



Pokfulam Village

Hong Kong (SAR), China

Pokfulam, a small village perched on a hillside in the west of Hong Kong Island, is characterized by narrow lanes and alleys twisting through the village, around small traditional buildings and newer structures. The modest appearance of Pokfulam belies its importance to the history of Hong Kong. The storied Dairy Farm Group, set up in Pokfulam in 1886 to provide Hong Kong with fresh milk, expanded rapidly, offering employment to many of Pokfulam's residents. The remains of the original Dairy Farm building, together with other survivors of Hong Kong's colonial past, provide a rich historical setting for Pokfulam Village. One of the community's most important traditions is the Fire Dragon Dance that takes place during the Mid-Autumn Festival every year—a ritual that parallels the better-known Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance. An incense-lit hay dragon visits each household, bringing blessings to the residents and fostering a spirit of community.

This remarkable survivor is now facing pressure from urban redevelopment plans, including a proposal to convert unoccupied Dairy Farm workers' dormitories to high-density housing. Stringent squatter control policies make it hard for villagers to repair their dwellings, as they are required to use materials that were registered at the time of the last occupancy survey, which was conducted in the 1980s. Sustainable management of Pokfulam, allowing for the upgrading of building stock, will best serve this intimate community and will contribute to the preservation of the diversity of Hong Kong's urban space.