

## A Changing Landscape, a Shifting Seashore

Through the stories villagers shared with me and my own research I was led through the history of the last 60 years in this unique part of Hong Kong. The map placed in the centre of the gallery is taken from a wonderful archive<sup>1</sup> of historic maps and aerial imagery dating back to the 1800s. This particular map, made in 1974, was chosen because it represents the mid-point of tremendous changes to village life. Looking to the East we can see the Sheun Wan (Plover Cove) reservoir has already been completed (1973) and was a major engineering feat holding 230 million m<sup>3</sup> of fresh water. As we move to the west near Tai Po, we see small markers indicating the start of construction of both the industrial estate and what is now Tai Po Centre. These massive engineering and land-reclamation projects drastically change the landscape and the lives of the villagers in both positive and negative ways.

In addition to the map the Orthographic aerial images accompanying each village cluster also highlight major changes to village life. They were taken in 1963 (except Sha Tau Kok in 1948) and show Ting Kok Road fully completed and the original seashore it followed. However, construction of Bride's Pool Rd had not even begun yet meaning all villages between Luk Keng and Tai Mei Tuk were still very difficult access and also had very limited utility services. Highlighted in blue are the original villages houses, most of which have now vanished but some of which were photographed by this project before their demise.

Each village has its own unique stories to tell yet the changes they experienced are all linked in one way or another to these major infrastructure projects, the construction of Ting Kok and of Brides Pool Roads, and the building of the reservoir and water catchment system. I encourage you to think about this as you look at the images and read the captions taken from interviews with the villagers. Note that captions do not necessarily belong to the particular village where they appear but are placed according to their relationship with the imagery captured.

透過村民的幫助，我的研究深入了解這個香港獨特地區過去 60 年的歷史。畫廊中央的地圖取自一個精彩的歷史地圖和航空影像檔案，可以追溯到 19 世紀。這張特定的地圖是 1974 年製作的，因為它代表了村莊生活巨大變化的中點。向東看，我們可以看到船灣淡水湖水庫已經竣工（1973 年），是一個能容納 2.3 億立方米淡水的重大工程。向西移動，接近大埔時，我們可以看到小標記，表示工業區和現在的大埔中心的建設已經開始。這些大規模的工程和土地復甦計劃從正面和負面兩方面大大改變了村民的生活和景觀。

<sup>1</sup> Map/Aerial Image sources: <https://www.hkmaps.hk>

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除了地圖外，每個村落旁的航空影像也突顯了村莊生活的重大變化。這些影像拍攝於 1963 年（沙頭角於 1948 年），顯示了汀角路已完全完成，並呈現了以前的海岸線。然而，新娘潭路的建設尚未開始，這意味著鹿頸至大美督之間的所有村莊仍然很難進入，並且只有非常有限的交通服務和設備。藍色標記的是原來在村落的房屋，其中大多數房除已經消失，但其中一些在它們消失之前被本項目拍攝到。

每個村落都有著獨特的故事，但他們所經歷的變化無論如何都與這些重要基建設施項目有關，包括汀角和新娘潭路的建設，以及水庫和集水系統的建造。我鼓勵您在觀看圖像和閱讀村民的訪談時，思考這一點。請注意，說明文字不一定屬於它們出現的特定村落，而是根據它們與所捕捉圖像的關係而放置。

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<sup>1</sup> Map/Aerial Image sources: <https://www.hkmaps.hk>