

A vibrant rainbow arches across a grey, overcast sky. Below the rainbow, a pond is filled with green lily pads and some brown, fallen leaves. In the background, a building with a green roof and white walls is partially obscured by lush green trees. The scene is peaceful and natural.

Mai Po Nature Reserve

New Tower Hides and Wooden Boardwalk

Stakeholder Engagement

December 2017 – March 2019

(Updated as of 3 April 2019)

Solutions for a living planet



Mai Po Infrastructure Upgrade project consultations took place in December 2017, June 2018, and March 2019.

This presentation covers the concept design for a wooden boardwalk and two new tower hides. These designs were presented to green groups and Mai Po local residents and are now provided to the Mai Po community as an open resource for transparency.

As the boardwalk and tower hides are to be built within Mai Po reserve they are subject to ecological monitoring and submission of Environmental Impact Assessment. These concept plans are being developed into detailed designs following these consultations.



MAI PO NATURE RESERVE



**New Public Tower Hide (TH3) at
gei wai 8 (Apr 2020 - Oct 2020)**

**Existing AFCD Footpath
improvement as a Boardwalk
(Apr 2020 - Oct 2020)**

**Follows 1km route built above
existing concrete path that runs
from AFCD post at entrance to
the reserve to the Education
Centre in the reserve. The path
passes the Tower hides at Gei
Wai8**

**New Researchers Tower Hide
(TH2) at gei wai 19 / 20
(Apr 2021 - Oct 2021)**

(Note: date may change based on updated progress plan)



Construction Timeline:

1. Boardwalk installation: Apr 2020 - Oct 2020
2. Tower Hide 3 Build: Apr 2020 - Oct 2020
3. Tower Hide 2 Build: Apr 2021 - Oct 2021

Boardwalk and Tower Hides 3 concurrent builds between Apr 2020 - Oct 2020. To minimise disturbance tower hides build aligned to the Mai Po Habitat Management Plan and WWF expects that the TH3 and TH2 will be built in consecutive years and outside migratory bird seasons

TH3 is primarily intended for community and school visitors.

TH2 is intended for researchers and experienced birdwatchers.

(Note: date subject to change based on updated progress plan)



Wooden Boardwalk built over existing visitor route

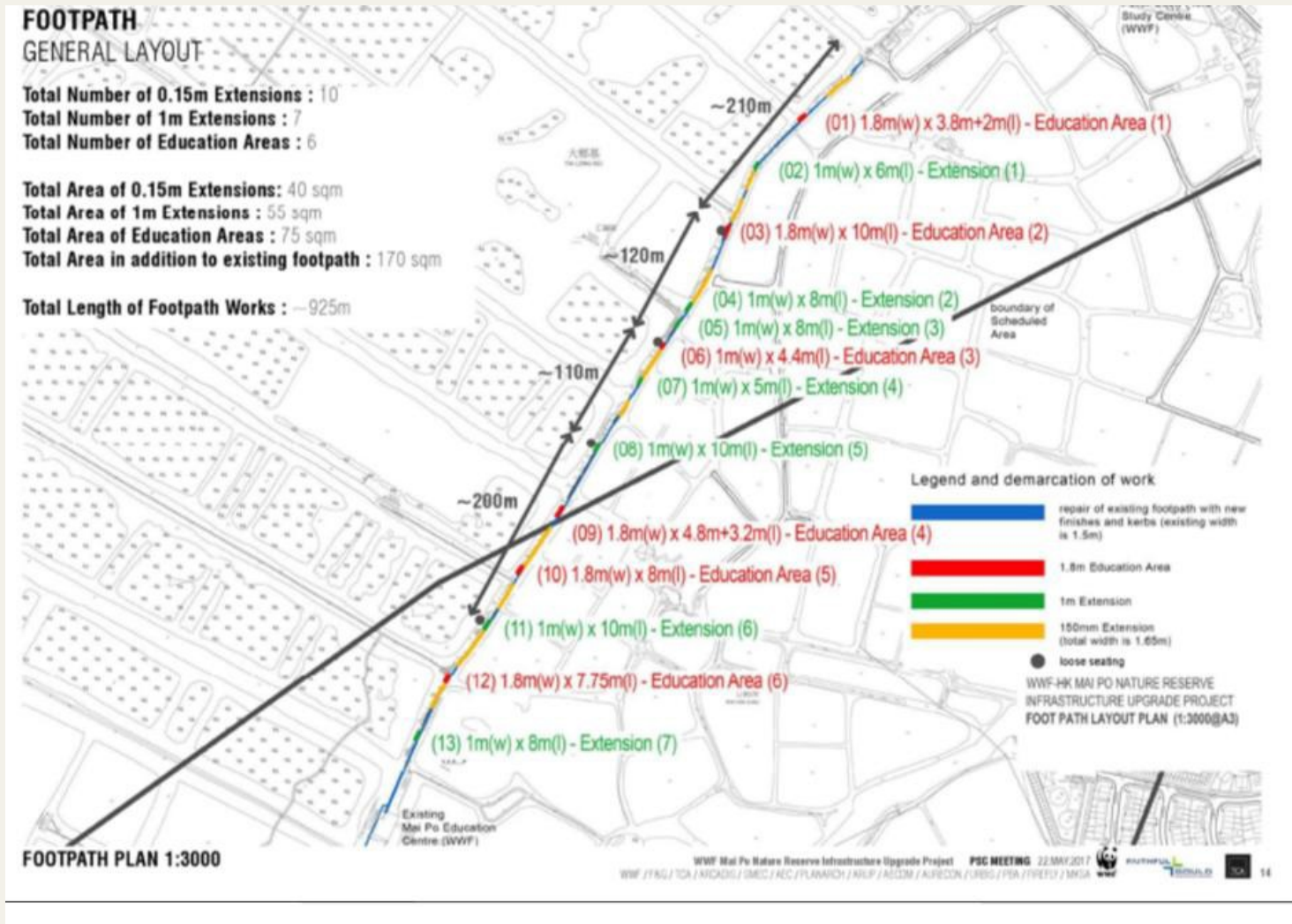
Upgrade to the existing footpath that connects Mai Po's various facilities with the construction of a wooden boardwalk and the widening to universal accessibility standards. The boardwalk path will be built above the existing concrete footpath, in keeping with the natural setting of the reserve. The boardwalk will support the school and other public visitors on guided visits with WWF and other visitors with permits to visit the reserve.

The wider path will not affect trees along the existing route but will be wider in places for universal access , providing seating, viewing spots and student class nooks. WWF will ensure universal access to the Education Centre and nearby bird watching hides.

WWF currently welcomes some 24,000 students and public visitors annually and facilities are used by these guided groups and other visitors with permits from AFCD. The guided visitor numbers have been at a peak of 40,000 in past years and expect to be around 32,000 in 2023.



Boardwalk built over existing route (showing education areas and passing bays)





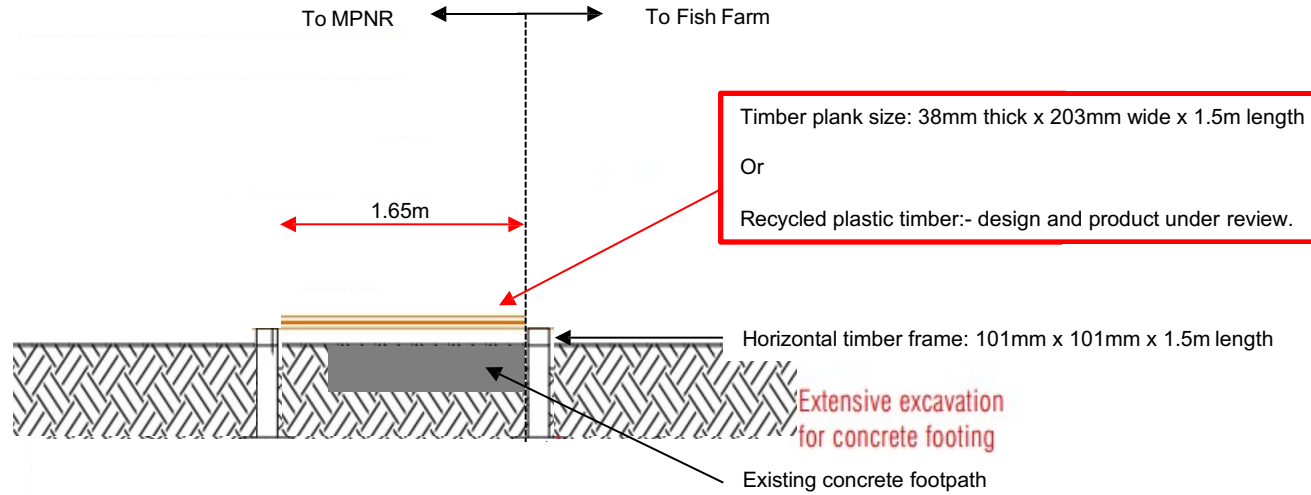
Wooden Boardwalk built over existing visitor route

The new boardwalk will be a minimum width of 1.65 metres with a safety lip for wheelchairs. The design includes 13 areas of an even greater width.

These will comprise the six education areas at points of educational value. They will feature educational signage. In total, the boardwalk will have seven passing bays for wheelchair users.



Concept design Photo and Section:



FOOTPATH SECTION



Distance between vertical timber: from 1.5m to 2m along approx. 1km long footpath.



Wooden Boardwalk built over existing visitor route

Construction will take place outside of bird migration season and by constructing the boardwalk above the existing concrete path, we will negate the need to generate concrete spoils. The height between the existing concrete path and the new boardwalk will be a minimum of 6 centimeters to ensure no barrier for invertebrates and small mammals.

The structure will be fabricated off-site, to avoid noise, air pollution and avoid any need for on-site concrete mixing.



Example of wooden Boardwalk - concept





New Birdwatching hides

Bird hides are one of the most important elements of Mai Po Nature Reserve, allowing visitors to observe the globally endangered and migratory birds that pass through the reserve.

The two proposed tower hides will provide new opportunities for our Mai Po community, comprising of students, teachers, public visitors, families and community groups as well as dedicated researchers and birdwatchers, to observe and connect to nature without causing disturbance. Locations of the new bird hides have been chosen to enable access which along existing paths to again minimise disturbance.



Photo Mock-Up of New Tower Hide 2

PHOTOMONTAGE 3.1

Tower Hide 2



Site Map (Not to Scale)



Location Plan (Not to Scale)

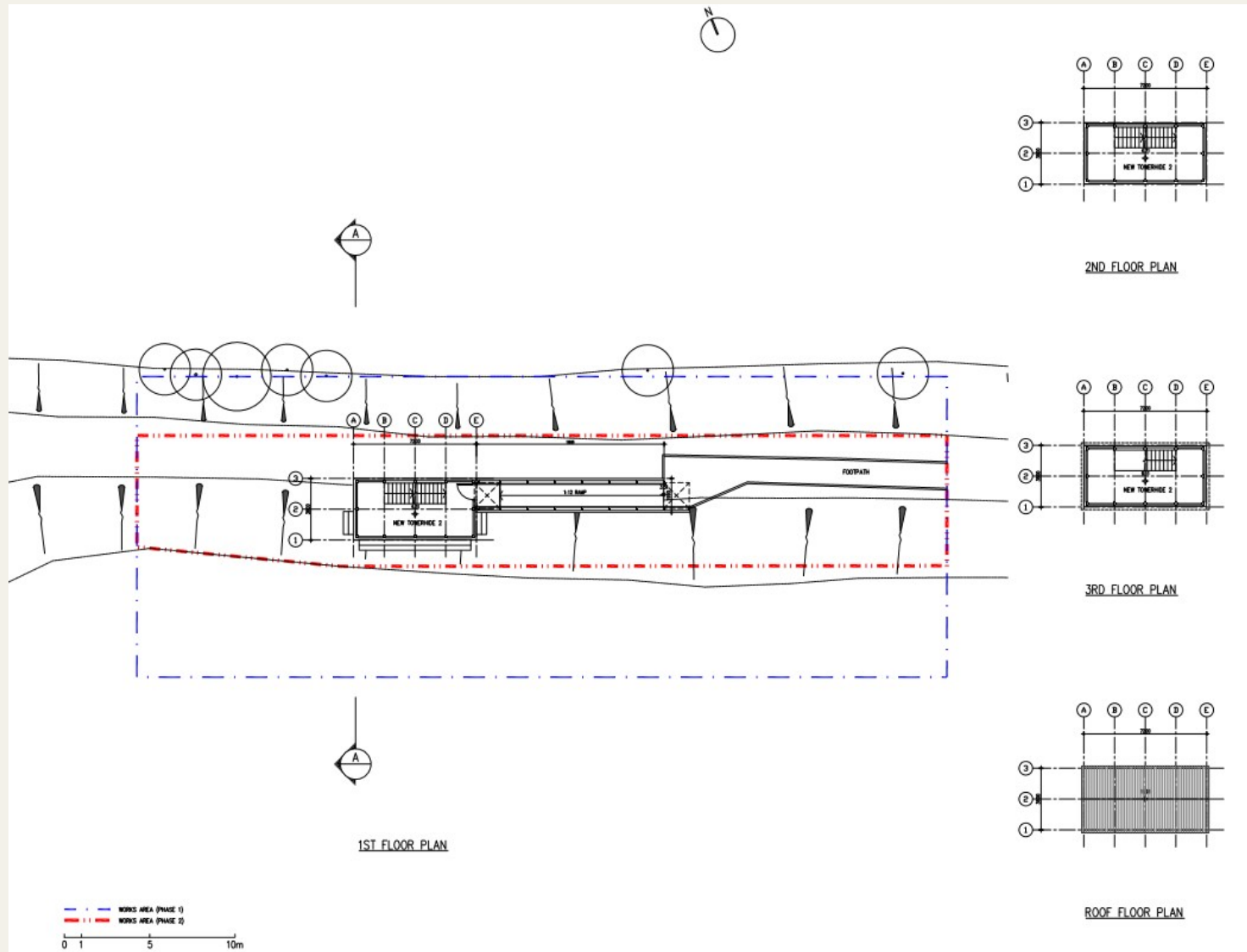


Existing View



With Proposed Development

Plan of Tower Hide 2





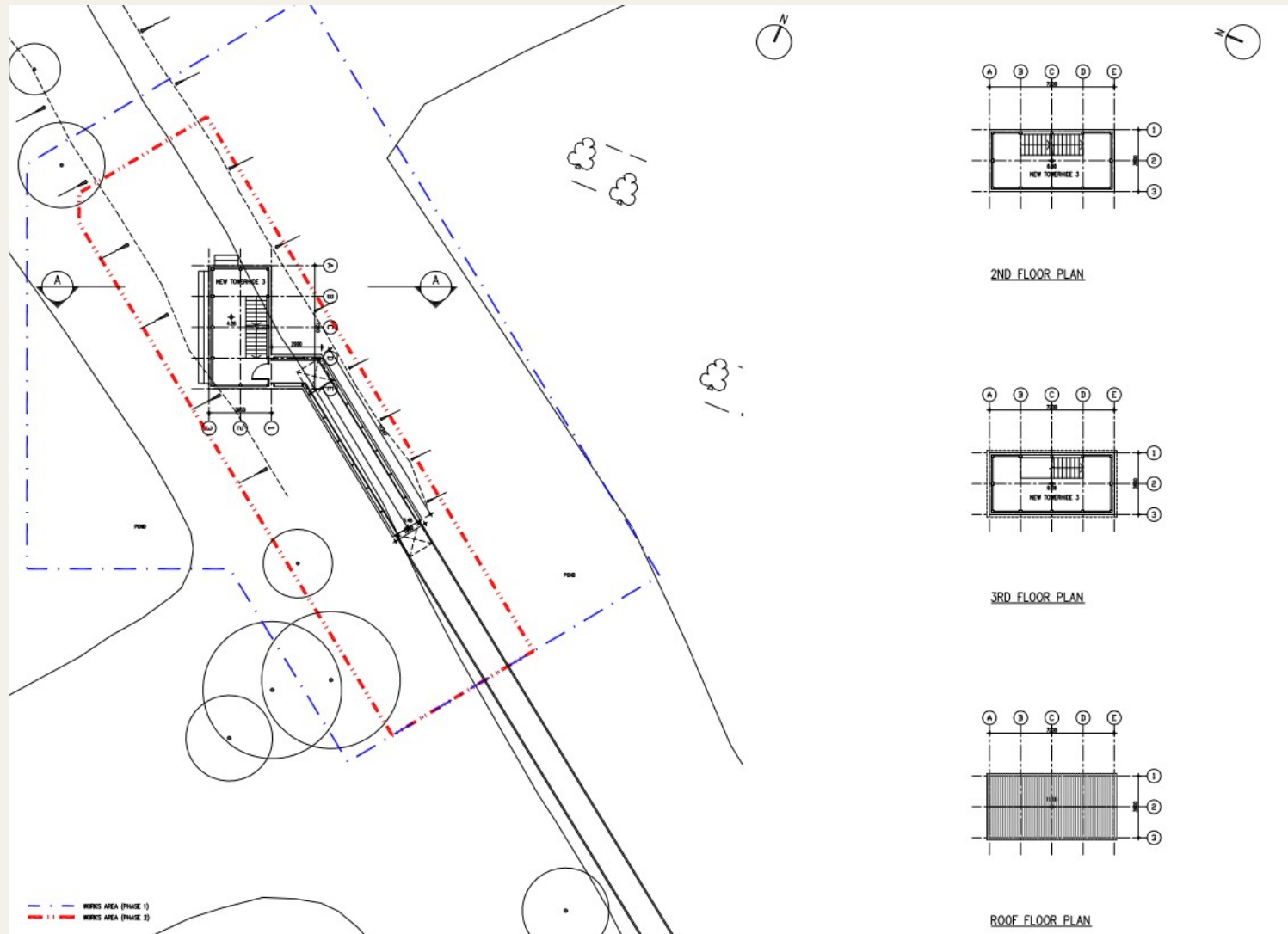


New Birdwatching hides

One of the new tower hides , tower hide 2 , will be located in the southern part of the reserve overlooking Gei Wai 19/20, and cater to the needs of serious birdwatchers and researchers, while the other tower hide 3 , set to be located the northwestern part of the reserve near gei wai 8, will expand opportunities for walk-in visitors and school groups to connect to nature.

Mai Po's has left an indelible impact on a wide range of people, who come to the reserve to discover Hong Kong rich local biodiversity, conduct their PhD or other scientific research and learn about wetlands conservation across Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay

Plan of Tower Hide 3





New Birdwatching hides

The new hides are designed with natural ventilation to increase natural ventilation, with any fan cooling or LED safety floor lights powered by solar. Both hides will feature WIFI to enhance the learning and sharing opportunities.

Construction work will only be carried out outside the bird migration season and will be aligned with the Mai Po Habitat Management Plan. The structures will be fabricated off-site, minimising noise and air pollution and the need for on-site concrete mixing.



If you have any questions, please contact us
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