

Extract of Town Planning Board Guidelines  
for Application for Development within Green Belt Zone  
under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (TPB PG-No. 10)

The relevant assessment criteria are as follows:

- (a) There is a general presumption against development (other than redevelopment) in a “Green Belt” (“GB”) zone. In general the Board will only be prepared to approve applications for development in the context of requests to rezone to an appropriate use.
- (b) An application for new development in a “GB” zone will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and must be justified with very strong planning grounds. The scale and intensity of the proposed development including the plot ratio, site coverage and building height should be compatible with the character of surrounding areas. With the exception of New Territories Exempted Houses, a plot ratio up to 0.4 for residential development may be permitted.
- (c) Applications for New Territories Exempted Houses with satisfactory sewage disposal facilities and access arrangements may be approved if the application sites are in close proximity to existing villages and in keeping with the surrounding uses, and where the development is to meet the demand from indigenous villagers.
- (d) Redevelopment of existing residential development will generally be permitted up to the intensity of the existing development.
- (e) Applications for government/institution/community (G/IC) uses and public utility installations must demonstrate that the proposed development is essential and that no alternative sites are available. The plot ratio of the development site may exceed 0.4 so as to minimize the land to be allocated for G/IC uses.
- (f) Passive recreational uses which are compatible with the character of surrounding areas may be given sympathetic consideration.
- (g) The design and layout of any proposed development should be compatible with the surrounding area. The development should not involve extensive clearance of existing natural vegetation, affect the existing natural landscape, or cause any

adverse visual impact on the surrounding environment.

- (h) The vehicular access road and parking provision proposed should be appropriate to the scale of the development and comply with relevant standards. Access and parking should not adversely affect existing trees or other natural landscape features. Tree preservation and landscaping proposals should be provided.
- (i) The proposed development should not overstrain the capacity of existing and planned infrastructure such as sewerage, roads and water supply. It should not adversely affect drainage or aggravate flooding in the area.
- (j) The proposed development must comply with the development controls restrictions of areas designated as water gathering grounds.
- (k) The proposed development should not overstrain the overall provision of G/IC facilities in the general area.
- (l) The proposed development should not be susceptible to adverse environmental effects from pollution sources nearby such as traffic noise, unless adequate mitigating measures are provided, and it should not itself be the source of pollution.
- (m) Any proposed development on a slope or hillside should not adversely affect slope stability.

**Previous Application covering the Application Site**

**Rejected Application**

	<b><u>Application No.</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Use(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Consideration (RNTPC)</u></b>	<b><u>Rejection Reason</u></b>
1	A/YL-TYST/378	Temporary War Game Field for a Period of 3 Years	20.6.2008	(1)

**Rejected Reason:**

- (1) there was insufficient information in the submission to demonstrate that the development, including management of the proposed war game centre and its access road, would not generate adverse environmental, traffic, drainage and landscaping impacts on the surrounding areas.

**Advisory clauses**

- (a) prior planning permission should have been obtained before commencing the applied use at the application site (the Site);
- (b) to resolve any land issues relating to the development with the concerned owner(s) of the Site;
- (c) to note the comments of the District Lands Officer/Yuen Long, Lands Department that the Site comprises government land (GL) and Old Schedule Agricultural Lots held under the Block Government Lease which contains the restriction that no structures are allowed to be erected without the prior approval of the Government. No permission is given for occupation of GL (about 21m<sup>2</sup> subject to verification) included in the Site. The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that the act of occupation of GL without Government's prior approval is not allowed. The Site is accessible from Kung Um Road via GL and private land. Her office provides no maintenance work for the GL involved and does not guarantee any right-of-way over the GL to the Site. Her site investigation revealed that unauthorised structures had been erected on Lot Nos. 617 S.A, 617 RP and 620 in D.D. 119. Her office had issued warning letters to the respective registered owners of the lots. Further lease enforcement actions will also be taken by her office. The lot(s) owner(s) will need to apply to her office to permit the structures to be erected or regularise any irregularities on site, if any. Besides, given the proposed use is temporary in nature, only application for regularisation or erection of temporary structure(s) will be considered. No construction of New Territories Exempted Building(s) will be considered or allowed. Furthermore, the applicant has to either exclude the GL portion from the Site or apply for a direct grant short term tenancy for use of the Site. Applications for any of the above will be considered by her department acting in the capacity of the landlord or lessor at its sole discretion and there is no guarantee that such application will be approved. If such application(s) is approved, it will be subject to such terms and conditions, including among others the payment of premium or fee, as may be imposed by her department;
- (d) to note the comments of the Commissioner for Transport that the land status of the access road/path/track leading to the Site from Kung Um Road shall be checked with the lands authority. The management and maintenance responsibilities of the access road/path/track shall be clarified and consulted with the relevant management and maintenance authorities accordingly. The applicant is reminded that sufficient space should be provided within the Site for manoeuvring of vehicles. In addition, no parking of vehicles on public road are allowed;
- (e) to note the comments of the Chief Highway Engineer/New Territories West, Highways Department that adequate drainage measures should be provided at the site access to prevent surface water flowing from the Site to nearby public roads/drains. His department shall not be responsible for the maintenance of any access connecting the Site and Kung Um Road;
- (f) to note the comments of the Director of Environmental Protection that the applicant should be advised to follow the relevant mitigation measures and requirements in the latest "Code of Practice on Handling the Environmental Aspects of Temporary Uses and Open Storage Sites" to minimise any potential environmental nuisances. The applicant should be reminded to comply with various pollution control ordinances, such as, the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, Noise Control Ordinance, and Water Pollution Control Ordinance, to address various potential environmental concerns;

- (g) to note the comments of the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation that appropriate measures should be adopted to avoid causing disturbance or pollution to the adjacent woodland in "Green Belt" zone and adjacent watercourse. Trees within or in vicinity to the Site should also be preserved;
- (h) to note the comments of the Director of Fire Services that in consideration of the design/nature of the proposal, fire service installations (FSIs) are anticipated to be required. The applicant is advised to submit relevant layout plans incorporated with the proposed FSIs to his department for approval. The layout plans should be drawn to scale and depicted with dimensions and nature of occupancy and the location of where the proposed FSIs to be installed should also be clearly marked on the layout plans. The applicant is also reminded that if the proposed structure(s) is required to comply with Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123), detailed fire service requirements will be formulated upon receipt of formal submission of general building plans; and
- (i) to note the comments of the Chief Building Surveyor/New Territories West, Buildings Department (BD) that if the existing structures (not being a New Territories Exempted House) are erected on leased land without the approval of BD, they are unauthorised building works (UBW) under the BO and should not be designated for any proposed use under the application. For UBW erected on leased land, enforcement action may be taken by the BD to effect their removal in accordance with BD's enforcement policy against UBW as and when necessary. The granting of any planning approval should not be construed as an acceptance of any existing building works or UBW on the Site under the BO. Before any new building works (including containers/open sheds as temporary buildings and land filling) are to be carried out on the Site, prior approval and consent of BD should be obtained, otherwise they are UBW. An Authorised Person should be appointed as the co-ordinator for the proposed building works in accordance with the BO. The Site shall be provided with means of obtaining access thereto from a street and emergency vehicular access in accordance with Regulations 5 and 41D of the Building (Planning) Regulations (B(P)R) respectively. If the Site does not abut on a specified street of not less than 4.5m wide, its permitted development intensity shall be determined under Regulation 19(3) of the B(P)R at the building plan submission stage.