under "Kwu Tung North" (pp. 5 - 11), the consultation digest makes no reference to the Long Valley and that there is apparently a lack of recognition of its



ecological importance. We were nevertheless heartened by Mr Gordon Siu, then Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands (now re-titled Secretary for Planning and Lands), making a public remark on 19 November 1999 that Long Valley was an ecologically important site and that it would be preserved. We hope that this viewpoint of Mr Siu would be incorporated into the next stage of the NENT study.

10. Briefly stated, Long Valley is the last remaining piece of land of any significant size representative of the natural habitat associated with the once extensive flood plains in the northwestern part of the New Territories. Once it is gone, it is not replaceable because there is now nowhere else to go further upstream. This type of natural habitat provides the stage for a diversity of life forms to live and breed and is a major source of biodiversity in the territory. More than 210 bird species have been recorded here. More detailed discussion on the ecological importance of Long Valley is given in **Annex A**.
11. Long Valley is also a site of great heritage value. Traditional wet agricultural practice is still alive here, co-existing with the natural wildlife in harmony. While we local people might sometimes take it for granted, this is extremely striking in the eyes of overseas visitors. **Annex B** gives a collection of sample remarks about Long Valley made by foreign visitors who have been there. It is clear that the place provides a vivid and impressive picture of Hong Kong's agricultural past as well as a natural habitat for a diversity of birds and other forms of life. It is a major resource for eco-tourism with a heritage sideline.
12. Long Valley is a site of great education value for students, in terms of appreciation of nature and the traditional way of Hong Kong life, which is essential to the healthy upbringing of our younger generation. We have collected some writings of local children to illustrate the impact of a visit of the place on their thinking and how they value the experience. They are given in **Annex C**.
13. Noting the ecological, heritage and education value of Long Valley, HKBWS considers it essential for the benefit of the Hong Kong community as a whole to preserve the open flood plain - wetland characteristics of Long Valley. The construction of highways and railway lines across the plain as illustrated in the consultative digest will be a major problem. The scheme will destroy the characteristics by fragmenting the habitat to the disadvantage of birds and other forms of life and by changing the open landscape which now forms the foundation of its aesthetic value.

#### ***HKBWS Proposals***

14. The HKBWS urges that the railways and the Fanling Bypass should be located out of Long Valley. Potential alternative routes are sketched in **Annex D**. These alternative routes would result in no increase in the length of the highway and that of the spur line and West Rail phase 2 taken together. It is a 3-way win-win situation for the natural environment, KCRC and the Hong Kong community.
15. The HKBWS further recommends that:
  - (a) Long Valley should be zoned, such as a "Conservation Area", in a way that would ensure the protection of its ecological value especially in terms of biodiversity;
  - (b) Government should adopt a proactive policy to manage Long Valley to maintain its inherent inland wetland characteristics, with its traditional multiplicity of micro-habitats, so as to maintain and if possible to maximize its ecological value in terms of biodiversity.
16. A significant amount of natural habitat in the NENT and NWNT study areas will be destroyed to give way to the Strategic Growth Areas and associated transport infrastructure. Thus, there is a need to mitigate for this loss. This adds to our argument for the proposed zoning of Long Valley with an ecological objective.
17. The Hong Kong population lives in a crowded urban environment and is badly in need of opportunities that would allow them to get in touch of nature and enjoy the pleasant sight of open space filled with natural life including both plants and animals. And birds are what most people associate with easily and happily. Long Valley provides that kind of opportunity. The open space

at Long Valley with its contents in the form of birds co-existing harmoniously with traditional farming therefore is a most valuable asset for Hong Kong. To build the spur line across the plain will be sacrificing this common long-term asset for the narrow gain of a commercial operation. To set it aside for the greater good of the Hong Kong community will be the only appropriate way forward.

18. On "developing" Long Valley, the Society considers that by maximizing its biodiversity, there is great potential for developing the area into a Nature Reserve comparable to Mai Po. The difference is that Long Valley will be representative of an inland wetland habitat rather than a brackish water habitat, and that the geiwai shrimp farming at Mai Po is substituted by traditional wet agriculture. With careful management, it would become a resource for biodiversity conservation, public education in nature and heritage as well as eco-tourism. There is significant prospect of job creation too.
19. For Kwu Tung North residents, the existence of a nature reserve next door will be a pride for the new community. It would provide open vistas, sense of affinity to nature, pleasure of seeing free-flying birds, liveliness beyond the mechanical routines of urban living, and the moderating effects of a wetland on the otherwise urban climate of an inland town.

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society  
13 January 2000

### 香港觀鳥會對規劃署新界東北及西北規劃及發展研究的意見

中文譯本

#### 簡介：

1. 本會提交這些意見是按規劃署署長就有關新界東北及西北兩項土地使用初步計劃所發出的公眾意見諮詢而作的回應。這些意見是根據規劃署出版的諮詢摘要內提供的資料而形成的。

#### 基本指標

2. 本會歡迎在基本指標根據內包含有「保護高質素……生態……資源」等字眼。
3. 香港特別行政區行政長官在一九九九年度施政報告中宣佈政府將會在未來採取可持續發展的概念。保存生物多樣性和天然資源是可持續發展中的基本指導原則。由於這兩項原則都與生態有關，因此保護生態資源與採納可持續發展作為香港特別行政區政府政策基礎是一致的。
4. 香港觀鳥會所關注的是該已宣佈之選擇指標顯然沒有在建議中的發展計劃反映出來；本會之意見以古洞北的發展計劃為重點。

#### 規劃原則

5. 雖然新界西北諮詢摘要第四頁以照片數字標示了「保留的濕地」，在表列的原則中卻沒有提及關於保護生態價值重要的地方。香港觀鳥會認為有必要將這項納入規劃原則，以符合可持續發展的概念。

#### 建議計劃的可行性

6. 諮詢文件指出「沒有鑒別到重大的問題」，香港觀鳥會現提出在古洞北東面發展計劃有關交通基礎設施方面的重要問題。

#### 問題

7. 該諮詢摘要把上水至落馬洲鐵路支線作為既成的事實般顯示。香港觀鳥會認為該鐵路的確實位置有待研究。在諮詢摘要的第七頁圖十一顯示該鐵路支線計劃經過塢原中心——範圍包括北為河上鄉、南為的燕崗/松柏塢和東為九廣鐵路的洪泛平原。此支線不單只會將整個高生態價值的地方割裂及毀滅，與保護重要生態環境的精神矛盾。香港觀鳥會已按鐵路條例向有關當局提出反對。

8. 基於同一理由，香港觀鳥會亦反對文件中標示在塢原興建的粉嶺繞道和西鐵所標示的位置。
9. 香港觀鳥會關注到諮詢摘要內之「古洞北」(第五至十一頁沒有提及塢原及顯然沒有認定這地的生態重要性。然而，我們樂意聽到規劃環境地政局(現稱規劃地政局)局長蕭炯柱先生於十一月十九日公開表示塢原是一個生態重要的地方，並應予保護。我們希望蕭先生的意見可以包含在下一期的新界東北規劃及發展研究內。
10. 概括地說，塢原是香港新界西北面最後一片最完整和最具代表性的天然洪泛平原。此地一旦消失，是無可補償的，因為沿著河流上游一帶已再沒有可代替的地方。此地的天然生境為多種生物提供了生存空間和繁殖地，亦是本港一處生態資源豐富的地方。在這裡共錄得超過二百一十種鳥類。有關塢原生態重要性的詳細內容，請見附錄A。
11. 塢原是一處有豐富文化遺產傳承的地方。傳統的濕地農耕仍然進行，並與野生生物和諧共存。我們本地居民有時不以為意，但在海外遊客眼中卻是贊嘆不已。附錄B收集了到過塢原的海外遊客的意見樣本。這些意見反映了塢原是香港唯一可看見香港過去農耕作業景象的地方，亦是一片可找到各種不同的鳥類和野生生物的天然生態環境。塢原是本港生態旅遊的重要資源，並蘊含文化傳承的內容。
12. 塢原是一處有重大教育價值的地方，它讓香港的學生懂得如何去欣賞大自然和香港傳統生活的一面，對新一代的青少年有健康和啟發的作用。我們收集了一些本地學生在觀察塢原後的感想，顯示到訪塢原對他們想法的積極影響。詳見附錄C。
13. 有鑑於塢原的生態價值、文化傳承和教育價值，香港觀鳥會認為保護塢原洪泛平原——濕地的特徵以符合香港的整體利益。諮詢摘要內列出的規劃中的公路和鐵路是一個嚴重問題。這個規劃會將生態環境割裂，使雀鳥和各種野生生物的生存受威脅。塢原的基本價值是在其開闊景觀，這個規劃亦將之破壞。

#### 香港觀鳥會的建議

本會促請把鐵路和粉嶺繞道改劃至塢原外面，本會建議之替代路線載於附錄D。這些替代路線不單沒有增加公路之長度，鐵路支線與西鐵二期之路線長度總和亦如是。這是對自然環境、九廣鐵路和香港廣大市民的三贏方案。

15. 香港觀鳥會建議：
  - (a) 塢原應規劃為「自然保育區」，以確保該地生物多樣性之生態價值得到保護。
  - (b) 政府應採納更主動的政策去管理塢原，以維持其故有的內陸濕地獨有特色，包括保護多種不同的小生境組合，保存甚至增加其生物多樣化的生態價值。
16. 為了讓出土地給策略增長地區及有關的交通基礎設施，新界東北和西北研究地區將會有大範圍的天然生境被破壞。因此，有必要為這些失去的生境作出補償。這個情況進一步加強對我們以生態價值為理由提出將塢原劃作自然保育區的論據。
17. 香港市民在擠迫的城市居住，確實有需要讓他們有機會接觸大自然，欣賞這個充滿植物和動物、自然生態氣息的開闊環境。塢原開闊的環境、鳥類與傳統農耕是香港的寶藏。以支線貫穿塢原，是犧牲了大家共有的長遠天然財產，以換取狹窄的商業利益。為了廣大市民的利益，撤銷支線保留塢原才是正途。
18. 要「發展」塢原，香港觀鳥會認為祇要充分發揮當地的生物多樣性，塢原有豐厚的發展潛力成為可媲美米埔自然保護區。相對米埔的鹹淡水沼澤來說，塢原是一個具有代表性的內陸淡水濕地；在米埔內運作的是傳統基圍作業，而塢原則有傳統濕地農耕。在謹慎的管理下，這片土地可以提供資源作生物多樣性保育、自然和文化傳承的公眾教育、生態旅遊等。此外，亦會有製造職位的潛力。
19. 對於古洞北的居民來說，咫尺的自然保護區將為這些新居民帶來可引以為榮的新社區。他們將來享受到開闊的景觀，與大自然親近的感覺，欣賞雀鳥天際翱翔的快慰、城市機械化和規律性生活以外的悠閒寫意，濕地的緩和效應更可紓解內陸小鎮的鬱悶氣候。

香港觀鳥會

二〇〇〇年一月十三日

## Annex A

### The Ecological Importance of Long Valley

Long Valley is ecologically important because of the unique combination of a number of factors viz. (a) it functions as a freshwater wetland, (b) it has minimal habitat fragmentation, (c) it has low levels of human disturbance, and (d) it has a high degree of micro-habitat diversity.

Being at the high end of the food chain, bird diversity is well recognized as an indicator of biodiversity and the state of health of the environment. Over 210 species of birds have been recorded from Long Valley since 1993, which is almost one half of the total number of bird species recorded in Hong Kong. Out of these species, three are "Vulnerable" and seven are "Near-threatened" by global standards. They are:

Vulnerable - Greater Spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Japanese Yellow Bunting  
Near-threatened - Schrenck's Bittern, Black Vulture, Grey-headed Lapwing, Asian Dowitcher, Japanese Waxwing, Red-billed Starling, Chestnut-checked Starling

In addition, four species have populations of regional importance. Three species, including the extremely beautiful Painted Snipe, have restricted ranges in Hong Kong. Indeed, Long Valley is believed to be the last viable habitat for Painted Snipe after the destruction of its favoured habitat in Kam Tin by West Rail works. Long Valley also contains three species of birds with rapidly declining populations, including Pheasant-tailed Jacana, another bird that depends on wetland habitat. Furthermore, Long Valley holds locally important populations of ten other species.

There used to be extensive areas of similar habitat in the northwestern plains of the New Territories. However, plains in Shek Kong, Kam Tin, Ping Shan, Ha Tsuen, Tin Shui Wai, San Tin, etc., have successively succumbed to "development", some planned and some disorderly and un-controlled such as encroachment of container parks, dumping grounds and so on. If Long Valley is lost, it is not possible to find a replacement. It will be a loss forever.

## Annex B

### A Sample Collection of Views about Long Valley from Overseas Visitors -

*(Full texts of these and other views submitted by overseas visitors are kept by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. It may be made available to the government on request.)*

**Mark Beaman, Managing Director, Birdquest, UK** (Mr Beaman is the pioneer of bird tours; Birdquest is the unquestioned premier bird tour operator in the world)

Long Valley is the last remaining almost unspoiled rural lowland area in northwestern New Territories, and as such has become a precious resource that Hong Kong would do well to treasure.

Not only does Long Valley provide a vision of how all rural Hong Kong once was, but even more importantly it has become, by default, an important wildlife environment in its own right. It should be preserved, both for the interesting birds and other creatures that still survive here, and which are becoming extinct in Hong Kong through massive over-development, and because of its value as an environmental and educational resource for both local people and overseas visitors.

Whenever we take our birdwatching groups to Hong Kong we always make a point of visiting Long Valley, and everyone we take there finds the area a tranquil oasis after the noise and pollution that is now so prevalent in much of Hong Kong. The area is rich in birdlife: we often record 40-50 different species in the area in a relatively short time, including the endangered Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*. When one considers how close this area is to urbanized areas, such riches are truly remarkable.

I would urge all appropriate authorities in Hong Kong to think twice before allowing the last significant area of valuable agricultural lowlands and small wetlands in the northwestern New Territories to be destroyed.

## 附錄A (中文譯本)

塱原在生態學上重要的原因是基於各種獨特的因素組合而成的：(a) 它有淡水濕地的功能；(b) 生態環境片斷化的情況甚少；(c) 甚少人為干擾；以及(d) 這地包含了各種不同的小型生態環境。由於鳥類是在食物鏈的頂級，因而牠們的種類數量被認為是生物多樣性的指標和環境健康的象徵。自一九九三年起，塱原共錄得超過二百一十種鳥類，佔全港種數的一半。其中分別有三種和八種根據國際準則被評定為瀕危和受威脅等級，有四種是地區性重要鳥類，另外三種（包括彩鶺）只在香港有限地分佈。相信塱原是蠟錫田受西鐵工程展開後最後一處適合彩鶺的生態環境。在塱原可找到三種數量正在下降的鳥類，包括堆雞這種以濕地賴以維生的鳥類。此外，塱原亦是一處全港其中十種鳥類數量最多的地方。毫無疑問，塱原有極高的生態價值。

## 附錄B 海外來信

Mark Beaman 是英國著名觀鳥旅遊公司 Birdquest 的董事，專門舉辦各式不同的觀鳥旅遊予世界各地觀鳥愛好者。他認為塱原這個非常接近城市地方的生態資源十分豐富，每次都可以在短時間內錄得超過四十至五十種鳥類。他促請有關部門在破壞這碩果僅存的濕地境前應三思。

**Nial Moores, Seoul, Korea** (Mr Moores is an ecological planner and an advisor to the Korean Tourist Board)

The area is excellent for many species of freshwater wetland birds - and is clearly an extremely important area of wetland for maintaining Hong Kong's regional biodiversity.

Considering the attractiveness of the area to various pipits and snipe species (which we failed to locate at other sites in Hong Kong) it would be a very significant loss to Hong Kong - and its image as an environmental leader - if the area were to be further degraded in any way.

All the best in your efforts to conserve the area.

**Debbie and Tadd Ottman, USA** (widely travelled ex-residents of Hong Kong)

Yin Kong offers a living picture of an agricultural past, a sample of village life, and a ecological habitat that differs importantly from the country parks and Mai Po. It represents a balanced blending of wild creatures and agricultural people; this is a balance achieved over hundreds if not thousands of years. Both the birds and the agricultural way of living would be of interest to foreign visitors. ... in Yin Kong ... members of that agricultural community have held on to past practices on the land while the world was changing around them. Vast tracts of similar land have been converted to other uses. ... the concentration of species on the culturally preserved region has led to it gaining an especially high value as ecological habitat. It deserves recognition as a natural and cultural heritage site, even if not on a world scale. Its social value should be defended by policy that protects it and educates visitors and locals alike about the factors that make the place so special.

**Daniel and Alysia Heintz, France** (visitors to Long Valley in 1997)

My wife and I were struck by the diversity of habitats which offered shelter and food for a number of bird species. We saw many birds, e.g. Pintail Snipe and Spotted Munia which we saw nowhere else in Hong Kong.

Also of interest was the contact with traditional agriculture and ways, the beauty of the landscape - an evocative succession of ponds and high grass - which provided us foreigners with an interesting contrast to the more modern aspects of Hong Kong.

**Phyllis Graydon, Canada** (visitor to Long Valley in 1999)

... But the not so well advertised area known as Long Valley came as a delightful surprise. To find this farmland with ponds, drainage ditches, crops and open space in the north west part of the NT was a real bonus - a precious tiny gem in heavily developed and developing area [KCR - massive intrusion].

The open farmland yielding vigorously growing lush produce and the water provides a rare habitat for many species of birds likely to be found elsewhere. The concentration of species in such a small area is a bird watcher's delight!

This treasure of Hong Kong - Long Valley must be saved from future development and protection for all the species which breed here, and all others which find rest and food on migration. Ideally the area could host birding trips and positively impact a sector of HK's Tourism Industry. Avid birders are eager to escapes to caches such as long valley.

**Annex C**

**Collection of Writings by Local Children after Visits to Long Valley**

Nial Moores是韓國旅遊局觀鳥顧問，亦是一名生態規劃者。他認為塋原是一處香港地區濕地生態價值重要的地方，尤其是對鸕和沙錐這種以依賴濕地的雀鳥十分重要。若繼續衰變，這將會是香港非常重要的損失，以及損害香港的環保形象。

Tadd 和 Debbie曾居住香港三年，曾多次到訪塋原，現時身處美國。他們認為塋原這生態和傳統的農耕作業的和諧景象，應予保護，讓本地居民和遊客可以欣賞和享受。

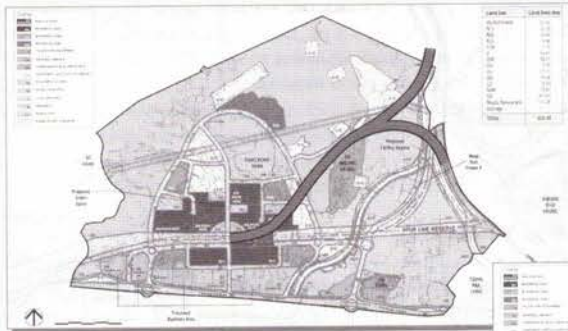
來自法國的Daniel 和 Alysia Heintz表示，在塋原看到不少香港其他地方無法見得到的雀鳥，而該處的傳統農業及優美地勢，為外國訪客提供香港現代化的另一面。

來自加拿大的Phyllis Graydon認為在塋原這片細小面積的土地，為各種不同的鳥類提供食物和過境遷徙時的棲息地。這片理想的地方實在有潛力發展生態旅遊。

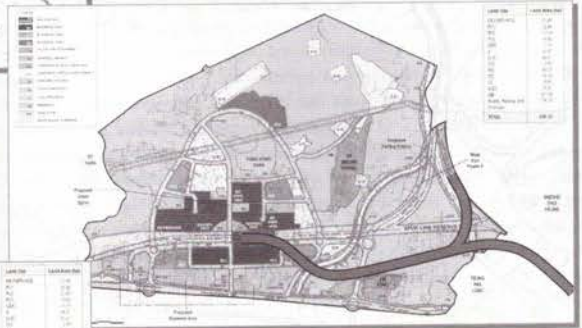
附錄C  
本地學生對塋原生態環境的感想

[Ed - see page 38 to 41.  
見第38至41頁]

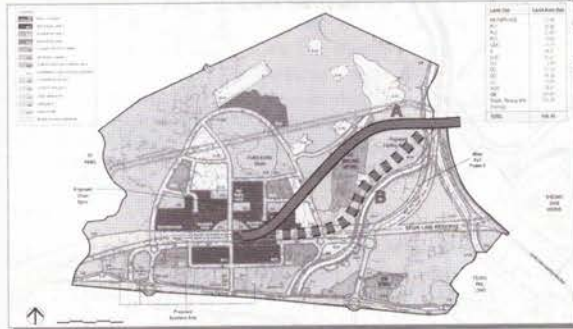
## Potential Alternative Routes for the Railway Lines and the Fanling Bypass



Alternative A



Alternative B



Alternative C

**15/3/2000**  
**Representative of HKBWS interviewed by Highways Department and KCRC**  
**本會代表會見路政署及九廣鐵路之代表**

HKBWS Society representative (Dr. Ng Cho Nam, Mr. Mike Kilburn, Mr. Lawrence Johnson) attend an interview hosted by Highway Department and KCRC to present an objection to the Sheung Shui - Lok Ma Chau spurline at Long Valley

KCRC is still determined to run the railway into Long Valley. But from their presentation, it was obvious that the alternatives proposed by the Society were not impossible. Indeed it would even appear that the northern alternative running north of Ho Sheung Heung would be a good choice. KCRC could only quote fairly feeble reasons for not doing it, such as a government department not allowing them to spend more than three months working at a certain site. They are suggesting that Hong Kong has to give up a piece of land of great long-term value in terms of biodiversity, conservation, public education, leisure activity, tourism, etc. because of such a trivial cause. Unbelievable.

We await a formal communication from government after this interview. The Society is unlikely to retract the objection in view of the untenable arguments of KCRC. We could not agree to sacrificing the long-term good for the public for the short-term gain of a commercial interest.

本會新聞組訊息指本會代表吳祖南博士、Mr. Mike Kilburn和Mr. Lawrence Johnson會見路政署和九廣鐵路代表。九鐵在會上沒提出具體證明指本會提出之可行路線「不可行」，並認為如果在河上鄉以北建築鐵路，某政府部門只容許三個月的建築時間。這反映出該路線方案其實是可行的，可是九廣鐵路堅持要將鐵路貫穿塱原，為了一條支線規劃，而使香港要放棄這片具有極高生態、教育和旅遊價值的地方。本會認為九鐵的論據不合情理，堅決不會收回所作出之反對。

## 會員及各界致規劃署的部份信件(部份節錄) Letter to Planning Department (extract)

### Letter 1 信件1

望原——好一個自然教室  
陳明明老師 (香港鄧鏡波書院)

#### 一個請求

為了普羅市民，請保持望原(Long Valley)目前的面貌！

#### 利益申報

我是個中學教師，百忙中只能夠到郊野走走，欣賞自然的生態。

#### 引言

聖誕前夕，和美國回來渡假的小姪女一同從薄扶林水塘步行上山頂。剛滿十一歲的她，儘管只帶了一瓶清水，沿途興緻勃勃，不時將此行和她在美國的一次遠足旅行比較。拾起路旁的一條小樹枝，這敲敲，那掃掃，還不時問這問那：為甚麼那樹幹上長滿粗大的鱗片；為甚麼沒有可愛的含羞草；為甚麼蝴蝶會死在路旁；水中游過的是魚還是蝌蚪……看到欄杆上的小昆蟲，初時大叫「很可怕」--不一會就改口說很有趣，湊近去煞有介事地端詳一番；為甚麼這隻有長毛；為甚麼這隻顏色那麼特別；為甚麼樹上看不到小蟲……四十分鐘，已到了山頂纜車站。

#### 挑戰

面對本地一個十一歲的小孩子：  
提議走上山頂，沒有其他目的，十居其九被當作「白痴」！  
沿途不提供各種零食、飲品，絕對難以想像！  
不隨身塞滿MD機，流行歌手的CD，漫畫書或潮流雜誌，近乎天方夜談！  
期待他們自動自覺發掘和欣賞自然生態的種種奇趣，簡直是緣木求魚！  
為甚麼我們的孩子會是這樣的？

#### 實況(一)

不錯，本地不乏才華出眾的年青人，有叫人讚歎不已的成就。可是，只要我們踏出「名校區」，離開社會精英的大本營，到全港十八區逛逛，看看一般青少年的生活，留心他們的親子關係，心中不免會泛起另一幅圖畫。近來，不少調查報告指出一般的青少年缺乏求學動機、難與家長溝通、不肯承擔責任、目光短淺、沒有進取心，不懂得尊重別人、急功近利、不珍惜生命……誰把他們教導成這個樣子？他們需要甚麼？

#### 實況(二)

在新界上市水中心旁邊，環境清幽的望原(Long Valley)，有限但總算廣闊的空間(約一至兩個維多利亞公園的大小)之內，包涵了多元化的生態環境，孕育著多種多樣的自然生物(據香港觀鳥會統計，一年中就有多達二百餘種野生雀鳥在這裡出沒)。來這裡消磨一會：體會三兩農民在田間的工作，欣賞雀兒在身邊起舞、細數綠油油的植物，靜聽自然的韻律；逃離市區日夜轟炸的「聲色雀馬」、「污煙瘴氣」、「恩怨情仇」；一家人舒展筋骨，談天說地，共享天倫，何樂而不為呢！在望原這樣的自然境界中，甚麼正規教育、社會教育、家庭教育共治一爐，不正是人間美事嗎！

有人每逢休假，都能夠一擲千金，扶老攜幼到海外飽覽湖光山色、享盡人間美食、參透天下文化，當然絕對是人生快事。不過，對普羅大眾來說，像望原這種近在咫尺的，近乎免費(只要交通費)的小天地，也不遑多讓吧！只要是有心人，又何需等候甚麼環境影響評估報告呢！

#### 威脅

九廣鐵路公司計劃興建的上水至落馬洲支線及其他發展計劃將穿越望原，把它弄得支離破碎，多種生命將難逃劫數。

Content extract of selected letters by HKBWS members and the public to the Planning Department according to the public consultation of the Planning and Development Studies on NE and NW New Territories, which has copied to HKBWS.

[Ed. - These extracts are used for informational and educational purpose only]

會員及公眾對規劃署新界東北及西北規劃及發展研究公眾諮詢的意見(節錄)

[編者按：各信件的節錄內容只會用作參考及教育用途。]

"Long Valley - what a wonderful green treasure" is written by Mr. M.M. Chan of Hong Kong Tang King Po College, in reply to the Chief Executive on the concern of environmental protection and the problem of education in Hong Kong. It is undesirable to see our children deprived of precious natural environment, which, in fact also a valuable educational treasure that can help young people broaden their views, enrich family life, and place more concern on life forms.

[Ed. - The writer has submitted this article to directors of Education Department and Planning Department, Secretary for Transport, Secretary for Planning & Lands Bureau, and the Chief Executive's Office of HKSAR Government.

編者按：本文作者已將文章提交給教育署署長、規劃署署長、運輸局局長、規劃地政局局長與及香港特別行政區行政長官辦公室]

## 環保與持續發展的真諦

老師教導學生，環保就是保持自然環境的原狀，免受破壞。還有更簡單的解釋嗎？

「莫以善小而不為，莫以惡小而為之」，古訓當然不可能成為現代政治的金科玉律，但是決策者也可以作為警惕。特別是在環保決策方面，試問最初上山砍樹的，第一個點火燒「野草」的，首先……他們又怎知道後來會演變至山泥傾瀉、水土流失、物種消亡、氣溫上升等等人為生態災難呢！

到了今時今日，要是我們還甘願追隨在破壞之後，與其說是保護環境，倒不如乾脆承認只是勉強修補自己製造的爛攤子吧！目前騎虎難下的「綜合排污工程」、重整市區巴士路線和車站以減低空氣污染等數之不盡的例子，不正是很「好」的寫照嗎！

環保怎可以解釋為「補鑊」工程呢！

為甚麼年青人永遠落後於社會的期望之後？各方面要求老師教導學生這樣那樣；可是，又親手破壞各種各樣的機會。教育還可以停留在「老師講，學生聽」的局面嗎？青少年還可以承授學校教一套，社會幹另一套的矛盾嗎？政府當局也正在推動教育改革：學生需要「樂於學習，善於溝通，勇於承擔，敢於創新」。可惜我們缺乏適當的教室——讓學生主動發掘問題、學習探究、發揮創意的園地。墾園只是一個例子，更多更多像墾園這樣優良的「教室」，為甚麼只可到海外尋求，本地原有的卻要一一剷除？一切都只為了經濟效益嗎？

不相信施政報告提出「培育優秀人才，建設美好家園」這個遠大的目標，也只是為了經濟效益而已。從哪裡做起？留給孩子們多點像樣的「教室」，還給他們多點廣闊的空間——維護美好「家園」，培育青新「幼苗」，不正是提升（環境、教育、社會）素質的一條既經濟而又可行的路嗎！

## 一個呼籲

為了孩子的未來，為了消弭那麼多的親子矛盾，為了擴闊青少年的視野、為了尊重寶貴的生命，請政府各有關部門帶頭介紹墾原的特色，一同呼籲大人帶同小孩到墾原（或其他本港碩果僅存的類似的小天地）來，認真地走走，分享一些自然的情趣，豐富一下我們的生活，滋潤一下我們的生命！

## Letter 2 信件 2

"I am writing about plans to build across the Long Valley flood plan. I only became aware of these plans during a recent visit to Hong Kong when I had a chance to visit Tsim Bei Tsi, Mai Po, Lok Ma Chau and Long Valley.

Mai Po is in very good shape and all concerned who have been involved in helping to make this world renowned site for wildlife deserve credit and thanks. I was associated in a small way with the early days of creating the protected area at Mai Po in the late 1950's and later with the planning of the present reserve in the 1970's and the setting up of WWF Hong Kong in the 1980's.

Many many other have worked hard to bring this all to its present state and status. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and WWF Hong Kong have both played a major part in this but this success is also greatly to credit of the Hong Kong Government working in partnership with the NGOs.

Long Valley is also a very precious asset. Even today it contains an amazing biodiversity. When I first knew this area there was not a high rise building in sight. I would not have believed that such a place could still be biologically so rich and diverse, even with all the surrounding buildings. It is a remarkably valuable area for birds and makes a complementary and important adjunct to the Mai Po area. I saw nearly fifty species there in early December. This is comparable to the species recorded in the 1950's.

I very much hope that those concerned with future planning for this area can meet the concerns which have been expressed by those in Hong Kong who care so much for the precious environment."

[Ed - Field Marshall Sir John Chapple GCB CBE DL, a member of very long standing. Sir John was instrumental in advocating for the designation of the Mai Po Marshes as a potential area in the 1970's.

編者按：Field Marshall Sir John Chapple, GCB CBE DL 是前香港英軍師令，他在一九七〇年代積極參與與米埔列作自然保護區。是次Sir John對墾原生態環境保護之關注，本會深表謝意。]



### Letter 3 信件 3

"...My wife and I are expecting a baby in a few months time. We sincerely hope that long Valley can be conserved as it is now for my child (when grown up) to have the opportunity to enjoy the values of the valley including, among other things, the 210 bird species, the unique landscape, the traditional way of agriculture as well as the natural life of other animals and plants..."

"...Over the years, I have witnessed the destruction of the natural habitat to the north of the Valley in order to make way for the construction of sewage channel. The birds that use this habitat have already been concentrated into the remaining fragments. If this remaining fragments are jeopardized further by the construction of the railway spur line, I am sure most of them will be squeezed out of existence because there is nowhere in Hong Kong with the same habitat..."



目睹望原及附近的濕地逐漸受到破壞，他盼望將來的孩子有機會欣賞這地的景觀、傳統的農耕生活與各種野動物和諧共存等景象。

Photo by: Henry Lui  
攝影：呂德恒

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### Letter 4 信件 4

"...Following the Chief Executive's last policy address, most people felt confident we would finally see an end to the desecration of areas of natural beauty, but these plans for a KCRC spur line, a Fanling by-pass and a West Rail line are all set to cross the same area less than twice the size of Victoria Park..."

"...If no action is taken in response to residents' concerns such as this one, then we will lose a unique and valuable part of Hong Kong, which can never be replaced, no matter how much money may be invested and we will demonstrate to the world that our government only lip service to its own newly expressed environmental concerns..."

作者就有關行政長官所發表關注環境的施政報告內容，致信規劃署望原正面臨鐵路和粉嶺繞道之威脅，並認為政府不應在環境保護的大前提下只作泛泛的口頭承諾，而是要切實地保護這片獨有的生態環境。

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### Letter 5 信件 5

「.....在在此土地上有不少過境候鳥、旅遊中補充站，及數不清的昆蟲世界，野生生物最大塊居所，是學生、小朋友、成年人、老人，令他們帶來夢想回憶，歡樂成功感的樂土，新界在我幼時，還有大幅農田郊野，時至今日此景不再，在很多國家在經濟發展，同時平衡農田郊野土地，政府當局關心人民，身心健康，物質享受，心理影響.....一般郊野公園，多數市民只知燒烤，製造污染，缺乏教育人們認識大自然的場地。特區政府應留下此類生態重要性高的區域，好等市民及新一代，有個空氣清新，空曠廣大綠田園享用，看農夫不需遠到中國內地或看書本.....」

The writer expressed his grievance on proposed development at Long Valley, which destroys not only habitat, but also cultural heritage and health of community. He suggested that the Government should leave this piece of farm for environmental education, for which our community and our new generation back.

## Letter 6 信件 6

"...Hong Kong is unique in south China because it has managed to preserve much of its natural environment, giving a balance between human development and nature. Such a balance exists in Long Valley but will be destroyed if these proposals are implemented..."

## Letter 7 信件 7

「.....非常欣賞最近有關部門從善如流，把原定的粉嶺繞道，重劃北移，保留了燕崗至松柏塢一片重要的淡水濕地，讓這裡的美景和生態，有空間繼續繁衍下去，貫徹了董特首對環境保護的承諾.....上水至落馬洲鐵路支線，亦有一段橫跨這淡水濕地，這樣的建設路線，足以破壞這片土地的原有美態。其實這裡的田、牛、雀鳥、平房、鄉土氣息等，每年為香港帶來不少旅客。香港自是有其特式，不必建設主題公園，亦有其魅力之處。在這裡建設鐵路，直接摧毀這片寧靜的土地，損害了人與動植物之間的平衡。

其實香港人腦筋靈活，有足夠的智慧去尋找較理想的路線去建設，尤如粉嶺繞道北移一樣。望原與鐵路，絕對有共存的空間，希望有關部門努力。」

## Letter 8 信件 8

「董特首在施政報告內，大力倡議環保意識。一邊我們看到傳媒介紹環保大樓如何引入陽光，如何節省電力，如何在樓宇間建立空中花園.....另一邊我們卻看見望原上鐵路的規劃，如何破壞環境，如何迫害自然生物.....」

## Letter 9 信件 9

「望原的地理環境，每年吸引很多世界級罕有雀鳥在此棲息。近日的報章早有報導，這樣的環境，不是人類在『石屎森林』中植兩棵樹和建一個湖能代替。

落馬洲鐵路，為何一定要橫跨這片淡水濕地，為何要迫害雀鳥的生存機會？

現在的規劃，決定了我們將來可以看到雀鳥在空中飛翔，或者祇能在博物館尋找它們的資料。.....」

## Letter 10 信件 10

"...Long Valley is one of the last flood plain in northwest New Territories. As an amateur birdwatcher and an occasional visitor to the place, I found that the location supports a diversity of life forms, including birds, insects and other freshwater animals. It is a good place for the study of birds including wagtails, stonechats and snipes. Above all, some birds that have very restricted ranges in Hong Kong, such as painted snipe, can be found there. Building the spur line that cuts Long Valley apart would irrecoverably destroy the habitat of those animals and is not a desirable thing to do, especially for a government which is aware of environment protection issues."

I fully understand the need for a better transport infrastructure in Hong Kong. As a citizen who is going to move to Tin Shui Wai, I can indeed benefit from projects such as West Rail that connects parts of Hong Kong together. However, I do not want my convenience to be built upon this significant destruction of the environment, and I believe that many citizens of Hong Kong would feel the same. As I know, there are proposals of alternate route to your proposed spur line. I urge you to take these proposals into consideration..."

作者認為香港是華南獨有的一片土地，因為它保留有自然環境，使人類發展與大自然景觀取得平衡。不過這平衡可能會因為松柏塢發展計劃而受到破壞。

The writer appreciates the government accepts the suggestion of moving the Fanling Bypass northward, to enable a sustainable wetland environment. It is possible that an alternative route can also be considered in location design of the spur line, in order to protect the wetland.

The writer raised that Chief Executive announced environmental concept, however, spurline which is going to destroy the environment and threaten the biodiversity of Hong Kong.

The writer agreed that Long Valley is a place which attracts globally threatened species and can't be replaced. However, it is worrying that the spurline will reduce the survival chance of these threatened species. He couldn't accept these birds could only be found in the museum in the future.

作者認為松柏塢是香港最後一片洪泛平原，其生物品種豐富。作為一個將會入住天水圍的市民，他不想見到將來西鐵建設帶來的方便，是建基於環境破壞之上。他認為一個關注環境保護的政府，應該對計劃中的鐵路支線破壞環境生態方面加以考慮。

## Letter 11 信件 11

"...Since 1993, more than 210 bird species have been recorded at Long Valley habitat and are not found elsewhere in Hong Kong. This is an amazing total for a relatively small area, which emphasises yet further its significance. ...Remembering the principles of sustainable development, to which the Hong Kong SAR Government is committed, and the need to maintain biodiversity in Hong Kong, I urge you most strongly to reconsider the routing of all three proposed infrastructure projects. In bird terms, Long Valley is absolutely irreplaceable; none of us can afford to let Long Valley go, and I understand that alternative routes are feasible and may well be cheaper. This really is the last stop..."

## Letter 12 信件 12

"...It is understood and conceded that the railway line has to be constructed to assist in solving the traffic/transport problem in the northern part of NT. However, it is sad and languishing to hear that the proposed railway line would fragment the Long Valley flood plan into parts.

I myself was born and brought up in the NT. Except a small remaining portion, field and wilderness in wet land had long been history as long as I can recall. The existence of the Long Valley flood plan is unique and meaningful in terms of ecology and biodiversity of wildlife and the nature. In every part of the wilderness, wildlife is vulnerable - disappearance of suitable living/breeding environment and habitat means their destruction.

... The construction of the railway line may well be welcomed by some people especially the landlords and the vegetable farmers. They would be compensated and could begin another walk of life. Their well being would, to certain extent, be cared for by the authority. Regretably, once the line was constructed, that will be forever for the scenic views. Different types of wildlife dependant on the flood plan would become distinct in Hong Kong. Are we entrusted to expect much from the mercenary developer? ..."

## Letter 13 信件 13

"... no mitigation measures can be guaranteed to succeed. The ecological important wetlands once lost are difficult to compensate or restore. As case illustration is the section of Tai Lam Tunnel and Yuen Long Approach of Route 3, the ecological mitigation measures at Au Tau Interchange are deemed to fail. The compensated wetlands perform as abandoned lands rather than ecological functioning wetlands. The compensation sites were dissected into several small pieces of wetland by heavy traffic also discourages the birds to make use of the wetlands. From site speculations, the wetland birds are replaced by the very common and non-wetland species. Low vegetation coverage and lack of wetland plants further contribute scarce diversity of animals. Even if the mitigation measure is successful, the time lag between the lost of important habitats and development of ecological functioning habitats still exist. The populations of species once decline is difficult to redevelop.

Fourthly, the proposed spur line cutting through Long Valley will cause serious habitat fragmentation. Once the spur line intrudes into such as silence and human nature harmony place, the traffic noise and the human disturbance will eventually ruin the whole place. Many researches supported that the traffic noise did have serious effect on bird populations. It is expected that several sensitive species will be disappeared in short-term. The edge effect and the impediment of genetic flow will affect the population and communities health in long term.

Finally, the decision-makers always neglect the environmental consequences after the development. Fishponds at Au Tau Interchange are a case in point. The developments of transport networks always foster the rapid development surround the road lines. It is not easy to find that many fishponds along the Route 3 are drained or filled. The farming practices are no longer held. Moreover, some of them have been sold to potential developers. Therefore, the habitat loss is always greater than what we expected. ..."

作者覺得望原得天獨厚，在細小面積的土地竟有這麼豐富的鳥類品種數量。他認為政府應按已承諾的可持續發展原則，重新考慮粉嶺繞道、鐵路支線和西鐵二期路線的規劃，好讓望原得以保留，並考慮觀鳥會所提出的可行路線方案。

作者自幼於新界長大，體驗環境變化。現時望原這片高生態價值的土地將會被鐵路割裂，使野生動物無容身之所。建設鐵路可能為少數人帶來利益，長遠來說，我們將會少了一片自然景觀，而野生動物將會失去可棲息的地方。

作者引三號幹線為例，指出生態一旦破壞，是無法彌補的。例如所謂的濕地補償，只是將土地棄置，沒有加以管理。加上交通帶來的人為及噪音干擾，生態環境又可以飽受多少這種「邊緣效應(edge effect)」呢？在公路段旁，可找到不少被棄置或被填土的魚塘，耕作無法進行，生態環境沒得到補償，所造成的損失是我們不能估計的。

## Letter 14 信件 14

「……政府有計劃一條由上水至落馬洲的鐵路支線，貫穿燕崗和松柏塢北面的一片香港已經絕少有濕地——塢原。後因不但徹底破壞那兒的自然環境，使生態盡失平衡，更會把那兒棲生的野生雀鳥趕盡殺絕，也直接使到這個香港人的天然市肺，洗滌心靈的綠色空間，消滅殆盡，不教人傷心？

作為一個小市民，每天上班落班，勤勤力力的工作，努力維持一個安定繁榮的社會之後，其間所受的身心壓力和疲累，都不是一頓工餘的吃喝玩樂，瘋狂購物所能輕易過渡的。我們所渴求的，是正如董特首所言真正的高生活質素。難道高生活質素，像樓盤廣告所模擬出來的花園庭林，便能代表？香港本身的自然環境，和它孕育的活潑生機，才是真正港人寶藏。我們為何放棄這上天的寶庫，不好好利用和保護，而竟要將它逐一破壞，再「翻版」一個假的天然環境，便叫提高生活水平了嗎？「正版」和「翻版」，哪個有價值呢？

每天工作8小時，雙眼已經被電腦折磨得疲累不堪時，偶然望見一窗外飛過的麻鷹，那種自由翱翔之態，竟能作舒緩之用。假日往郊外跑跑，享受那片青翠山野，雀鳥爭鳴的樂趣，不是電視箱內旅遊特輯可以比擬的。香港人到外面旅遊，呼吸新鮮空氣，為體能充電，就因為香港可供充電和呼吸的地方，差不多沒有了！今次保護塢原的一片反對聲中，外國人的意見非常熱烈，認為不去維持這片珍貴的土地是十分可惜的。作為生於斯、長於斯的港人能不表達本身的焦慮嗎？為甚麼香港人不懂得善用自已的財富，反而目光短淺，難道便自私地把它毀於自己的年代嗎？我們的下一代，都讓他們沉迷電腦，體質虛弱，或者通通都被送往外國去，追尋更好的生活環境，遠離家園嗎？政府的政策和目標，就是這樣嗎？……」

## Letter 15 信件 15

"...This area is a unique habitat for Hong Kong and should be preserved for the environmental benefit it provides for the fast disappearing fauna and flora of Hong Kong. It should also be retained undeveloped so that the people of Hong Kong retain the opportunity to visit the area and see, among other things, the diversity of birds species, many of which are now rare to both Hong Kong and the region ..."

## Letter 16 信件 16

「……前兩、三年，還有香港常見鳥類，還有香港常見鳥類，例如麻雀、紅耳鸂鶒等出現，但近日鳥蹤全無，可見市區環境日差。數年前，天星小輪渡海時，還可見海鷗隨船追逐，但現今鳥蹤渺渺；另在火炭火車站附近的河渠，亦見白路在混濁的水渠單獨覓食。可見鳥類生活在如此惡劣環境下，不但無地方可聚居，無糧食數可果腹，只能在市區的夾縫內掙扎求存。要發展或興建一個地區，所需的時間，可過三至五年光景，但要形成一個自然生態環境，鳥類可安家落戶，則非上數十年不可。如塢原破壞了，瀕危重要的鳥種湮沒了，即花上百年時，亦不可重見。故此，我極力反對鐵路及公路進入塢原……」

## Letter 17 信件 17

"...This really is a question of simply preserving within the lowlands of the north-west New Territories some tiny amount of "space" for the birds and other wildlife which depend on such habitats. Is it really not possible to arrange things so that a relative tiny "green belt" can be maintained between the existing urban development at Sheung Shui and the proposed one at Kwu Tung? Is it really not possible to preserve in a meaningful sense a part of our fascinating heritage of human interaction with the natural world in that part of Hong Kong, for our children and for their children to appreciate. We realise that developments such as Kwu Tung New Town are certain to go ahead. Of course against a harmony with their environment, or at least in some kind of equilibrium with it.

The writer deeply feels that the lost of habitat and environment will eventually bring about loss of space for leisure. Quality of living cannot be replace by building a "copied" natural environment. In the Long Valley case, there are also remarks from foreign visitors, showing that it is a great loss if we lose this green treasure. Do we really want our next generation to be sunk in the computers, with a weak body, or having to go overseas for a better environment?

作者認為塢原是香港獨有的生態環境，有見香港動植物品種數量下降之速度，塢原更應給予保留，好讓香港市民有機會繼續欣賞香港珍貴的鳥類品種。

The writer expressed the concern of loss of suitable habitat for birds. For example, pollution reduced the number of feeding gulls in Victoria Harbour, egrets feed in the dirty ditches at Fotan. Not only is the living habitat being reduced, but also their food source. It might take three to five years to develop an area, however, it takes tens of years for a natural habitat to develop. If Long Valley is destroyed, we will not have any chance to see these threatened bird species again.

作者疑問為何不可在上水和古洞之間留有一些空間給野生雀鳥，或索性將之劃為保育地帶，以留給下一代或他們的後子繼續享用？否則又何以談得上作了甚麼補償措施？現有塢原的鳥類紀錄並不是古舊的資料，而全都是最新的。作者自八十年代來到香港，見證了土地用途的改變，濕地受到破壞。從前的觀鳥勝地如瘦村、落馬洲、石崗、錦田和天水

However, if no consideration at all has been given to the preservation of at least part of the fertile and productive, but very easily altered lowland habitats that such developments have necessarily replaced, then no real effort at mitigating the impact of their construction can surely be said to have been made. So much then for the reports we have read of the next generation of New Towns, such as Kwu Tung, being designed with environmental consideration in mind.

The ornithological riches of the area are well-documented, and these are not old data, but come mostly from the last five years or so. When I first arrived in Hong Kong in the mid-1980's this area was relatively little visited: in searching for birds we tended in those days to favour the apparently richer swamp area at Ha Tsuen near Lau Fau Shan, and the smaller, but even more easily accessible wet agricultural lands near Lok Ma Chau. Both these sites are now destroyed as wetland habitats, as are other Shek Kong, Kam Tin and Tin Shui Wai. In fact as you know, were one to detail smaller "areas" destroyed the list would be longer still. It is little wonder, therefore that the attention of birdwatchers, and of the birds themselves, has from the early 1990s onwards turned towards Long Valley, with its seasonally changed patchwork of vegetable fields and fishponds. ... "



圖，都已相繼被破壞。到了九十年代，餘下由農耕地和魚塘組成的的望原又將會變成怎麼樣呢？

Photo by: Henry Lui  
攝影：呂德恒

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**Letter 18 信件 18**

「..... 各位規劃署的仁哥仁姐，你們可知道甚麼是環境護，簡單來說，除了愛惜人類居住的環境外，也要顧及其他野生生物的生地地，人類是這個大自然的一部份，你們又怎樣能將自己的家園破壞呢？」

香港不少自然生地地受到無情的破壞，如天水圍天華路對開的大草地，原為不少雀鳥的居所，甚至是小雲雀的繁殖地，現已蕩然無存，又新元朗中心附近的廢棄農地，有不少八哥、棕背伯勞、白胸翠鳥、小白鷺、喜鵲等雀鳥覓食的地方，現已被破壞得不堪入目。請試想想，如果你往的地方被人破壞，你們有何感覺？再者，你們真的希望你們的下一代生活於石屎森林嗎？他們日日面對的只是四面牆壁，手上只有電子遊戲機，生活於電腦虛幻世界之中，周遭的事物置之不理，這是多麼可悲呀？

大自然是個寶富，從中我們可以培養對人的愛心，關懷，提高個人觀察力，擴闊視野，積極人生，領悟人生哲理.....很多很多好處。箇中真諦，只有接觸過大自然的人才會領悟到。沒有對大自然關心的上一代又怎能教出愛護大自然的下一代。

有腦袋、有智慧的各位官員，請獻出你們的愛心，不要在松柏塋這片淡濕地作任何建築，包括鐵路和公路。正如規劃環境地政局局長蕭炯柱說，松柏塋應列為具保育價值的自然濕地，又香港特區首長董建華先說應保護環境，再加上九九年是中國生態旅遊年，何不將松柏塋列為一個生態旅遊景點，改善工程所費無幾，又可喚起市民對環境保護的意識及可以吸引更多的外國遊客到訪，讓他們認識中國傳統的農業，讓世人能對香港有一個好環境保護形象.....」

There are various wetland habitats in New Territories, for example, Tin Shui Wai which is a place for Oriental Skylark, now totally being destroyed. There are other wetlands rich in common bird species, which have also been ruined. This reflected the real situation of destruction of homeland of wildlife, replaced by concrete forest, gameboys and cyber life, placing our natural environment beyond living. The natural environment is a green treasure to broaden our view and life. The writer also urged the officials of the Planning Department to reconsider the proposal development at Long Valley, Gordon Siu's speech on protecting the area, the Chief Executive's announcement on sustainable development.

### Letter 19 信件 19

"...For myself and many nature lovers and bird watchers in Hong Kong, losing the Long Valley is for sure a great despair as many of the similar areas were gone over the past years for construction, modernization and formation of satellite cities. If our natural habitat become extinct and where can our birds live and stay in Hong Kong? Then Hong Kong may have lost its attractiveness to travelers and to us, Hong Kong residents. In this new millennium, we see quality of life as one of the important element for living and environmental concern is one of the major issue addressed in the CEO plan so please consider about rerouting the highway and set the Long Valley free! ..."

### Letter 20 信件 20

「.....我們的燕崗和松柏塋是一塊生態豐富的田地，也是全港唯一剩下來的一塊，在那.....如上述地方作城市化的發展，必會把當地的生態環境破壞，各種生物、鳥類將會死去。這與政府最近大力鼓吹的『生物多元化』、『可持續發展』及『生態旅遊』政策是背道而馳，自相矛盾。我們將會失去大量及多種的鳥類，大量從外國而來的觀鳥者及大量的旅遊收入。

我懇請我們的規劃署修改各項的發展，來避免把燕崗和松柏塋的水田破壞，來保留香港最後的水田，來執行『生物多元化』和『可持續發展』的環保政策及來賺取大量的遊客外匯吧.....」

作者感慨多年來的發展，現代化、衛星城市等建設，對生態環境造成極大的損害，野生鳥類無處容身，如此，香港會損失了一批以生態旅遊為目的的海外遊客。踏進新紀元，我們所關注的，除了生活，環境保護更應切實關注。他促請政府再三考慮塋原的公路建設計劃。

Long Valley is an extant piece of ecologically rich farmland in Hong Kong. If the area is under development, most of the wildlife and bird will die through loss of habitat. This contradicts to the "biodiversity", "sustainable development" and "ecotourism" promoted by our government. The writer hope our Government can reconsider the developmental plan to reserve and to avoid destruction of Long Valley.

## Signature Campaigns 簽名運動

### (1) Q.E.S.O.S.A. Secondary School 伊利沙伯舊生會中學

Q.E.S.O.S.A. Secondary School has organized a signature campaign to show their objection to the proposed spurline between Lok Ma Chau and Sheung Shui. 430 signatures, together with articles from students, have been submitted to the Director of Planning Department, with a hope to urged the Government to re-plan the spurline and to avoid destroying the freshwater wetland. For students' article, please refer to page 38 to 41.

伊利沙伯舊生會中學發動了全校簽名運動，反對政府於古洞北興建落馬州鐵路支線貫穿了塱原淡水濕地平原之計劃，共收集了430個簽名，連同學生撰寫的文章，提交至規劃署署長，希望政府能夠重新考慮這個計劃的施工地點，修正這段鐵路的興建位置，減少對松柏塱平原一帶的破壞，能有效令社會、經濟、環境之方向得到平衡的發展，從而達到可持續發展的目標。有關的學生文章，可參考第38至第41頁。

### (2) Hong Kong University of Science and Technology 香港科技大學

A lecturer of Mathematics Department of HKUST write to voice objection to the Secretary of Transport to the proposed construction of the Shueng Shui - Lok Ma Chau Spur Line as published in the Gazette Notice No. 5774 dated 4 October. 135 endorsement names have been collected and were sent together with the objection letter to the Transport Bureau. Details of the their objections are listed below:

- Long Valley is one of a few remaining natural habitats in the Northern New Territories. It is an ecologically important natural flood plain. The loss of Long Valley is irreplaceable for Hong Kong and we should save it for our future generations.
- It is a natural habitat for wildlife and for birds in particular. Long Valley is a place with an unusual "biodiversity". Because birds are at the high end of food chain, so the number of different species of birds is usually a good indicator of the level of biodiversity of the area. It is well-known that almost half of bird species (about 210) in Hong Kong has been recorded in Long Valley, compared to a total of about 1200 different bird species in the whole of China.
- Probably cheaper and viable alternatives exist as suggested by some environment groups (Please refer to the recent suggestion of alternative routes by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society)
- The current planning of the Spur line not only cuts through the heart of Long Valley, but related development in the on North East New Territories such as Fanling Bypass and West Rail Phase II will enter Long Valley from the northeast and fragment the plain completely.
- The proposed plan has been given a go ahead even though the public consultation about the Planning and Development Studies on North East New Territories and the Environmental

Impact Assessment are both still going on.

- In the recent policy address, the Chief Executive of HKSAR has announced a commitment to the practice of sustainable development in Hong Kong and maintain Hong Kong's biodiversity. The proposed spur line contravenes the publicly proclaimed policy of the HKSAR Government.

香港科技大學數學系講師在互聯網上公開致運輸署反對上水至落馬洲鐵路支線(回應1999年10月4日在憲報第5774號通告)的信函，共收集了135個支持者的名字，一起提交運輸署、規劃環境地政局(現為規劃地政局)及規劃署。其提出反對之內容翻譯如下：

- 塱原是香港新界西北少數餘下的自然生境，是一個生態性重要的洪泛平原。塱原的損失是無法補償，為了我們的下一代著想，請支持保護塱原。
- 這是一個對野生動物尤其雀鳥特別重要的天然環境。塱原是一處生物多樣性很高的地方。由於鳥類在生物食物鏈中位列最高，所以鳥類品種的數量足以作地方生物多樣性的指標。塱原錄得鳥類品種數量，差不多佔有香港品種數量的一半(約210種)，足可比較全中國1,200種鳥類的數量。
- 在一些環保團體建議下，可考慮其他相對平宜和可行的路線(請參考香港觀鳥會提出的可行路線)。
- 不單只現時計劃中的鐵路支線直插塱原心臟地帶，其他相關的發展，如計劃中的在新界東北及西北規劃及發展研究內的粉嶺繞道、西鐵二期，都從西北方將塱原割裂。
- 雖然現時規劃署的規劃研究以及生態環境影響評估正在進行階段，但是該項發展計劃現經已展開。
- 最近的施政報告中，香港特別行政區政府長官宣佈承諾實施香港可持續發展和維持生物多樣性。這個鐵路支線計劃成為了政府公佈施政方針的矛盾。

## Words from the Heart 心聲

### 保護松柏塢

曾潔雯 (香港道教聯合會鄧顯紀念中學)

昨天往松柏塢之前，我們甚少認識到香港仍有這麼可愛、這麼純樸、這麼少高樓大廈的地方。在另一角度，松柏塢是個適合雀鳥棲息的好處所，亦是多種珍貴候鳥的中途站，因為它還未受到嚴重的污染，還未成為石屎森林，成為新市鎮發展的犧牲品。我們常自恃萬物之靈，單為了一己之便，便隨意開拓發展有限的土地。我們真的忽略了怎去欣賞讚美大自然的美及它們為人們帶來的好處！

人們常說「搵食」艱難，亦常說要爭取居留權，原來整個地球上的生物的狀態也一樣。為甚麼？是人類太霸道嗎？我們在書本上學到有關環境保護的甚麼，難道真的只是紙上談兵嗎？我們忍心讓我們後代，只能從照片中看到這些美麗的自然寫照嗎？我們可不能抹殺別的生物選擇的權利啊！興建鐵路真的沒有更適合的地方可供選擇？如果沒有，可於與環保與快捷間再作一次情感的抉擇嗎？若要保護環境生態，便請給牠們留下生存的空間。

### 觀鳥行——松柏塢

欣欣 (道教聯合會鄧顯紀念中學)

千禧年的第二個週末，想不到是這樣有意義的一個週末。我跟隨生物科老師，到燕崗／松柏塢濕地觀賞雀鳥。

今天陽光暖和，到達燕崗，眼看見一大片菜田，綠油油的；一片蔚藍的天空；一陣陣清涼的風，捲送著清新的空氣，薰得人醉了。怪不得鳥兒都被這裡吸引住，紛紛飛來探訪。

我們一行人，跟隨香港觀鳥會的導師開始深入探訪這片濕地。我記得第一隻在望遠鏡中覓到的鳥兒叫「Birds of Prey」，中文名字可記不起了。我們隨著田間小路往前走，一路上尋覓鳥兒的影蹤，又看到了「白鷺」、「棕扇尾鶯」和「黑領棕鳥」——因為牠頭上的羽毛有一圈呈黑色，就像西裝的領子般而得名。旅程中最新奇的事是能看見一幅「紅隼」和「喜鵲」打鬥的場面，我還是第一次看見鳥兒打鬥呢，令我對「物競天擇」這個詞語有更深的體會。然而，在眾多觀賞到的雀鳥中（有些沒有提到是因為記不起牠們的名字了），我最喜歡的是名叫「白胸鈞魚郎」（White Breast Kingfisher）的鳥，牠的名字動聽而特別，而牠白色的肚子和背部天藍色的花紋更令我難以忘懷。

因為對科學的興趣，我常渴望親近大自然，但一直都只是空想，沒有實際行動。這次觀鳥行，不但使我能親近大自然，而且讓我觀賞和認識到多種鳥類的名稱和特色，確實獲益良多，體現到一點「讀萬卷書不如行萬里路」的意味。有機會的話，我希望能再次到訪這片雀鳥的棲息地。

### A trip of Bird Watching to Long Valley

Tsang Wai Ling (Q.E.S.O.S.A. Secondary School)

On 8th January, I joined a Bird Watching trip. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong organized this activity. They chose Long Valley to be our observing point.

Long Valley is the largest freshwater wetland left in the northwestern part of the New Territories. It is a unique place where active farming activities are undergoing. There are more than 210 bird species that have been recorded. Nearly half of the birds are in the list of Hong Kong. There were

Article "Save Long Valley" by Miss Tsang of Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School. It is the first time for her to visit this open space in Hong Kong. She worried whether our children can have any chance to see this valuable piece of habitat again, or just from the photograph images, if the area has developed. Can the decision-maker place consideration on "convenience" and "conservation" again?



Illustration by Matthew Kwan  
圖：關朗曦

Article "Bird watching tour - Long Valley" a student of Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School. She felt bird watching and site visit can lead her to appreciate the nature directly, rather than from books and imagination. She is looking forward to visiting the place again.

本文作者於一月八日參與觀鳥活動，當中發現不少色彩鮮艷奪目的雀鳥。可惜直插塢原心臟的鐵路支線令她頓時為這些野生鳥類而擔憂。她認為政府應徹實執行「可持續發展」，並應重視其中一項「生物多樣化」作為發展的原則。



really beautiful and funny, such as White-breasted Kingfisher. Some of them were very colourful. Some of them had their own specific flying methods and sounds. There are the way to know that what kinds of birds they are. On that day, I saw Chinese Bulbul, Crested Bulbul, Black-necked Starling, Rufous-backed Shrike and Magpie.

Obviously, once Long Valley is lost, birds will suffer and so would the biodiversity of Hong Kong. The Government if promoting "sustainable development". Biodiversity is one of the eight guiding principles. Allowing the railway to pierce into the heart of Long Valley is indeed sad and miserable. I also do not want the Government to allow the railway to pierce into the heart of Long Valley. This will lead to increased environmental disturbance, which will affect the habitat of wildlife. Many birds will lose their homes and we also will lose a good place for watching birds and a chance to enjoy the nature.

Wong Mei Tsz (Q.E.S.O.S.A. Secondary School)

We visited Long Valley on 8-1-2000 to take a closer look at the life of birds. Long Valley is the largest remaining freshwater wetland in Hong Kong. It is a unique place where active-farming activities is undergoing. More than 210 bird species have been recorded in there. Nearly half of the Hong Kong lists. Its importance equals to Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve.

When I arrived there, I would just see a big farmland. There are some vegetables that can be found in Hong Kong market but seldom grow in Hong Kong, such as Water Spinach and Watercress. I saw Watercress growing in the damp fields that are full of sludge. Afterward, I will make the Watercress cleaner before I eat!

Because we did not have enough of binoculars, we couldn't see the birds clearly every time. But there are some kinds of birds that I especially remember. One is Yellow Wagtail. It has a yellow zone on its eyes, like Ninja Turtles! Another one is Crested Myna. It has a large white under each wing. It is very interesting when it flies! After this trip, I know that different kinds of birds have their own features. We can classify them easily.

According to the Government town plan, the construction of railways is going to go across the Long Valley flood plains. Birds depend on the diversity of microhabitats in the freshwater wetland environment of the plain are driven to a corner and there is nowhere to retreat further. Once Long Valley is gone, there is no replacement in Hong Kong. Natural and cultural heritage will evaporate. I hope that more Hong Kong people can understand the importance of biodiversity of Hong Kong.

### Lok Ma Chau spur line

Chan Pui Ching (Q.E.S.O.S.A. Secondary School)

We need to get your support to save the wild life!

On 8th January 2000 afternoon, our group went to bird watching with 5 of our school teachers and some members of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. The place we visited was Long Valley. Long Valley is about the size of one to two Victoria Park and is the last remaining piece of land representative of the flood plain in the northwestern part of the New Territories. In Long Valley, there are more than 210 kinds of bird species according to a record in 1993, nearly half the total number of bird species. Three of the species are vulnerable and eight are near threatened by global standards.

On that day, we watched many kinds of birds, e.g. Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, Chinese Bulbul, Crested Bulbul, Rufous-backed Shrike, Black-necked Starling and Crested Myna...We were very



Photo by: Henry Lui  
攝影: 呂德恒

本文作者第一次見到田地上種植的西生菜，活躍於田間的黃鶺鴒、八哥，感到非常雀躍，並覺得要分辨牠們並不困難。可惜濕原一旦受破壞，所連帶的，不只是鳥類失去了家園，香港文化傳統也會隨之失去。作者希望更多香港市民能明白生物多樣性的重要性。

本文作者自參與本會一月八日「燕崗/松柏塢濕地生境多面體」活動後，將所見所聞，向各同學介紹濕地對野生生物的重要性，並呼籲同學參與簽名運動，促請政府重新考慮在濕地的鐵路施工地點，修正這段鐵路的興建位置，減少對松柏塢平原一帶的破壞。請見第37頁。

excited that we could see so many kinds of birds in the Long Valley flood plain. This can help us understand the close relationship between freshwater wetland and birds, as well as ecology and local cultural characteristics.

When we were enjoying bird watching, we heard a piece of unhappy news saying that a 7.4m Kowloon-Canton Railway Corp (KCRC) spur line will cut through the heart the 25ha freshwater wetland. The reason that why we were unhappy because we all know Long Valley is important to the birds. If the railway were built there, many birds would lose their homes that are to us more important than the penetration of roads and railways into the plain.

The government claimed that the railway work is necessary because of the increasing population. However, many people and green organizations (e.g. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong.) object government's development plan to build the Sheung Shui-Lok Ma Chau spur line which cuts across the Long Valley Flood land. From the booklet, 'Take a closer look of Long Valley', we know HKBWS first made records of Painted Snipe at Long Valley, last year's data shows that there are only 20-30 of this bird are living in Hong Kong now.

We all know, if the government destroyed Long Valley, it would reduce the chance of birds survival, so our group is object the government's development plan of building Lok Ma Chau spur line across the Long Valley flood plain.

### 松柏塋觀鳥記

何狄嘉 (伊利沙伯中學舊生會中學)

在本年的一月八日，我們得到陳sir的特別優待，前往上水的松柏塋觀鳥，使我過了很有意義的一天。

當天，我們在出發前，香港觀鳥會的導師派發了一些有關松柏塋的報章及自製的刊物給我們，使我對完全陌生的松柏塋得到基本的認識。原來它位於上水的古洞附近，車程大概費時五分鐘。還有，它現在受到一個很嚴重的危機威脅——規劃署有意於該處大興土木，以九廣東鐵的落馬洲支線貫穿該地，割成兩份，而且政府又於近期公布的新界西北部規劃和研究草圖中，一段計劃中的粉嶺繞道及西鐵第二期將會再將此地割碎——我聽後也大為震驚，這樣會嚴重破壞自然生態，叫雀鳥如何棲息，這樣與戮殺鳥類有何分別？

下車後，我們跟隨著導師開始遊覽。「呼.....」我深深吸了一口氣，去感受大自然給予我的一切。四周也綠草如茵，生氣盎然，也有的種滿青菜，例如西洋菜、菠菜、生菜等。驀然，導師停了下來，放下手中的觀鳥器材，原來他發現有雀鳥的蹤跡！於是我們紛紛跑上前。聽過導師詳盡的解釋後，才知道地名叫棕背伯勞。半響，我們繼續上路。我們沿著田地一邊走，也碰上了不少鳥朋友，例如有家八哥、喜鵲、池鷺、小白鷺、白頭鵝、紅耳鵝、黃鵪鶉等，其中的兩只最令我印象深刻，一只名叫黑領棕鳥（又稱花了哥），因為牠們的特徵是在頸的四周也是黑色，因而命名，另一只叫做烏鵲，因而令我聯想起美味的「烏冬」！沿途，只見導師們不厭其煩地為我們詳盡地介紹，又翻閱書籍讓我們查看，使我們對該鳥類有更多的認識，實在使我們十分感激。大概五時三十分左右，我們便在夕陽的映照下離開了松柏塋，乘坐汽車離開！

在這次的觀鳥過程中，除了認識很多的鳥朋友外，也被牠們那種無拘無束的生活渲染了，使我更重視屬於我們的一片大自然。它不但是鳥類們、動物們的家，也是我們的「家」！故此，我希望規劃署及政府不要破壞我們的「家」，不妨對觀鳥會的加以考慮，及重新評估是次的計劃。



Article "A birdwatching tour to Long Valley" by Miss T.K.Ho of Q.E.S.O.S.A. Secondary School. She enjoyed the study of birds and environment through direct observation. She appreciated the freedom of bird and wildlife in this piece of land that has stimulate her concern of "home". She urged the government and Planning Department to consider again and not to destroy the "home" for everyone of us.

Photo by: Henry Lui  
攝影：呂德恒

## 松柏望後感

盧鈺珠 (伊利沙伯中學舊生會中學)

今天，我們跟隨香港觀鳥會的成員一起到松柏望觀鳥。到達目的地以後，我們分成數組人員分別觀察雀鳥。我們在農田旁邊的小徑上慢慢踱步，一方面能隨著導師帶領，到處遊觀雀鳥，另一方面能感受大自然的清新。放眼遠見，眼前一片綠田園，實在令人驚歎，然而這種綠油油的感覺亦令人眷戀。農田的植物種類可多了，有白菜、西洋菜、生菜、菠菜、菜心、蔥等等，應有盡有，這亦是吸引雀鳥留連的原因。我們今天還夠幸運，剛巧碰上這樣晴朗、爽涼的天氣，觀察所得的成果也不錯，我們可見到家八哥、棕背伯勞、小白鷺、大白鷺、喜鵲、紅耳鵲、白頭鵲、黑領棕鳥、烏鶇以及麻雀。

到了旅程的尾聲，我們由一條幾乎是在田野上的小徑上慢慢走出這個環境範圍以外，感受盡是大自然的氣味，處身在田野當中的感覺是無憂無慮，如釋重負。但再望向遠方的鐵路，卻又是一片黯然，回顧剛才走近未來將建上鐵路的範圍內，看見身旁一片片已經荒廢多時的農地，不禁暗自問：這些農田為甚麼要荒廢呢？

我們在黃昏之下離開大自然，再走回我的龐大石屎森林。

經過這次的活動，我們學到很多有關鳥類的常識，以及可親身觀察鳥類的品種。同樣亦明白到社會的發展對環境所帶來的影響，就以松柏望為例，鐵路的興建，慢慢地侵佔了大自然的土壤，影響了雀鳥的生活方式，直接地影響著大自然的生態環境，難道這是必然的嗎？一個很自然的現象，在人類社會的發展過程，我們便往往忽視了另一方面的重要性——環境，卻偏偏遺忘了環境與整個社會發展是有直接的關係。由於「良好的環境」是「可持續發展」的條件，兩者擁有相當重要的因果關係，所以得到良好的環境才可達到可持續發展的目的。

## Comment from other countries (Source: Q.E.S.O.S.A. Secondary School)

海外來鴻 (資料來源：伊利沙伯舊生會中學)

### Message 1

Dear Hong Kong!

We object the building of the Lok Ma Chau spur line across the Long Valley. We have a similar problem in our town, Lund, in the part where I am living! The conflict is about that the community wants to lower the waterlevel here at the bog of Nöbbelov, to build a tunnel under a railway nearby. This would probably result in the drying of the lake and the three-artesian wells with continuously upcoming pure water for anyone to drink.

Some animal species you can find are lapwing, common snipe, oystercatcher, redshank, lark, pheasant, partridge, marsh harrier, kite, buzzard, kestrel and for the moment a family of swans with around almost fully grown young stocks.

Wishing you good luck with the protection of the fauna and flora in your area! Especially as I have been to Hong Kong recently, and saw hundreds of (red?) kites-using the termals to gain height, I would like to follow, what happens to Long Valley!

Cordially yours,  
Birgitta  
(From Sweden)

### Message 2

Hello,

This is indeed a sad thing to hear but we must face reality no matter how harsh it seems and try to be strong. It is when the wind blows strongest that we must stand tall and not let ourselves be blown over by forces which seem so strong. Let me say that life is not easy, but you already know that I'm sure, so it's important that one never feels defeated because it is when we give in and admit defeat that the battle is over. Keep on loving the beautiful, majestic birds and pray that they will be spared from pain and suffering. I am praying for you that whatever may happen the birds are not killed and that they may find another habitat however hard it may be.

By Natasha Hartling  
(From Canada)

Article "My views of the Long Valley visit" by Miss Y.C. Lo of E.S.O.S.A. Secondary School. She was attracted by the large vegetable field and the number of wild bird that she had not seen before. She felt sad that social development has caused various impacts to natural environment. Consideration has to be placed between "better environment" and "sustainable environment", in order to achieve the aim of sustainable development.

South China Morning Post  
南華早報

13/12/1999

Link threatens bird haven

By Alex Lo

Bird-watchers have fired the first shot in a battle to save a flood plain that shelters half of Hong Kong's bird species.

The haven is threatened by a rail link between Sheung Shui station and a new terminal at Lok Ma Chau.

The 7.4km Kowloon-Canton Railway Corp (KCRC) spur line will cut through the heart of Long Valley - a 25ha freshwater wetland about 1.5 times the size of Victoria Park.

The partitioning of the area - bounded by Ho Sheung Heung to the north, Yin Kong and Tsung Pak Long to the south and the existing railway to the east - will destroy natural habitat and threaten at least 12 bird species, experts say.

In a formal letter of objection to the Transport Bureau on December 7, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society warned that the ecological value of the wetland, likened to an inland version of Mai Po, could not be over-estimated and its loss was irreplaceable.

"The proposed location of the spur line will lead to fragmentation of the habitat, which is a well-established cause of the collapse of natural habitats," it said.

"The destruction will be a major blow to the maintenance of bio-diversity, which is one of the eight key guiding principles in the Government's committed policy on sustainable development."

The wetland is home to 210 species of birds, about half of the known species in Hong Kong.

Of these, three are vulnerable and eight near-threatened by international conservation standards. The rare Painted Snipe would become extinct in Hong Kong if the project went ahead, the society says.

"It's not too late to stop this. The rail link is still on the drawing board," society conservation committee member Fung Po-kei said.

The bird-watching group has proposed two alternative routes - one passing north of Ho Sheung Heung and one south of Yin Kong and Tsung Pak Long - to bypass the valley.

The Transport Bureau said it was checking public objections after a consultation period ended last week, and it was too early to say if the proposed route would be revised.

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Ming Po  
明報港聞

19/12/1999

松柏塢雀鳥生態堪危

記者梁寶華

有米埔第二之稱 擬建鐵路公路橫跨

鄰近上水古洞，有「米埔第二」之稱的雀鳥天堂「松柏塢」，獲規劃環境地政局局長蕭炯柱點名為具保育價值的自然濕地。但另一邊廂，蕭局長手下的規劃署卻考慮以鐵路加上公路，割裂並摧毀這片濕地，危及不少珍禽的家園。

南華早報在3/12/1999對有關九廣鐵路落馬洲至上水的支線會將塢原生境嚴重片斷化。計劃中鐵路支線會破壞塢原的生物多樣性，而與香港特別行政區政府宣佈會實行可持續發展(其中生物多樣性是可持續發展中八項指導原則中其中一項的方針互相抵觸。香港觀鳥會現已提出兩條代替的可能路線，在塢原外面經過，以減低對這生態重要地方的影響。

Ming Pao 19/12/2000 reports the threats of the KCRC spur line and Fanling Bypass to birds at Long Valley. It announced the HKBWS will submit a proposal related to habitat protection and overall health of the public. It also mentioned HKBWS has received widespread support from overseas visitors who have visited Long Valley before.

規劃環境地政局發言人回應，有關發展計劃仍未落實，現階段只是進行公眾諮詢，市民可提出反對意見。而九廣鐵路亦將會就穿越松柏望的落馬洲支線，進行全面的環境影響評估，另外，新界東北發展的生態影響評估，今年底會就保存濕地形態及功能提出建議。

松柏望是彩鶉在香港僅餘的棲息地。觀鳥會今年首次在松柏望實地找到彩鶉在香港繁殖的「真憑實據」，彩鶉的巢、彩鶉的蛋、彩鶉的鸚鵡得以首次展現香港市民眼前。

這片位處新界東北洪氾平原的淡水濕地，除了是彩鶉在香港僅有的棲息地之一，自九三年後就錄得二百一十種雀鳥的蹤影，幾乎相當於全港雀鳥紀錄的一半。

### 有三種瀕危雀鳥影蹤

觀鳥會副會長張浩輝形容，松柏望是香港第二個米埔，該處有三種全球瀕危雀鳥的蹤影，包括烏鶇、白肩鶇及硫黃鶇，並有八種世界性受威脅的雀鳥。

松柏望的觀鳥地位已躋身國際，特意來港觀鳥的台灣四日三夜團，以及不少外國及日本的觀鳥愛好者，都會到松柏望。張浩輝說，若適當管理，松柏望可發展成生態旅遊點。

### 鐵路公路三分鳥天堂

可是，政府大興土木的計劃，再令這片香港珍貴綠色遺跡的前景蒙上陰影，繼東鐵上水至落馬洲支線將這片濕地割開兩半，路政署一條連接古洞北與粉嶺北的六線公路(粉嶺繞道)，將進一步把這片只比一個半維多利亞公園大一點的雀鳥天堂割開三份。

最令觀鳥會氣惱的，是規劃署官員在十月的環境諮詢委員會會議上堅稱，有關道路未立項；事隔數周，規署進行公開諮詢的新界東北規劃及發展研究，卻揭露該處將有一條六條行車公路，貫穿松柏望的心臟地帶，藉以紓緩青山公路及粉嶺公路的交通負荷。

張浩輝說，松柏望是一片生態敏感的土地，大興土木會令鳥兒無法找到落腳點。他建議政府考慮將鐵路及公路移位避開這片濕地的可行性，例如將粉嶺繞道北移至雙魚河對岸。

事實上，新界東北規劃研究的顧問，亦作出同樣建議，環境諮詢委員會將於明日(十二月二十日)討論。

### 觀鳥會向當局提建議

觀鳥會稍後將向港府提交建議，希望既可保留松柏望的生態價值，又可為新市鎮的市民提供休憩及旅遊的地點。新界東北研究的公眾諮詢將於明年一月十五日結束。

### 各國觀鳥者網上表關注

為了保留松柏望這片雀鳥天堂，香港觀鳥會上月二十八日，於互聯網上要求曾到松柏望的外國訪客，表達意見，結果在短短三天內，支持從四方八面湧至，包括韓國旅遊局的顧問。

Nial Moores是韓國旅遊局有關觀鳥問題的顧問，亦是一名生態規劃者，以及韓國濕地聯盟的國際統籌人。他透過網上郵件表示，他曾到松柏望兩次。其中一次領著一班日本的觀鳥者。

「這地區(松柏望)很偉大，因有很多淡水濕地雀鳥的種類，此地明顯對保持香港地區物種多樣化極之重要……若繼續衰變，這將會是香港非常重要的損失，以及損害香港的環保形象。」他說。

美國、英國、法國及韓國的觀鳥者亦電郵到觀鳥會的網頁新聞組，支持保護松柏望。其中英國觀鳥者Andrew Hadacre表示，從網上得悉松柏正面臨威脅，令他非常傷感，若下次來港未能到松柏望觀鳥，將叫他失望。他指出，香港雖然以米埔及大埔濶聞名於世，但他認為松柏望的價值一樣重要。

而來自法國的支持者則表示，在松柏望看到不少香港其他地方無法見得到的雀鳥，而該處的傳統農業及優美地勢，為外國訪客提供香港現代化的另一面。兩名曾居住香港三年，現身處美國的觀鳥者，亦曾到訪松柏望五至六次。他們建議旅遊協會應將松柏望列作景點之一，因為該處的牛及農耕作業，喚醒大家腦海中中國油畫的景象。

[Ed -- see page 26 to 27 for related information.]

編者按：請參閱第26至27頁]



Apple Daily 9/1/2000 reports the threat of the construction of Fanling Bypass and KCRG spur line. It also reported that ACE has endorsed moving the proposed Fanling Bypass to the north of Long Vally, avoiding destroying this valuable habitat. However, the KCRG spur line is still going ahead.

### 塢原濕地珍藏媲美米埔

### 救全港半數鳥粉嶺繞道北移

【記者蔡元貴報道】特區政府高唱環保，計劃在十一年內在新界東北部發展三個環保新市鎮，標榜「高質素的環境生態」，卻遭受本港兩大綠色組織聯手抨擊，指政府在該區擬建的粉嶺繞道及西鐵粉嶺至落馬洲支線，勢必嚴重破壞上水燕崗及松柏塢一帶濕地的雀鳥生態。據悉，當局初步同意更改粉嶺繞道的路線。

上水燕崗及松柏塢北面的一片土地簡稱塢原，是香港北部平原餘下最大片的淡水濕地，亦是少數仍有濕地農耕活動的地方。在這片面積相等於兩個維多利亞公園的氾濫平原裡，竟棲息了超過二百一十種雀鳥，佔香港已知鳥類數目的一半，其中十一種被列為「瀕危」和「受威脅」品種，生態價值媲美米埔自然保護區。

規劃署去年底公布新界東發展計劃，擬在古洞北、粉嶺北及坪輦，打鼓嶺發展三個環保新市鎮，以便於二〇一一年容納十八萬人居。政府聲稱，新市鎮盡可能會保護高質素的環境、生態及景觀資源，並採用行人自動系統，減少汽車污染，成為無煙市鎮。

### 抗議鐵路延線穿心臟

然而，由於新市鎮交通要倚賴鐵路和沿市鎮周邊的公路，政府需要在塢原上興建一條上水至落馬洲鐵路支線及一條粉嶺繞道，穿越燕崗及松柏塢濕地，引起香港觀鳥會和世界自然基金會的強烈反對。香港觀鳥會委員馬嘉慧警告，這樣做將會導致塢原的自然生態環境喪失殆盡。她說，塢原一去，鳥口凋零，香港生物多樣化將受沉重打擊，下一代就更難認識大自然生態。

不過規劃署官員在最近一次的環境諮詢委員會上已答允，重劃粉嶺繞道路線，把公路北移至雙魚河以北，避開塢原，惟上水至落馬洲鐵路支線則暫時未有計劃改道。

觀鳥會委員馬嘉慧對規劃署的決定表示鼓舞，並促請政府進一步移走直插塢原心臟的鐵路支線。

規劃署目前正就新界東發展研究諮詢公眾意見，截止日期為本月十五日，觀鳥會呼籲市民去信政府表達反對意見。

意見書可傳真至25228524或電郵至 [srpd@pland.gen.gov.hk](mailto:srpd@pland.gen.gov.hk)。

Oriental Daily 9/1/2000 reports the threats of the construction of Fanling Bypass and KCRG spur line. It also reported that ACE has endorsed moving the proposed Fanling Bypass to the north of Long Vally, avoiding destroying this valuable habitat. However, the KCRG spur line is still going ahead.

### 粉嶺繞道改路濕地群鳥有救

位於上水松柏塢的濕農地，有「米埔第二」之稱，是本港雀鳥棲息的主要地點之一，但計畫中的落馬洲鐵路支線和粉嶺繞道，卻貫穿這片雀鳥天堂，令二百多種雀鳥的生存空間備受威脅。據了解，經多個環保團體反映意見後，規劃署內部已初步同意更改圖則，將道路繞過該幅土地。

香港觀鳥會指出，七十年代以來石崗、錦田、天水圍及落馬洲等地相繼「淪陷」，原來平原處處的自然生態環境，絕大部分因大大小小的發展項目而先後喪失，松柏塢已是新界西北廣泛平原上最後一幅殘存的濕農地。

### 規劃署未列保護區

濕農地從前主要用來種植通菜、西洋菜等水生蔬菜，耕種方法造就了很多濕地小生態，包括水浸渠道、儲水池、水浸田地，以至長滿草的沼澤田野，能以小面積土地容下大量品種的雀鳥。

松柏塋這片多年來仍未被規劃署列作保護區的雀鳥天堂，在國際間早已聲名大噪，日本、台灣等地愛好觀鳥人士經常組團到來觀鳥，與米埔相比，不遑多讓。

### 瀕危鳥類棲身天堂

根據觀鳥會資料，面積達二十五公頃的松柏塋濕農地，曾錄得二百一十種鳥類在該處棲息，佔香港出現鳥種一半，其中三種屬瀕危品種，包括鳥鵲、白肩鵲及硫黃鵲。

依賴濕農地繁殖及生活的本地雀鳥品種彩鵲 (Rostratula Benghalen)，更受到觀鳥人士極度關注，科學界已證實彩鵲只可在濕農地繁殖存活，觀鳥會亦曾於去年夏天在該地發現彩鵲繁殖的證據，包括彩鵲的雀巢、雀蛋和雛鳥。此外，白腹山鵲、燕隼等十多種本地重要品種，亦與彩鵲有相似習性。

不過，這幅碩果僅存的濕農地，將要面對多項運輸設施發展的威脅。規劃署較早前公布的新界東北規劃及發展研究透露，計畫中由古洞北連接粉嶺公路的粉嶺繞道，將會由南至北貫穿松柏塋西面土地。該條道路將有助交通分流，令跨境車輛毋須駛經上水和粉嶺新市鎮，減少貨櫃車對區內交通的影響。

### 新道路繞過松柏塋

規劃署官員表示，該署考慮觀鳥會的意見後，已決定重新規劃粉嶺繞道的路線，新道路會在松柏塋外繞過，盡量不會影響鳥類棲息環境。

至於另一項發展計畫東鐵落馬洲支線工程，則由西至東貫穿松柏塋北面土地。運輸局發言人回應稱，該項工程於去年十月二日刊憲以來，至今已接獲四十五份反對意見，該局短期內會召開反對該項計畫的團體。

發言人強調，鐵路路線絕非不可更改，倘若團體堅持不收回反對意見，該局就會交由行政會議作最後決定。

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### TVB News

#### TVB 新聞

[http://203.80.96.30/news/2000/0326/j06\\_28k.rm](http://203.80.96.30/news/2000/0326/j06_28k.rm) (Chinese)

26/3/2000

### 九鐵拒絕修改落馬洲支線

九廣鐵路拒絕修改落馬洲支線經過濕地的路線，他們只同意途經松柏塋濕地的鐵路會用高架路軌，避免鳥類棲息的濕地受到破壞，但環保團體就懷疑這樣做沒有效。

\*\*\*\*\*

### Sing Tao Daily

#### 星島日報

### 落馬洲線路橫跨自然濕地

#### 環保團體獻計保珍禽

九鐵上水至落馬洲支線橫跨上水松柏塋自然濕地的計劃，一直受到環保團體抨擊。長春社指當局未盡力保護濕地，將令珍貴雀鳥失去棲所，該社現正研究保育可行方案予當考慮。不過九鐵公司指現時方案已屬最佳選擇，若爭拗持續，最終須交行政會議「一槓定音」。

九鐵上水至落馬洲支線在去年十月刊憲，興建目的為紓緩羅湖過境口岸的擠逼，預計在二〇〇四年落成，故須趕及在今年底前拍板興建，明年初動工。

KCRC refused to change the plan of spur-line passing through the heart of Long Valley. They insisted using flyover railways to avoid disturbance to birds. Environmental organizations suspected the effectiveness of such method.

27/3/2000 Sing Tao Daily reported that KCRC is not planning to change their routing because of technical problems. There are objections from various sides, including a local green group - The Conservancy Association (CA). CA reflected that although the government announced environmental protection, it has not put enough effort on conservation issues.



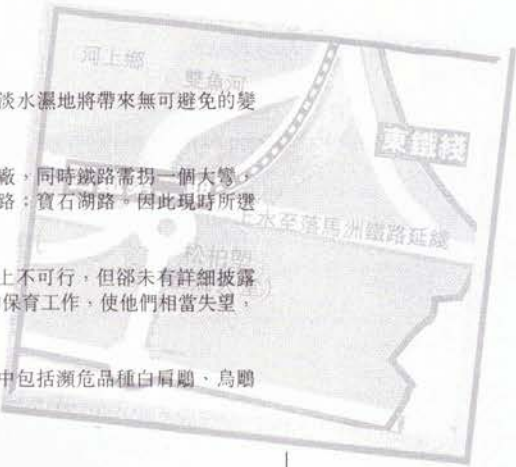
## 斥港府未盡保育工作

不過，該鐵路線將橫跨上水壟一帶，對該處的燕崗及松柏塢的淡水濕地將帶來無可避免的變更。九鐵方面亦建議用高架鐵路方式，以保留濕地。

九鐵發言人指出，該支線若北移，將會影響上水屠房、污水處理廠，同時鐵路需拐一個大彎，涉及收地面積增加。若向南移，則需截去通往文錦關卡的主要道路：寶石湖路。因此現時所選取方案已是最妥善的選擇。

長春社總幹事張麗萍直言，九鐵方面一直拒絕移線，理由是技術上不可行，但卻未有詳細披露是哪技術困難，而港府一邊強調環保，卻又不盡力研究罕有濕地的保育工作，使他們相當失望，該社正研究一些保育可行方案供當局研究。

松柏塢濕地有「米埔第二」的地位，有二百多種雀鳥棲息，當中包括瀕危品種白肩鵝、鳥鵲等，濕地面積達二十五公頃，因此極具保留價值。 本報記者



## South China Morning Post 南華早報

27/3/2000

### Alternative wetland rail lines refused

Alex Lo

Two alternative rail routes to avoid destruction of one of the territory's last major wetland outside Mai Po have been rejected by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation.

Long valley, a 25-hectare freshwater wetland near Sheung Shui, is home to 210 bird species, about half of the known species in Hong Kong.

They include a rare breeding bird, the painted snipe, and several globally threatened species such as Schrenck's bittern, imperial eagle and red-billed starling.

A 7.4km spur line linking Sheung Shui to a new rail terminal at Lok Ma Chau proposed by the corporation will cut through the heart of Long Valley.

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has warned this will destroy the wetland and has proposed two bypass routes to the north and south of the area earmarked for the line. But the corporation has already rejected both routes, arguing that one to the north would cut through an existing waste water treatment plan and a slaughterhouse.

The one to the south would cost too much in land compensation.

An ecological impact study by the corporation has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Department, but has not been approved.

The Bird Watching Society said it would not wait but would take its fight to the public.

"We will no longer just argue with the KCRC or the Transport Department - too much public interest is at stake," the society's conservation officer and associate geography professor Dr Ng Cho-nam said.

"It's time to educate the public about the ecological value of this piece of land and mobilise public opinion."

The corporation said two nearby temporary marshes would be penned off for birds during construction and the spur line would be built on viaducts rather than at ground level to minimise disturbance.

27/3/2000 南華早報報導有關九鐵拒絕更改有關上水至落馬洲鐵路支線的規劃，容讓鐵路插入壟原，破壞當地生態環境，並謂會將鐵路建設在高架天橋上，以減低對野生生物的干擾。九鐵辯稱，香港觀鳥會提出的兩條可行路綫，其中一條以北的路綫會影響現有的污水處理廠和屠房，而以南的一條會增加收回土地成本。報導又指出九鐵先前提交環保署的環境影響評估已被否決。觀鳥會對此表示會發動進一步行動，保護壟原這個擁有香港過半數鳥類種類的地方。



**South China Morning Post**  
南華早報

20/12/1999

## *Unique ecological heritage can be preserved*

In his presentation of the SAR Government's plans for 'Pollution Free New Towns at Kwu Tung North and Fanling North' on November 19, the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Gordon Siu noted that the wet agricultural land at Tsung Pak Long would be protected as an area of ecological and cultural value; a welcome promise.

This area, known to local birdwatchers as Long Valley, is the most important unprotected site for birds in Hong Kong.

More than 200 species have been recorded here to date, including several species rarely, if ever, found elsewhere in Hong Kong. These include the painted snipe, a very rare breeding bird in Hong Kong and globally threatened species such as the imperial eagle, Schrenck's bittern, and red-billed starling.

The site, (which is between 1.5 and two times the area of Victoria Park) is also a must-see site on the itineraries of overseas birdwatchers visiting Hong Kong and has been called an inland Mai Po by one of these visitors.

Currently the KCR Corporation plans to build the Lok Ma Chau spur line from east to west through the middle of the site and a road and another spur line from south to north, bisecting the railway.

This would break the valley into several smaller fragments of much lesser ecological value, forever changing its character as an area of open farmland.

Even though the KCRC plans to elevate the railway on a viaduct, there will still be serious disturbance, both during and after construction.

The Hong Kong Birdwatching Society believes that, by careful planning and routeing, road and rail disturbances to the site can be minimised, and the unique ecological and cultural heritage of the valley can be preserved.

We would hope that it could be preserved as a managed nature reserve and agricultural protection zone (a practice already in operation in parts of China) demonstrating how traditional agricultural practices can be beneficial to Hong Kong's biodiversity. We hope Mr Siu and the Planning Department will demonstrate that the SAR Government is not merely paying lip service to environmental concerns and will make every effort to ensure that Long Valley does not suffer the same fate as Kam Tin.

This formerly bird-rich area of farmland is rapidly being degraded to the point of destruction by the development of West Rail, Route 3 and other roads, storm drains and a new town, with little prospect of serious mitigation.

MIKE KILBURN  
Conservation Committee  
Hong Kong Birdwatching Society

本會自然保育委員20/12/1999  
去信南華早報編輯就有關規劃  
環境地政局(現為規劃地政局)  
蕭炳柱先生公開表示望原濕地  
應予保護的,但目前正備受九  
鐵支線發展的威脅。本會不希  
望望原生境會變成如現時的錦  
田一樣,受鐵路發展影響而喪  
失了重要的生態價值;並希望  
蕭先生和規劃署對此不是愚而  
論,而是貫徹關注環境的承  
諾。



水雉 (塋原)  
Pheasant-tailed Jacana (Long Valley)

霍棟豪  
Stanley Fok



白胸苦惡鳥 (塋原)  
White-breasted Waterhen (Long Valley)

呂德恒  
Henry Lui



彩鹬幼鳥 (塋原)  
Painted Snipe chick (Long Valley)

香港觀鳥會  
HKBWS



彩鹬 (雌性) (塋原)  
Painted Snipe (female) (Long Valley)

何永耀  
Ho Wing Yiu



彩鹬 (雄性) (塋原)  
Painted Snipe (male) (Long Valley)

盧嘉孟  
Lo Kar Man