

HKICON

Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists

香港建築文物保護師學會

Cultural landscape approach for conserving heritage resources of Northern Metropolis

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Target 11.4

- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

World Heritage Convention recognizes cultural landscape as ...

"**combined works of NATURE and of MAN**" .

- illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.
- embraces a diversity of manifestations (both tangible & intangible) of the **interaction between humankind and its natural environment.**





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The Northern New Territories contain a wealth of cultural and natural heritage resources that constitute precious and unique **Rural Cultural Landscapes** along the Shenzhen River. These resources demand appropriate conservation, revitalization, and sustainable management.

Relatively intact

High diversity

Under threats

Fengshui villages



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Lead mine

Cultural Landscapes in Northern Metropolis

Forts



© Kenneth Pau

Rural Township



© 香港商報網

Traditional farmlands



長春社 The Community Association HKWS 香港農工服務處

Oyster farms



© TNC



Geiwai

© WWF

MORE.....

Traditional fishponds



© WWF

World Heritage Convention recognizes cultural landscape as ...

Reflect sustainable land-use

Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, and a specific spiritual relation to nature.

Enhance natural values

Protection of cultural landscapes can contribute to modern techniques of sustainable land-use and can maintain or enhance natural values in the landscape.

Maintain biological diversity

The continued existence of traditional forms of land-use supports biological diversity in many regions of the world. The protection of traditional cultural landscapes is therefore helpful in maintaining biological diversity.

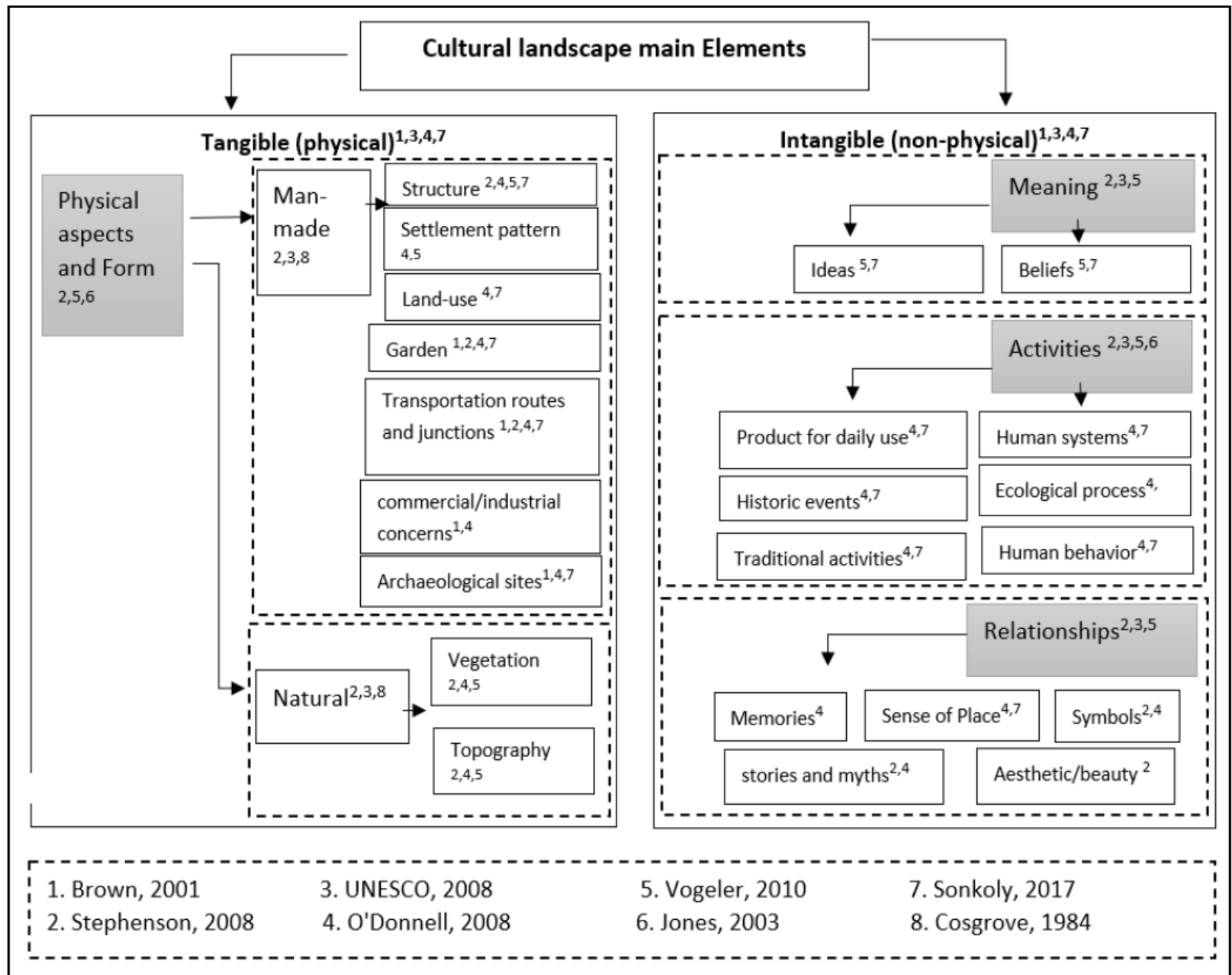


Figure 3. Tangible and intangible elements of the cultural landscape assessment (By **Surchi & Nafa, 2021**)



Tai Fu Tai Mansion大夫第



© Ko Hon Chiu Vincent

San Lau Street Pre-War cluster

Tangible heritage

refers to physical artefacts produced, maintained and transmitted intergenerationally in a society.

It includes artistic creations, built heritage such as buildings and monuments, and other physical or tangible products of human creativity that are invested with cultural significance in a society.



© HKU-CCSG

Sedan chair for Daichiu



© HKSAR Government

Lead Mine

Five-fingered Camphor



© HKU-CCSG



© CAHK

Paddy rice field



Fengshui setting & rules



Paddy rice farming

Intangible heritage

refers to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage.



Geiwai shrimp harvesting



Hakka Mountain Song

transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.



Qilin Dance



Salty fish making

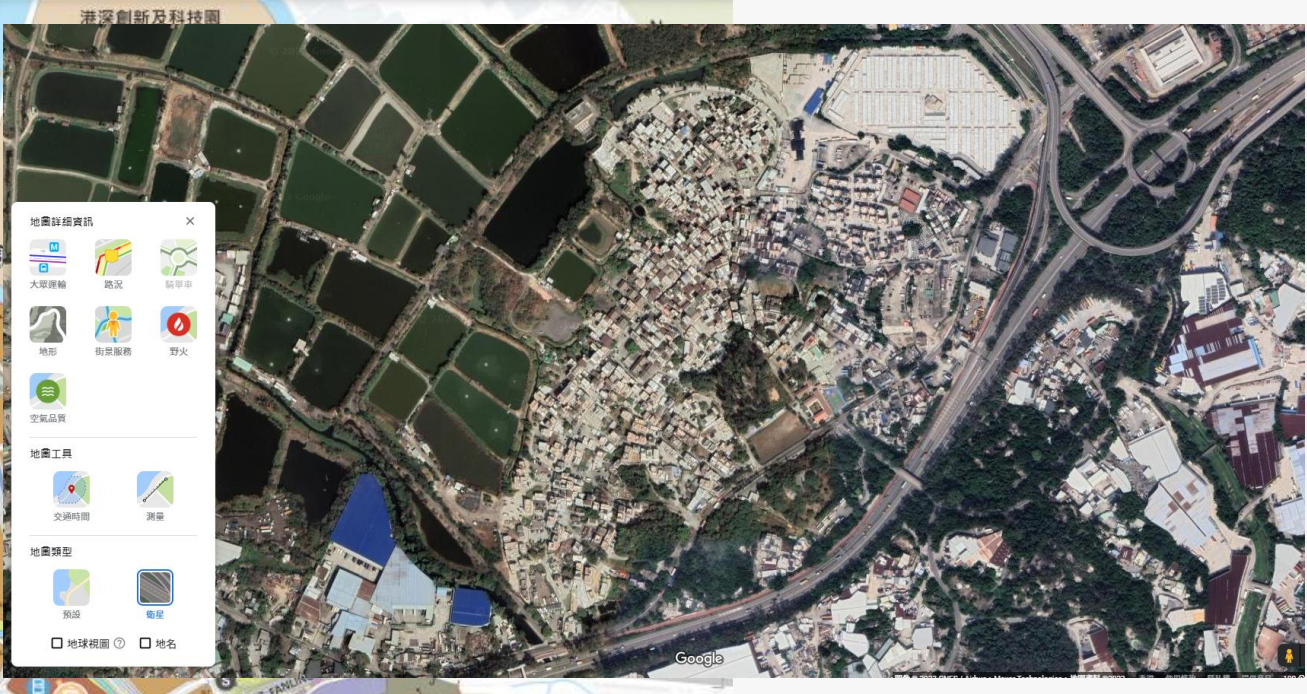
Values of Cultural Landscapes

- **Aesthetic value** - refers to the **profound enjoyment and sensual experiences gained from the appreciation of nature** (e.g. vegetations, parks, forests, water bodies, fields or even the entire ecosystem). Cultural landscapes with high aesthetic value usually have some outstanding scenic and visual qualities to offer, which can stimulate people's aesthetic appreciation, sense of place as well as their attachment to it (Drew, 2015).
- **Ecological value** - has two major foci. One is on the **richness of biodiversity** and ecological resources that sustains all life forms and supports human societies; the other is the wealth of **traditional knowledge that contributes to sustaining biodiversity** (Terralingua, 2018). The value demonstrates that humans are living sustainably within environmental limits, and through which a strong sense of interdependence of humans with nature is established.
- **Historic value** - reflects **the considerable legacy and cultural heritage** of an area. The value can be determined from the traces of history (patterns of interrelationships between people, places and events) that remained in the landscape and carried forward across time (UTAS, 2006). The better the existing condition of the landscape, the easier for it to convey its historic significance and character (e.g. through archaeological soils, botanical remains and historical buildings).
- **Social value** - looks into the aspects of life that are in connection with the place. The core value lies in maintaining the **social identity of local people** whilst making manifest the physical, intellectual, symbolic and other interactions in the cultural landscape (TEEB, 2016). Social values can be captured in cultural landscapes from different aspects, including but not limited to the innovative uses of place, community economic benefits and the protection of traditional knowledge bases.



Potential threats for Cultural Landscapes in NM:

- Fragmentation
- Urbanization vs Urban-Rural Integration



Potential threats for Cultural Landscapes in NM:

- Fragmentation
- Urbanization vs Urban-Rural Integration

Cultural landscape approach

- Landscape-centred policy
- acknowledges the relationship between humans and nature
- provide a more holistic planning and management framework for the purpose of heritage conservation management that integrate:
 - cultural and natural elements
 - tangible and intangible aspects
 - biological and cultural diversity

Recommendation

- We call for a **comprehensive survey to identify** the valuable cultural landscape resources (i.e.cultural/natural, tangible/intangible heritage) within the proposed NM area and nearby New Development Areas.
- **Strategic Heritage Impact Assessment** is recommended to determine the **potential impacts and the cumulative effects** on cultural, natural heritage, and cultural landscape values of the NM development
- **Project-based Heritage Impact Assessment** to fully evaluate the impacts and devise suitable and timely management measures to protect the heritage values of the site.
- **Proactive and integrative conservation/revitalization management regime and fundings for cultural landscapes** that preserves ecosystem integrity while promoting cultural sustainability and socio-economic vitality of those important cultural landscape resources in the area.