TOWN PLANNING BOARD

TPB Paper No. 10186

for consideration by <u>the Town Planning Board on 7.10.2016</u>

THE DRAFT TAI HO OUTLINE ZONING PLAN NO. S/I-TH/B PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF A NEW PLAN

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1 <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this paper is to seek Members' agreement that:

- (a) the draft Tai Ho Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/I-TH/B (**Appendix I**) and its Notes (**Appendix II**) are suitable for consultation with the Islands District Council (IsDC) and Mui Wo Rural Committee (RC); and
- (b) the Explanatory Statement (ES) (**Appendix III**) is an expression of the planning intention and objectives of the Town Planning Board (the Board) for the various land use zonings of the draft OZP and is suitable for consultation with IsDC and RC together with the draft OZP.

2 Background

- 2.1 On 17 February 2014, under the power delegated by the Chief Executive (CE), the Secretary for Development (SDEV) directed the Board, under section 3(1)(b) of the Ordinance, to prepare a Development Permission Area (DPA) Plan for Tai Ho (the Area).
- 2.2 On 28 March 2014, the draft Tai Ho DPA Plan No. DPA/I-TH/1 was exhibited for public inspection under section 5 of the Town Planning Ordinance (the Ordinance). During the two-month exhibition period, a total of 642 valid representations were received. During the first three weeks of the publication period, a total of 206 comments on the representations were received. After giving consideration to the representations and comments on 19 December 2014, the Board decided not to uphold the representations.
- 2.3 On 24 February 2015, the CE in Council (CE in C), under section 9(1)(a) of the Ordinance, approved the draft Tai Ho DPA Plan, which was subsequently renumbered as DPA/I-TH/2. On 20 March 2015, the approved Tai Ho DPA Plan No. DPA/I-TH/2 was exhibited for public inspection under section 9(5) of the Ordinance.
- 2.4 Pursuant to section 20(5) of the Ordinance, the Tai Ho DPA Plan is effective for a period of three years until 28 March 2017. As such, an OZP has to be prepared to replace the DPA Plan in order to maintain statutory planning control over the Area upon expiry of the DPA Plan.
- 2.5 On 24 August 2016, under the power delegated by CE, SDEV directed the

Board, under section 3(1)(a) of the Ordinance, to prepare an OZP to cover the Area.

3 <u>Strategic Planning Context</u>

- 3.1 The Area covers a total area of about 230 ha including about 32 ha of water body (Tai Ho Wan). It is located to the east of Tung Chung New Town Extension (TCNTE) Area at the northern part of Lantau Island, fronting the North Lantau Highway (NLH) and is separated by the mountain ridges of Por Kai Shan within Lantau North (Extension) Country Park. Vehicular access to the Area is via an access road branching off Cheung Tung Road which runs in parallel to NLH, connecting the Area to Tung Chung, the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and the metro area (**Plans 1 and 2**).
- 3.2 The Area has a natural character with rich landscape resources including mature woodland, shrubland, grassland, valley, knolls, and streams. There are also natural coastal features such as the estuary and shorelines at Tai Ho Wan. In particular, part of the Tai Ho Stream is listed as an Ecologically Important Stream (EIS) and is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Further uphill is densely vegetated woodland and shrubland on the valley sides extending into Lantau North (Extension) Country Park and Lantau North Country Park beyond the Area. A concrete footpath links the NLH to the country parks uphill, going through village settlements at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho San Tsuen with associated agricultural land (**Plan 3**).
- 3.3 The Area, situated in the northshore Lantau, has always been an integral part of Lantau development. Upon completion of the Port and Airport Development Strategy (PADS) in 1989, the Government decided to build a replacement international airport at Chek Lap Kok, i.e. the current HKIA. The PADS also recommended to develop North Lantau New Town (NLNT) as a supporting community of HKIA, in which Tai Ho was, amongst others, one of the key development areas. Subsequently, the North Lantau Development Study (1992) and the Remaining development in Tung Chung and Tai Ho (1999) proposed to develop NLNT to accommodate a population target of 260,000 and 334,000 respectively. Together with other land use proposals, a total land area of about 27 ha of village-type development in Tai Ho was proposed under the Recommended Outline Development Plan (RODP) of the North Lantau Development Study. However, such proposals had been withheld due to subsequent change in planning circumstances including the designation of Tai Ho Stream as SSSI in 1999, the introduction of the New Nature Conservation Policy (NNCP) in 2004 under which Tai Ho was identified as one of the 12 Priority Sites for enhanced conservation¹, and the development of strategic infrastructure projects in North Lantau such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) and the associated boundary crossing facilities, as well as the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL).

¹ A landuse proposal involving the establishment of an Ecology Park in Tai Ho was received in 2005 and assessed by an inter-departmental task force. However, the proposal was considered not ready to be taken forward by the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE). Further details are set out in paragraph 8.2.

- 3.4 Pursuant to the 2004 Policy Address, the Lantau Development Task Force led by the Financial Secretary was set up in February 2004 to provide a high-level policy steer on the economic and infrastructure development on Lantau, taking into account the development of strategic infrastructure projects in North Lantau as mentioned above. The Revised Concept Plan for Lantau endorsed by the Task Force in 2007 recommended, amongst others, that the Area consisting of woodland, grassland/shrubland, streams, coastal mudflat, agricultural field and villages as a conservation area which aims to conserve the existing natural character and intrinsic landscape value by protecting topographical features from encroachment by adjacent developments. The Area was also identified as a landscape protection area, where new developments should not compromise the existing landscape setting or local environment. Landscaping should be carried out to mitigate the effect of any new development. By then, Tai Ho has been recommended as an area for conservation. Subsequently, the proposed Lantau Development Strategy submitted by the Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC) to the CE in Jan 2016 recommended Tai Ho be used for conservation, leisure, cultural and green tourism with emphasis on protecting sites of conservation value and enhancing their linkages. Owing to the presence of Tai Ho Stream being designated as SSSI, as well as the natural vegetated area, the extent of village-type development should be critically reviewed to exclude the designated areas and the riparian areas of the stream.
- 3.5 Given the natural environment with high ecological value and the latest planning concept for Lantau Development, the planning framework for the Area is to preserve the natural environment and scenic character of the Area and avoid disturbance to areas with high ecological and landscape values. No large-scale development should be introduced in order to minimise encroachment onto the sensitive environment and to protect and enhance ecological conservation. To meet the housing demand of indigenous villagers under the Small House Policy, suitable land will be reserved for the need of Small House development. Details of the land use considerations are contained in the Planning Report on Tai Ho at **Appendix IV**. Some major issues in relation to the proposed zonings are stated in the following paragraphs.

4 Issues Arising from Consideration of the DPA Plan

- 4.1 During the consideration of the representations to the draft DPA Plan on 19 December 2014, the following proposals from major groups were put forward for the Board's consideration:
 - (a) the Mui Wo RC and local villagers suggested that the "Village Type Development" ("V") zone boundaries of all villages (including Wong Kung Tin) should follow the 'Village Environs' ('VE') and include some additional government land to provide land to meet the demand for Small House development, and road access, drainage and sewerage facilities should be provided for Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho;

- (b) the private land owners of Tai Ho suggested to designate the least environmentally sensitive areas in the western part of Tai Ho Valley and an area in the east of Tai Ho Wan as "Comprehensive Development Area" ("CDA") zone for low to medium-density residential developments and tourism-related facilities; and
- (c) the green/concern groups and some individuals suggested to designate the important habitats of Tai Ho, especially the areas around Tai Ho Stream SSSI, as Country Park and the "V" zone should only cover the existing village settlements.
- 4.2 On 19 December 2014, the Board decided not to uphold the representations nor propose amendment to the DPA Plan. The Board also noted the suggestions of green/concern groups on conservation zonings. It was agreed that detailed studies and analysis would be conducted to determine the appropriate land use zonings of the concerned area in the preparation of the OZP stage.

5 <u>Object of the Plan</u>

- 5.1 The object of the Plan is to indicate the broad land use zonings for the Area so that development and redevelopment within the Area can be put under statutory planning control. It also provides the planning framework for preparing more detailed non-statutory plans which form the basis for public works planning and site reservation for various uses.
- 5.2 The Plan is to illustrate the broad principles of development and planning control only. It is a small-scale plan and the boundaries between land use zones may be subject to minor adjustments as detailed planning and development proceed.

6 <u>The Planning Scheme Area (Plans 1 to 3)</u>

- 6.1 The Area covers a total area of about 230 ha including about 32 ha of water body (Tai Ho Wan). It is located to the east of TCNTE Area and is separated by the mountain ridges of Por Kai Shan within Lantau North (Extension) Country Park. Vehicular access to the Area is via an access road branching off Cheung Tung Road which runs in parallel to NLH, connecting the Area to Tung Chung, the HKIA and the metro area. The boundary of the Area is shown by a heavy broken line on the OZP (**Appendix I**). There are four recognised villages within the Area, namely Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long, Tai Ho (also known as Tai Ho San Tsuen) and Wong Kung Tin (also known as Wong Fung Tin). However, there is no existing village settlement in Wong Kung Tin village. Based on the population data of the 2011 Census, the population in the Area is estimated to be about 150.
- 6.2 The Area mainly consists of Tai Ho Valley, which comprises Tai Ho Wan, village settlements, agricultural land, the natural vegetated areas including

woodland, shrubland, streams etc. and several pieces of isolated vegetated upland areas on the eastern and southern sides, i.e. Tin Liu, Hung Fa Ngan, A Po Long and Wong Kung Tin (**Plan 3**).

- 6.3 The Area has rich landscape resources including mature woodland, shrubland, grassland, valley, knolls, and streams. There are also natural coastal features such as the estuary and shorelines at Tai Ho Wan. Tai Ho Wan is a major landmark along NLH, which previously was an open coastal bay before the highway was built. The estuary area of Tai Ho Stream consists of mangrove and inter-tidal mudflats. Along the eastern periphery of Tai Ho Wan, coastal vegetations are found, dominant species include young and scattered patches of *Kandelia obovata*, abundant young *Cerbera manghas*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus* and *Pongamia pinnata*.
- 6.4 Part of Tai Ho Stream is listed as an EIS and is a designated SSSI. Tai Ho Stream SSSI is one of the few remaining medium-sized natural streams of its kind in Hong Kong. The stream supports a high diversity of freshwater and brackish-water fishes in Hong Kong with various species recorded, including the rare Largesnout Goby (*Awaous melanocephalus* 黑首阿胡鰕虎魚), the rare Black Sleeper (*Eleotris melanosoma* 黑體塘鱧) and the rare migratory fish Ayu (*Plecoglossus altivelis* 香魚). The Seagrass *Halophila beccarii* (貝克喜鹽草) and Horseshoe crabs (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* 圓尾鱟), a species of conservation importance, have also been recorded in the mudflat within the boundary of Tai Ho Stream SSSI.
- 6.5 Tai Ho also supports the reptile of regional concern Tokay Gecko (*Gekko gecko* 大壁虎), as well as a number of rare/uncommon butterflies including the rare Red Lacewing (*Cethosia biblis* 紅鋸蛺蝶). Two amphibian species of conservation interest, namely Romer's Tree Frog (*Liuixalus romeri* 盧氏 小樹蛙) and Short-legged Toad (*Megophrys brachykolos* 短腳角蟾), have also been recorded at Tai Ho.
- 6.6 The area further uphill is densely vegetated woodland and shrubland on the valley sides extending into Lantau North (Extension) Country Park and Lantau North Country Park beyond the Area. A concrete footpath links NLH to the country parks uphill, going through village settlements at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho San Tsuen with associated agricultural land (**Figure 4a in Appendix IV**).

7 <u>Development Proposals/Views Received in the Course of Preparation of the</u> <u>Plan</u>

- 7.1 Since the gazettal of the draft DPA Plan on 28 March 2014, there has been no planning application received in the Area. In the course of preparing the OZP, the following proposals/views have been received:
 - (a) land use proposal, similar to that previously submitted and considered, submitted by the major private landowners in the Area;

- (b) the views of the Mui Wo RC on the land uses of the Area expressed in the meetings held on 13 May 2016 and 13 September 2016; and
- (c) the views of green/concern groups including Green Power, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG), Designing Hong Kong Limited (DHK) and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS).
- 7.2 Planning Assessments on the above proposals/views are provided in paragraphs 3.5.2 to 3.5.12 in **Appendix IV**.

8 <u>Land Use Planning Considerations</u>

Lantau Development Context (Plan 4)

8.1 Under the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau, the Area consisting of woodland, grassland/shrubland, streams, coastal mudflat, agricultural field and villages was identified as a conservation area which aims to conserve the existing natural character and intrinsic landscape value by protecting topographical features from encroachment by adjacent developments. The Area was also identified as a landscape protection area, where new developments should not compromise the existing landscape setting or local environment. There is a hiking trail as proposed in the Revised Concept Plan that connects to Mui Wo. Subsequently, the proposed Lantau Development Strategy also recommended Tai Ho be used for conservation, leisure, cultural and green tourism with emphasis on protecting sites of conservation value and enhancing their linkages. Given the ecological sensitivity of Tai Ho Stream SSSI and Tai Ho Wan, no large-scale development should be introduced in order not to compromise the rural setting and natural environment. Further developments should be of a low-rise character and give regards to the existing landscape.

Nature Conservation

8.2 Tai Ho forms an integral part of the natural landscape in the adjoining country parks with a wide spectrum of natural habitats including mature woodland at Pak Mong, shrubland and grassland, active/fallow agricultural land, stream courses and coastal habitats. It was designated as one of the 12 priority sites for enhanced conservation under NNCP introduced in November 2004 (Plan 5). This policy aims at regulating, protecting and managing natural resources that are important for the conservation of biological diversity of Hong Kong in a sustainable manner, taking into account economic and social considerations, for the benefit and enjoyment of the present and future generations of the community. One of the objectives is to enhance conservation of ecologically important sites under private The Management Agreement (MA) and Public-Private ownership. Partnership (PPP) schemes are two measures to achieve this objective. Under the PPP scheme promulgated under NNCP, developments at an agreed scale will be allowed at the less ecologically sensitive portion of a site provided that the developer undertakes to conserve and manage the rest of the site that is ecologically more sensitive on a long-term basis. On this

aspect, a PPP Pilot scheme application at Tai Ho which involved the establishment of an Ecology Park in Tai Ho was received in 2005. The application was assessed by an inter-departmental task force and discussed at the meeting of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) on 14 April 2008. Nevertheless, ACE considered that the project was not ready to be taken forward in the present form in view of, amongst others, the potentially complicated land related issues and the lack of an experienced partner to manage the proposed Ecology Park. Similar proposal to designate areas mainly in the western part of Tai Ho Valley as development sites for low to medium-density residential developments and tourism-related facilities was also received during the DPA plan representation stage and the OZP preparation stage. AFCD and EPD advise that there are no detailed assessments to substantiate that the proposed development is in the least ecologically sensitive portion of the priority site, and that suitable measures are proposed to conserve the ecological sensitive areas required under the PPP Scheme of NNCP, not to mention that the technical feasibility of the proposal is yet to be ascertained.

Land for Village Development

- 8.3 In general, the OZP will reflect, amongst others, the existing recognised villages and designate areas considered suitable for provision of village expansion. For the subject OZP, there are four recognised villages in the Area, namely Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long, Tai Ho (also known as Tai Ho San Tsuen) and Wong Kung Tin (also known as Wong Fung Tin) and their 'VE' cover an area of about 26.05 ha (**Plan 6**). Except Wong Kung Tin at the southernmost part of the Area where no village settlement is found, all other villages in the Area consist of typical 3-storey village houses with ancestral halls (Tsz Tong) and a large area of paved area for ancestral worshipping activities.
- 8.4 Since the publication of the DPA Plan, as stated in paragraphs 4.1(a) and 7.1(b) above, the RC/local villagers has been asking for reservation of sufficient land in the Area for Small House development to cope with the Small House demand. On the contrary, the green/concern groups consider that the "V" zone boundary should be confined to the existing village clusters and exclude ecologically sensitive areas and natural habitats.
- 8.5 Noting the concerns of RC/local villagers and the green/concern groups, the Small House demand of the recognised villages in the Area has been assessed by obtaining the latest information on the outstanding Small House applications and the 10-year forecast of Small House demand from the District Lands Officer/Islands, Lands Department (DLO/Is, LandsD) in 2016 (Appendix V) which are summarised as below (Table 1):

Villages	Demand figures in 2014		Demand figures in 2016	
	Outstanding Application	10-year forecast	Outstanding Application	10-year forecast
Pak Mong	0	99	4	72
Ngau Kwu Long	0	56	7	64
Tai Ho	0	120	23	60
Wong Kwun Tin	0	0	0	0
Total	0	275	34	196

Table 1 – Small House demand of the recognised villages at Tai Ho

8.6 Based on PlanD's preliminary estimate, the total land area required for meeting the total Small House demand of the recognised villages is about 5.76 ha. With reference to the Small House demand and 'VE' for the recognised villages as enumerated above, PlanD has analysed the site conditions of the area within 'VE' taking into account of the existing village approved and outstanding Small House applications, settlement, infrastructural constraints, environmental conditions, natural terrain and topography of the Area. An incremental approach for designation of "V" zone for Small House development has been adopted with an aim to consolidating Small House development at suitable locations in order to avoid undesirable disturbances to the natural environment and overtaxing the limited infrastructure in the Area. Such approach could achieve a more orderly development pattern, efficient use of land as well as provision of infrastructures and services in areas around the existing village settlements (Table 2).

Table 2 – Available land in the proposed "V" zone to meet the Small House

Villagog	'VE'	" V " TODA	Droposed	Dequired	Available	Democrate an of
Villages		"V" zone	Proposed	Required	Available	Percentage of
	Approx.	area on	"V" zone on	land to	land to meet	the new
	Area	DPA Plan	draft OZP	meet new	new demand	demand met
	(ha)	(ha)	(ha)	demand	(ha)	$(\%)^2$
				(ha)	[No. of SH]	
Pak Mong	5.85	0.68	2.11	1.9	0.96	50%
					[38]	
Ngau Kwu	9.48	0.35	2.46	1.78	1.26	70%
Long					[50]	
Tai Ho	9.92	0.24	1.86	2.08	1.15	55%
					[46]	
Wong	0.80	0	0	0	0	N/A
Kwun Tin						
Total	26.05	1.27	6.43	5.76	3.37	58%
					[134]	

² new demand includes the total of outstanding application and 10-year forecast

8.7 The currently proposed "V" zones cover a total area of 6.43 ha. They fall entirely within the 'VE'. The area reserved for Small House development comprises mainly vacant land and agricultural land. The total developable land available for Small House developments amounts to about 3.37 ha, equivalent to about 134 Small House sites (Table 2). This can satisfy about 58% of the total outstanding Small House demand and the 10-year forecast of Small House demand in the Area. Although the area of the proposed "V" zones could not meet all the current forecast of Small House demand, it should be noted that the Small House demand forecast is only one of the many factors in considering the "V" zone. The forecast provided by the RC to LandsD could be subject to changes over time for reasons like demographic changes (birth/death) as well as aspiration of indigenous villagers currently living outside the village, local and overseas, to move back to Tai Ho in future. In this regard, an incremental approach for designation of "V" zone for Small House development has been adopted. Under the provision of the OZP, the villagers could still apply for Small House development/redevelopment of Small House to the Board under the planning permission system. Each application will be considered on its own merits.

9 <u>Planning Intention</u>

The general planning intention for the Area is to conserve the Area's outstanding natural landscape with unique scientific and ecological values in safeguarding the natural habitat and natural system of the wider area and to preserve historical artifacts, local culture and traditions of the villages. Due consideration should be given to the conservation of the ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas, such as Tai Ho Stream SSSI, when development in or near the Area is proposed. Small House development in recognised villages will be consolidated at suitable locations to preserve the rural character of the Area.

10 Land Use Zonings (Plan 7)

- 10.1 <u>"Village Type Development" ("V")</u>: Total Area 6.43 ha
 - 10.1.1 The planning intention of this zone is to designate both existing recognised villages and area of land considered suitable for village expansion. Land within this zone is primarily intended for development of Small Houses by indigenous villagers. It is also intended to concentrate village type development within this zone for a more orderly development pattern, efficient use of land and provision of infrastructures and services. Selected commercial and community uses serving the needs of the villagers and in support of the village development are always permitted on the ground floor of a New Territories Exempted House. Other commercial, community and recreational uses may be permitted on application to the Board.
 - 10.1.2 Except Wong Kwun Tin where there is no existing village settlement, outstanding Small House application and 10-year forecast of Small House demand, "V" zones designated for three

recognised villages, namely Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho are drawn up having regard to the 'VE', the local topography, the existing settlement pattern, the outstanding Small House applications and demand forecast. Areas of difficult terrain, potential natural terrain hazards, dense vegetation, conservation and ecological value, burial grounds and the buffer area for the stream courses are excluded.

- 10.1.3 Except for those specified, no new development, or addition, alteration and/or modification to or redevelopment of an existing building shall result in a total development and/or redevelopment in excess of a maximum building height of 3 storeys (8.23m) or the height of the building which was in existence on the date of first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft DPA plan, whichever is the greater. To provide flexibility for innovative design adapted to the characteristics of particular sites, minor relaxation of the building height restriction may be considered by the Board through the planning permission system. Each proposal will be considered on its individual planning merits.
- 10.1.4 As diversion of streams may cause adverse drainage impacts on the adjacent areas and adverse impacts on the natural environment, permission from the Board is required for such works and related activities except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.
- 10.1.5 There is no existing or planned public sewer for the Area, and at present, each house is typically served by its own on-site septic tank and soakaway (STS) system. In accordance with the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau's Technical Circular (Works) No. 5/2005, under the current administrative practice, for development proposals/submissions that may affect natural streams/rivers, the approving/processing authorities at various stages of the development should consult and collate comments from the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation and relevant authorities and incorporate relevant comments/advice as conditions of approval wherever possible. For the protection of the water quality of the streams and sea, the design and construction of on-site STS system for any development proposals/submissions also need to comply with relevant standards, regulations and requirements, including EPD's ProPECC Practice Note PN 5/93. Accordingly, the Lands Department (LandsD) when processing Small House grant and applications in close proximity to existing stream courses should consult concerned departments including EPD, AFCD and PlanD to ensure that all relevant departments would have adequate opportunity to review and comment on the applications.
- 10.2 <u>"Government, Institution or Community" ("G/IC")</u>: Total Area 0.15 ha
 - 10.2.1 The planning intention of this zone is primarily for the provision of Government, institution or community (GIC) facilities serving the needs of the local residents and/or a wider district, region or the

territory. It is also intended to provide land for uses directly related to or in support of the work of the Government, organisations providing social services to meet community needs, and other institutional establishments.

- 10.2.2 Existing GIC uses include two public toilets located at Pak Mong and Ngau Kwu Long, and Luk Hop Yuen Temple on the eastern side of Tai Ho Wan.
- 10.2.3 To preserve the rural and low-rise character of the Area, development/redevelopment within this zone should be restricted to the maximum building height of one storey as stipulated on the Plan or the height of building which was in existence on the date of first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft DPA Plan, whichever is greater. To provide flexibility for innovative design adapted to the characteristics of particular sites, minor relaxation of the building height restriction may be considered by the Board through the planning permission system. Each proposal will be considered on its individual planning merits.
- 10.3 <u>"Green Belt" ("GB")</u>: Total Area 166.97 ha
 - 10.3.1 The planning intention of this zone is primarily for defining the limits of development areas by natural features and to preserve the existing natural landscape as well as to provide passive recreational outlets. There is a general presumption against development within this zone.
 - 10.3.2 The "GB" zone mainly covers agricultural land, hillslopes, natural vegetations and small streams in Tai Ho Valley, Hung Fa Ngan and A Po Long area, and Wong Kung Tin. Some active cultivation activities are found in the agricultural land at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho villages. Wong Kung Tin, where no village settlement is found, is also included in this zone.
 - 10.3.3 There are several permitted burial grounds, which are intended for burial places of deceased indigenous villagers in the Area. To respect the local ritual and tradition, burial activities in the permitted burial grounds within this zone are generally tolerated. The District Office (DO) is delegated with authority under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132) to issue the burial certificates within the boundaries of permitted burial grounds. Burial activities within permitted burial grounds are also governed by separate conditions stipulated by LandsD, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Water Supplies Department. Any burial activities should be confined within the designated grounds as far as practicable.
 - 10.3.4 As diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land may cause adverse drainage impacts on the adjacent areas and the natural environment, permission from the Board is required for such works and related activities except public works co-ordinated or

implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.

- 10.4 "Coastal Protection Area" ("CPA"): Total Area 4.20 ha
 - 10.4.1 The planning intention of this zone is to conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment, including attractive geological features, physical landform or area of high landscape, scenic or ecological value, with a minimum of built development. It may also cover areas which serve as natural protection areas sheltering nearby developments against the effects of coastal erosion. There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted.
 - 10.4.2 This zone covers the coastal areas along Tai Ho Wan which primarily consist of coastal vegetation, tidal mudflats, rocky boulder coasts and part of the mangrove on the western side of Tai Ho Stream's estuary.
 - 10.4.3 New residential development is not permitted under this zone. Redevelopment of existing house may be permitted on application to the Board. The redevelopment of an existing house shall not result in a total redevelopment in excess of the plot ratio, site coverage and height of the house which was in existence on the date of the first publication of the draft DPA Plan.
 - 10.4.4 In view of the conservation value of the area within this zone, permission from the Board is required for diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land that may cause adverse drainage impacts on the adjacent areas and adverse impacts on the natural environment, except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.
- 10.5 <u>"Conservation Area" ("CA")</u>: Total Area 15.41 ha
 - 10.5.1 This zone is intended to protect and retain the existing natural landscape, ecological or topographical features of the area for conservation, educational and research purposes and to separate sensitive natural environment such as SSSI or Country Park from the adverse effects of development. There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted.

- 10.5.2 Buffers are provided on both sides of Tai Ho Stream SSSI in order to protect the aquatic habitats.
- 10.5.3 This zone also comprises a patch of mature woodland at the south of Pak Mong village with the intention of preserving the woodland with its existing natural character from further disturbance.
- 10.5.4 New residential development is not permitted within this zone. Redevelopment of existing house may be permitted on application to the Board. The redevelopment of existing house shall not result in a total redevelopment in excess of the plot ratio, site coverage and height of the house which was in existence on the date of the first publication of the draft DPA Plan.
- 10.5.5 Works relating to diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land may cause adverse drainage impacts on adjacent areas and the natural environment. In view of the conservation value of the area within this zone, permission from the Board is required for such activities except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.
- 10.6 "Site of Special Scientific Interest" ("SSSI"): Total Area 4.64 ha
 - 10.6.1 The planning intention of this zone is to conserve and protect the features of special scientific interest such as rare or particular species of fauna and flora and their habitats which are designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It intends to deter human activities or developments within the SSSI. There is a general presumption against development in this zone. No developments are permitted unless they are needed to support the conservation of the features of special scientific interest in the SSSI, to maintain and protect the existing character of the SSSI, or for educational and research purposes.
 - 10.6.2 This zone covers the designated Tai Ho Stream SSSI. The SSSI, having an area of about 5 ha, covers a natural stream (Tai Ho Stream) with several tributaries running from upland to the lowland estuary. Tai Ho Steam is a medium-sized natural stream supporting a high diversity of freshwater and brackish-water fishes in Hong Kong, including the rare Largesnout Goby (*Awaous melanocephalus* 黑首 阿胡鰕虎魚) and the rare Black Sleeper (*Eleotris melanosoma* 黑體 塘鳢); and is the only known location of the rare migratory fish Ayu (*Pleccoglossus altivelis* 香魚) in the territory. At the estuary of the stream, horseshoe crabs (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* 圓尾鱟), a species of conservation importance, have also been recorded in the mudflat.
 - 10.6.3 Diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land may cause adverse impacts on the adjacent areas and adverse impacts on the natural environment. In view of the conservation value of the area within this zone, permission from the Board is required for such

activities.

Land Use	Area on Approved	Area on	Difference
Zoning	DPA Plan (ha) (a)	Draft OZP (ha) (b)	(b) – (a)
"V"	1.27 (0.64%)	6.43 (3.24%)	+ 5.16 ha
"G/IC"	-	0.15 (0.08%)	+ 0.15 ha
"GB"	-	166.97 (84.16%)	+ 166.97 ha
"CPA"	-	4.20 (2.12%)	+ 4.20 ha
"CA"	-	15.41 (7.77%)	+ 15.41 ha
"SSSI"	4.64 (2.34%)	4.64 (2.34%)	No Change
Major Road	-	0.60 (0.29%)	+ 0.60 ha
etc.			
Unspecified	192.49 (97.02%)	-	- 192.49 ha
Use			
Total Area	198.4	198.4	

10.7 A comparison of land use zonings on the approved Tai Ho DPA Plan No. DPA/I-TH/2 and the draft OZP No. S/I-TH/B is shown in the table below:

11 <u>Notes of the Plan</u>

- 11.1 Attached to the Plan is a set of Notes which shows the types of uses or developments which are always permitted within the Area and which may be permitted by the Board, with or without conditions, on application. The provision for application for planning permission under section 16 of the Ordinance allows flexibility in land use planning and control of development to meet the changing needs.
- 11.2 The draft Notes are formulated on the basis of the latest set of Master Schedule of Notes (MSN) to Statutory Plans endorsed by the Board whilst having regard to the particular characteristics of the Area. Deviations from MSN are summarised at **Appendix VI**.

12 <u>Consultation</u>

- 12.1 The draft OZP together with its Notes and ES as well as the Planning Report have been circulated to relevant government bureaux and departments for comments. Comments received have been incorporated into the draft OZP, its Notes and ES and the Planning Report as appropriate.
- 12.2 Subject to the agreement of the Board, the draft OZP No. S/I-TH/B will be submitted to IsDC and RC for consultation. Comments from IsDC and RC will be submitted to the Board for further consideration in due course.

13 Decision Sought

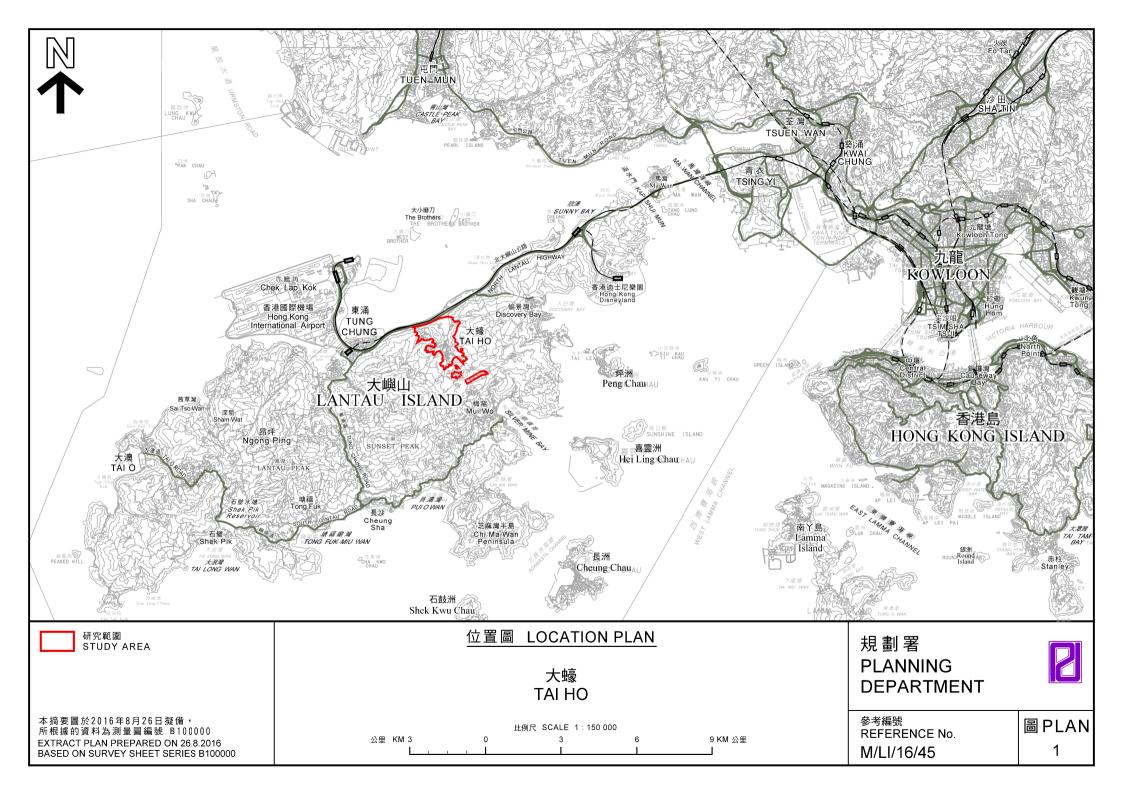
Members are invited to:

- (a) agree that the draft Tai Ho Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/I-TH/B
 (Appendix I) together with its Notes (Appendix II) is suitable for consultation with IsDC and RC;
- (b) agree that the ES (**Appendix III**) is suitable to serve as an expression of the planning intention and objectives of the Board for the various land use zonings of the draft OZP; and
- (c) agree that the ES (**Appendix III**) is suitable for consultation with IsDC and RC together with the draft OZP.

14 <u>Attachments</u>

Plan 1Location Plan of the Planning Scheme Area	
Plan 2 Aerial Photo	
Plan 3 Existing Landscape Features	
Plan 4 Planning Framework for Recreation and Tourism	
Plan 5 Site for Enhanced Conservation under the New Nature	•
Conservation Policy	
Plan 6 Land Ownership and 'Village Environs' Boundary	
Plan 7 Proposed Land Use Pattern	
Appendix I Draft Tai Ho Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/I-TH/H	3
Appendix II Notes of the draft Tai Ho OZP No. S/I-TH/B	
Appendix III Explanatory Statement of the draft Tai Ho OZP	
No. S/I-TH/B	
Appendix IV Planning Report on Tai Ho	
Appendix V 10-year Small House demand submitted by Indigenous	5
Inhabitant Representatives	
Appendix VI Summary of Deviations from the Master Schedules of	Notes

PLANNING DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 2016





本摘要圖於2016年8月26日擬備, 所根據的資料為正射影像圖D0P5000(2015年) EXTRACT PLAN PREPARED ON 26.8.2016 BASED ON ORTHOPHOTO DOP5000 (Year 2015)



Treatment Work



老虎頭 LOFU TAU

偷景灣 DISCOVERY BAY

Reserved

圖例 LEGEND



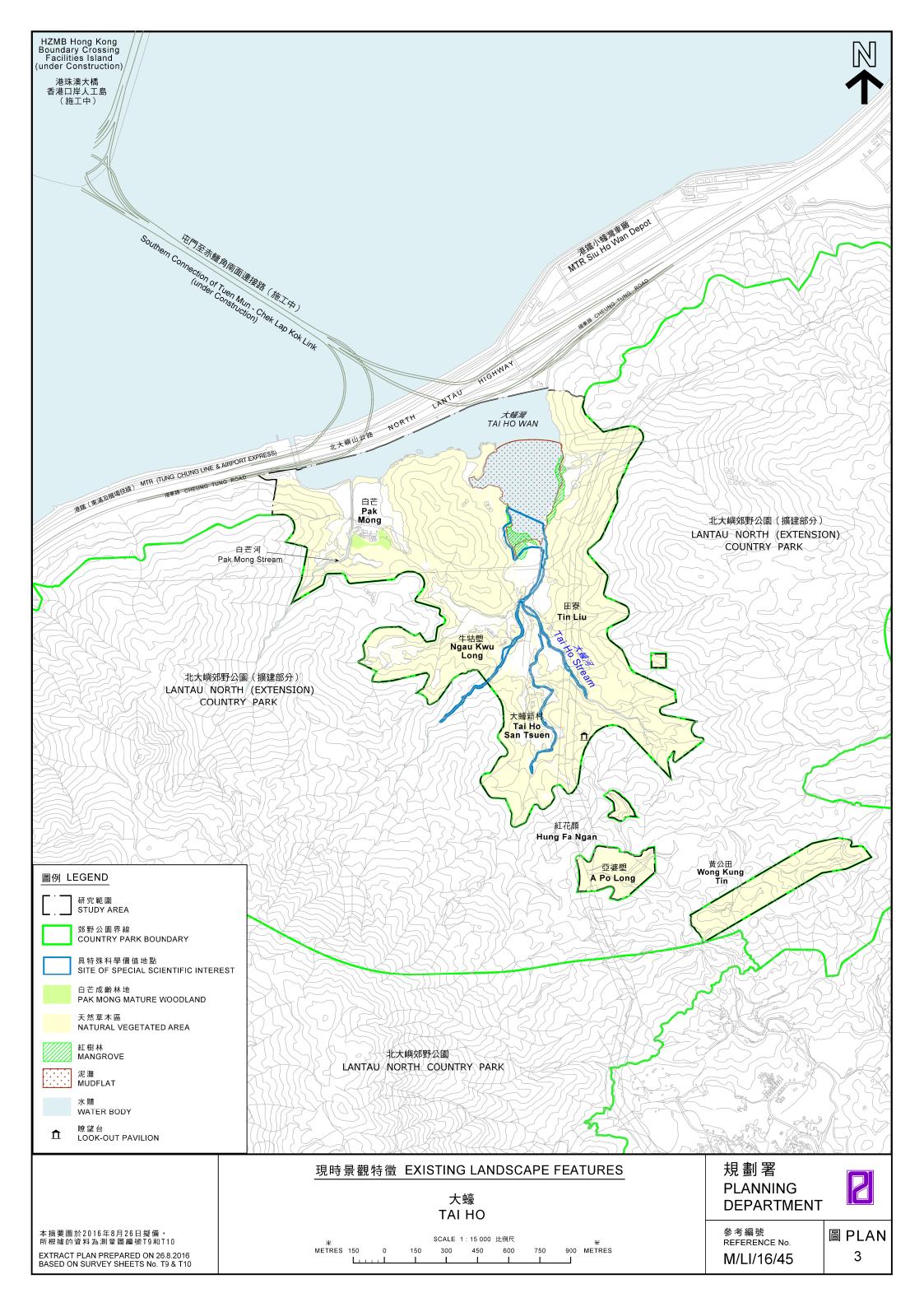
研究範圍 STUDY AREA

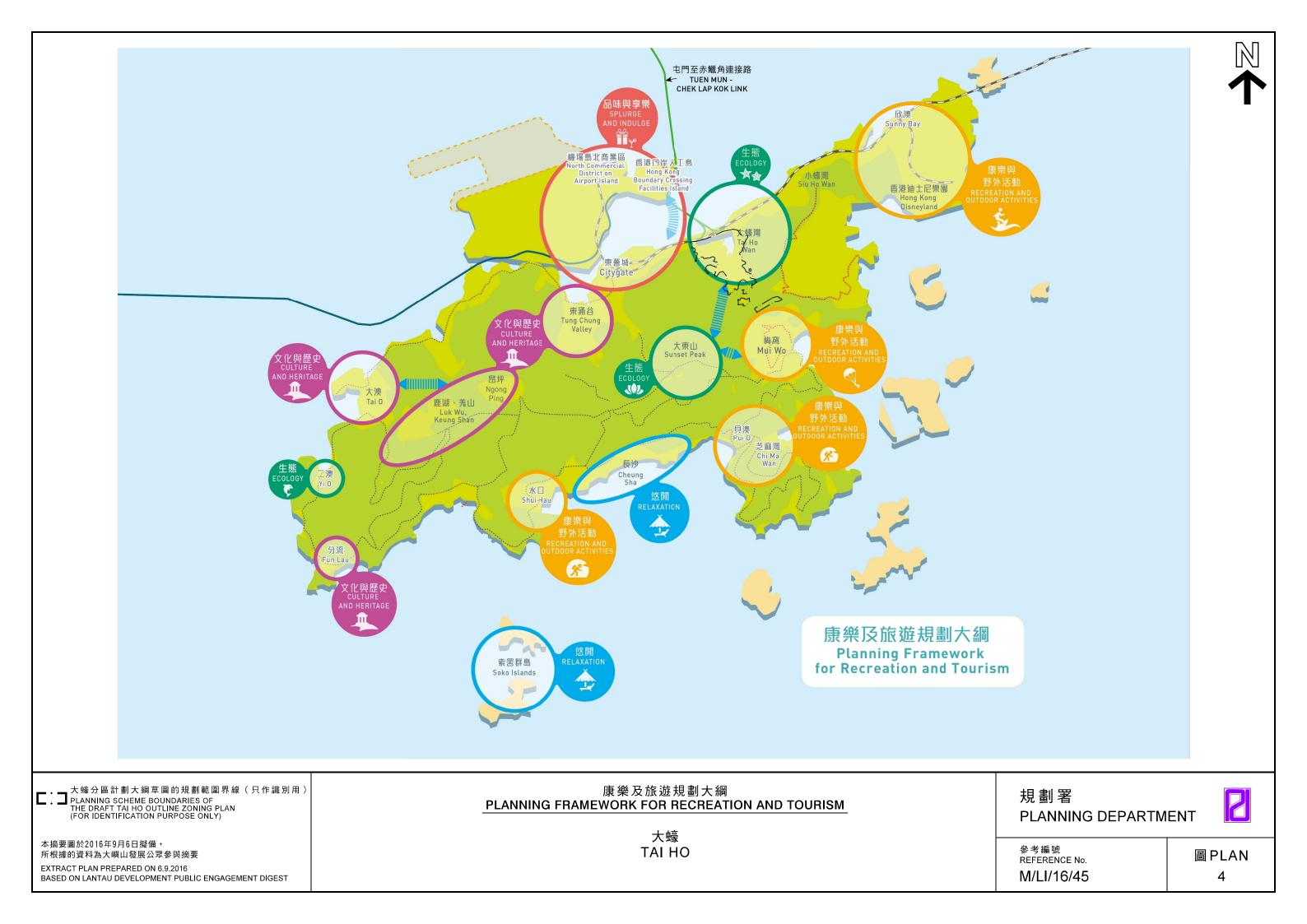
郊野公園界線 COUNTRY PARK BOUNDARY



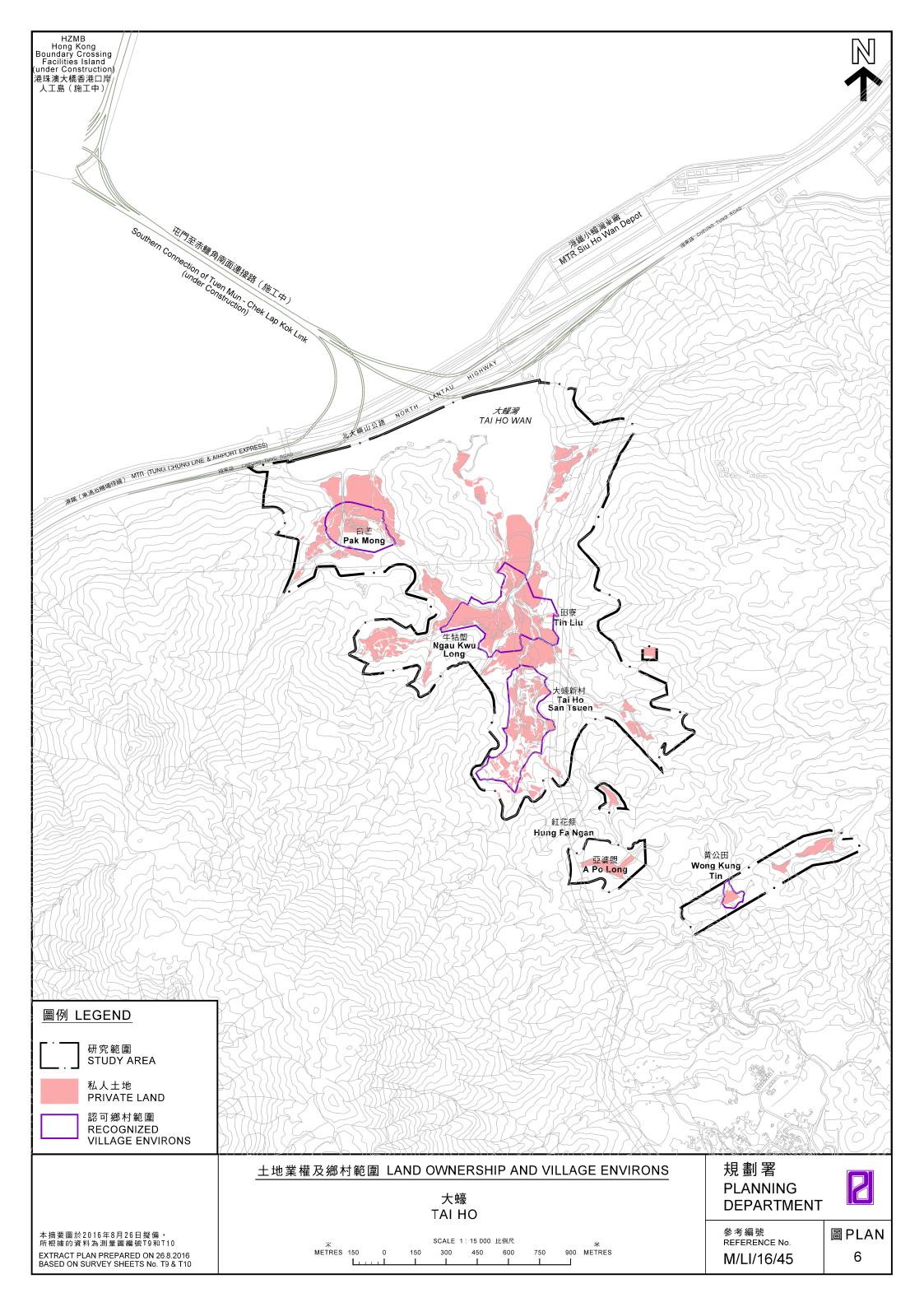
參考編號 REFERENCE No. M/LI/16/45

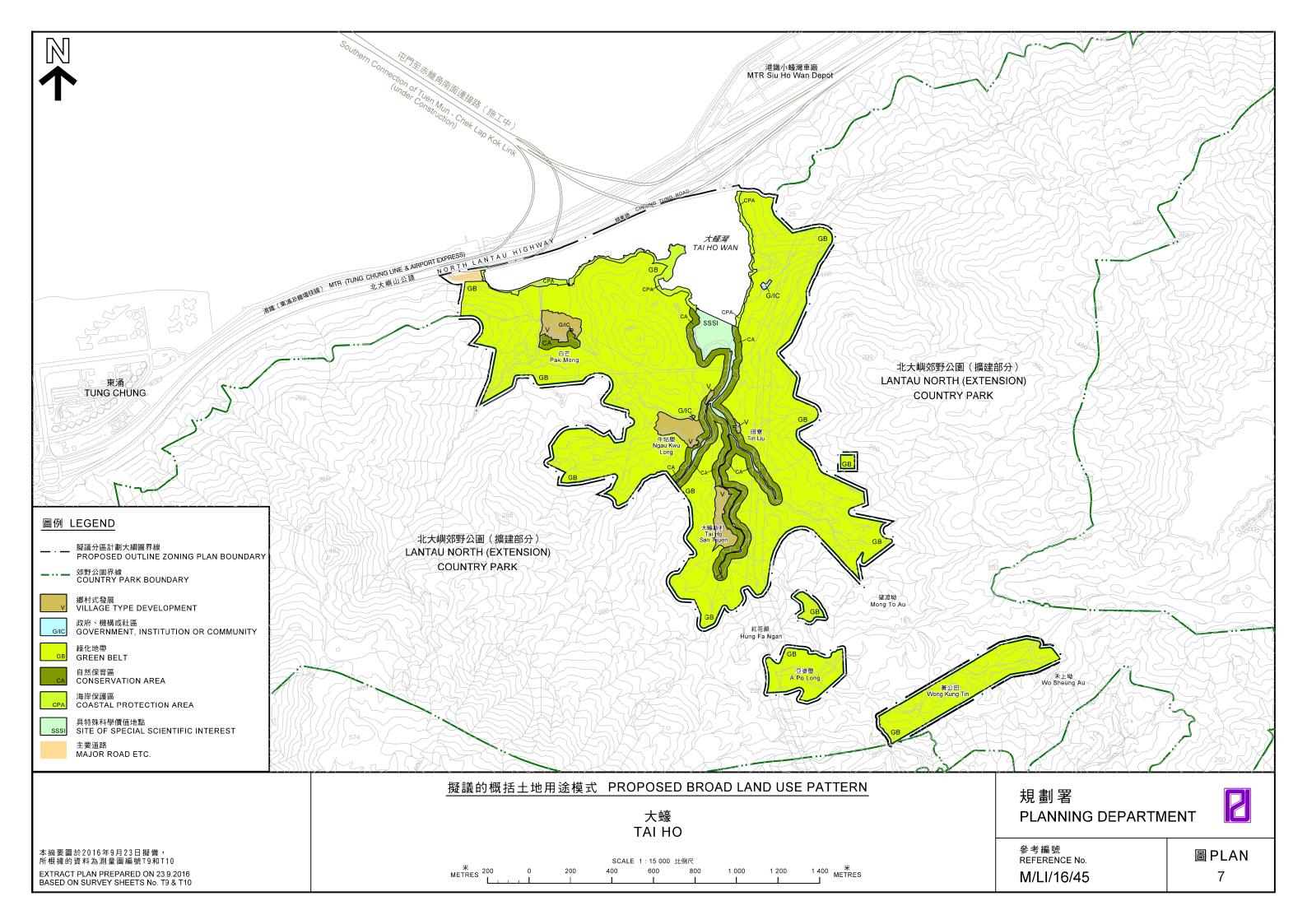


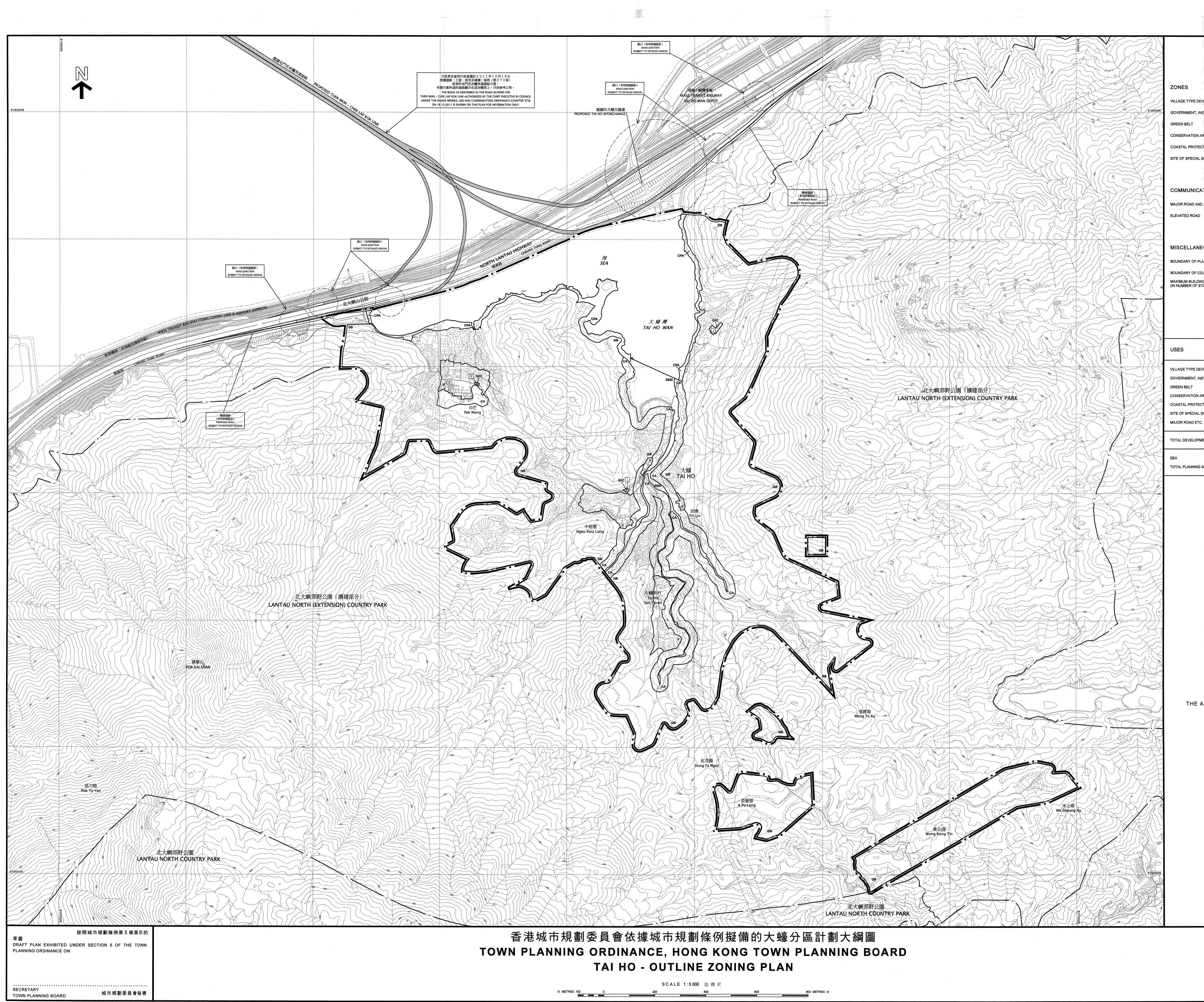












		Appen	dix I of TPB Paper No. 101
	圖 例 NOTAT		
A second se			地帶
ELOPMENT		V	鄉村式發展
TITUTION OR COMMUNITY		G/IC	政 府 丶 機 構 或 社 區
		GB	綠化地帶
REA		CA	自然保育區
TION AREA		СРА	海岸保護區
		SSSI	具特殊科學價值地點
TIONS			交通
JUNCTION		f	主要道路及路口
			高架道路
ous			其他
			規 劃 範 圞 界 線
UNTRY PARK		• #******	郊 野 公 園 界 線
G HEIGHT 'OREYS)		1	最 高 建 築 物 高 度 (樓 層 數 目)
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	HECTARES	% 百分率	
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	0.15 166.97	0.08 84.16	
REA	15.41	7.77	自然保育區
XEA	4.20	2.12	海岸保護區
	-	2.34	具特殊科學價值地點
TION AREA	4.64		
TION AREA	4.64 0.60	0.29	土安退路守
TION AREA CIENTIFIC INTEREST		0.29	主 要 道 路 等
TION AREA CIENTIFIC INTEREST ENT AREA	0.60		

夾 附 的 《 註 釋 》 屬 這 份 圖 則 的 一 部 分 THE ATTACHED NOTES ALSO FORM PART OF THIS PLAN

> 規 劃 署 遵 照 城 市 規 劃 委 員 會 指 示 擬 備 PREPARED BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT UNDER HE DIRECTION OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD

> > S/I-TH/B

圖則編號 PLAN No.

DRAFT TAI HO OUTLINE ZONING PLAN NO. S/I-TH/B

(Being a Draft Plan for the Purposes of the Town Planning Ordinance)

NOTES

(N.B. These form part of the Plan)

(1)

- These Notes show the uses or developments on land falling within the boundaries of the Plan which are always permitted and which may be permitted by the Town Where permission from Planning Board, with or without conditions, on application. the Town Planning Board for a use or development is required, the application for such permission should be made in a prescribed form. The application shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, from whom the prescribed application form may be obtained.
- Any use or development which is always permitted or may be permitted in (2)accordance with these Notes must also conform to any other relevant legislation, the conditions of the Government lease concerned, and any other Government requirements, as may be applicable.
- (3) No action is required to make the use of any land or building which was in existence immediately before the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan conform to this Plan, provided such use has continued since it came into existence. Any material change of such use or any other development (except minor alteration and/or modification to the development of the land or building in respect of such use which is always permitted) must be always permitted in terms of the Plan or in accordance with a permission granted by the Town Planning Board.
- (4) A use or development of any land or building permitted under an earlier draft or approved plan including development permission area plan for the area and effected or undertaken during the effective period of that plan is always permitted under this Plan. Any material change of such use or any other development (except minor alteration and/or modification to the completed development of the land or building which is always permitted) must be always permitted in terms of the Plan or in accordance with a permission granted by the Town Planning Board.
- (5) Except to the extent that paragraph (3) or (4) applies, any use or development falling within the boundaries of the Plan and also within the boundaries of the draft development permission area plan, unless always permitted in terms of the Plan, shall not be undertaken or continued on or after the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan without permission from the Town Planning Board.
- Except as otherwise specified by the Town Planning Board, when a use or material (6) change of use is effected or a development or redevelopment is undertaken, as always permitted in terms of the Plan or in accordance with a permission granted by the Town Planning Board, all permissions granted by the Town Planning Board in respect of the site of the use or material change of use or development or redevelopment shall lapse.
- Road junctions, alignment of roads and boundaries between zones may be subject to (7)minor adjustments as detailed planning proceeds.

The following uses or developments are always permitted on land falling within the boundaries of the Plan except (a) where the uses or developments are specified in Column 2 of the Notes of individual zones or (b) as provided in paragraph (9) in relation to areas zoned "Site of Special Scientific Interest", "Conservation Area" or "Coastal Protection Area":

2 -

- (a) maintenance, repair or demolition of a building;
- (b) provision, maintenance or repair of plant nursery, amenity planting, open space, rain shelter, refreshment kiosk, footpath, bus/public light bus stop or lay-by, cycle track, taxi rank, public utility pipeline, electricity mast, lamp pole, telephone booth, telecommunications radio base station, automatic teller machine and shrine;
- (c) maintenance or repair of road, watercourse, nullah, sewer and drain;
- (d) geotechnical works, local public works, road works, sewerage works, drainage works, environmental improvement works, marine related facilities and waterworks (excluding works on service reservoir) and such other public works co-ordinated or implemented by Government;
- (e) rebuilding of New Territories Exempted House;
- (f) replacement of an existing domestic building, i.e. a domestic building which was in existence on the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan, by a New Territories Exempted House; and
- (g) provision, maintenance or repair of a grave of an indigenous New Territories villager or a locally based fisherman and his family members for which permission has been obtained from Government.
- In areas zoned "Site of Special Scientific Interest", "Conservation Area" or "Coastal Protection Area",
 - (a) the following uses or developments are always permitted:
 - (i) maintenance or repair of plant nursery, amenity planting, sitting out area, rain shelter, refreshment kiosk, road, watercourse, nullah, public utility pipeline, electricity mast, lamp pole, telephone booth, shrine and grave;
 - (ii) geotechnical works, local public works, road works, sewerage works, drainage works, environmental improvement works, marine related facilities, waterworks (excluding works on service reservoir) and such other public works co-ordinated or implemented by Government; and
 - (iii) provision of amenity planting by Government; and
 - (b) the following uses or developments require permission from the Town Planning Board:

provision of plant nursery, amenity planting (other than by Government), sitting

(8)

(9)

out area, rain shelter, refreshment kiosk, footpath, public utility pipeline, electricity mast, lamp pole, telephone booth and shrine.

In any area shown as 'Road', all uses or developments except those specified in (10)paragraphs (8)(a) to (8)(d) and (8)(g) above and those specified below require permission from the Town Planning Board:

3 -

road and on-street vehicle park.

(11)(a) Except in areas zoned "Site of Special Scientific Interest", "Coastal Protection Area" or "Conservation Area", temporary use or development of any land or building not exceeding a period of two months is always permitted provided that no site formation (filling or excavation) is carried out and that the use or development is a use or development specified below:

> structures for carnivals, fairs, film shooting on locations, festival celebrations, religious functions or sports events.

- (b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (11)(a), and subject to temporary uses for open storage and port back-up purposes which are prohibited in areas zoned "Site of Special Scientific Interest", "Conservation Area" or "Coastal Protection Area", temporary use or development of any land or building not exceeding a period of three years requires permission from the Town Planning Board. Notwithstanding that the use or development is not provided for in terms of the Plan, the Town Planning Board may grant permission, with or without conditions, for a maximum period of three years, or refuse to grant permission.
- Temporary use or development of land or building exceeding three years (c) requires permission from the Town Planning Board in accordance with the terms of the Plan.
- Unless otherwise specified, all building, engineering and other operations incidental (12)to and all uses directly related and ancillary to the permitted uses and developments within the same zone are always permitted and no separate permission is required.
- (13)In these Notes, unless the context otherwise requires or unless as expressly provided below, terms used in the Notes shall have the meanings as assigned under section 1A of the Town Planning Ordinance.

"Existing building" means a building, including a structure, which is physically existing and is in compliance with any relevant legislation and the conditions of the Government lease concerned.

"New Territories Exempted House" means a domestic building other than a guesthouse or a hotel; or a building primarily used for habitation, other than a guesthouse or a hotel, the ground floor of which may be used as 'Shop and Services' or 'Eating Place', the building works in respect of which are exempted by a certificate of exemption under Part III of the Buildings Ordinance (Application to the New Territories) Ordinance (Cap. 121).

DRAFT TAI HO OUTLINE ZONING PLAN NO. S/I-TH/B

Schedules of Uses

	Page
VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT	. 1
GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION OR COMMUNITY	3
GREEN BELT	5
COASTAL PROTECTION AREA	7
CONSERVATION AREA	8
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST	9

VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT

Column 1	Column 2
Uses always permitted	Uses that may be permitted with or
Oses always permitted	without conditions on application
	to the Town Planning Board
· · · · · ·	
Agricultural Use	Eating Place
Government Use (Police Reporting Centre,	Government Refuse Collection Point
Post Office only)	Government Use (not elsewhere specified)#
House (New Territories Exempted	House (not elsewhere specified)
House only)	Institutional Use (not elsewhere specified)#
On-Farm Domestic Structure	Place of Recreation, Sports or Culture
Religious Institution	Public Clinic
(Ancestral Hall only)	Public Convenience
Rural Committee/Village Office	Public Utility Installation #
	Religious Institution (not elsewhere specified)#
	Residential Institution #
	School #
	Shop and Services
	Social Welfare Facility #
	Utility Installation for Private Project

In addition, the following uses are always permitted on the ground floor of a New Territories Exempted House:

Eating Place Library School Shop and Services

Planning Intention

The planning intention of this zone is to designate both existing recognised villages and areas of land considered suitable for village expansion. Land within this zone is primarily intended for development of Small Houses by indigenous villagers. It is also intended to concentrate village type development within this zone for a more orderly development pattern, efficient use of land and provision of infrastructures and services. Selected commercial and community uses serving the needs of the villagers and in support of the village development are always permitted on the ground floor of a New Territories Exempted House. Other commercial, community and recreational uses may be permitted on application to the Town Planning Board.

VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT (cont'd)

2

<u>Remarks</u>

- (a) No new development, or addition, alteration and/or modification to or redevelopment of an existing building (except development or redevelopment to those annotated with #) shall result in a total development and/or redevelopment in excess of a maximum building height of 3 storeys (8.23m) or the height of the building which was in existence on the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan, whichever is the greater.
- (b) Based on the individual merits of a development or redevelopment proposal, minor relaxation of the building height restriction stated in paragraph (a) above may be considered by the Town Planning Board on application under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance.
- (c) Any diversion of streams, including that to effect a change of use to any of those specified in Columns 1 and 2 above or the uses or developments always permitted under the covering Notes (except public works co-ordinated or implemented by Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works), shall not be undertaken or continued on or after the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan without the permission from the Town Planning Board under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance.

GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION OR COMMUNITY

Column 1	Column 2
Uses always permitted	Uses that may be permitted with or
	without conditions on application
	to the Town Planning Board
Educational Institution	Animal Boarding Establishment
Field Study/Education/Visitor Centre	Animal Quarantine Centre
Government Refuse Collection Point	Columbarium
Government Use (not elsewhere specified)	Crematorium
Institutional Use (not elsewhere specified)	Eating Place
Library	Funeral Facility
Market	Helicopter Landing Pad
Place of Recreation, Sports or Culture	Helicopter Fuelling Station
Public Clinic	Holiday Camp
Public Convenience	House (other than rebuilding of New
Public Utility Installation	Territories Exempted House or
Recyclable Collection Centre	replacement of existing domestic
Religious Institution	building by New Territories
Rural Committee/Village Office	Exempted House permitted under
School	the covering Notes)
Social Welfare Facility	Place of Entertainment
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Private Club
	Radar, Telecommunications Electronic
	Microwave Repeater, Television
	and/or Radio Transmitter Installation
	Residential Institution
	Correspondent / Correspondence Diant

Sewage Treatment/Screening Plant

Shop and Services

Utility Installation for Private Project

Planning Intention

This zone is intended primarily for the provision of Government, institution or community facilities serving the needs of the local residents and/or a wider district, region or the territory. It is also intended to provide land for uses directly related to or in support of the work of the Government, organizations providing social services to meet community needs, and other institutional establishments.

GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION OR COMMUNITY (cont'd)

Remarks

(a)

- No new development, or addition, alteration and/or modification to or redevelopment of an existing building shall result in a total development and/or redevelopment in excess of a maximum building height in terms of number of storey(s) as stipulated on the Plan, or the height of the building which was in existence on the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan, whichever is the greater.
- (b) Based on the individual merits of a development or redevelopment proposal, minor relaxation of the building height restriction stated in paragraph (a) above may be considered by the Town Planning Board on application under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance.

GREEN BELT

Column 1	Column 2
Uses always permitted	Uses that may be permitted with or
	without conditions on application
: .	to the Town Planning Board
Agricultural Use	Animal Boarding Establishment
Barbecue Spot	Broadcasting, Television and/or Film Studio
Government Use (Police Reporting	Burial Ground
Centre only)	Columbarium (within a Religious Institution or
Nature Reserve	extension of existing Columbarium only)
Nature Trail	Crematorium (within a Religious Institution or
On-Farm Domestic Structure	extension of existing Crematorium only)
Picnic Area	Field Study/Education/Visitor Centre
Public Convenience	Government Refuse Collection Point
Tent Camping Ground	Government Use (not elsewhere specified)
Wild Animals Protection Area	Helicopter Landing Pad
	Holiday Camp
	House (other than rebuilding of New Territories
	Exempted House or replacement of existing
	domestic building by New Territories
	Exempted House permitted under the
	covering Notes)
	Place of Recreation, Sports or Culture
	Public Utility Installation
	Radar, Telecommunications Electronic
	Microwave Repeater, Television
	and/or Radio Transmitter Installation
	Religious Institution
	Residential Institution
	Rural Committee/Village Office
	School
	Service Reservoir
	Social Welfare Facility
	Utility Installation for Private Project

Planning Intention

The planning intention of this zone is primarily for defining the limits of development areas by natural features and to preserve the existing natural landscape as well as to provide passive recreational outlets. There is a general presumption against development within this zone.

<u>GREEN BELT</u> (cont'd)

6

Remarks

Any diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land, including that to effect a change of use to any of those specified in Columns 1 and 2 above or the uses or developments always permitted under the covering Notes (except public works co-ordinated or implemented by Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works), shall not be undertaken or continued on or after the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan without the permission from the Town Planning Board under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance.

COASTAL PROTECTION AREA

Column 1 Uses always permitted	Column 2 Uses that may be permitted with or without conditions on application to the Town Planning Board		
Agricultural Use (other than Plant Nursery) Nature Reserve Nature Trail On-Farm Domestic Structure Wild Animals Protection Area	Field Study/Education/Visitor Centre Government Use House (Redevelopment only) Pier Public Convenience Public Utility Installation Radar, Telecommunications Electronic Microwave Repeater, Television and/or Radio Transmitter Installation Tent Camping Ground Utility Installation for Private Project		

Planning Intention

This zoning is intended to conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment, including attractive geological features, physical landform or area of high landscape, scenic or ecological value, with a minimum of built development. It may also cover areas which serve as natural protection areas sheltering nearby developments against the effects of coastal erosion.

There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted.

<u>Remarks</u>

- (a) No redevelopment, including alteration and/or modification, of an existing house shall result in a total redevelopment in excess of the plot ratio, site coverage and height of the house which was in existence on the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan.
- (b) Any diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land, including that to effect a change of use to any of those specified in Columns 1 and 2 above or the uses or developments always permitted under the covering Notes (except public works co-ordinated or implemented by Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works), shall not be undertaken or continued on or after the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan without the permission from the Town Planning Board under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance.

CONSERVATION AREA

Column 1	Column 2		
Uses always permitted	Uses that may be permitted with or		
	without conditions on application		
	to the Town Planning Board		
Agricultural Use (other than Plant Nursery)	Field Study /Education/Visitor Centre		
Nature Reserve	Government Refuse Collection Point		
Nature Trail	Government Use (not elsewhere specified)		
On-Farm Domestic Structure	House (Redevelopment only)		
Picnic Area	Public Convenience		
Wild Animals Protection Area	Public Utility Installation		
	Radar, Telecommunications Electronic		
	Microwave Repeater, Television		
	and/or Radio Transmitter Installation		
	Utility Installation for Private Project		

Planning Intention

This zoning is intended to protect and retain the existing natural landscape, ecological or topographical features of the area for conservation, educational and research purposes and to separate sensitive natural environment such as Site of Special Scientific Interest or Country Park from the adverse effects of development.

There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted.

<u>Remarks</u>

- (a) No redevelopment, including alteration and/or modification, of an existing house shall result in a total redevelopment in excess of the plot ratio, site coverage and height of the house which was in existence on the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan.
- (b) Any diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land, including that to effect a change of use to any of those specified in Columns 1 and 2 above or the uses or developments always permitted under the covering Notes (except public works co-ordinated or implemented by Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works), shall not be undertaken or continued on or after the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan without the permission from the Town Planning Board under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance.

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Column 1 Uses always permitted

Column 2 Uses that may be permitted with or without conditions on application to the Town Planning Board

Wild Animals Protection Area

Agricultural Use Field Study/Education/Visitor Centre Government Use Nature Reserve Nature Trail On-Farm Domestic Structure Public Convenience Public Utility Installation Utility Installation for Private Project

Planning Intention

The planning intention of this zone is to conserve and protect the features of special scientific interest such as rare or particular species of fauna and flora and their habitats which are designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It intends to deter human activities or developments within the SSSI.

There is a general presumption against development in this zone. No developments are permitted unless they are needed to support the conservation of the features of special scientific interest in the SSSI, to maintain and protect the existing character of the SSSI, or for educational and research purposes.

<u>Remarks</u>

Any diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land, including that to effect a change of use to any of those specified in Columns 1 and 2 above or the uses or developments always permitted under the covering Notes, shall not be undertaken or continued on or after the date of the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft development permission area plan without the permission from the Town Planning Board under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance.

Appendix III of TPB Paper No. 10186

DRAFT TAI HO OUTLINE ZONING PLAN NO. S/I-TH/B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

DRAFT TAI HO OUTLINE ZONING PLAN NO. S/I-TH/B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

<u>CONTENTS</u>

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DRAFT TAI HO OUTLINE ZONING PLAN NO. S/I-TH/B

(Being a Draft Plan for the Purposes of the Town Planning Ordinance)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Note : For the purposes of the Town Planning Ordinance, this statement shall not be deemed to constitute a part of the Plan.

1 <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

This Explanatory Statement is intended to assist an understanding of the draft Tai Ho Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/I-TH/B. It reflects the planning intention and objectives of the Town Planning Board (the Board) for various land-use zonings for the Plan.

2 <u>AUTHORITY FOR THE PLAN AND PROCEDURE</u>

- 2.1 On 17 February 2014, under the power delegated by the Chief Executive (CE), the Secretary for Development directed the Board, under section 3(1)(b) of the Town Planning Ordinance (the Ordinance), to prepare a draft plan designating the Tai Ho area (the Area) as a development permission area (DPA).
- 2.2 On 28 March 2014, the draft Tai Ho DPA Plan No. DPA/I-TH/1 was exhibited for public inspection under section 5 of the Ordinance. During the two-month exhibition period, a total of 642 representations were received. During the first three weeks of the publication period, a total of 206 comments on the representations were received. After giving consideration to the representations and comments on 19 December 2014, the Board decided not to uphold the representations.
- 2.3 On 24 February 2015, the Chief Executive in Council (CE in C), under section 9(1)(a) of the Ordinance, approved the draft Tai Ho DPA Plan, which was subsequently renumbered as DPA/I-TH/2. On 20 March 2015, the approved Tai Ho DPA Plan No. DPA/I-TH/2 was exhibited for public inspection under section 9(5) of the Ordinance.
- 2.4 On 24 August 2016, under the power delegated by the CE, the Secretary for Development directed the Board, under section 3(1)(a) of the Ordinance, to prepare an OZP to cover the Area.
- 2.5 On XX XXXXX XXXX, the draft Tai Ho OZP No. S/I-TH/1 (the Plan) was exhibited for public inspection under section 5 of the Ordinance.

3 <u>OBJECT OF THE PLAN</u>

3.1 The object of the Plan is to indicate the broad land use zonings for the Area so that development and redevelopment within the Area can be put under statutory planning control. It also provides the planning framework for preparing more

detailed non-statutory plans which form the basis for public works planning and site reservation for various uses.

3.2 The Plan is to illustrate the broad principles of development and planning control only. It is a small-scale plan and the boundaries between land use zones may be subject to minor adjustments as detailed planning and development proceed.

NOTES OF THE PLAN

- 4.1 Attached to the Plan is a set of Notes which shows the types of uses or developments which are always permitted within the Area and which may be permitted by the Board, with or without conditions, on application. The provision for application for planning permission under section 16 of the Ordinance allows greater flexibility in land use planning and control of development to meet the changing needs.
- 4.2 For the guidance of the general public, a set of definitions that explains some of the terms used in the Notes may be obtained from the Technical Services Division of the Planning Department (PlanD) and can be downloaded from the Board's website at http://www.info.gov.hk/tpb.

5 THE PLANNING SCHEME AREA

- 5.1 The Area covers a total area of about 230 ha including about 32 ha of water body (Tai Ho Wan). It is located to the east of Tung Chung New Town Extension (TCNTE) Area and is separated by the mountain ridges of Por Kai Shan within Lantau North (Extension) Country Park. The Area mainly consists of Tai Ho Valley, which comprises Tai Ho Wan, village settlements, agricultural land, the natural vegetated areas including woodland, shrubland, streams etc. and several pieces of isolated vegetated upland areas on the eastern and southern sides, i.e. Tin Liu, Hung Fa Ngan, A Po Long and Wong Kung Tin. The boundary of the Area is shown by a heavy broken line on the Plan.
- 5.2 The Area generally consists of a low lying valley at the centre with hilly terrain descending from the mountain ranges and peaks in the south towards the seashore. According to the Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong, the Area including the four isolated vegetated upland areas is classified as having high landscape value.
- 5.3 The Area has rich landscape resources including mature woodland, shrubland, grassland, valley, knolls, and streams. There are also natural coastal features such as the estuary and shorelines at Tai Ho Wan. Tai Ho Wan is a major landmark along North Lantau Highway (NLH), which previously was an open coastal bay before the highway was built. The estuary area of Tai Ho Stream consists of mangrove and inter-tidal mudflats. Along the eastern periphery of Tai Ho Wan, coastal vegetations are found, dominant species include young and scattered patches of *Kandelia obovata*, abundant young *Cerbera manghas*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus* and *Pongamia pinnata*.

5.4 Part of Tai Ho Stream is listed as an Ecologically Important Stream (EIS) and is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Tai Ho Stream SSSI is one of the few remaining medium-sized natural streams of its kind in Hong Kong. The stream supports a high diversity of freshwater and brackish-water fishes in Hong Kong with various species recorded, including the rare Largesnout Goby (*Awaous melanocephalus* 黑首阿胡鰕虎魚), the rare Black Sleeper (*Eleotris melanosoma* 黑體塘鱧) and the rare migratory fish Ayu (*Plecoglossus altivelis* 香魚). The Seagrass *Halophila beccarii* (貝克喜鹽草) and Horseshoe crabs (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* 圓尾鱟), a species of conservation importance, have also been recorded in the mudflat within the boundary of Tai Ho Stream SSSI.

- 5.5 Tai Ho also supports the reptile of regional concern Tokay Gecko (*Gekko gecko* 大壁虎), as well as a number of rare/uncommon butterflies including the rare Red Lacewing (*Cethosia biblis* 紅鋸蛺蝶). Two amphibian species of conservation interest, namely Romer's Tree Frog (*Liuixalus romeri* 盧氏小樹蛙) and Short-legged Toad (*Megophrys brachykolos* 短腳角蟾), have also been recorded at Tai Ho.
- 5.6 The area further uphill is densely vegetated woodland and shrubland on the valley sides extending into Lantau North (Extension) Country Park and Lantau North Country Park beyond the Area. A concrete footpath links the NLH to the country parks uphill, going through village settlements at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho San Tsuen with associated agricultural land.
- 5.7 There are four recognised villages within the Area, namely Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long, Tai Ho (also known as Tai Ho San Tsuen) and Wong Kung Tin (also known as Wong Fung Tin). Except Wong Kung Tin at the southernmost part of the Area where no village settlement is found, all other villages in the Area consist of typical 3-storey village houses with ancestral halls (Tsz Tong) and a large area of paved area for ancestral worshipping activities.

6 <u>POPULATION</u>

Based on the population data of the 2011 Census, the population in the Area is estimated to be about 150 and most of them are living in the recognised villages. It is expected that the planned population of the Area would be about 830.

7 **OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS**

7.1 *Opportunities*

7.1.1 Nature and Heritage Conservation

(a) Located at northshore Lantau and bounded by Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, the Area is one of the country park "enclaves" identified to be protected against incompatible uses. It is also an integral part of the natural landscape comprising a diversity of woodland, shrubland, grassland and streams with high ecological and conservation value as mentioned in paragraph 5 above. The natural landscape in the Area are worthy of protection as they provide habitats which support the fauna and flora species of conservation importance.

(b) The Watchtower at Pak Mong Tsuen (Grade 2), Watchtower at Tai Ho (Grade 3) and the Entrance Gate at Pak Mong (Grade 3) are graded historic buildings, which are worthy of preservation.

7.1.2 Lantau Development Context

- Development of the Area has been considered under the context of (a) the entire Lantau development. According to the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau (2007), the Area consisting of woodland, grassland/shrubland, streams, coastal mudflat, agricultural field and villages was identified as a conservation area, which aims to conserve the existing natural character and intrinsic landscape value by protecting topographical features from encroachment by adjacent developments. The Area was also identified as a landscape protection area, where new developments should not compromise the existing landscape setting or local environment. Landscaping should be carried out to mitigate the effect of any new development. There is a hiking trail as proposed in the Revised Concept Plan that connects to Mui Wo. The proposed Lantau Development Strategy submitted to the CE in January 2016 further proposes the Area be used for conservation, leisure, cultural and green tourism with emphasis on protecting sites of conservation value and enhancing their linkages.
- (b) Given the ecological sensitivity of Tai Ho Stream SSSI and Tai Ho Wan, no large-scale development should be introduced in order not to compromise the rural setting and natural environment. Further developments should be of a low-rise character and give regards to the existing landscape.

7.2 *Constraints*

7.2.1 Ecological Sensitivity

- (a) Within the Area, Tai Ho Stream is one of the few remaining medium-sized natural streams of its kind in Hong Kong that supports a high diversity of freshwater and brackish-water fish in Hong Kong. It was designated as a SSSI in 1999. The stream should be protected and conserved against developments unless it is needed to support the conservation of the features of special scientific interest in the SSSI, to maintain and protect the existing character of the SSSI, or for educational and research purposes.
- (b) The Tai Ho Wan catchment is a well preserved rural coastal Hong Kong landscape, and is considered of high conservation value due to its high diversity of habitats and species, presence of species of conservation concern, high degree of naturalness and should be

protected against any impact from development.

7.2.2 <u>Cultural Heritage</u>

- (a) Within the Area, there are some archaeological and historical remains of various periods, which are worthy of preservation. There are two sites of archaeological interest in the Area. Pak Mong Site of Archaeological Interest covers Pak Mong village and its immediate surroundings. Abundant archaeological remains of various periods including Neolithic Period, Bronze Age, Qin, Han and Six dynasties and Tang dynasty are found. Tai Ho Site of Archaeological Interest lies on the floodplain amidst Tai Ho San Tsuen, Ngau Kwu Long and Tin Liu. Few coins and blue-and-white ceramic sherds of Qing dynasty are discovered. There are three graded historic buildings / structures found within the Area, i.e. Watchtower, Pak Mong Tsuen (Grade 2), Watchtower, Tai Ho (Grade 3) and Entrance Gate, Pak Mong (Grade 3).
- Prior consultation with the Antiquities and Monuments Office (b) (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) should be made if any works, developments, redevelopment or rezoning proposals may affect the above graded historic buildings/structures, new items pending grading assessment, site of archaeological interest and their immediate environs. If disturbance to the site of archaeological interest is unavoidable, a detailed archaeological impact assessment (AIA) shall be conducted to evaluate the archaeological impact imposed by the proposed works if there is any development within the site of archaeological interest. If necessary, a qualified archaeologist shall apply for a licence under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) for an archaeological investigation. A proposal of the AIA shall be submitted to AMO for agreement prior to applying for the licence. Subject to the findings of the AIA, appropriate mitigation measures shall be fully implemented by the project proponent in consultation with AMO of LCSD.

7.2.3 <u>Civil Aviation</u>

- (a) Given its proximity to the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), the Area is subject to Airport Height Restriction (AHR). No part of any building or buildings or other structure or equipment erected or to be erected within the Area, or any addition or fitting to such building or buildings or structure or equipment shall exceed the "restricted height" prescribed under the Hong Kong Airport (Control of Obstructions) Ordinance (Cap. 301), any regulation or order made thereunder and any amending legislation.
- (b) Besides, the Area is beneath a helicopter holding area "H5" over "Pak Mong", which is an essential helicopter holding point for Air Traffic Control (ATC) to separate local helicopter traffic from international traffic on departure and arrival within the Air Traffic Zone (ATZ). The use of "Pak Mong" is subject to ATC

instructions for the purpose to enhance flight safety as well as to allow effective flow of helicopter traffic movements to and from the Government Flying Service (GFS) base or Business Aviation Centre located at HKIA.

(c) The helicopter noise arising from the frequent use of GFS helicopters flyover "Pak Mong" will present an adverse impact on any residential development within the Area. More importantly, any development within the "Pak Mong" area will adversely affect GFS flight operations, particularly for emergency flights during bad weather times. Any future development or redevelopment within the Area should take into account this constraint.

7.2.4 Accessibility

- (a) Currently, Cheung Tung Road is the only external vehicular access to Tai Ho. The slip road linking Cheung Tung Road and the Tai Ho Interchange proposed under the TCNTE project would improve the connectivity between TCNTE area and the Area. Within the Area, no proper vehicular access is available except for the footpath connecting Pak Mong and Ngau Kwu Long. Other forms of connection are through hiking trails/footpaths linking Tai Ho area with Mui Wo, Tung Chung, Sunny Bay and Discovery Bay.
- (b) Marine access to the Area by provision of public ferry service is also considered not feasible because the depth of water at the pier at NLH and its approach area is about 1m to 2m, which can only be used by vessels with shallow draft.

7.2.5 Noise and Vehicle Emissions

Although the Area falls outside the coverage of HKIA Noise Exposure Forecast (NEF) 25 contour under the current two-runway and three-runway system in the future, the Area falls within the helicopter holding area above Pak Mong and is in proximity to HKIA, which contributes to noise exposure to the Area. Development within the Area is also constrained by adverse traffic noise and vehicle emissions from NLH. The latest infrastructure proposals around North Lantau such as Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link would likely increase the traffic flow on NLH which in turn may adversely affect the environment of the Area.

7.2.6 Risk Hazard

The high pressure gas pipeline and offtake & pigging station located to the northeast of the Area are classified as Notifiable Gas Installations (NGIs) under the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), and its construction and use are required to undergo an approval system. The northeastern part of the Area is within 200m of these NGIs. For any proposed development in the vicinity (i.e. within 200m) of these NGIs, the increase in population brought by these developments would be a concern and thus a risk assessment would be required from the project proponent to assess the potential risks associated with these NGIs.

7.2.7 Infrastructure and Utility Services

- (a) Currently, drainage system is only provided along NLH and Cheung Tung Road. If any development or redevelopment within the Area which may affect the drainage system or change the drainage characteristic, detailed drainage study would be required and suitable mitigation measures should be provided, if necessary, as part of the development or redevelopment.
- (b) There is no existing or planned public sewer serving the area. For any development or redevelopment that will lead to an increase in population or number of visitors to the Area, the project proponent should provide additional sewage treatment facility as an integral part of the development. Should septic tank and soakaway (STS) system be proposed, the design and construction of the STS system would need to comply with relevant standards, regulations and requirements, including the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)'s Practice Note for Professional Persons (ProPECC) PN 5/93 "Drainage Plans subject to comment by the EPD".
- (c) Fresh water supply is available to the existing villages in the Area. The water supply system is however of limited capacity. If any major development is envisaged in this Area, sufficient lead time should be allowed for upgrading the water supply system as necessary.
- 7.2.8 <u>Geotechnical Safety</u>
 - (a) The Area and its vicinity comprise hilly natural terrain with past natural terrain landslide records. Some of the land near Tai Ho San Tsuen, Ngau Kwu Long and Pak Mong are overlooked by steep natural terrain. For any development or redevelopment within these areas, a natural terrain hazard study (NTHS) would be required and suitable mitigation measures, if found necessary, should be provided as part of the development or redevelopment.
 - (b) There are about 60 registered man-made slopes and retaining walls located within the Area and the stability of these slope features is mostly unknown. If these slope features would affect or be affected by any development and redevelopment, geotechnical investigations and studies including the details of any permanent geotechnical works should be submitted to the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) for checking in accordance with the principle laid down in the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau Technical Circular (Works) No. 29/2002.

7.2.9 <u>Burial Grounds</u>

There are seven permitted burial grounds in the Area for indigenous villagers and they are not suitable for any development. They are located to the southeast of Pak Mong, southwest of the hillside near Tai Ho Wan, south of the Luk Hop Yuen Temple, and east of Tai Ho San Tsuen.

8 **GENERAL PLANNING INTENTION**

The general planning intention for the Area is to conserve the Area's outstanding natural landscape with unique scientific and ecological values in safeguarding the natural habitat and natural system of the wider area and to preserve historical artifacts, local culture and traditions of the villages. Due consideration should be given to the conservation of the ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas, such as Tai Ho Stream SSSI, when development in or near the Area is proposed. Small House development in recognised villages will be consolidated at suitable locations to preserve the rural character of the Area.

9 <u>LAND USE ZONINGS</u>

9.1 <u>"Village Type Development" ("V"):</u> Total Area 6.43 ha

- 9.1.1 The planning intention of this zone is to designate both existing recognised villages and areas of land considered suitable for village expansion. Land within this zone is primarily intended for development of Small Houses by indigenous villagers. It is also intended to concentrate village type development within this zone for a more orderly development pattern, efficient use of land and provision of infrastructures and services. Selected commercial and community uses serving the needs of the villagers and in support of the village development are always permitted on the ground floor of a New Territories Exempted House. Other commercial, community and recreational uses may be permitted on application to the Board.
- 9.1.2 Except Wong Kwun Tin where there is no existing village settlement, the "V" zones designated for the three recognised villages, namely Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho, are drawn up having regard to the 'Village Environs' ('VE'), the local topography, the existing settlement pattern, the outstanding Small House applications and demand forecast. Areas of difficult terrain, potential natural terrain hazards, dense vegetation, conservation and ecological value, burial grounds and the buffer area for the stream courses are excluded.
- 9.1.3 Except for those specified, no new development, or addition, alteration and/or modification to or redevelopment of an existing building shall result in a total development and/or redevelopment in excess of a maximum building height of 3 storeys (8.23m) or the height of the building which was in existence on the date of first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft DPA plan, whichever is the greater. To

provide flexibility for innovative design adapted to the characteristics of particular sites, minor relaxation of the building height restriction may be considered by the Board through the planning permission system. Each proposal will be considered on its individual planning merits.

- 9.1.4 As diversion of streams may cause adverse drainage impacts on the adjacent areas and adverse impacts on the natural environment, permission from the Board is required for such works and related activities except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.
- There is no existing or planned public sewer for the Area, and at present, 9.1.5 each house is typically served by its own on-site STS system. In accordance with the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau's Technical Circular (Works) No. 5/2005, under the current administrative practice, for development proposals/submissions that may affect natural streams/rivers, the approving/processing authorities at various stages of the development should consult and collate comments from the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation and relevant authorities and incorporate relevant comments/advice as conditions of approval wherever possible. For the protection of the water quality of the streams and sea, the design and construction of on-site STS system for any development proposals/submissions also need to comply with relevant standards, regulations and requirements, including EPD's ProPECC Practice Note PN 5/93. Accordingly, the Lands Department (LandsD) when processing Small House grant and applications in close proximity to existing stream courses should consult concerned departments including EPD, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and PlanD to ensure that all relevant departments would have adequate opportunity to review and comment on the applications.

9.2 "Government, Institution or Community" ("G/IC"): Total Area 0.15 ha

- 9.2.1 The planning intention of this zone is primarily for the provision of Government, institution or community (GIC) facilities serving the needs of the local residents and/or a wider district, region or the territory. It is also intended to provide land for uses directly related to or in support of the work of the Government, organisations providing social services to meet community needs, and other institutional establishments.
- 9.2.2 Existing GIC uses include two public toilets located at Pak Mong and Ngau Kwu Long, and Luk Hop Yuen Temple on the eastern side of Tai Ho Wan.
- 9.2.3 To preserve the rural and low-rise character of the Area, development/redevelopment within this zone should be restricted to the maximum building height as stipulated on the Plan or the height of building which was in existence on the date of first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft DPA Plan, whichever is greater. To provide flexibility for innovative design adapted to the characteristics of particular sites, minor relaxation of the building height restriction may be considered by the Board through the planning permission system. Each

proposal will be considered on its individual planning merits.

- 9.3 <u>"Green Belt" ("GB"):</u> Total Area 166.97 ha
 - 9.3.1 The planning intention of this zone is primarily for defining the limits of development areas by natural features and to preserve the existing natural landscape as well as to provide passive recreational outlets. There is a general presumption against development within this zone.
 - 9.3.2 The "GB" zone mainly covers agricultural land, hillslopes, natural vegetations and small streams in Tai Ho Valley, Hung Fa Ngan and A Po Long area, and Wong Kung Tin. Some active cultivation activities are found in the agricultural land at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho villages. Wong Kung Tin, where no village settlement is found, is also included in this zone.
 - 9.3.3 There are several permitted burial grounds, which are intended for burial places of deceased indigenous villagers in the Area. To respect the local ritual and tradition, burial activities in the permitted burial grounds within this zone are generally tolerated. The District Office (DO) is delegated with authority under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132) to issue the burial certificates within the boundaries of permitted burial grounds. Burial activities within permitted burial grounds are also governed by separate conditions stipulated by LandsD, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Water Supplies Department. Any burial activities should be confined within the designated grounds as far as practicable.
 - 9.3.4 As diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land may cause adverse drainage impacts on the adjacent areas and the natural environment, permission from the Board is required for such works and related activities except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.
- 9.4 <u>"Coastal Protection Area" ("CPA"):</u> Total Area 4.20 ha
 - 9.4.1 The planning intention of this zone is to conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment, including attractive geological features, physical landform or area of high landscape, scenic or ecological value, with a minimum of built development. It may also cover areas which serve as natural protection areas sheltering nearby developments against the effects of coastal erosion. There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted.
 - 9.4.2 This zone covers the coastal areas along Tai Ho Wan which primarily consist of coastal vegetation, tidal mudflats, rocky boulder coasts and part of the mangrove on the western side of Tai Ho Stream's estuary.
 - 9.4.3 New residential development is not permitted under this zone.

Redevelopment of existing house may be permitted on application to the Board. The redevelopment of an existing house shall not result in a total redevelopment in excess of the plot ratio, site coverage and height of the house which was in existence on the date of the first publication of the draft DPA Plan.

- 9.4.4 In view of the conservation value of the area within this zone, permission from the Board is required for diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land that may cause adverse drainage impacts on the adjacent areas and adverse impacts on the natural environment, except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.
- 9.5 "Conservation Area" ("CA"): Total Area 15.41 ha
 - 9.5.1 This zone is intended to protect and retain the existing natural landscape, ecological or topographical features of the area for conservation, educational and research purposes and to separate sensitive natural environment such as SSSI or Country Park from the adverse effects of development. There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted.
 - 9.5.2 Buffers are provided on both sides of Tai Ho Stream SSSI in order to protect the aquatic habitats.
 - 9.5.3 This zone also comprises a patch of mature woodland at the south of Pak Mong village with the intention of preserving the woodland with its existing natural character from further disturbance.
 - 9.5.4 New residential development is not permitted within this zone. Redevelopment of existing house may be permitted on application to the Board. The redevelopment of existing house shall not result in a total redevelopment in excess of the plot ratio, site coverage and height of the house which was in existence on the date of the first publication of the draft DPA Plan.
 - 9.5.5 Works relating to diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land may cause adverse drainage impacts on adjacent areas and the natural environment. In view of the conservation value of the area within this zone, permission from the Board is required for such activities except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.
- 9.6 <u>"Site of Special Scientific Interest" ("SSSI"):</u> Total Area 4.64 ha
 - 9.6.1 The planning intention of this zone is to conserve and protect the features of special scientific interest such as rare or particular species of fauna and flora and their habitats which are designated as SSSI. It intends to deter human activities or developments within the SSSI. There is a general

presumption against development in this zone. No developments are permitted unless they are needed to support the conservation of the features of special scientific interest in the SSSI, to maintain and protect the existing character of the SSSI, or for educational and research purposes.

9.6.2 This zone covers the designated Tai Ho Stream SSSI. The SSSI, having an area of about 5 ha, covers a natural stream (Tai Ho Stream) with several tributaries running from upland to the lowland estuary. Tai Ho Steam is a medium-sized natural stream supporting a high diversity of freshwater and brackish-water fish in Hong Kong, including the rare Largesnout Goby (*Awaous melanocephalus* 黑首阿胡鰕虎魚) and the rare Black Sleeper (*Eleotris melanosoma* 黑體塘鱧); and is the only known location of the rare migratory fish Ayu (*Pleccoglossus altivelis* 香魚) in the territory. At the estuary of the stream, horseshoe crabs (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* 圓尾鱟), a species of conservation importance, have also been recorded in the mudflat.

9.6.3 Diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land may cause adverse impacts on the adjacent areas and adverse impacts on the natural environment. In view of the conservation value of the area within this zone, permission from the Board is required for such activities.

10 <u>COMMUNICATIONS</u>

- 10.1 There is no direct access to the Area from NLH. The Area is accessible via Cheung Tung Road, which is a single two-way road that links up NLH at Sunny Bay and Tung Chung New Town. A slip road linking Cheung Tung Road and the proposed Tai Ho Interchange is proposed under the TCNTE project to improve the connectivity between TCNTE area and the Area. The implementation is subject to review in the detailed design stage of TCNTE. There is a public pier located to the northwest of Tai Ho Wan across NLH, which provides marine access to the Area. However, there is no public ferry service available.
- 10.2 Currently, the available public transport to the Area are by Lantau taxis, Urban taxis or by the franchised bus service No. 36, which provides several departures daily each way (with additional services on Sunday and public holidays) between Siu Ho Wan and Tung Chung New Town (with stop at Pak Mong).
- 10.3 Regarding internal vehicular access within the Area, there is only a section of road branching off Cheung Tung Road which ends in a cul-de-sac at the entrance of Pak Mong. The villages in the Area are connected with concrete-paved footpaths.

11 <u>UTILITY SERVICES</u>

- 11.1 No drainage system is provided at the inland area of Tai Ho. There is no existing and planned public sewer for the Area.
- 11.2 The Area is not within any water gathering ground. Fresh water supply is

available to the existing clusters of village houses at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long, Tin Liu and Tai Ho San Tsuen but it is of limited capacity. There is no water supply to Hung Fa Ngan, A Po Long and Wong Kung Tin. There is also no salt water supply system in the Area.

11.3 Telephone network and electricity supply are available in the Area. At present, there is no gas supply to the Area. However, there are several high and intermediate pressure town gas transmission pipelines running along NLH and a town gas offtake and pigging station (Tai Ho) to the northeast of Tai Ho Wan (outside the Area) serving Tung Chung New Town and its vicinity.

12 <u>CULTURAL HERITAGE</u>

- 12.1 Within the Area, there are some archaeological and historical remains of various periods, which are worthy of preservation. There are two sites of archaeological interest in the Area. Pak Mong Site of Archaeological Interest covers Pak Mong village and its immediate surroundings. Abundant archaeological remains of various periods including Neolithic Period, Bronze Age, Qin, Han and Six dynasties and Tang dynasty are found. Tai Ho Site of Archaeological Interest lies on the floodplain amidst Tai Ho San Tsuen, Ngau Kwu Long and Tin Liu. Few coins and blue-and-white ceramic sherds of Qing dynasty are discovered. There are three graded historic buildings / structures found within the Area, i.e. Watchtower, Pak Mong Tsuen (Grade 2), Watchtower, Tai Ho (Grade 3) and Entrance Gate, Pak Mong (Grade 3).
- 12.2 The Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) has also released a list of new items in addition to the list of 1,444 historic buildings. These items are subject to grading assessment by AAB. Details of the list of 1,444 historic buildings and the new items have been uploaded onto the website of AAB at http://www.aab.gov.hk.
- 12.3 Prior consultation with AMO of LCSD should be made if any works, developments, redevelopment or rezoning proposals may affect the above graded historic buildings/structures, new items pending grading assessment, site of archaeological interest and their immediate environs. If disturbance to the site of archaeological interest is unavoidable, a detailed AIA shall be conducted to evaluate the archaeological impact imposed by the proposed works if there is any development within the site of archaeological interest. If necessary, a qualified archaeologist shall apply for a licence under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) for an archaeological investigation. A proposal of the AIA shall be submitted to AMO for agreement prior to applying for the licence. Subject to the findings of the AIA, appropriate mitigation measures shall be fully implemented by the project proponent in consultation with AMO of LCSD.

13 IMPLEMENTATION

13.1 The Plan provides a broad land-use framework for development control and implementation of planning proposals for the Area. More detailed plans will be prepared as a basis for public works planning and private developments.

- 13.2 At present, there is no overall programme for the improvement or provision of infrastructure within the Area. The implementation process will be gradual and may stretch over a long period of time depending on the availability of resources. However, project works for maintenance and repair of existing utilities would be carried out within the Area by the Islands DO. Upgrading of the water supply system will be required if future developments are proposed in the Area.
- 13.3 For developments in the vicinity of NGIs which require a risk assessment, the project proponent should maintain liaison/coordination with the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited in respect of the exact location of existing and planned gas pipes routes/gas installations in the vicinity of the proposed works area and the minimum set back distance away from the gas pipelines if any excavation works is required during the design and construction stages of the development. The project proponent should also note the requirements of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department's "Code of Practice on Avoiding Danger from Gas Pipes".
- 13.4 Any development planning in this Area shall reserve sufficient land for necessity of drainage improvement in future. If any development or re-development within the Area which may affect the drainage system or change the drainage characteristic, drainage studies including the details of the affected drainage system and any mitigation measures should be submitted to DSD for checking in accordance with the principle laid down in the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau Technical Circular (Works) Nos. 14/2004, 5/2005, 2/2006 and DSD Advice Note No. 1.
- 13.5 There is no existing or planned public sewer serving the area. On-site discharge systems, e.g. septic tanks and soakaway pits, are generally used in the villages. Any increase in population, number of visitors to the Area or further recreational/residential/commercial/institutional developments would require additional facilities to be provided as an integral part of the development. The design and construction of the on-site STS need to comply with relevant standards, regulations and requirements, including EPD's ProPECC PN 5/93, for the protection of the water quality and the natural streams flowing through the Area.
- 13.6 Notwithstanding the above, minor improvement works, e.g. access improvements, utility services installation and public works projects will be implemented through the Public Works Programme and the Rural Public Works Programme subject to priority and resource availability. Private developments will be effected principally through private sector initiatives in accordance with the zoned uses indicated on the Plan, provided that their proposals meet Government requirements.

14 <u>PLANNING CONTROL</u>

14.1 The types of permitted developments and uses on land within the Area are listed in the Notes to the Plan. Unless otherwise specified, all building, engineering and other operations incidental to and all uses directly related and ancillary to the permitted developments and uses within the same zone are always permitted and no separate permission is required.

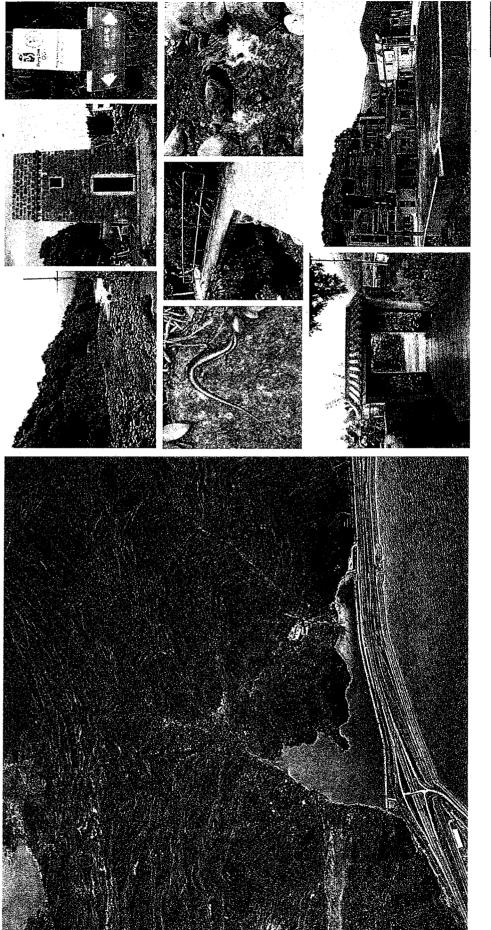
- 14.2 Uses of land or building which were in existence immediately before the first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft DPA Plan and which are not in compliance with the terms of the Plan may have adverse impact on the environment, drainage and traffic of the Area. Although no action is required to make such use conform to this Plan, any material change of such use or any other development (except minor alteration and/or modification to the development of the land or building in respect of such use which is always permitted) must be always permitted in terms of the Plan or, if permission is required, in accordance with a permission granted by the Board. The Board will consider these applications on their individual merits. Those alteration and/or modification works which may lead to an environmental improvement or upgrading to the Area may be considered favourably by the Board.
- 14.3 Planning applications to the Board will be assessed on individual merits. In general, the Board, in considering the planning applications, will take into account all relevant planning considerations which may include the guidelines published by the Board. Application forms and Guidance Notes for planning applications can be downloaded from the Board's website and are available from the Secretariat of the Board, the Technical Services Division and relevant District Planning Office of the Planning Department. Applications should be supported by such materials as the Board thinks appropriate to enable it to consider the applications.
- 14.4 Any development, other than those referred to in paragraph 14.1 above or in conformity with this Plan or with the permission of the Board, undertaken or continued on or after 27 March 2014 on land included in a Plan of the Tai Ho DPA may be subject to enforcement proceedings under the Ordinance. Any diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land in relevant zones on or after the exhibition of the specific plan referred to in the Notes of the relevant zones without permission from the Board may also be subject to enforcement proceedings.

TOWN PLANNING BOARD OCTOBER 2016

Appendix IV of TPB Paper No. 10186

<u>Appendix IV</u>

PLANNING REPORT ON TAI HO



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PLANNING REPORT ON TAI HO

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Planning Report on Tai Ho

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Planning Report

The purpose of this Planning Report is to give an account of the background and an appraisal of the existing conditions, characteristics and development requirements/ constraints of the Tai Ho area (the Area). It also aims at providing a basis for the preparation of the Tai Ho Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) to replace the approved Tai Ho Development Permission Area (DPA) Plan and the formulation of a framework for the future development of the Area.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Tai Ho (Figure 1a) is located on the eastern side of Tung Chung New Town at the northern part of Lantau Island, fronting the North Lantau Highway (NLH). The Area has a natural character with rich landscape resources. The natural coastline along the Tai Ho Wan and the designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are well preserved despite developments along the Northeast Lantau area.

1.2.2 Apart from the environmental and ecological

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considerations, development in the Area is constrained by inadequate road network and other infrastructural provisions. It is necessary to consolidate the villages and other developments in order to avoid undesirable disturbances to the natural environment and overtaxing the limited infrastructure.

- 1.2.3 Following the 2010-11 Policy Address of applying protective measures to the country park enclaves, the draft Tai Ho DPA Plan No. DPA/I-TH/1 was exhibited for public inspection on 28 March 2014. During the plan exhibition period, a total of 642 valid representations and 206 comments on the representations were received. After giving consideration to the representations and comments on 19 December 2014, the Town Planning Board (the Board) decided not to amend the draft DPA Plan to meet the representations.
- 1.2.4 On 24 February 2015, the Chief Executive in Council (CE in C) approved the draft Tai Ho DPA Plan, which was subsequently renumbered as DPA/I-TH/2. On 20 March 2015, the approved Tai Ho DPA Plan No. DPA/I-TH/2 was exhibited for

Planning Report on Tai Ho

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public inspection under section 9(5) of the Town Planning Ordinance (the Ordinance) (**Figure 2**).

1.2.5 Pursuant to section 20(5) of the Ordinance, the DPA Plan is effective for three years until 28 March 2017. On 24 August 2016, under the power delegated by the Chief Executive (CE), the Secretary for Development pursuant to section 3(1)(a) of the Ordinance, directed the Board to prepare an OZP for the Area.

2 THE STUDY AREA

2.1 Location (Figure 1b)

2.1.1 The Area covers about 230 ha including about 32 ha of water body (Tai Ho Wan). It is located to the east of Tung Chung New Town Extension (TCNTE) Area and is separated by the mountain ridges of Por Kai Shan within Lantau North (Extension) Country Park. Vehicular access to the Area is via an access road branching off Cheung Tung Road which runs in parallel to NLH, connecting the Area to Tung Chung, the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and the metro area.

2.2 Physical Setting and Topography

2.2.1 The Area mainly consists of Tai Ho Valley, which comprises Tai Ho Wan, village settlements, agricultural land, the natural vegetated areas including woodland, shrubland, streams etc. and several pieces of isolated vegetated upland areas on the eastern and southern sides, i.e. Tin Liu, Hung Fa Ngan, A Po Long and Wong Kung Tin. The Area generally consists of a low lying valley at the centre with hilly terrain descending from the mountain ranges and peaks in the south towards the seashore (Figure 3).

- 2.2.2 The Area has rich landscape resources including mature woodland, shrubland, grassland, valley, knolls, and streams. There are also natural coastal features such as the estuary and shorelines at Tai Ho Wan. Further uphill is densely vegetated woodland and shrubland on the valley sides extending into Lantau North (Extension) Country Park and Lantau North Country Park beyond the Area. A concrete footpath links NLH to the country parks uphill, going through village settlements at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho San Tsuen with associated agricultural land (Figures 4a and 6a).
- 2.2.3 Tai Ho Wan is a major landmark along NLH, which previously was an open coastal bay before the highway was built (**Figure 4b**). Along the eastern periphery of Tai Ho Wan, coastal vegetation are found, dominant species include young and scattered patches of *Kandelia obovata*, abundant young *Cerbera manghas, Hibiscus*

tiliaceus and *Pongamia pinnata*. The inland area at Tai Ho Wan is a valley surrounded by mountain ridges of Por Kai Shan to the west, Lo Fu Tau to the east and Hung Fa Ngan to the south within Lantau North and Lantau North (Extension) Country Parks. The contrast of the low lying valley areas to the elevated backdrop of ridges and peaks contribute to the Area's outstanding scenic value. Pak Mong knoll, consisting of a natural stream and a mature woodland, is also a major element of the landscape setting. The Area is a valuable landscape area on the northern side of Lantau.

2.2.4 Tai Ho Stream is a natural stream running from uphill in the south towards Tai Ho Wan in the north. It is an Ecologically Important Stream (EIS) and is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is one of the few remaining medium-sized natural streams of its kind in Hong Kong supporting a high diversity of freshwater and brackish-water fishes in Hong Kong (Figure 4c). The estuary area of Tai Ho Stream consists of mangrove and inter-tidal mudflats. Besides, abundant and mature trees are found along the river bank of Pak Mong Stream (Figure 4d), with

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dominant species include *Celtis sinensis*, *Cleistocalyx operculata*, and *Diamocarpus longan*. Apart from Tai Ho Stream and Pak Mong Stream, there are many smaller streams running within the Area, converging into Tai Ho Wan from its east, south and west directions. Fresh water plant species *Colocasia esculenta* is abundant along various small streams.

- 2.2.5 From Pak Mong to Tin Liu village, mature fruit trees are dominant along roadside, agricultural fields and hillside at the backdrop of village houses, including *Dimocarpus longan*, *Mangifera indica*, *Litchi chinensis*, and *Syzygium jambos*. Area between Tin Liu village to Ngau Kwu Long village is dominated by mature native trees, including *Liquidambar formonsana*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Sterculia lanceolata*, *Litsea glutinosa* and *Cinnamomum parthenoxylon*.
- 2.2.6 Woodland and shrubland are also found at Hung Fa Ngan, A Po Long, Wong Kung Tin and a rectangular plot of land east of Tin Liu within the Area. The plot of land to the east of Tin Liu is part of the natural woodland stretching into the Lantau

North (Extension) Country Park while the area at Hung Fa Ngan is a piece of abandoned agricultural land regenerating into a young woodland dominated by species including Machilus chekiangensis, Aporusa dioica, Litsea rotundifolia. Phyllanthus emblica, Rhodomyrtus tomentosa and Cleistoalyx nervosum. A Po Long and Wong Kung Tin are abandoned agricultural fields, the majority of which have been developed into a young woodland dominated by shrub species and scattered clusters of tree species, including Schefflera heptaphylla, Rhodomyrtus tomentosa, Melastoma sanguineum, Garcinia oblongifolia, Glochidion zevlanicum Cleistocalvx and operculata (Figure 4e).

2.3 Natural Habitats

2.3.1 The Area forms an integral part of the natural woodland system in the adjoining country parks with a wide spectrum of natural habitats including mature woodland at Pak Mong, shrubland and grassland, active/fallow agricultural land, stream courses and coastal habitats. Details of the natural habitats are listed below:

(a) Stream Courses

Tai Ho Stream is one of the few remaining medium-sized natural streams of its kind in Hong Kong. It was designated as a SSSI in 1999. The stream supports a high diversity of freshwater and brackish-water fishes in Hong Kong with a total of 82 species recorded. including the rare Largesnout Goby (Awaous melanocephalus 黑首阿胡鰕虎魚) and the rare Black Sleeper (Eleotris melanosoma 黑體 塘鱧); and is the only known location of the rare migratory fish Ayu (*Plecoglossus altivelis* 香魚). Other uncommon freshwater fish species include Giant Mottled Eel (Anguilla marmorata 花鰻鱺), Japanese Eel (Anguilla japonica 日本鰻鱺) and Rice-paddy Eel (Pisodonophis boro 雜食豆齒鰻) (source: AFCD) (Figure 5).

(b) Coastal Mudflat

Tai Ho Wan is a bay sheltered from the open sea at the Tai Ho Stream estuary. It is sheltered from the open sea by the NLH but is still connected to the sea through an outlet underneath the NLH. The NLH does not prevent tidal exchange within the bay, while sheltering the bay from offshore wind and waves.

A stretch of mangrove stand of about 2 ha can be found at the coastal mudflat (Figure 4a), with a total of six out of eight mangrove species recorded in Hong Kong. The Seagrass *Halophila beccarii* (貝克喜鹽草) had been recorded at the mudflat (Figure 5). Horseshoe crabs (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* 圓尾鱟), a species of conservation importance, have also been recorded in the mudflat within the boundary of Tai Ho Stream SSSI.

(c) Woodland

A mature woodland can be found behind Pak Mong village (about 0.9 ha). The overall landscape of the mature woodland in Pak Mong is very typical as it features a newmoon shape behind the village. A total of 96 plant species has been recorded in this mature woodland (Figure 6a). Other tree species recorded in the Area are typical of local mature woodlands.

Other natural secondary woodlands could be found along the hillsides and the tributaries of the streams.

(d) Fauna

Tai Ho also supports the reptile of regional concern Tokay Gecko (*Gekko gecko* 大壁虎), as well as a number of rare/uncommon butterflies including the rare Red Lacewing (*Cethosia biblis* 紅鋸蛺蝶) (**Figure 5**). Two amphibian species of conservation interest, namely Romer's Tree Frog (*Liuixalus romeri* 盧氏小樹蛙) and Short-legged Toad (*Megophrys brachykolos* 短腳角蟾), have also been recorded at Tai Ho.

2.4 <u>Historical Development</u>

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2.4.1 The long history of human occupation at Tai Ho

could be traced back to the Neolithic age, some 2000 years BC. There are important sites of archaeological interest in Tai Ho, particularly in the area between Pak Mong village and the water edge. Archaeological remains are found in Pak Mong and Tai Ho sites.

2.4.2 The present indigenous clans apparently all settled in the Area in the middle of the eighteenth century. The Area was then subject to pirate attacks that prompted the three main villages to construct stone watchtowers, two of which remain today. The main path from Pak Mong to Mui Wo was an important trading route linking Shenzhen with Cheung Chau. The villages in the valley primarily focused on subsistence farming. The general scale and quality of the buildings are relatively small and of simple design. Notwithstanding this fact, the scale of remaining buildings are compatible with the existing natural state of the valley and hence are worthy of conservation.

2.5 Population and Employment

2.5.1 Based on the population data of the 2011 Census,

the population in the Area is estimated to be about 150 and most of them are living in the recognised villages. Employment opportunities provided in the Area are mainly contributed by the Government, Institution or Community (GIC) facilities located in the Area, e.g. refuse collection point, public toilets, temples etc., as well as the small-scale active agricultural land.

2.6 Existing Land Uses

The major existing land uses include the following (Figure 6a):

Village Type Development

2.6.1 There are four recognised villages within the Area, namely Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long, Tai Ho (also known as Tai Ho San Tsuen) and Wong Kung Tin (also known as Wong Fung Tin). However, there is no existing village settlement in Wong Kung Tin village. The traditional villages in the Area have evolved over time in response to the natural landscape and community needs in the past (**Figures 6b to 6d**).

Open Space

2.6.2 Several small sitting-out areas, an open square at Pak Mong, and a basketball field at Ngau Kwu Long are the recreational facilities for local residents. The playground of the former Pak Mong School is now abandoned. Alternative use can be explored if the whole building is to be retained.

Hiking Trail and Olympic Trail

2.6.3 A section of the hiking trail running between Cheung Tung Road in North Lantau and Mui Wo, known as Islands Nature Trail – Mui Wo Section, was upgraded and renamed as Hong Kong Olympic Trail in 2008 in commemoration of the Beijing Olympic Games. The 5.6 km long hiking trail begins at Pak Mong and terminates at Pak Ngan Heung in Mui Wo, and is running through the Lantau North and Lantau North (Extension) Country Parks.

GIC Facilities

- 2.6.4 There are two temples adjacent to Tai Ho Wan, namely the Luk Hop Yuen Temple (六合玄宮) at the eastern side and the Leung Ma Temple (梁媽廟) at the western shore (**Figures 6c & 6d**). Besides, the watchtowers at Pak Mong and Tai Ho San Tsuen, the six Clan Ancestral Halls, the former Pak Mong School and the Ngau Kwu Long Sam Heung Co-operative Society (牛牯塱三鄉合作社) are the historical institutions in the Area.
- 2.6.5 Other GIC facilities including a temporary refuse collection point near Cheung Tung Road, public toilets at Pak Mong and Ngau Kwu Long are provided to serve the local and visitors.

Burial Grounds

2.6.6 There are seven main permitted burial grounds in the Area. They are located at the southeast of Pak Mong, southwest of the hillside near Tai Ho Wan, south of Luk Hop Yuen Temple and east of Tai Ho San Tsuen respectively. There are a few smaller ones scattering within the Area (Figure 6a).

Agricultural Use

2.6.7 According to AFCD, agricultural land with a total of about 28.3 ha can be found near the villages in Tai Ho. There are still some active agricultural activities at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho San Tsuen but most of the agricultural land had been abandoned.

2.7 Transportation

- 2.7.1 The existing NLH is the major strategic road link connecting HKIA and Tung Chung New Town with other parts of the territory.
- 2.7.2 The Tuen Mun Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL) is a strategic road link connecting HZMB with other parts of the territory. The Southern Connection of TM-CLKL will connect with the existing NLH at Tai Ho.
- 2.7.3 There is no direct access to the Area from NLH. The area is accessible via Cheung Tung Road,

which is a single two-way road that links up NLH at Sunny Bay and Tung Chung New Town. A slip road linking Cheung Tung Road and the Tai Ho Interchange is proposed under the TCNTE project to improve the connectivity between TCNTE area and Tai Ho area. The implementation is subject to review in the detailed design stage of TCNTE. There is a public pier located to the northwest of Tai Ho Wan across NLH, which provides marine access to the Area. However, there is no public ferry service available.

- 2.7.4 Currently, the available public transport to the Area is by Lantau taxis, Urban taxis or by the franchised bus service No. 36, which provides several departures daily each way (with additional services on Sunday and public holidays) between Siu Ho Wan and Tung Chung New Town (with stop at Cheung Tung Road near Pak Mong).
- 2.7.5 Regarding internal vehicular access within the Area, there is only a section of road branching off Cheung Tung Road which ends in a cul-de-sac at the entrance of Pak Mong. The villages in the Area are connected with concrete-paved footpaths.

2.8 Land Ownership

2.8.1 Land tenure within the study area comprises private land, government land, Government Land Licenses and other permits. Most of the Area is government land which comprises knolls, hillslopes and seashores. About 12.7% (about 38.79 ha) (Figure 7) of the Area is privately owned which have been developed as village houses, ancestral halls and active/fallow agricultural land.

2.9 Infrastructure and Utility Services

Drainage

2.9.1 Currently, no drainage system is provided at the inland area of Tai Ho.

Water Supply

2.9.2 The Area is not within any water gathering ground. Fresh water supply is available to the existing clusters of village houses at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long, Tin Liu and Tai Ho San Tsuen but it is of limited capacity. There is no water supply to Hung Fa Ngan, A Po Long and Wong Kung Tin. There is also no salt water supply system in the Area.

Sewerage and Sewage Treatment

2.9.3 There is no existing or planned public sewer serving the Area. At present, septic tanks and soakaway pits are generally used in villages. Sewage is most commonly disposed of by on-site systems for treatment and disposal.

Telephone, Electricity and Gas

2.9.4 Telephone network and electricity supply are available in the Area. At present, there is no gas supply to the Area. However, there are several high and intermediate pressure town gas transmission pipelines running along NLH and a town gas offtake and pigging station (outside the Study Area) to the northeast of Tai Ho Wan serving Tung Chung New Town and its vicinity.

3 PLANNING ANALYSIS

3.1 <u>Strategic and Planning Contexts</u>

3.1.1 The contrast of low lying valley areas and elevated backdrop of ridges and peaks shape the unique landscape and provide the habitat for the wildlife. Within the Area, there are several graded historic buildings and sites of archaeological interest. Given the natural environment with high ecological value and the latest planning concept for Lantau Development, the planning framework for the Area is to preserve the natural environment and scenic character of the Area and avoid disturbances to areas with high ecological and landscape values. No large-scale development should be introduced in order to minimise encroachment onto the sensitive environment and to protect and enhance ecological conservation.

Lantau Development

3.1.2 The Area, situated in the northshore Lantau, has always been an integral part of Lantau development. Upon completion of the Port and Airport Development Strategy (PADS) in 1989, the Government decided to build a replacement international airport at Chek Lap Kok, i.e. the current HKIA. The PADS also recommended to develop North Lantau New Town (NLNT) as a supporting community of HKIA, in which Tai Ho was, amongst others, one of the key development Subsequently, the North Lantau areas. Development Study (1992) and the Remaining development in Tung Chung and Tai Ho (1999) proposed to develop NLNT to accommodate a population target of 260,000 and 334,000 respectively. Together with other land use proposals, a total land area of about 27 ha of village-type development in Tai Ho was proposed under the RODP of the North Lantau Development Study. However, such proposals had been withheld due to subsequent change in planning circumstances including the designation of Tai Ho Stream as SSSI in 1999, the introduction of the New Nature Conservation Policy in 2004 (paragraph 3.1.4 below) and the development of strategic infrastructure projects in North Lantau such as HZMB and the associated boundary crossing facilities, as well as the TM-CLKL.

3.1.3 Pursuant to the 2004 Policy Address, the Lantau Development Task Force led by the Financial Secretary was set up in February 2004 to provide a high-level policy steer on the economic and infrastructure development on Lantau. The Revised Concept Plan for Lantau endorsed by the Task Force in 2007 recommended, amongst others, the Area consisting of woodland. that grassland/shrubland, streams, coastal mudflat, agricultural field and villages as a conservation area which aims to conserve the existing natural character and intrinsic landscape value by protecting topographical features from encroachment by adjacent developments. The Area was also identified as a landscape protection area. where new developments should not compromise the existing landscape setting or local environment. Landscaping should be carried out to mitigate the effect of any new development. By then, Tai Ho has been recommended as an area for conservation. Subsequently, the proposed Lantau Development Strategy submitted by the Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC) to the CE in Jan 2016 recommended Tai Ho be used for conservation, leisure, cultural and green tourism

with emphasis on protecting sites of conservation value and enhancing their linkages. Owing to the presence of Tai Ho Stream being designated as SSSI, as well as the natural vegetated area, the extent of village-type development should be critically reviewed to exclude the designated areas and the riparian areas of the stream. The public engagement exercise for the proposed Lantau Development Strategy was held between end January to end April 2016. After consolidating the public views and updating information, it is expected that a new Blueprint for Lantau Development will be promulgated in end 2016 / early 2017 the earliest.

Nature Conservation

3.1.4 Tai Ho was designated as a priority site for enhanced conservation under the New Nature Conservation Policy (NNCP) which was introduced in November 2004 (Figure 8). This policy aims at regulating, protecting and managing natural resources that are important for the conservation of biological diversity of Hong Kong in a sustainable manner, taking into account

economic and social considerations, for the benefit and enjoyment of the present and future generations of the community. One of the objectives is to enhance conservation of ecological important sites under private ownership. The Management Agreement (MA) and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) schemes are two measures to achieve this objective. Under the PPP scheme promulgated under NNCP, developments at an agreed scale will be allowed at the less ecologically sensitive portion of a site provided that the developer undertakes to conserve and manage the rest of the site that is ecologically more sensitive on a long-term basis. On this aspect, a PPP Pilot scheme application at Tai Ho which involved the establishment of an Ecology Park in Tai Ho was received in 2005. The application was assessed by an inter-departmental task force and discussed at the meeting of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) on 14 April 2008. Nevertheless, ACE considered that the project was not ready to be taken forward in the present form in view of, amongst others, the potentially complicated land related issues and the lack of an experienced partner to manage the proposed Ecology Park.

Land for Village Development

- 3.1.5 There are four recognised villages in the Area, namely Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long, Tai Ho (also known as Tai Ho San Tsuen) and Wong Kung Tin (also known as Wong Fung Tin) and their 'Village Environs' ('VE') cover an area of about 26.05 ha (Figure 7). Except Wong Kung Tin at the southernmost part of the Area where no village settlement is found, all other villages in the Area consist of typical 3-storey village houses with ancestral halls (Tsz Tong) and a large area of paved area for ancestral worshipping activities.
- 3.1.6 The District Lands Officer/Islands, Lands Department (DLO/Is, LandsD) advises that there has been no approved Small House application since the gazettal of the draft DPA Plan. The outstanding Small House applications and 10-year forecast of Small House demand for Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long, Tai Ho and Wong Fung Tin are shown in the following table:

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Recognised Villages	Number of out- standing Small House Applications	10-year Small House demand forecast
Pak Mong	4	72
Ngau Kwu Long	7	64
Tai Ho	23	60
Wong Fung Tin	0	.0
Total	34	196

Small House development at suitable areas within the 'VE' by designating "Village Type Development" ("V") zone should be provided to cater for the future demand.

3.2 Development Opportunities (Figures 4a, 6a and 9a)

Nature and Heritage Conservation

3.2.1 Located at northshore Lantau and bounded by Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, the Area is one of the country park "enclaves" identified to be protected against incompatible uses. It is also an integral part of the natural landscape comprising a diversity of woodland, shrubland, grassland and streams with high ecological and conservation value as mentioned in paragraphs 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 above. The natural vegetations and streams in the Area are worthy of protection as they provide habitats which support the fauna and flora species of conservation importance.

3.2.2 The Watchtower at Pak Mong Tsuen (Grade 2),Watchtower at Tai Ho (Grade 3) and the EntranceGate at Pak Mong (Grade 3) are graded historicbuildings, which are worthy of preservation.

Lantau Development Context

3.2.3 Under the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau, the Area consisting of woodland, grassland/shrubland, streams, coastal mudflat, agricultural field and villages was identified as a conservation area which aims to conserve the existing natural character and intrinsic landscape value by protecting topographical features from encroachment by adjacent developments. The Area was also identified as a landscape protection area, where new developments should not compromise the existing landscape setting or local environment. Landscaping should be carried out to mitigate the effect of any new development. There is a hiking trail as proposed in the Revised Concept Plan that connects to Mui Wo. Subsequently, the proposed Lantau Development Strategy also recommended Tai Ho be used for conservation, leisure, cultural and green tourism with emphasis on protecting sites of conservation value and enhancing their linkages. Given the ecological sensitivity of Tai Ho Stream SSSI and Tai Ho Wan, no large-scale development should be introduced in order not to compromise the rural setting and natural environment. Further developments should be of a low-rise character and give regards to the existing landscape.

3.3 <u>Development Constraints (Figure 9b)</u>

Ecological Sensitivity

3.3.1 Within the Area, Tai Ho Stream is one of the few remaining medium-sized natural streams of its kind in Hong Kong that supports a high diversity of freshwater and brackish-water fishes in Hong Kong.

It was designated as a SSSI in 1999. The stream should be protected and conserved against developments unless it is needed to support the conservation of the features of special scientific interest in the SSSI, to maintain and protect the existing character of the SSSI, or for educational and research purposes.

- 3.3.2 The Tai Ho Wan catchment is a well preserved rural coastal Hong Kong landscape, and is considered of high conservation value due to its high diversity of habitats and species, presence of species of conservation concern, high degree of naturalness and should be protected against any impact from development.
- 3.3.3 The mature woodlands at Pak Mong should be preserved. Moreover, the rural character of the Area with the natural setting and stream courses should also be maintained.

Accessibility

3.3.4 Currently, Cheung Tung Road is the only external vehicular access to Tai Ho. The slip road linking

Cheung Tung Road and the Tai Ho Interchange proposed under the TCNTE project would improve the connectivity between TCNTE area and the Area. Within the Area, no proper vehicular access is available except for the footpath connecting Pak Mong and Ngau Kwu Long. Other forms of connection are through hiking trails/footpaths linking Tai Ho area with Mui Wo, Tung Chung, Sunny Bay and Discovery Bay.

3.3.5 Marine access to the Area by provision of public ferry service is also considered not feasible because the depth of water at the pier and its approach area is about 1m to 2m, which can only be used by vessels with shallow draft.

Cultural Heritage

- 3.3.6 Within the Area, there are some archaeological and historical remains of various periods, which are worthy of preservation.
 - (a) Pak Mong and Tai Ho Sites of Archaeological Interest

There are two sites of archaeological interest in the Area. Pak Mong Site of Archaeological Interest covers Pak Mong village and its immediate surroundings. Abundant archaeological remains of various periods including Neolithic Period, Bronze Age, Oin, Han and Six dynasties and Tang dynasty were unearthed by the Northern Lantau Survey in 1991-92. The Second Territory-wide Survey in 1997 revealed similar findings. In addition to prehistoric and early historic periods, archaeological remains of latter periods including Song, Ming and Qing dynasties were also discovered at the site.

Tai Ho Site of Archaeological Interest lies on the floodplain amidst Tai Ho San Tsuen, Ngau Kwu Long and Tin Liu. The Northern Lantau Survey in 1991 discovered few coins and blueand-white ceramic sherds of Qing dynasty. Kiln debris and associated finds of Tang Dynasty were found by the archaeological survey of Tung Chung/Tai Ho Development Feasibility Study in 1998. Owing to the archaeological significance of the Area, only passive recreation is considered appropriate and any works should ensure minimum disturbance to the sites of archaeological interest. If disturbance of the sites of archaeological interest and areas of archaeological potential is unavoidable, a detailed Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) conducted by a qualified archaeologist is required. The archaeologist shall apply for a licence to conduct the AIA under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53). A proposal of the AIA shall be submitted to the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) for agreement prior to applying for a licence.

(b) Historic Buildings (Figure 6a)

Within the Area, there are three graded historic buildings / structures, i.e.:

- Watchtower, Pak Mong Tsuen (Grade 2)
- Watchtower, Tai Ho (Grade 3)

• Entrance Gate, Pak Mong (Grade 3)

The Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) also released a list of new items in addition to the list of 1,444 historic buildings. These items are subject to grading assessment by the AAB. Details of the list of the 1,444 historic buildings and the new items have been uploaded onto the website of AAB at http://www.aab.gov.hk.

Prior consultation with the AMO of LCSD should be made if any developments, redevelopments or rezoning proposals may affect the above graded historic buildings/structures, new items pending grading assessment and their immediate environs.

Geotechnical Constraints

3.3.7 The Area and its vicinity comprise hilly natural terrain with past natural terrain landslide records.Some of the land near Tai Ho San Tsuen, Ngau Kwu Long and Pak Mong are overlooked by steep

natural terrain. For any development or redevelopment within these areas, a natural terrain hazard study (NTHS) would be required and suitable mitigation measures, if found necessary, should be provided as part of the development or redevelopment.

3.3.8 There are about 60 registered man-made slopes and retaining walls located within the Area and the stability of these slope features is mostly unknown. If these slope features would affect or be affected any development and redevelopment. bv geotechnical investigations and studies including the details of any permanent geotechnical works should be submitted to the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) for checking in accordance with the principle laid down in the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau Technical Circular (Works) No. 29/2002.

Burial Grounds

3.3.9 There are seven permitted burial grounds in the Area for indigenous villagers and they are not

suitable for any development. They are located to the southeast of Pak Mong, southwest of the hillside near Tai Ho Wan, south of the Luk Hop Yuen Temple, and east of Tai Ho San Tsuen.

Limited Infrastructure

- 3.3.10 Currently, drainage system is only provided along NLH and Cheung Tung Road. If any development or re-development within the Area which may affect the drainage system or change the drainage characteristic, detailed drainage study would be required and suitable mitigation measures should be provided, if necessary, as part of the development or re-development.
- 3.3.11 There is no existing or planned public sewer serving the area. On-site discharge systems, e.g. septic tanks and soakaway pits, are generally used in the villages. Any increase in population or number of visitors to the Area or further recreation/residential/commercial/institutional developments will require additional sewage treatment facility to be provided as an integral part of the development.

3.3.12 Fresh water supply is available to the existing villages in the Area. The water supply system is however of limited capacity. If any major development is envisaged in this Area, sufficient lead time should be allowed for upgrading the water supply system as necessary.

Civil Aviation

- 3.3.13 Given its proximity to the HKIA, the Area is subject to Airport Height Restriction (AHR). No part of any building or buildings or other structure or equipment erected or to be erected within the Area, or any addition or fitting to such building or buildings or structure or equipment shall exceed the "restricted height" prescribed under the Hong Kong Airport (Control of Obstructions) Ordinance (Cap. 301), any regulation or order made thereunder and any amending legislation.
- 3.3.14 Besides, the Area is beneath a helicopter holding area "H5" over "Pak Mong", which is an essential helicopter holding point for Air Traffic Control (ATC) to separate local helicopter traffic from

international traffic on departure and arrival within the Air Traffic Zone (ATZ). The use of "Pak Mong" is subject to ATC instructions for the purpose to enhance flight safety as well as to allow effective flow of helicopter traffic movements to and from the Government Flying Service (GFS) base or Business Aviation Centre located at HKIA.

- 3.3.15 "Pak Mong" is an essential helicopter holding area being used for GFS flight operations and emergency response flights. For normal operations, helicopters will transit over "Pak Mong" when the weather conditions permit the use of primary helicopter entry/exit route namely "Silvermine Pass". In addition, "Pak Mong" also provides an essential transiting point for GFS helicopter to use the bad weather alternate route, namely "North Lantau Expressway", when "Silvermine Pass" is obscured by low cloud.
- 3.3.16 The helicopter noise arising from the frequent use of GFS helicopters flyover "Pak Mong" will present an adverse impact on any residential development within the Area. More importantly, any development within the "Pak Mong" area will

adversely affect GFS flight operations, particularly for emergency flights during bad weather times. Any future development or redevelopment within the Area should take into account this constraint.

Risk Hazard

3.3.17 The high pressure gas pipeline and offtake & pigging station located to the northeast of the Area are classified as Notifiable Gas Installations (NGIs) under the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), and its construction and use are required to undergo an approval system. The northeastern part of the Area is within 200m of these NGIs. For any proposed development in the vicinity (i.e. within 200m) of these NGIs, the increase in population brought by these developments would be a concern and thus a risk assessment would be required from the project proponent to assess the potential risks associated with these NGIs.

Noise and Vehicle Emissions

3.3.18 Although the Area falls outside the coverage of Noise Exposure Forecast (NEF) 25 contour under the HKIA three-runway system, the Area falls within the helicopter holding area above Pak Mong and is in proximity to HKIA, which contributes to noise exposure to the Area. Development within the Area is also constrained by adverse traffic noise and vehicle emissions from NLH. The latest infrastructure proposals around North Lantau including TM-CLKL and HZMB (including the associated Hong Kong Link Road and Boundary Crossing Facilities) projects would likely increase the traffic flow on NLH which in turn may adversely affect the environment of the Area.

3.4 <u>Development Pressure</u>

- 3.4.1 In view of the unique ecological, scientific, landscape and heritage values of the Area, there is a need to protect the natural and rural characters of the Area from haphazard development.
- 3.4.2 Village-type development is found in the four recognised villages within the Area, i.e. Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long, Tai Ho and Wong Kung Tin. Most of the land within the 'VE' of the recognised villages are agricultural land under private

ownership. According to DLO/Is, LandsD, there are 34 outstanding Small House applications in the Area and the 10-year forecast of Small House demand provided by the Indigenous Inhabitants' Representative (IIR) are 196.

3.4.3 Although there is no active enforcement case under the Town Planning Ordinance involved in the Area, occasional complains about disturbance to the natural environment have been observed in the Area since the gazettal of the draft DPA Plan. Vegetation clearance are observed in the estuary of Tai Ho Stream SSSI and suspected site formation works are observed along the footpath from Ngau Kwu Long to Tai Ho San Tsuen

3.5 <u>Development Proposals/Views received since the Gazettal</u> of the DPA Plan

3.5.1 Since the gazettal of the draft DPA Plan on 28 March 2014, there has been no planning application received in the Area. In the course of preparing the OZP, the following proposals/views have been received:

- (a) land use proposals, similar to that previously submitted and considered under NNCP, submitted by the major private landowners in the Area;
- (b) meetings with Mui Wo Rural Committee
 (MWRC) to solicit their views on the preparation of the draft OZP was held on 13
 May 2016 and 13 September 2016. The MWRC members express their concerns on the land uses and development potential of the Area; and
- Planning Department (PlanD) held a meeting (c) green/concern with groups including representatives from Green Power, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic' Garden (KFBG) and Designing Hong Kong Limited on 8 June 2016 to collect their views on the conservation and land uses of the Area. Submission from the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) was received on 26 May 2016 and that from Green Power and KBFG were received on 17 June 2016 and 26 June 2016 respectively.

Land use proposals under NNCP

- 3.5.2 During the gazettal of the draft DPA Plan, the major private landowners in the Area submitted a representation (R197) on the draft DPA Plan enclosing a preliminary land use proposals for the Board's consideration. Similar proposal was received during the OZP preparation stage (Annex I). The representer considered that its proposal to designate the least environmentally sensitive areas mainly in the western part of Tai Ho Valley as development sites for low to medium-density residential developments and tourism-related facilities could strike a balance between development and conservation. Land can be better utilised while measures to conserve the natural setting and cultural heritage can be incorporated in the development. The representer also claimed that such proposals would also facilitate the implementation of, amongst others, the PPP Scheme under NNCP to conserve the ecologically important sites, including Tai Ho which is one of the 12 Priority Sites identified for enhanced conservation under the NNCP.
- 3.5.3 Nevertheless, AFCD and EPD advise that there are no detailed assessments/proposal submitted in the representation to substantiate that the proposed development is in the least ecologically sensitive portion of the priority site, and that suitable measures are proposed to conserve the ecological sensitive areas required under the PPP Scheme of NNCP, not to mention that the technical feasibility of the proposal is yet to be ascertained.

Views of the Mui Wo Rural Committee/Local villagers

- 3.5.4 The major concerns of MWRC and local villagers are about the rights for Small House development in the Area. They consider that the current "V" zones on the DPA Plan, which only reflect the existing village houses, are not sufficient. The "V" zone should tally with the 'VE' of the indigenous villages and the 10-year forecast of Small House demand obtained from LandsD should be made reference to in formulating the "V" zone.
- 3.5.5 Besides, MWRC submitted a letter from the District Officer/Islands, Home Affairs Department

(DO/Is, HAD) dated 14 May 1999 (Annex II) stating that the buffer to protect the riparian zone for Tai Ho Stream SSSI should be 20m and a letter from the then Lantau and Islands District Planning Office, PlanD dated 13 July 1992 stating that about 27 ha of land would be reserved for "V" zone in the future statutory plan (Annex III). MWRC urges PlanD to stick with the promises made by the concerned government departments.

- 3.5.6 Other concerns raised by MWRC and local villagers include, inter alia, zoning the agricultural land in the Area as "Agriculture" but not conservation zonings or otherwise it would also affect villagers' livelihood, and improvements to the vehicular access and sewerage system of the villages in the Area.
- 3.5.7 The requests of MWRC for larger "V" zone and provision of not more than 20m buffer for Tai Ho Stream SSSI to protect its riparian zone are noted. However, due to changing planning circumstances as mentioned in paragraphs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 above, the current land use proposals drawn up would give due consideration to prevailing environmental

protection requirements, ecological constraints, and take into account factors including but not limited to 'VE' boundaries, Small House demand, topography, land status, and other technical constraints. Areas with high ecological and geotechnical sensitivity would be excluded from the "V" zone. The request for improvements in transport and infrastructures has been conveyed to concerned government departments for consideration.

Views of the Green Groups (Annexes IV to VI)

3.5.8 Most green groups support the conservation of the natural landscape in the Area, in particular the Tai Ho Stream SSSI. To better conserve the stream and its riparian zone, green groups request that the boundary of "SSSI" zone should be extended to cover the whole stream courses and all tributaries in the Area. At least 30m buffering areas on both sides of the Tai Ho Stream SSSI should be protected by conservation zonings. The inter-tidal mudflat as well as the coastline of Tai Ho Wan not covered by "SSSI" zone should also be zoned as "Coastal Protection Area" ("CPA") or

"Conservation Area" ("CA").

- 3.5.9 KFBG and Green Power further raise that apart from Tai Ho Stream SSSI, the stream at Pak Mong and a stream to the east of Tai Ho Wan are also of conservation importance. According to the EIA carried out for the HZMB, Ayu and the Scaly Neon Goby could also be found in the stream to the east of Tai Ho Wan. The Pak Mong Stream to the west of Pak Mong village is also considered to be of some concern as it is largely natural and is potentially suitable for diadromous species such as the Ayu and the Neon Goby. It is recommended that these streams should also be listed as EIS and be protected with conservation zonings.
- 3.5.10 Other concerns/proposals raised by the green groups include, inter alia, imposing traffic restriction in the Area, especially for construction trucks and machinery, avoiding non-essential roads access to ecologically sensitive areas to prevent pollution caused by uncontrollable works and developments, restricting "V" zone to the existing village cluster area only and the "V" zone should not encroach into the riparian/buffer zone of the

Tai Ho Stream SSSI.

- 3.5.11 For the proposed conservation zonings as buffer area on both sides of Tai Ho Stream SSSI, DAFC comments that the currently proposed "CA" zone of 30m wide in general is considered appropriate. The current "SSSI" zone already includes the entire Tai Ho Stream SSSI, covering the ecological core part of Tai Ho Stream and its estuary at Tai Ho Wan. The areas adjoining the SSSI are covered by the "CPA" or "CA" zones for the sake of protecting the ecological habitat there and at the same time serving as buffer for the SSSI.
- 3.5.12 The stream at Pak Mong is largely natural while its lower section partially channelised. With a planning intention to preserve natural vegetation, DAFC advises that the proposed "Green Belt" ("GB") zone is considered appropriate for the subject area. The stream to the east of Tai Ho Wan and its vicinity is also zoned "GB" with the same intention.

4 PLANNING PROPOSALS

4.1 The Outline Zoning Plan

4.1.1 The draft Tai Ho OZP (the Plan) prepared under section 3(1)(a) of the Ordinance is to provide a statutory basis for planning control over the Area. It will supersede the approved Tai Ho DPA Plan No. DPA/I-TH/2. Uses and developments that are always permitted and those for which the Board's permission must be sought in various zones are set out in a schedule of Notes attached to the Plan. Also accompanying the Plan is an Explanatory Statement to assist an understanding of the Plan and to reflect the planning intentions and objectives of the Board for various land-use zonings.

4.2 Planning Objectives

- 4.2.1 The development of the Area should gear towards the following objectives:
 - to conserve the Area's outstanding natural landscape with unique scientific and ecological values in safeguarding the natural habitat and

natural system of the wider area; and

• to preserve historical artifacts, local culture and traditions of the villages.

4.3 Planning Principles

- 4.3.1 The main planning principles below are adopted for preparation of the planning and development proposals of the Area:
 - (a) The Area, adjoining the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, is part of the natural system of the wider area. With the high ecological value of Tai Ho Stream, it should be preserved and protected in its natural state in safeguarding the uniqueness of the Area and integrity of the system.
 - (b) The existing heritage features are conserved and to serve as landmarks to promote cultural heritage of the Area.
 - (c) Small House development in recognised villages will be consolidated at suitable

locations to preserve the rural character of the Area. Its existing built fabric of a height of not more than 3 storeys village house is kept.

4.4 Land Use Proposals (Figure 10)

4.4.1 In the designation of various land use zones in the Area, consideration has been given to the natural environment, physical landform, existing land use pattern, demand for Small Houses and availability of infrastructure. It also takes into account the relevant recommendations of the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau, the development strategy proposed by LanDAC and other relevant studies on land use development options and infrastructure provisions affecting the Area. The following land use zones are proposed to be designated on the OZP.

4.4.2 "Village Type Development" ("V")

 (a) The planning intention of this zone is to designate both existing recognised villages and areas of land considered suitable for village expansion. Land within this zone is primarily intended for development of Small Houses by indigenous villagers. It is also intended to concentrate village type development within this zone for a more orderly development pattern, efficient use of land and provision of infrastructures and services. Selected commercial and community uses serving the needs of the villagers and in support of the village development are always permitted on the ground floor of a New Territories Exempted House. Other commercial, community and recreational uses may be permitted on application to the Board.

(b) Except Wong Kwun Tin where there is no existing village cluster, no outstanding Small House application and 10-year forecast of Small House demand, "V" zones are designated for the three recognised villages, namely Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho, are drawn up having regard to the 'VE', the local topography, the existing settlement pattern, the outstanding Small House applications and demand forecast. Areas of difficult terrain, potential natural terrain

hazards, dense vegetation, conservation and ecological value, burial grounds and the buffer area for the stream courses are excluded.

- (c) Except for those specified, no new development, or addition, alteration and/or modification to or redevelopment of an existing building shall result in a total development and/or redevelopment in excess of a maximum building height of 3 storeys (8.23m) or the height of the building which was in existence on the date of first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft DPA plan, whichever is the greater.
- (d) To provide flexibility for innovative design adapted to the characteristics of particular sites, minor relaxation of the building height restriction may be considered by the Board through the planning permission system. Each proposal will be considered on its individual planning merits.
- (e) As diversion of streams may cause adverse drainage impacts on the adjacent areas and

adverse impacts on the natural environment, permission from the Board is required for such works and related activities except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.

4.4.3 "Government, Institution or Community" ("G/IC")

- (a) The planning intention of this zone is primarily for the provision of Government, institution or community (GIC) facilities serving the needs of the local residents and/or a wider district, region or the territory. It is also intended to provide land for uses directly related to or in support of the work of the Government, organisations providing social services to meet community needs, and other institutional establishments.
- (b) Existing GIC uses include two public toilets located at Pak Mong and Ngau Kwu Long, and Luk Hop Yuen Temple on the eastern side of Tai Ho Wan.

(c) To preserve the rural and low-rise character of the Area, development/ redevelopment within this zone should be restricted to the maximum building height as stipulated on the Plan or the height of building which was in existence on the date of first publication in the Gazette of the notice of the draft DPA Plan, whichever is greater. To provide flexibility for innovative design adapted to the characteristics of particular sites, minor relaxation of the building height restriction may be considered by the Board through the planning permission system. Each proposal will be considered on its individual planning merits.

4.4.4 *"Green Belt" ("GB")*

(a) The planning intention of this zone is primarily for defining the limits of development areas by natural features and to preserve the existing natural landscape as well as to provide passive recreational outlets. There is a general presumption against development within this zone.

- (b) The "GB" zone mainly covers agricultural land, hillslopes, natural vegetations and small streams in Tai Ho Valley, Hung Fa Ngan and A Po Long area, and Wong Kung Tin. Some active cultivation activities are found in the agricultural land at Pak Mong, Ngau Kwu Long and Tai Ho villages. Wong Kung Tin, where no village settlement is found, is also included in this zone.
- (c) There are several permitted burial grounds, which are intended for burial places of deceased indigenous villagers in the Area. To respect the local ritual and tradition, burial activities in the permitted burial grounds within this zone are generally tolerated. The District Office (DO) is delegated with authority under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132) to issue the burial certificates within the boundaries of permitted burial grounds. Burial activities within permitted burial grounds are also governed by separate conditions stipulated by LandsD, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the

Water Supplies Department. Any burial activities should be confined within the designated grounds as far as practicable.

 (d) As diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land may cause adverse drainage impacts on the adjacent areas and the natural environment, permission from the Board is required for such works and related activities except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.

4.4.5 "Coastal Protection Area" ("CPA")

(a) The planning intention of this zone is to conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment, including attractive geological features, physical landform or area of high landscape, scenic or ecological value, with a minimum of built development. It may also cover areas which serve as natural protection areas sheltering nearby developments against the effects of coastal erosion.

- (b) There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public interest may be permitted.
- (c) This zone covers the coastal areas along Tai Ho
 Wan which primarily consist of coastal vegetation, tidal mudflats, rocky, boulder coasts and part of the mangrove stand on the western side of Tai Ho Stream's estuary.
- (d) New residential development is not permitted under this zone. Redevelopment of existing house may be permitted on application to the Board. The redevelopment of an existing house shall not result in a total redevelopment in excess of the plot ratio, site coverage and height of the house which was in existence on the date of the first publication of the draft DPA Plan.

(e) In view of the conservation value of the area

within this zone, permission from the Board is required for diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land that may cause adverse drainage impacts on the adjacent areas and adverse impacts on the natural environment, except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.

4.4.6 "Conservation Area" ("CA")

- (a) This zone is intended to protect and retain the existing natural landscape, ecological or topographical features of the area for conservation, educational and research purposes and to separate sensitive natural environment such as SSSI or Country Park from the adverse effects of development.
- (b) There is a general presumption against development in this zone. In general, only developments that are needed to support the conservation of the existing natural landscape or scenic quality of the area or are essential infrastructure projects with overriding public

interest may be permitted.

- (c) Buffers are provided on both sides of Tai Ho Stream SSSI in order to protect the aquatic habitats.
- (d) This zone also comprises a patch of mature woodland at the south of Pak Mong village with the intention of preserving the woodland with its existing natural character from further disturbance. This piece of woodland contains a total of 96 plant species.
- (e) New residential development is not permitted within this zone. Redevelopment of existing house may be permitted on application to the Board. The redevelopment of existing house shall not result in a total redevelopment in excess of the plot ratio, site coverage and height of the house which was in existence on the date of the first publication of the draft DPA Plan.
- (f) Works relating to diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land may cause

adverse drainage impacts on adjacent areas and the natural environment. In view of the conservation value of the area within this zone, permission from the Board is required for such activities except public works co-ordinated or implemented by the Government, and maintenance, repair or rebuilding works.

4.4.7 "Site of Special Scientific Interest" ("SSSI")

- (a) The planning intention of this zone is to conserve and protect the features of special scientific interest such as rare or particular species of fauna and flora and their habitats which are designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It intends to deter human activities or developments within the SSSI.
- (b) There is a general presumption against development in this zone. No developments are permitted unless they are needed to support the conservation of the features of special scientific interest in the SSSI, to maintain and protect the existing character of the SSSI, or

for educational and research purposes.

- (c) This zone covers the designated Tai Ho Stream SSSI. The SSSI, having an area of about 5 ha, covers a natural stream (Tai Ho Stream) with several tributaries running from upland to the lowland estuary. Tai Ho Steam is a medium-sized natural stream supporting a high diversity of freshwater and brackishwater fishes in Hong Kong, including the rare Largesnout Goby (Awaous melanocephalus 黑 首阿胡鰕虎魚) and the rare Black Sleeper (Eleotris melanosoma 黑體塘鱧); and is the only known location of the rare migratory fish Ayu (Pleccoglossus altivelis 香魚) in the territory. At the estuary of the stream, horseshoe crabs (Carcinoscorpius 圓尾鱟), a species of rotundicauda conservation importance, have also been recorded in the mudflat.
- (d) Diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land may cause adverse impacts on the adjacent areas and adverse impacts on the natural environment. In view of the

conservation value of the area within this zone, permission from the Board is required for such activities.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Infrastructural Provisions

- 5.1.1 For developments in the vicinity of NGIs which require a risk assessment, the project proponent should maintain liaison/coordination with the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited in respect of the exact location of existing and planned gas pipes routes/gas installations in the vicinity of the proposed works area and the minimum set back distance away from the gas pipelines if any excavation works is required during the design and construction stages of the development. The project proponent should also note the requirements of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department's "Code of Practice on Avoiding Danger from Gas Pipes".
- 5.1.2 Rapid development over the past decade in the surrounding of the Area has generated substantial traffic flow. Developments of the Area are constrained by adverse traffic noise and vehicle emissions from the NLH, the noise exposure and height restriction from the HKIA.

- 5.1.3 Any development planning in this Area shall reserve sufficient land for necessity of drainage improvement in future. If any development or redevelopment within the Area which may affect the drainage system or change the drainage characteristic, drainage studies including the details of the affected drainage system and any mitigation measures should be submitted to DSD for checking in accordance with the principle laid down in the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau Technical Circular (Works) Nos. 14/2004, 5/2005, 2/2006 and DSD Advice Note No. 1.
- 5.1.4 There is no existing or planned public sewer serving the area. On-site discharge systems, e.g. septic tanks and soakaway pits, are generally used in the villages. Any increase in population or number of visitors to the Area or further recreation/residential/commercial/institutionaldevel opments will require additional sewage treatment facility to be provided as an integral part of the development. The design and construction of the on-site STS need to comply with relevant standards, regulations and requirements, including EPD's ProPECC PN 5/93, for the protection of the water

quality and the natural streams flowing through the Area.

5.1.5 Water supply is available to the existing villages in the Area. Upgrading of the water supply system will be required if future developments are proposed in the Area.

PLANNING DPEARTMENT . OCTOBER 2016

Proposal for a Balanced Conservation and Development Approach for Tai Ho OZP

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Proponent is made up of the major private land owners within Tai Ho, namely Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited, Swire Properties Limited, and Hong Kong Land Limited.
- 1.2 At the representation hearing in December 2014, the Town Planning Board decided not to uphold any representations (including R197, the one made by the Proponent) to the draft DPA/I-TH/1. However, the Board agreed that the Proponent's proposals could be further studied during the OZP preparation stage.
- 1.3 Further to our meeting with Planning Department on 24 May, 2016, this is the followup proposal, where the Proponent has further studied and refined the proposals to assist with determining the zoning of the Tai Ho OZP. The zoning would form the basis for the future implementation of the proposed scheme in this document.

2. BACKGROUND

(a) New Nature Conservation Policy 2004

- 2.1 The New Nature Conservation Policy has recognized Tai Ho as the third priority site for enhanced conservation. The high conservation and scientific value is mainly based on the ecologically important Tai Ho Stream, which is zoned Site of Special Scientific Study (SSSI).
- 2.2 The Conservation Policy provides for a scheme, where private development of an appropriate scale is allowed at the least ecologically sensitive portion of the site. The Proponent's proposed in-situ or non-in-situ land exchange at Tai Ho has made reference to this principle.

(b) Lantau Development Advisory Committee: First-term Work Report (2016)

- 2.3 In the LanDAC report, one of the major planning principles is for natural and heritage conservation of Lantau, and a planning framework comprising several potential recreation and tourism areas, which includes labeling Tai Ho for ecotourism and enhanced conservation. It's also mentioned that there needs to be a balance between the need for conservation and development.
- 2.4 Tai Ho falls within the Northern Lantau Corridor for economic and housing development, and is closely linked to the Siu Ho Wan Development that's earmarked for reclamation and strategic economic and housing development.
- 2.5 It's projected in the medium term (within 15 years) that the total population on Lantau Island would increase up to 160,000 and employment opportunities of 138,000. By then, it is anticipated that developments on Siu Ho Wan Depot reclamation and the surroundings, including Tai Ho, would be completed.

(c) Local Villagers' Major Concerns

- 2.6 The Proponent had meetings and discussions with the local villagers. The local villagers have been long-time occupiers of Tai Ho. At present, they only want land for their real housing needs and not for unnecessary expansion.
- 2.7 Their major concerns are that the land areas defined for "V" (Village Type Development) zone is inadequate, and the existing vehicular access and public infrastructure (including sewage and drainage facilities) is substandard. This has deprived their rights for small houses. In particular, the V zones designated for Tai Ho San Tsuen has no vehicular accessibility and construction is restricted by the adjacent ecologically sensitive SSSI zone.

(d) Green Groups' Major Concerns

- 2.8 The Proponent had meetings and discussions with the Green Groups. The Green Groups are concerned with the adverse impact of any development in or near the SSSI zone and at the east of Tai Ho Bay, along the shoreline. Any new development at these ecologically sensitive sites would be detrimental to the natural environment and stream course.
- 2.9 Our proposed scheme has been revised to address the Green Groups' concerns.

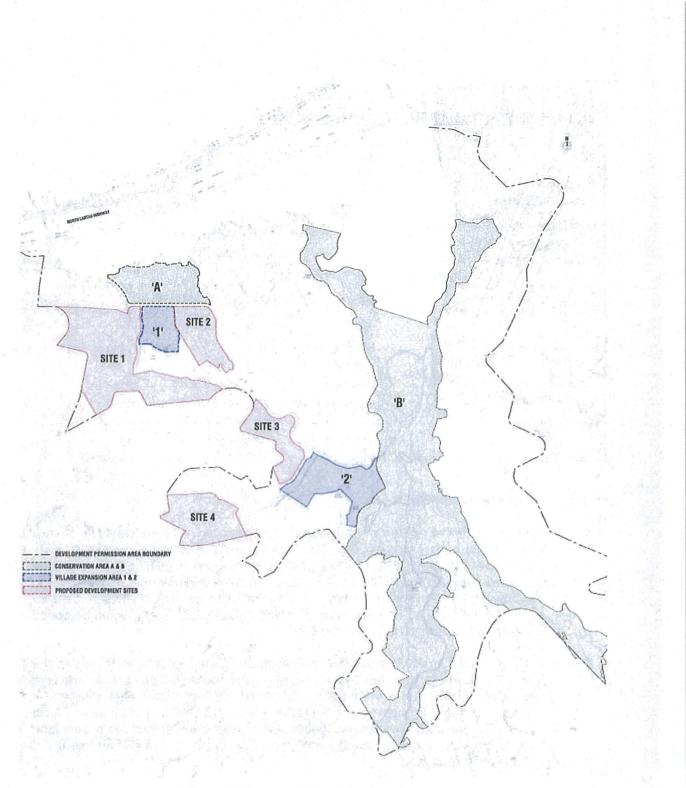
3. THE PROPOSED SCHEME

(a) The Design Concept

3.1 The design concept is for a balanced development and conservation approach, where compatible residential development and supporting facilities could be located at the least environmental sensitive sites, while avoiding any development at ecosensitive areas along Tai Ho stream and east of the bay. The new developments would be environmentally designed with infrastructure upgrades to provide a high guality of life for residents and visitors.

(b) Four Development Sites

- 3.2 The proposal has addressed Green Groups' concerns and avoided any development in the sensitive areas. The originally proposed residential developments at east of Tai Ho Bay have been removed to coincide with the conservation intent of that location.
- 3.3 There are now four development sites proposed, including Site 1, with mid-rise residential; Site 2 with mid-rise residential and eco-tourism supporting facilities; and Sites 3 and 4, with low-rise, low-density residential. (Figure 2) Tentatively, the total GFA for private residential is about 183,467 m², including 108 houses and over 2,000 flats (subject to the assumption of unit size). For more detailed parameters of the development sites, please refer to Table 1 below. It is proposed that the 4 Development Sites be zoned as Residential (Group C) with development restrictions based on plot ratio and building height in Table 1.





	Use	Site Area (m ²)	Plot Ratio	Total GFA (m²)	No. Storeys above ground	No. Houses
Development Site 1	Private residential	77,889	1.8	140,200	10-22	-
Development Site 2	Private residential and tourism- related facilities	22,083	1.0	22,083	10-14	-
Development Site 3	Private residential	21,151	0.4	8,460	3	40
Development Site 4	Private residential	31,809	0.4	12,724	3	68
	Total	152,932		183,467		108

Table 1: Indicative Parameters of Development Sites

(c) Two Village Expansion Areas

- 3.4 To safeguard the rights of local villagers, the proposed scheme would have two Village Expansion Areas (VEAs). VE1 would be at Pak Mong, providing 21 new village house sites; and VE2 would be at Ngau Kwu Long, providing 99 new village house sites. (Figure 2) (Table 2) The VEAs could provide village house sites to sufficiently meet the housing demand of the local villagers. The needed expansion area for Tai Ho San Tsuen could be accommodated at VE2. These could be zoned "Village Type Development" (V) on the OZP.
- 3.5 The Proponent is open to carry out land exchange to swap land they own in the VEAs with the land owned by villagers at the conservation areas and the development sites. The consolidated land at the VEAs could enable villagers to apply for a building license from the District Lands Office for small house. As a result, the Proponent could increase their percentage of ownership of the private land in the ecological sensitive areas and then surrender to the Government for conservation purposes.

	Use	Site Area (m ²)	No. Storeys	No. Houses
Village Expansion	Village Houses	15,114	3	21
Area 1				
Village Expansion	Village Houses	33,594	3	99
Area 2				

Table 2: Indicative Parameters of Village Expansion Areas

(d) Sustainable Plan for Conservation

- 3.6 Two Conservation Areas are identified to promote ecotourism, outdoor recreational opportunities, and long-term conservation of the ecologically sensitive environment.
- 3.7 Conservation Area "A" (ConA) is indicated to protect the Pak Mong archaeological site, which has an area of about 3 ha. It could potentially be converted into a public open space or garden area and managed by the Government for cultural and nature conservation purposes. (Figure 2) The ConA could potentially be zoned as "open space" (O) in the Tai Ho OZP.
- 3.8 Conservation Area "B" (ConB) is proposed to protect the SSSI zone and inner valley, which has an area of about 45ha (including water area). (Figure 2) The purpose of ConB is to ensure conservation of the Tai Ho Stream and ecologically sensitive areas by preventing man-made activities at these locations. The SSSI (Tai Ho Stream) should be kept pristine and natural. In fact, eco-tourism should not be encouraged at the SSSI zone; but some form of ecotourism could be adopted at the less ecologically sensitive locations.
- 3.9 For ConB, the Proponent objects to designate the private lands in the ecologically sensitive areas and SSSI zone as purely "CA" (Conservation Area) zone under the Tai Ho OZP, without a sustainable plan that can balance the need for development. The CA zone would restrict any form of development by private land owners and villagers in Tai Ho without promoting positive conservation and management.
- 3.10 Public access by vehicle and foot entering the ConB could be restricted at the west boundary of VE2. The Tai Ho Stream (SSSI zone) could be protected by a 30m buffer of non-building area. Other smaller streams could be protected by a 20m buffer of non-building area.
- 3.11 The Proponent believes that the Government should consider taking up the long-term management of ConB. The Government has already committed conservation resources to the SSSI designation of the Tai Ho Stream since 1999. The Government recognizes the ecological significance of the Tai Ho Stream in the greater context. They would be in a better position, with greater expertise, foresight and resources to ensure the long-term management of ConB as a public conservation area. Therefore, three options are proposed for consideration:
 - (i) The Government may contract out to an experienced Non-Government Organization to manage ConB. The Proponent is open to building the necessary hardware needed by the NGO to facilitate management and prevent man-made activities at the locations. The zoning for this option could involve expanding the SSSI zone; or
 - (ii) The ConB, along with any of the non-development land in between, could be integrated into the North Lantau Country Park (NLCP). (Figure 3) The NLCP and its established country park management system could be extended to include the SSSI zone and ensure the long-term conservation of the ecologically sensitive area; or
 - (iii) The Proponents may consider taking up management of ConB; should the longterm works and management of ConB be relatively simple and inexpensive. Details of the arrangement need to be further negotiated.

Page 5 of 10

- 3.12 The Proponent is open to land exchange to consolidate Government land in the Conservation Areas in both options (i) and (ii).
- 3.13 The existing "Olympic" hiking trail from Mui Wo could be retained with its public facilities upgraded to encourage outdoor recreation.

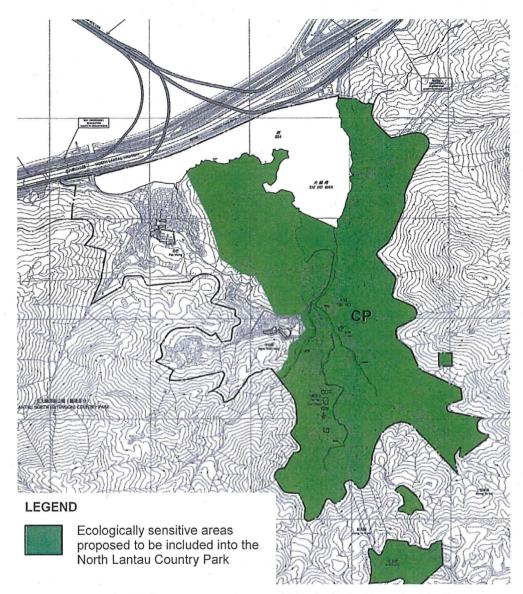


Figure 3: Indicative Area that could be included into the NLCP

(e) Road Implementation

- 3.14 There is an existing track road into Tai Ho that runs from Cheung Tung Road to Ngau Kwu Long village. This track is in substandard condition. The Olympic hiking trail from Mui Wo forms part of this track.
- 3.15 The Proponent proposes to upgrade and widen the existing track to a standard public access road for the villagers and residents. The public access road would connect to the internal roads of the Development Sites and Village Expansion Areas. The public road will stop at the entrance to Ngau Kwu Long Village Expansion Area. The public access road would also provide foundation to accommodate the underground public sewage and drainage facilities, which has been a standard practice for public road developments in Hong Kong. The indicative layout of roads is provided in Figure 4 below.
- 3.16 The Proponents are open to construct the public access road up to Government standards, and then transfer ownership to relevant Government departments for their long-term maintenance and management.

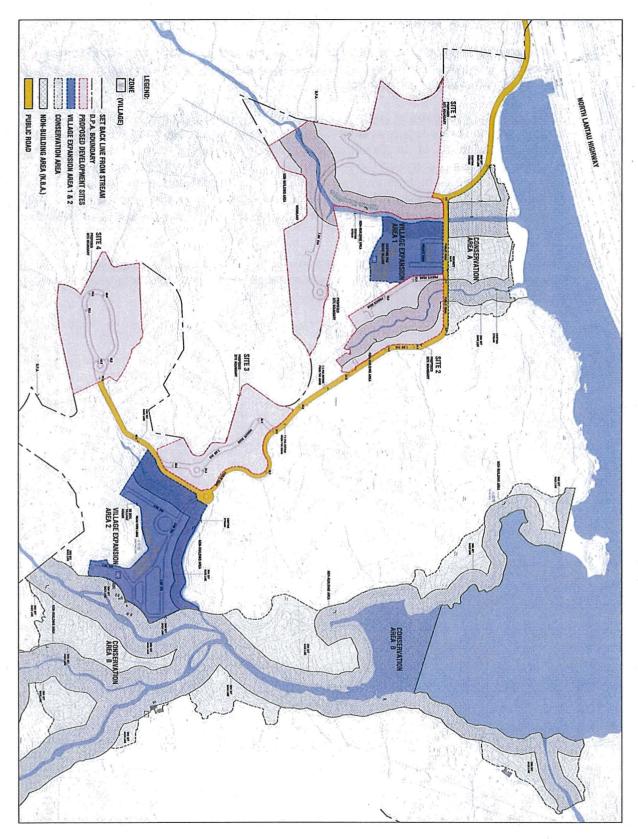


Figure 4: Indicative layout of roads

4. LAND OWNERSHIP

4.1 The Proponent owns about 72% of all private land in Tai Ho. They are also in communication with local villagers who are open to a land exchange approach to consolidate the ownership in the proposed Village Expansion Areas. The Proponent is open to surrender all their land in the Conservation Areas to Government through a land exchange approach. The zoning on the OZP should be designed to facilitate the consolidation of the land holdings in this manner.

5. LAND EXCHANGE OPTIONS

5.1 The Proponent wish to explore the potential of land exchange options as follows:-

Option 1: In-situ Land Exchange for Development Sites and Surrender of land in Conservation Areas

- 5.2 The Proponent could surrender all their land in the ConA and ConB and Development Sites to the Government, in return for in-situ land exchange of Government land and private land in the Development Sites 1 to 4.
- 5.3 The Proponents would liaise with villagers for land exchange between the Proponent's land in the VEAs and villagers' land in the Conservation Areas.

Option 2: Non-insitu Land Exchange

5.4 The Proponent could surrender all their land in Tai Ho to the Government in return for a non in-situ land exchange of a site in the proposed Tung Chung East reclamation area. This has the advantage of moving development out of Tai Ho completely to enable long-term conservation of the sensitive environment.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The current land holdings of the proponents enable a realistic basis for the implementation of a balanced conservation, village expansion and development scheme for Tai Ho. They currently own 69% and 85% of the private land in the Conservation Areas. Should there be policy support and an appropriate zoning; the Proponents would explore increasing the land holding within the selected Conservation Areas for surrender to Government.
- 6.2 Land ownership within the Development Sites varies from 59% to 95% of the private land within each of these areas.
- 6.3 The proposals within this submission could contribute to the housing supply with private residential of around 108 houses and tentatively over 2,000 apartment units, subject to the assumption for unit size.
- 6.4 The proposed development scheme has addressed the major concerns of the Local Villagers and Green Groups.
- 6.5 The proposed development scheme has echoed with the recently announced Lantau Development Advisory Committee's First-term Work Report.

6.6 This proposal aims to provide a framework for determining the zoning of Tai Ho OZP, which would form the basis to take forward the implementation mechanism of a balanced conservation, village expansion and development scheme for Tai Ho.

Masterplan Limited – Planning and Development Advisors August 2016

Ge~ 2. /

難島民政事務處 夺尚中舆统一码顶过 38 远 海港政府大规二十学报



ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE HARBOUR BUILDING, 20th FLOOR. 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

冬闼招號 Our Ref .:

(100) in IS 150/1/12 (TC2/99) 双函构號 Your Ref.:

जॅंत Tel.: 2852 4321 Fax 28152291

> 青衣翠怡花園 第一座26樓A座 大蠔村村代表 張松帶先生

張先生:

建議位於北大嶼山大濠河的具特殊科學價值地點

在本月五日的會議上,西貢及離島規劃處,漁農處及本處代表曾向你 及牛牯塱村村代表林吉勝先生解釋政府建議將位於北大嶼山大濠河的一帶列 爲「具特殊科學價值地點」的原因,以及相應的規劃。

漁農處的代表在會上解釋了該地點的特殊生態價值。此外,</

 規劃處的 代表表示,為了配合保護大療河一帶的自然生態,該處會把沿河岸兩旁約 20 米闊的土地規劃為「保育區」以作緩衝之用。在保育區內仍然准許小型屋字的 重建,不過新建的丁屋將受到限制。該處已考慮在附近寬地以彌捕在原村界內 所失去的可供發展的土地。

大濠河「具特殊科學價值地點」及其緩衝區將會納入「大頓分區計劃 · 大綱圖」內並刊登憲報, 徵詢公眾的意見。屆時, 如果你或其他人士欲提出意 見,可於指定的時間內根據《城市規劃條列》向城市規劃委員會提出。

若果你有任何疑問及其他建議,本處定當將你的意見向有關部門反映 及作出跟淮。

離島民政事務專員 (陸嘉健 传录 健代行)

副本绘:漁農處處長

西貢及離島規劃專員 還境保護署署長

一九九九年五月十四日

99X

Pleas, quote our reference in inture correspondence



K Within a

規 劊 署 Planning Department Hong Kong

大嶼山及離島規劃處 Lantau and Islands District Planning Office

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大嶼山梅窩 梅窩鄉事委員會 曾連主席

曾主席:

北大嶼山發展研究 <u>白芒、牛牯塱及大蠔新村的土地用途建議</u>

本年六月十七日來信已收到。

本年五月十一日在離島區議會的特別會議上,本人已約略解釋過, 在制訂土地用途建議時,特別是在界定標題所述鄉村的「鄉村式發展用 地」範圍時,負責「北大嶼山發展研究」的顧問已對多項因素作出適當 的考慮,包括認可鄉村範圍、天然地形、環境狀況、基礎設施、道路 及其他發展需要等,其中原居民對小型屋宇的需求亦已全面顧及。正如 「大蠔建議發展大綱圖」上所顯示,現有鄉村兩側兩大片共約27公頃的 土地,已劃為「鄉村式發展用地」,並特別指定作鄉村式發展用途。該 兩片土地的面積,已足以應付預測中此區的小型屋宇用地長遠需求。

當局對上述地區的土地用途建議,目前未有計劃在可見的將來實施。 由於規劃工作需要一段頗長的時間;在這段時間本處定會留意有關地區 的情況,如有需要,在制訂詳細藍圖時並會對各土地用途分區的界線作 出必要的調整。本處亦會密切注意原居民對小型屋宇的真正需要;另外 在實施有關地區的發展建議時,定會特別留意來信第(1)至(3)分段提出 的各點。 至於你在第(4)分段提出的一點,希望你明白,賠償問題不屬本處 的職權範圍。本人建議你直接向屋宇地政署查詢。

如果你仍有不明白的地方或需要其他資料,請随時與本處的高級城市規劃師盧惠明先生(電話: 881 7127)或直接與本人聯絡。

1 大禦山及離島知 劉專員李志光

一九九二年七月十三日

Annex IV

Mr. LUI Tak Shing, Gary Town Planner/ Islands 6, Sai Kung & Islands District Planning Office, Planning Department, 15/F, Sha Tin Government Offices, 1 Sheung Wo Che Road, Sha Tin, N.T. (E-mail: gtslui@pland.gov.hk)

Dear Mr. Lui.

Information for the upcoming draft Tai Ho Outline Zoning Plan

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) understands that the Planning Department is currently preparing the draft Outline Zoning Plan for Tai Ho, and would like to provide the information below for you and your Department's consideration.

1. Consistent with the Tai Ho DPA

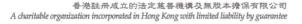
We support the general planning intention of the approved Tai Ho Development Permission Area (DPA) plan which is to conserve its rich natural landscape resources with high conservation and scientific values. We also support the provision of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with statutory support under the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) to Tai Ho Stream with boundaries which follow that of the Register of Sites of Special Scientific Interest¹. We consider the general planning intention of the DPA and the SSSI zoning should be kept in the upcoming draft OZP.

2. Ecological value of Tai Ho

2.1. The HKBWS would like to provide the following information which was not mentioned in the explanatory statement of the approved Tai Ho DPA plan. Tai Ho is listed as third out of the twelve priority sites under the New Nature Conservation Policy². It supports the endemic Romer's Tree Frog (Philautus romeri)³ which is globally endangered⁴ and of potential global concern⁵. In addition, bird species of

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 ¹ Planning Department, 1995. Register of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Site no. 63 – Tai Ho Stream, Lantau Island.
 ² AFCD – List of priority sites for opherers. LOUELHEL

² AFCD – List of priority sites for enhanced conservation. Available at:

http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con nncp/con nncp list/con nncp list.html

³ AFCD – List of priority sites for enhanced conservation: Tai Ho. Available at: http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con nncp/con nncp list/files/tai ho public.pdf

⁴ IUCN Red List version 2013.2. Available at: <u>http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/58794/0</u>

⁵ Fellowes, J.R., Lau, M.W.N., Dudgeon, D., Reels, G.T., Ades, G.W.J., Carey, G.J., Chan, B.P.L., Kendrick, R.C.

conservation importance were recorded in Tai Ho, including Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*)⁶, Eurasian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)⁷, and Swinhoe's Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*)⁸. All three species are scarce in Hong Kong^{9,10} and are listed under Class II protection in the People's Republic of China List of Wild Animals¹¹.

- 2.2. Brown Fish Owl is considered to be of regional concern⁵. This species has specific habitat requirements and only feeds in undisturbed, unpolluted lowland streams and tidal creeks⁹. The woodlands in Tai Ho provide suitable roosting habitats for Brown Fish Owl, while the wetlands and unpolluted natural streams and their riparian vegetation are suitable foraging grounds and perches for this species.
- 2.3. Eurasian Eagle Owl is of regional concern and considered to be rare in the China Red Data Book¹². It is recorded in remote areas of hill slope grassland¹⁰.
- 2.4. Swinhoe's Egret is considered of global concern⁵, nationally endangered¹², and globally vulnerable⁴. The greatest threat to this species is habitat loss and degradation through reclamation of tidal mudflats, estuarine habitats and uninhabited offshore breeding islands, and through pollution¹³.
- 2.5. Therefore, we consider that the woodland, shrubland, grassland, natural streams, mudflats, estuary and intertidal wetlands are important habitats in Tai Ho and should be adequately protected from any development and potential pollution.

3. Our recommendations

In order to conserve Tai Ho's high landscape and scientific conservation values, the HKBWS proposes the following:

- a. "Conservation Area" zoning should be provided to at least 30 metre buffering areas on both sides of the Tai Ho SSSI and to the existing natural habitats (i.e. secondary woodland, Fung Shui woodland, shrubland, grassland and marsh).
- b. "Coastal Protection Area" zoning should cover all areas of mudflats and intertidal areas to safeguard habitats of species of conservation importance, including the rare Largesnout Goby (*Awaous melanocephalus*), the rare

¹² Zheng, G. M. and Wang, Q. S. (1998).

Lee, K.S., Leven, M.R., Wilson, K.D.P. and Yu, Y.T. (2002). Wild animals to watch: Terrestrial and freshwater fauna of conservation concern in Hong Kong. *Memoirs of the Hong Kong Natural History Society* No. 25, 123-160.

⁶ HKBWS Hong Kong Bird Report 2012.

⁷ HKBWS Hong Kong Bird Report 2004.

⁸ HKBWS internal records, data obtained in 2001.

⁹ Carey, G.J., Chalmers, M.L., Diskin, D.A., Kennerley, P.R., Leader, P.J., Leven, M.R., Lewthwaite, R.W., Melville, D.S., Turnbull, M. and Young, L. (2001). *The Avifauna of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society.

¹⁰ HKBWS Hong Kong Bird Report 2013.

¹¹ List of Wild Animals under State Protection (promulgated by State Forestry Administration and Ministry of Agriculture on 14 January, 1989).

¹³ http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/factsheet/22696977

migratory fish Ayu (*Plecoglossus altivelis*), Horseshoe Crab (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*), Seagrass (*Halophila becarrii*)¹⁴, the scare Brown Fish Owl and the globally vulnerable Swinhoe's Egret.

c. "Village Type Development" zone should be restricted to the existing village cluster area only given that there are currently no outstanding Small House applications¹⁵. It also should not encroach into the riparian/buffer zone of the Tai Ho stream and SSSI.

The introduction of planning control alone could not fully protect the sites from activities such as unauthorized tree felling and vegetation removal. In order to fully protect the ecological and landscape values of the site, as well as the overall value of the surrounding Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, the Authority should consider including Tai Ho into the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park following detailed assessments and public consultation. HKBWS believes that Tai Ho and surrounding areas are qualified for such purpose given its value in terms of ecology, landscape and built heritage.

Thank you for your kind attention and we hope that the Planning Department would take our comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Woo Ming Chuan Conservation Officer The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

cc. The Conservancy Association Designing Hong Kong Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden WWF – Hong Kong

¹⁴ Section 7.4.2(c) of the explanatory statement of the approved Tai Ho DPA (DPA/I-TH/2)

¹⁵ TPB paper No. 9579 – Section 4.1.7.

Annex V



BY E-MAIL ONLY

Mr. SIU Yee-lin, Richard Senior Town Planner, Sai Kung & Islands District Planning Office Planning Department, 15/F, Sha Tin Government Offices, 1 Sheung Wo Che Road, Sha Tin, N.T. (E-mail: rylsiu@pland.gov.hk)

17 June, 2016

Dear Mr. Siu,

Wise Land Use for River Basin in Tai Ho Outline Zoning Plan

- Green Power is a local charitable green group with <u>river conservation</u> being one of our focused issues. We submitted our views and comments on the Draft Tai Ho Development Permission Area Plan (DPA/I-TH/1) on 28 May, 2014 regarding the preservation of water quality, ecology, hydrology and landscape of Tai Ho River system.
- 2. Herein, we would like to draw your kind attention to the environmental, ecological and hydrological impacts of land use planning in Tai Ho River Basin and Tai Ho Bay.

Why should rivers be taken into consideration for land use planning?

- 3. River system, which comprises mainstream and tributaries, and their whole sections of courses, estuary and river basin, is a dynamic natural system that integrates and interacts with the geological, hydrological and ecological settings holistically. Negligence in river functions and processes during land use planning will lead to depreciation and loss of favourable ecological services of rivers to community and result in adverse consequences.
- 4. Land use planning that wisely takes into account of the presence of rivers can
 - (a) lower the flood risk to secure the public's safety and properties.
 - (b) protect the river, marine and bathing beach water quality to avoid water pollution, odour nuisance, communal hygiene degradation and urban blight.

- (c) conserve river and estuarine ecology to protect biodiversity and fishery resources.
- (d) act as breeze corridors to disperse air pollutants, relieve heat island effect and moderate microclimate.
- (e) preserve few remaining natural river landscapes in the territory for public's appreciation, leisure and recreation pursuits, and as natural heritage.

How could rivers be taken into account for land use planning?

- 5. A holistic approach should be adopted for land use planning for river basins which, in principle, includes preserving:
 - (a) natural geometry and substratum of rivers courses including river banks, alignment and estuaries,
 - (b) river water quality,
 - (c) permeability of the whole river basin, and
 - (d) vegetation cover of river basin
- 6. Putting these holistic principles into planning practices for land use of river basins, the plan
 - (a) should retain the original natural alignments and banks of river courses and estuaries. Any zonings that initiate, facilitate and/or require disturbance and alteration to the environmental settings and landscape of natural river courses, banks and estuaries must be avoided.
 - (b) should not zone any residential areas or facilities vulnerable to flooding in vicinity to river courses and estuaries to secure public's life and properties from flooding and storm surges.
 - (c) should protect the water quality of rivers and estuaries by zoning nonpolluting land uses in the river basins and mouths. Polluting zonings, such as industry, restaurants, livestock farms and roads, should not be zoned in vicinity to river courses and estuaries.
 - (d) should not allow or facilitate direct discharge of sewage and surface runoff from buildup areas in the river basins through drains or outfalls. Unpaved, undisturbed and well-vegetated buffering zones on both sides of river courses should be designated to provide infiltration of surface runoff, retain permeability and its river landscape.
 - (e) should maintain the permeability of river basins by reserving sufficient vegetation cover and avoid extensive impermeable concrete paving.
 - (f) should preserve the hydrological and ecological continuity of river from estuary to headwater. Zonings should allow continuous flow of river water from the upper courses to estuaries without great man-made elevation drop and habitat fragmentation.

What are the adverse consequences of improper land use planning in river basins?

- 7. Irreversible and/or unnecessary adverse consequences have already been resulted locally by ignorance of river functions and processes in land use planning such as
 - (a) threat to public's life and loss of properties in flood-prone areas zoned for residential land use in flooding and storm surges,

- (b) increase in flood incidents as land uses in river basins involved extensive concrete paving leading to excessive surface runoff during storms.
- (c) deterioration of water quality of rivers, estuaries and/or bathing beaches as wastewater and polluted stormwater are discharged to river courses from adjoining polluting land uses through stormwater drains and surface runoff,
- (d) exacerbating urban heat island effect and air pollution due to sparse vegetation in the land uses in the river basins,
- (e) destruction of natural river courses and estuaries leading to ruin of natural river ecology by incompatible land uses along river courses and estuaries such as roads and residential developments that destroyed and fragmented the habitats, and/or obstructed the migration of aquatic wildlife by elevation drop, pollution, insufficient flow volume or decking of river channels

Green Power's concerns on Tai Ho River and Bay

- 8. Green Power opines that the land use of Tai Ho area must be wisely planned to protect its rich, remarkable and valueable ecology, water quality and landscape.
- 9. Tai Ho is officially recognized as one of the twelve Priority Sites for Enhanced Conservation by Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department¹ where significant percentage of species in different taxa are recorded, especially freshwater fish (35%) and amphibians (46%).
- 10. According to a recent biodiversity study of Lantau², Tai Ho River is the richest freshwater species of any in Hong Kong, with a total of 46 species recorded. Tai Ho is of the well-known site in Hong Kong or Guangdong for the amphidromous Ayu, *Plecoglossus altivelis* which is of high conservation importance globally. In 2003, Ayu was recorded in another stream which drains into Tai Ho Bay and this and other streams at Pak Mong are believed to provide habitats for this species.
- 11. The Tai Ho River estuary provides an important corridor for other amphidromous fish species such as sicydiine gobies, a breeding ground for threatened horseshoe crabs (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*) and a nurturing habitat for locally rare seagrasses (*Halophila beccarii*).
- 12. The ecological significance and biodiversity value of Tai Ho Bay and Tai Ho River estuary (refer to Appendix) is further confirmed by the ecological study of statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (Application No. 233/2015)³ recently.
- ¹ AFCD, HKSAR: <u>https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_nncp/con_nncp_list/files/tai_ho_public.pdf</u>
 ² Noffkle, C., Yip, P., *Lantau Hong Kong's Jewel, A Biodiversity Study of Lantau:* <u>https://issuu.com/conservation_lantau/docs/lantau-hong_kong_s_jewel_publish</u>

³ Tung Chung New Town Extension EIA report, EPD, HKSAR:

13. In a landscape value study by Planning Department⁴, Tai Ho area has been categorized as "Good" landscape condition and scored "High" Landscape value.

Green Power's preliminary recommendations for Tai Ho area

- 14. Based on the above-mentioned planning principles, practices an concerns, we would like to advise on the land use planning for Tai Ho area.
- 15. Any diversion of streams, filling of land/pond or excavation of land must be forbidden without approval of enforcement departments or authority in order to protect the Tai Ho Stream SSSI, Tai Ho Bay and the entire river system in the area.
- 16. In order to avoid pollution to the streams and SSSI from village houses sewage, "Village Type Development" should not be zoned in vicinity to the existing stream courses and estuary.
- 17. The boundary of "SSSI" should be extended to cover larger area of the intertidal mudflat in Tai Ho Bay, or the coast of Tai Ho Bay not covered by "SSSI" should be zoned as "Coastal Protection Area" or "Conservation Area".
- 18. Only the stream channels of the mainstream and two major tributaries of Tai Ho Stream are designed as "SSSI" against incompatible development. The remaining courses in the upper reach of "SSSI" and all the stream banks of natural streams in the Tai Ho area have not received any adequate land use zonings which may be vulnerable to disturbance and/or destruction by future works and developments. Therefore, we advise to extend the "SSSI" to cover the whole stream courses and river banks of all tributaries in the area.
- 19. Maintaining sufficient vegetation cover and permeability is crucial to the hydrology, ecology and water quality of Tai Ho River, as permeable (not concrete-paved) and vegetated land can moderate the flow volume and purify the surface runoff. Therefore, significant portion of the land use in the river basin of Tai Ho River should be non-polluting and unpaved to prevent pollution to the stream, maintain natural hydrology and protect the delicate ecology.
- 20. Tai Ho Bay received all the stormwater from Tai Ho area. However, Tai Ho Bay is almost completely sheltered from the open sea by North Lantau Highway (NLH) with an outlet (of about 20 metre wide) underneath NLH. Its turnover rate of seawater is hugely plummeted. Therefore, the carrying capacity of the sheltered Tai Ho Bay to degrade pollutants collected from Tai Ho

http://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/register/report/eiareport/eia 2332015/MainV1 CH.htm ⁴ Planning Department, HKSAR, *Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong*: http://www.pland.gov.hk/pland en/p study/prog s/landscape/e index.htm

area, should be cautiously considered. And land use of Tai Ho area should not generate extra pollution that overload the self-purification capacity of Tai Ho Bay.

21. Road access will promote incompatible development, air and noise pollution, and facilitate illegal dumping and landfilling on farmlands and riverbanks. In order to prevent uncontrollable and unenforceable vandalism in Tai Ho area and other potential adverse impacts of road access, we urge the Administration to

(a) impose traffic restriction in Tai Ho area, especially for construction trucks and machinery, and(b) avoid non-essential roads access to ecologically sensitive areas such as natural coastlines,river banks, fung shui wood and other ecologically important sites.

- 22. Tai Ho River is one of the few remaining medium-sized natural stream courses running continuously from upland to a lowland estuary. Tai Ho River (mainstream), its estuary and the lower and middle reaches of the three major tributaries were designated as a "SSSI". Regrettably, the unique land use characteristics of rivers are not adequately addressed in draft DPA plan published in 2014.
- 23. Therefore, we urge the Administration takes into account of and makes wise use of the functions and intrinsic values of river systems in the landuse planning that will not only promote sustainable development and biodiversity of Tai Ho area, but also avoid costly and irreversible environmental, economic and social burdens in the future.

Should you have any inquiries or need further information, please contact the undersigned at Green Power (T: 3961 0200; Fax:2314 2661, Email: <u>lkcheng@greenpower.org.hk</u>).

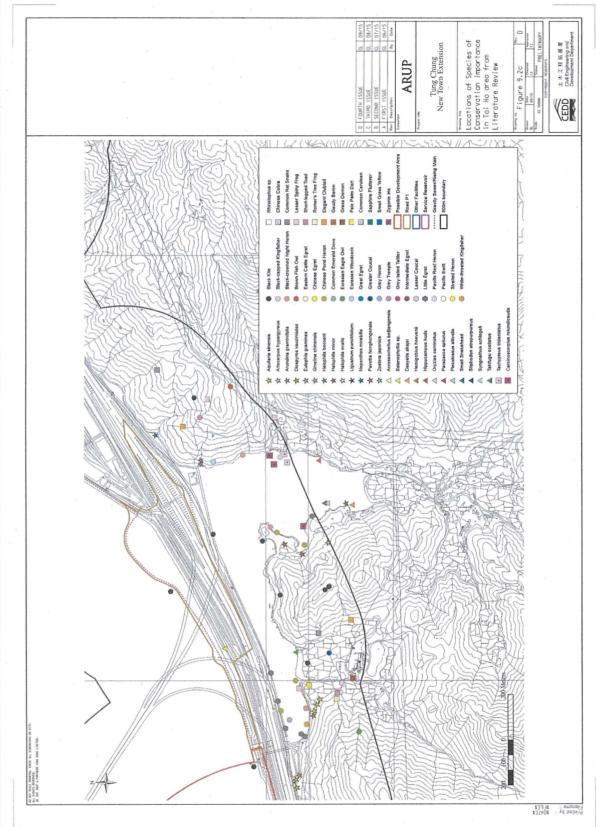
Thank you very much for your kind attention and we look forward to a wise landuse plan for Tai Ho area.

Yours faithfully,

Chang Like K:

CHENG Luk-ki Division Head, Scientific Research and Conservation GREEN POWER

Appendix





The Secretary, Town Planning Board, 15/F, North Point Government Offices, 333, Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong.

(Email: tpbpd@pland.gov.hk)

28th May, 2014.

By email only

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Draft Tai Ho Development Permission Area Plan No. DPA/I-TH/1

We would like to express our concerns and furnish additional information with regard to the captioned subject.

Ecological Information

We note that the TPB Paper No. 9579 highlights the ecological importance of the site and we would not wish to repeat those details here. However, we are surprised that the Paper has neglected to state that the site is the third most important location (**Priority Site for Enhanced Conservation**, out of the 12 designated places) under the **New Nature Conservation Policy** (NNCP) promulgated by Government^{1, 2}. We consider that the inclusion of this item of information is very important for Board Members to have an in-depth understanding and realisation of the conservation importance of the site and that such an omission must be brought to the attention of the Members for their reference. In addition, the Paper also fails to mention that the Tai Ho Stream is also a designated Ecologically Important Stream (EIS) by AFCD³. This further strengthens the fact that this area is of high ecological importance.

The Paper mentions two fishes of conservation concern in the Area: the Largesnout Goby (*Awaous melanocephalus*) and Ayu (*Plecoglossus altivelis*). We would like to state that in addition to these two species, the Tai Ho Stream also provides habitat for one more fish species of conservation importance and this is the Scaly Neon Goby (*Stiphodon multisquamus*). This species (according to the preliminary Red List assessment for the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan formulated under the Convention on Biological Diversity which has

¹ http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_nncp/con_nncp_list/con_nncp_list.html

² http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_nncp/con_nncp_list/files/3_Tai_Ho.pdf

³ http://www.afcd.gov.hk/tc_chi/conservation/con_wet/streams_rivers_hk/Con_NSR/Tai%20Ho.pdf



been extended to Hong Kong) is considered to be Endangered. Indeed, it is also considered to be Endangered in mainland China⁴. As with the Ayu and the Largesnout Goby, this is a diadromous species utilizing both the sea and the freshwater stream, and it needs the river mouth, the lower and the middle sections of the same stream to complete its life cycle.

While the Tai Ho Stream SSSI is always the main feature under the spotlight in any discussion about the conservation value of Tai Ho, we would like to mention that there are also other two streams of conservation importance within the proposed DPA. Figure 1 shows the location of these two streams. According to the EIA carried out for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the Ayu can also be found in the un-named stream to the north of Luk Hop Yuen Kung (六合玄宮), a temple located to the east of Tai Ho Bay (called Stream 1 in Figure 1)⁵. The Scaly Neon Goby can also be found in this stream. The Pak Mong Stream to the west of Pak Mong Village is also considered to be of some concern as it is largely natural and is suitable for diadromous species such as the Ayu and the Neon Goby. The Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) is conducting on-going ecological assessments (with the AFCD) of natural streams in Hong Kong and this stream has been recommended for listing under the EIS system.

Besides the importance of the aquatic ecosystems such as the streams, the seagrass bed, the mangrove and the mudflat areas (**Figure 2**), we would also like to remind the Board and the Planning Department that the DPA also contains a wide expanse of well-established woodlands and these woodlands should be of conservation concern as they are ecologically linked with the adjacent Country Park (**Figure 3**). The riparian zones of the stream system should also be preserved as we have re-iterated many times in our previous submissions about the importance and the need to keep intact the connectivity of this portion of the freshwater ecosystem.

Potential Environmental Impacts

According to the TPB Paper, there is no existing/planned sewerage system in the DPA. All sewage from the village houses would need to be contained by Septic Tank and Soakaway Systems (STSs). Regarding the usage of STS, we would like to highlight the following statement from the then Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Ms. Sarah Liao):

⁴ Wu, H. & J. Zhong (eds.) 2008. *Fauna Sinica, Ostichthyes, Perciformes (V), Gobioidei*. Science Press, Beijing, China. (in Chinese with English summary)

⁵ http://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/register/report/eiareport/eia 1722009/Cover(all).htm



".....the base flow of local rivers and streams is generally small, their assimilative capacity is therefore low. This, coupled with the continued development and hence population growth in the river catchments, as well as the lack of maintenance of many private septic tank systems, has caused the water quality of some rivers and streams.....to remain unsatisfactory."⁶

We would also like to highlight the following statements from the Environmental Protection Department and the Drainage Services Department:

"At present, sewage from a number of village areas..... is often treated and disposed of by means of private on-site treatment facilities (such as septic tanks and soakaway (STS) systems). Such facilities might however become ineffective due to their proximity to watercourses or inadequate maintenance. Sewage from such areas has therefore been <u>identified as a source of water pollution</u> to nearby watercourses and the receiving waters......"

".....if a STS system is located in an area where <u>the ground water table is high, such</u> as an area in proximity to watercourses, it will **not function properly due to** *ineffective percolation*."⁷

The Tai Ho DPA is without any doubt a river valley with a complex network of stream systems. When taken together with the mangrove, seagrass bed and mudflat in the coastal area, the hydrological system constitutes a complete functioning aquatic ecosystem – extending from the land to the sea, and such a complete system, given its present undisturbed status, is rare in Hong Kong and even in the South China region. We are highly concerned that if there are more and more Small Houses constructed in the future (with their associated STSs), the whole area including the Tai Ho Stream SSSI and other associated aquatic habitats would be just simply contaminated and destroyed by water pollution.

In addition to the very clearly stated descriptions about the problems of STSs, above, from government, we would like to mention that discharges of grey water and construction wastewaters directly into nearby watercourses is a very common phenomenon in village areas,

⁶ http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0126ti-translate-e.pdf

⁷ http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/news_events/legco/files/EA_Panel_20120528a_eng.pdf



as shown in **Figure 4**. In order to prevent the above polluting conditions from occurring, the best scenario would be to site the village area at a distance away from a watercourse. In view of all the above reasons, we strongly request that no more new Village Type Development (V) zones should be set-up within a 30-metre buffer strip on either side of the stream, and, the remaining riparian areas should simply be zoned Conservation Area (CA) in order to protect the streams (including the SSSI) and the downstream coastal aquatic systems.

There is a very narrow road at the site that connects the different village areas (Figure 5). We doubt that an ordinary sewage pump truck normally used to desludge a STS (Figure 6) would be able to use and pass through this road. If many parts of the DPA cannot be accessed by this type of truck, this would mean that any STS that are constructed in these areas could not be properly maintained. According to the EPD Guidance Notes on Discharges from Village Houses, desludging is an essential step to maintain any STS. We would like to re-iterate that according to statements by government the lack of maintenance of many private STSs has already caused the water quality of some rivers and streams to remain unsatisfactory in Hong Kong. These polluting conditions should not be allowed to happen in Tai Ho which is both a SSSI and a Priority Site for Enhanced Conservation. The only way to prevent this situation from happening is to limit the usage of STS and this means that under the current situation whereby there are no planned/existing sewerage systems, the size of the V zone should be limited in size. We strongly urge that the Tai Long Wan OZP approach should be adopted for the Tai Ho area in view of the high conservation importance of this site.

The Tai Long Wan OZP approach is reiterated as follows:

- Cover areas of conservation importance and buffer value with a CA zoning, following the holistic approach recommended by the Planning Department and adopted by the TPB
- Reduce and limit the size of the V zone to existing village settlement or building lots Planning permission is required for building "New Territories Exempted House (NTEH)" within V zone (move NTEH from Column 1 to Column 2 in the Schedule of Uses of V zone)
- Delete "House" (other than NTEH) within the Schedule of Uses of V zone
- Demolition, alteration, etc, of NTEH requires Planning Permission

香港新界大埔林錦公路 Lam Kam Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong Email: eap@kfbg.org



Land Issue

According to a government document regarding the Tai Ho Priority Site for Enhanced Conservation, a "proponent" proposing to carry out a Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) programme under the NNCP would have already acquired about 66% of the private land within the site⁸.

We would like to remind the Board and the Planning Department that a NTEH is only for "an indigenous villager to apply for permission to erect for himself during his lifetime a small house on a suitable site within his own village"⁹, and this "Small House Policy" should not be abused for real estate development under the guise of building NTEHs. In our previous presentations during the hearing for the Draft Hoi Ha, Pak Lap and So Lo Pun OZPs, we have introduced to the Board and the Planning Department how the Small House Policy may have been abused in recent years. Indeed, the abuse of the Small House Policy has also been the subject of investigation and described in an Audit Report¹⁰.

Recreational Value

Besides the omission to mention the Priority Site and EIS status of streams, we also note that the TPB Paper does not mention that there is an ancient trail within the Enclave – the "Tung Mui Ancient Trail (東梅古道)", which has been re-named the Hong Kong Olympic Trail¹¹ (Figure 7). This popular hiking trail linking Pak Mong and Mui Wo is promoted by the Hong Kong Tourism Board¹¹ and under the AFCD system, it is also called the "Islands Nature Heritage Trail – Mui Wo Section"¹². This clearly indicates that the Tai Ho Enclave is a site well recognized by the various agencies of government to be of considerable recreational value to the general public and overseas visitors.

⁸ http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/boards/advisory_council/files/ACE_Paper_14_2008.pdf

⁹ http://www.landsd.gov.hk/en/legco/house.htm

¹⁰ http://www.aud.gov.hk/pdf_e/e39ch08.pdf

¹¹ http://partnernet.hktb.com/mice/lantau/en/html/about/olympichiking.html

¹² http://www.hkwalkers.net/eng/trail_list/other_route/islands_nature_heritage_trail/introduction.htm



Concluding Remarks

The Tai Long Wan OZP has set a very good precedent to clearly show how in areas of high conservation value, a win-win-win situation can be achieved by the planning system. This precedent must be used as a benchmark for any future zonings of the Enclaves including Tai Ho. The conservation importance and recreational value of Tai Ho is well-recognised by government and we hope that the TPB and the Planning Department would make a decision that will take into account the well-being and promote the general welfare of the community as a whole by closely adhering to the holistic approach adopted in the Tai Long Wan OZP.

Thank you for your attention.

Ecological Advisory Programme Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden

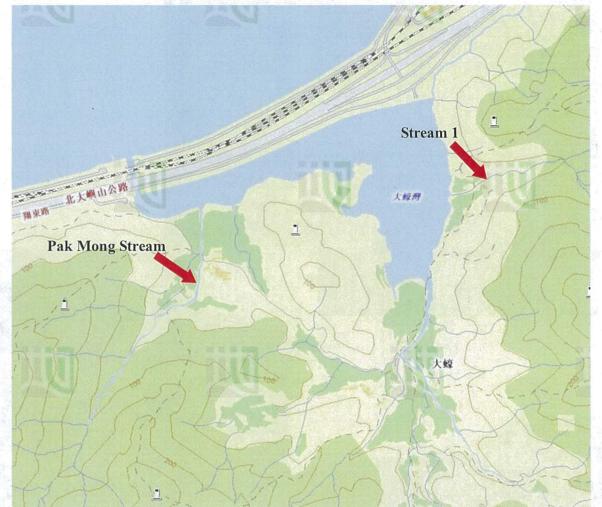
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Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Designing Hong Kong Hong Kong Bird Watching Society WWF – Hong Kong

> 香港新界大埔林錦公路 Lam Kam Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong Email: eap@kfbg.org



Figure 1. Location of the two streams that are also of high conservation value within the DPA, indicated by the red arrows (GeoInfo Map from Lands Department)



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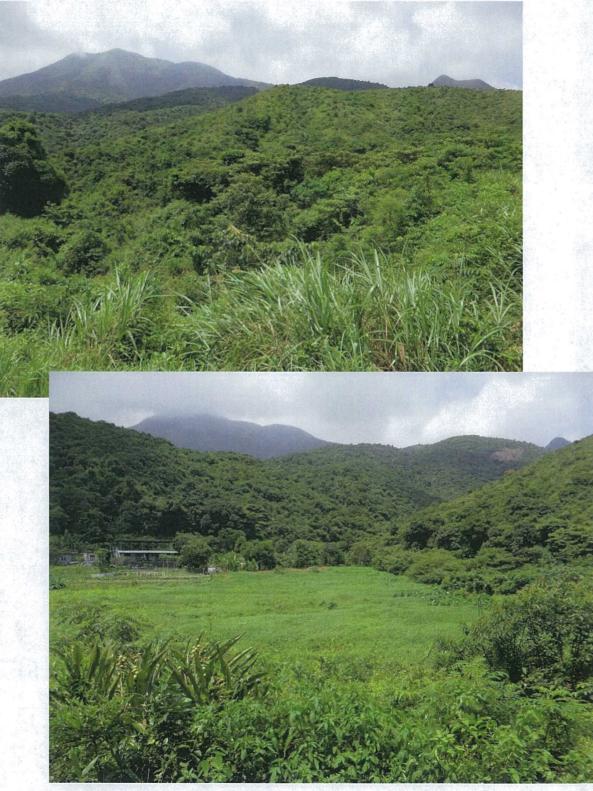
Figure 2. The stream, mangrove and mudflat at Tai Ho (photographs taken in late May 2014)



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Figure 3. Woodlands in the enclave (in the foreground) ecologically linked with the adjacent Country Park (the hills in the background) (photographs taken in late May 2014)



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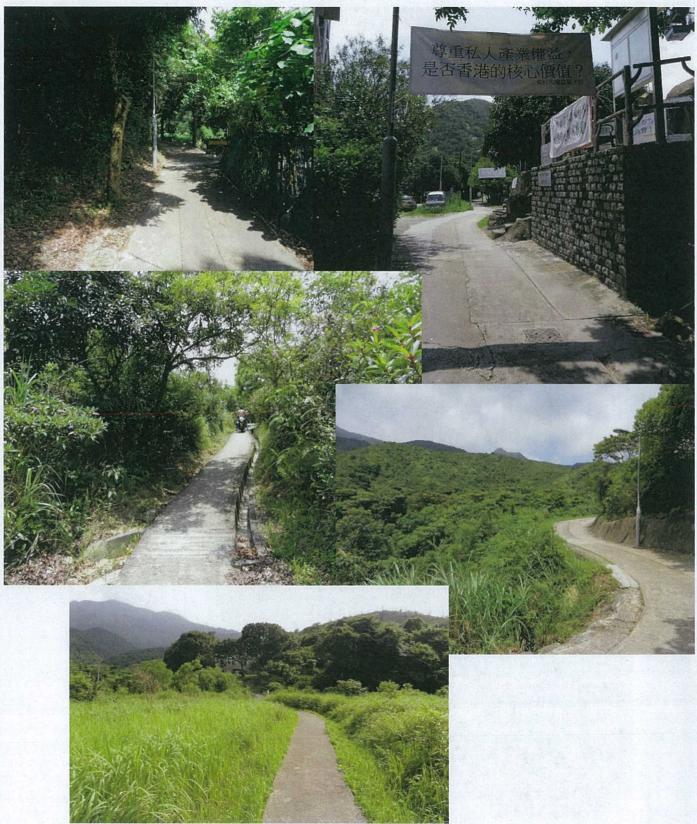
Figure 4. Discharge of grey water into nearby stream courses is very common practice in village areas



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Figure 5. The narrow paths within the site (photographs taken in late May 2014)



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Figure 6. Desludging trucks



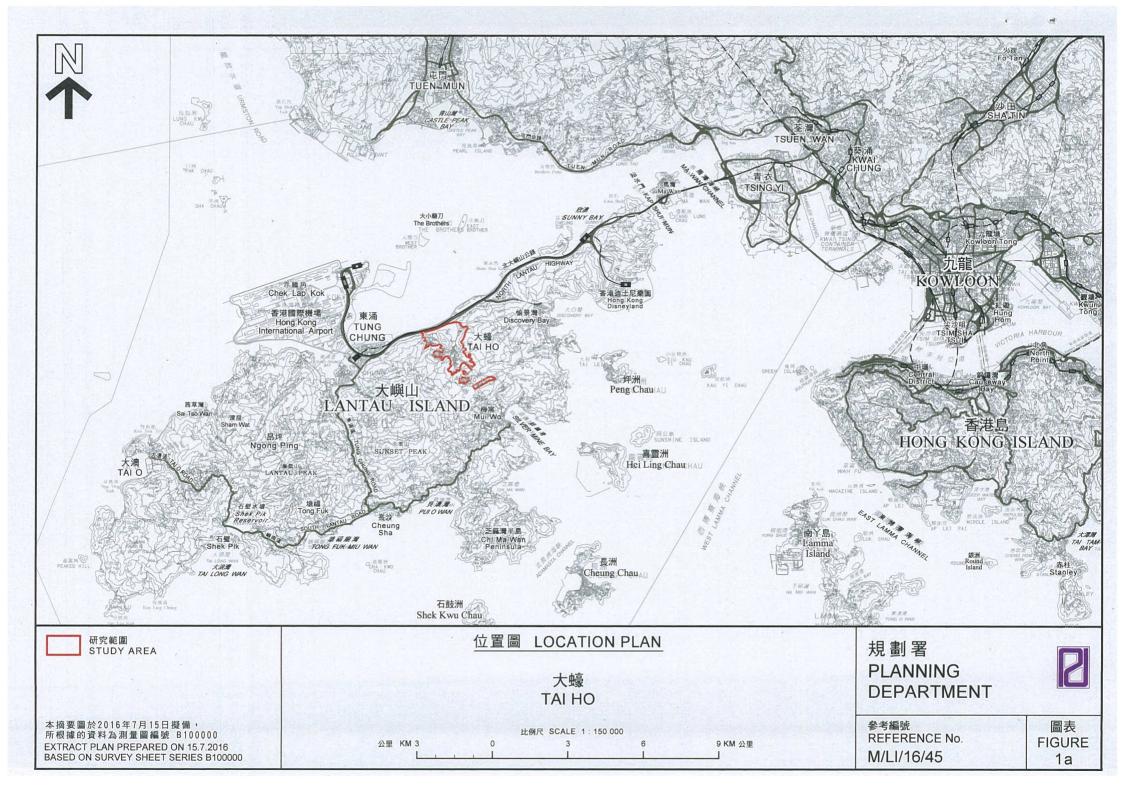
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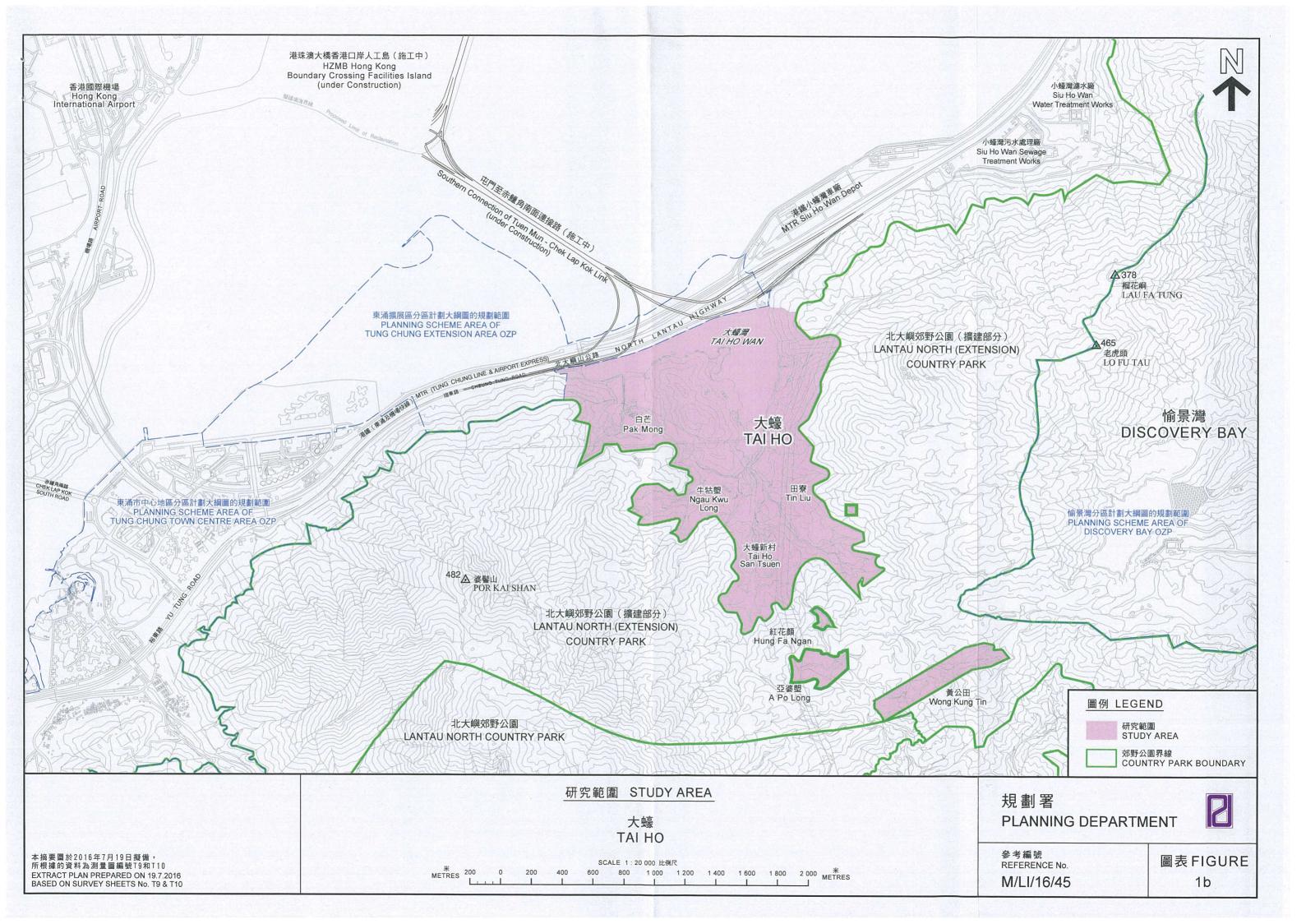


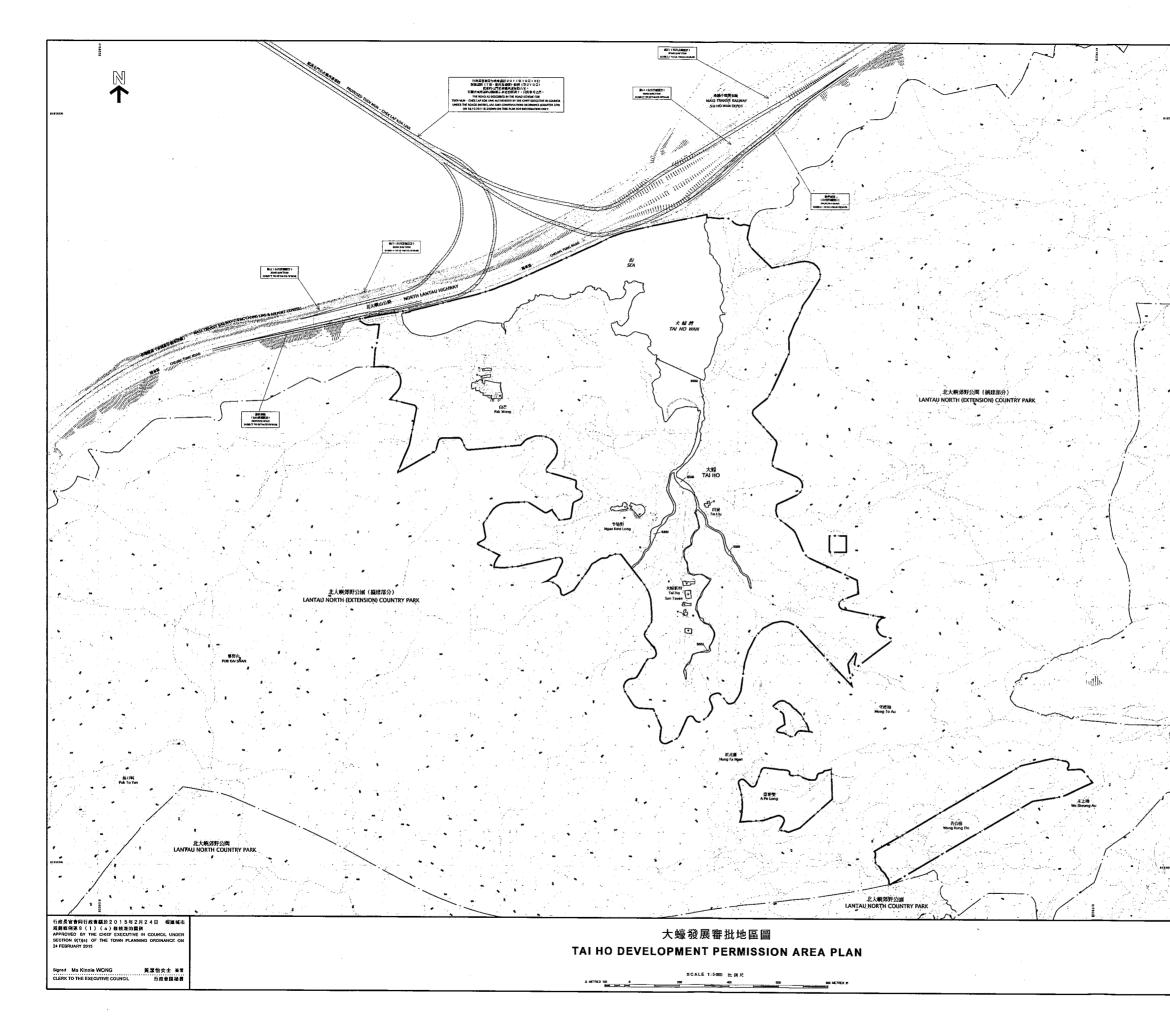
Figure 7. The starting point/ finishing point of the "Islands Nature Heritage Trail – Mui Wo Section" and the Hong Kong Olympic Trail at Pak Mong Village (photographs taken in late May 2014)



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		圖例 NOTATION	
	ZONES		地帶
iodai .	VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST	v BSSI	、
	COMMUNICATIONS Elevated road		交 透
	MISCELLANEOUS		其他
	BOUNDARY OF DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA BOUNDARY OF COUNTRY PARK / SPECIAL AREA	<u> </u>	發展審批地區界線 殘野公園/ 科別地區界線

土地用途及面積一覽表 SCHEDULE OF USES AND AREAS

大約首和於百分本 APPROXIMATE AREA & %			
USES	215 HECTARES	\$ ñ9≢	用途
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SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST	4.84	234	美豹异科拳使仙地點
UNSPECIFIED USE	192,49	\$7.02	非指定用法
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AREA	198.40	100.00	982257
SEA	31.78		a la
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央附的《註释》属退份阐则的一部分 THE ATTACHED NOTES ALSO FORM PART OF THIS PLAN

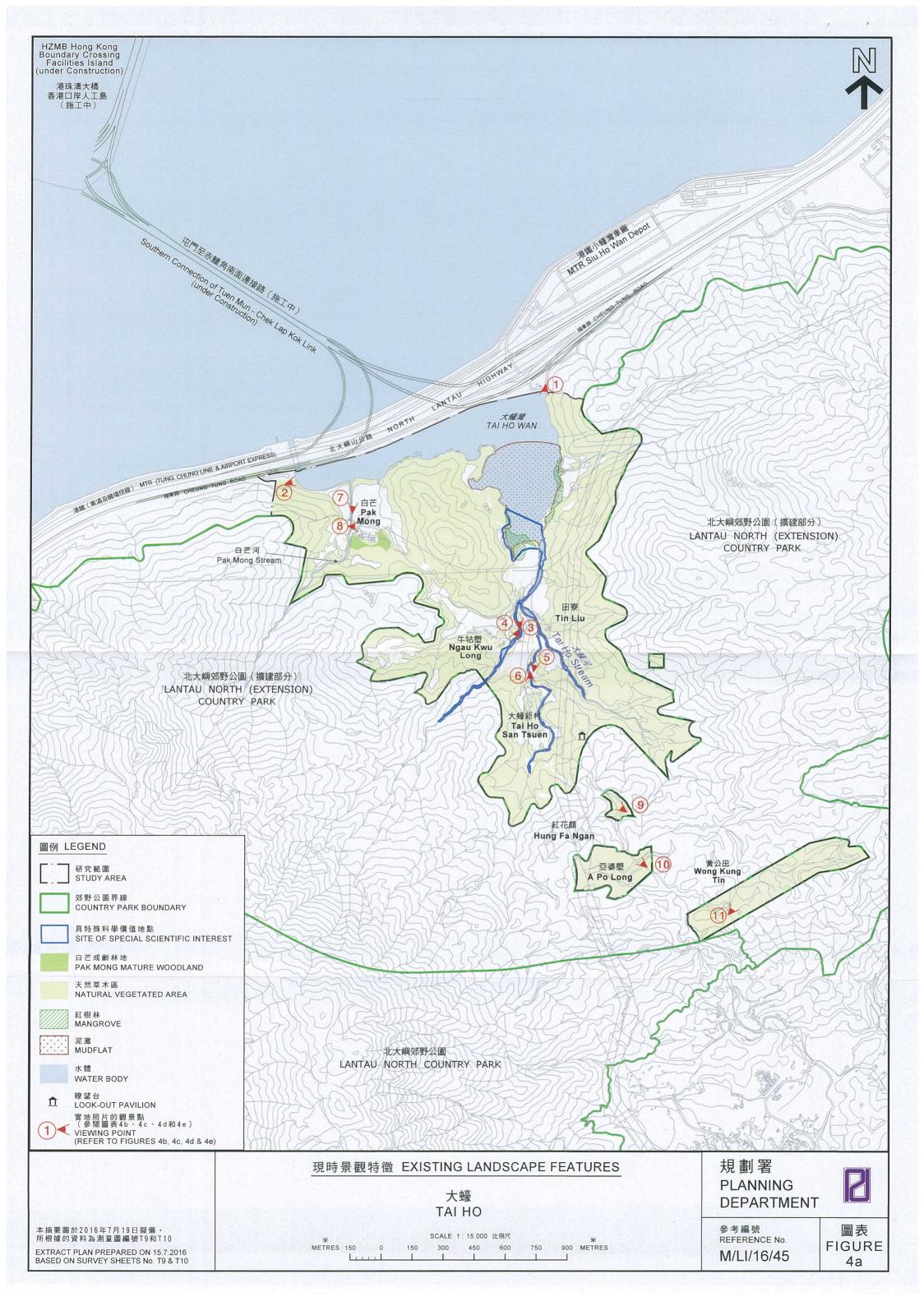
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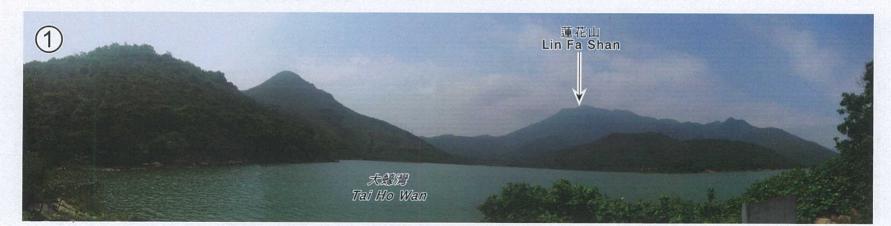
圖則編號 PLAN No.

短期客道版城市规制委员會指示發展 PREPARED BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD

DPA/I-TH/2







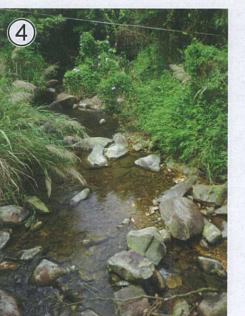
從北大嶼山公路望向大蠔灣 View of Tai Ho Wan from North Lantau Highway



大蠔灣景觀 View of Tai Ho Wan

	<u>實地照片 SITE PHOTOS</u> 大蠔灣	規劃署 PLANNING DEPARTMENT	8
本圖於2016年7月19日擬備, 所根據的資料為攝於2016年5月的實地照片 PLAN PREPARED ON 19.7.2016 BASED ON SITE PHOTOS TAKEN IN MAY 2016	TAI HO WAN	參考編號 REFERENCE No. M/LI/16/45	圖表 FIGURE 4b









大蠔河下游景觀 View of Downstream of Tai Ho Stream

> 大蠔河上游景觀 View of Upstream of Tai Ho Stream







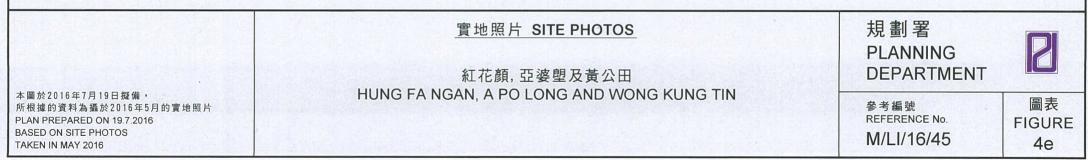


紅花顏 Hung Fa Ngan

亞婆塱 A Po Long



黃公田 Wong Kung Tin





Short-legged Toad (Xenophrys brackykolos 短腳角蟾)



Largesnout Goby (Awaous melanocephalus 黑首阿胡鰕虎魚)

Beccari's Halophiloa



Hong Kong Newt (Paramesotriton hongkonggensis 香港瘰螈)



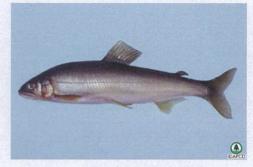
Rice-paddy Eel (Pisodonophis boro 雜食豆齒鰻)



Incense Tree (Aquilaria sinensis 土沉香)



Tokay Gecko (Gekko gecko 大壁虎)

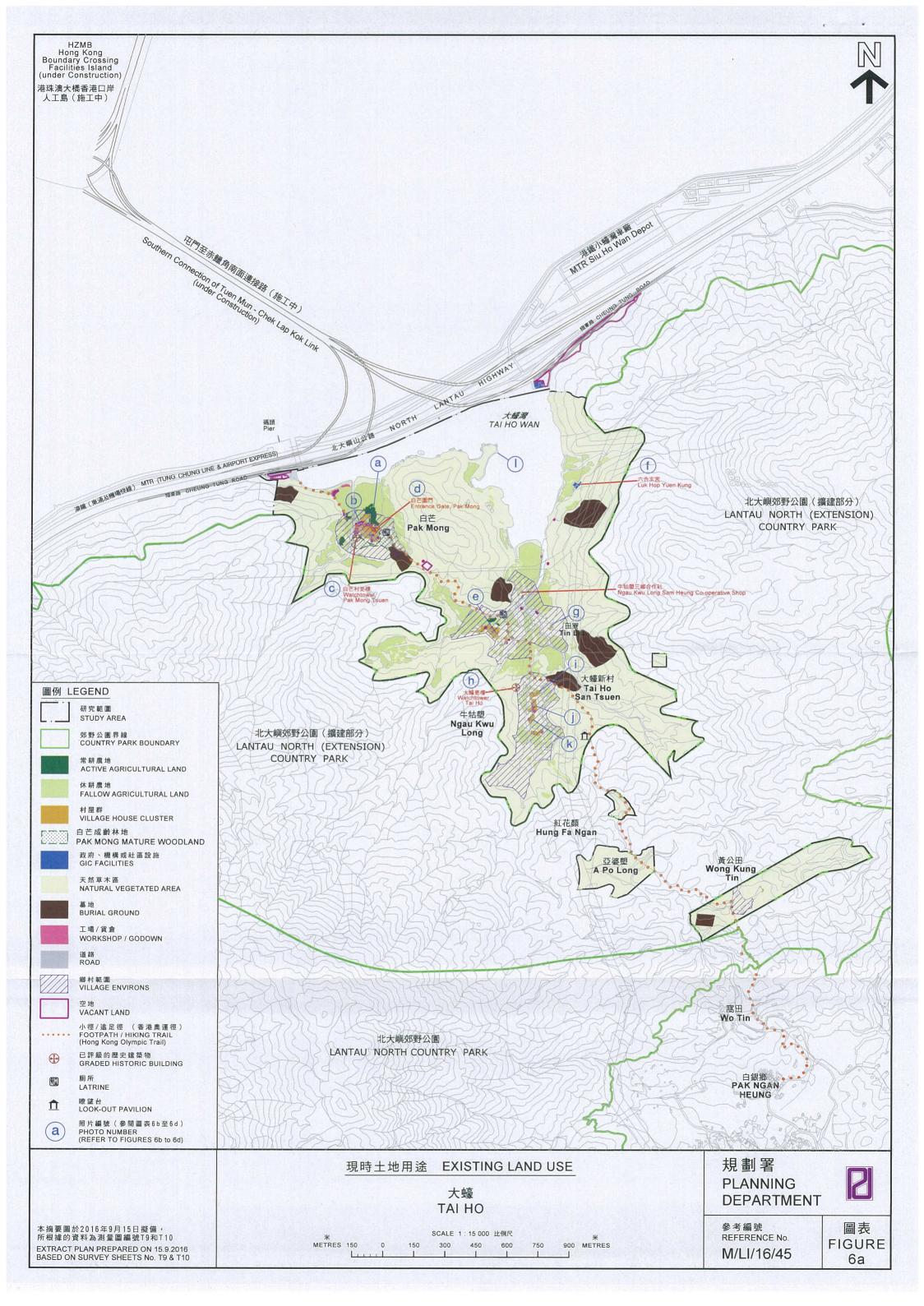


Ayu (Pleccoglossus altivelis 香魚)



Red Lacewing (Cethosia biblis 紅鋸蛺蝶)





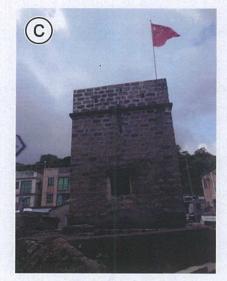




白芒村村屋 Village Houses in Pak Mong Village

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白芒村常耕農地 Active Agricultural Land, Pak Mong Tsuen



白芒村更樓(二級歷史建築物) Watchtower, Pak Mong Tsuen (Grade 2 Historic Building)

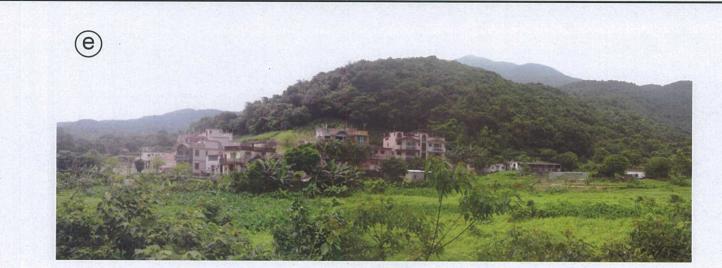


白芒村學校(棄置) School, Pak Mong Tsuen (Abandoned)



白芒圍門(三級歷史建築物) Entrance Gate, Pak Mong (Grade 3 Historic Building)

(and a final		
	實地照片 SITE PHOTOS	規劃署 PLANNING
本圖於2016年7月19日擬備,		DEPARTMENT
所根據的資料為攝於 2016年5月的實地照片 PLAN PREPARED ON 19.7.2016	PAK MONG VILLAGE	參考編號 REFERENCE No. FIGURE
BASED ON SITE PHOTOS TAKEN IN MAY 2016		M/LI/16/45 6b



牛牯塱村屋 Village Houses in Ngau Kwu Long



大蠔灣東面的六合玄宮 Luk Hop Yuen Kung to the East of Tai Ho Wan

牛牯塱常耕農地 Active Agricultural Land in Ngau Kwu Long

	<u>實地照片 SITE PHOTOS</u> 牛牯塱村	規 劃 署 PLANNING DEPARTMENT	2
本圖於2016年7月19日擬備, 所根據的資料為攝於2016年5月的實地照片 PLAN PREPARED ON 19.7.2016 BASED ON SITE PHOTOS TAKEN ON MAY 2016	NGAU KWU LONG VILLAGE	參考編號 REFERENCE No. M/LI/16/45	圖表 FIGURE 6c



大蠔更樓(三級歷史建築物) Watchtower, Tai Ho (Grade 3 Historic Building)





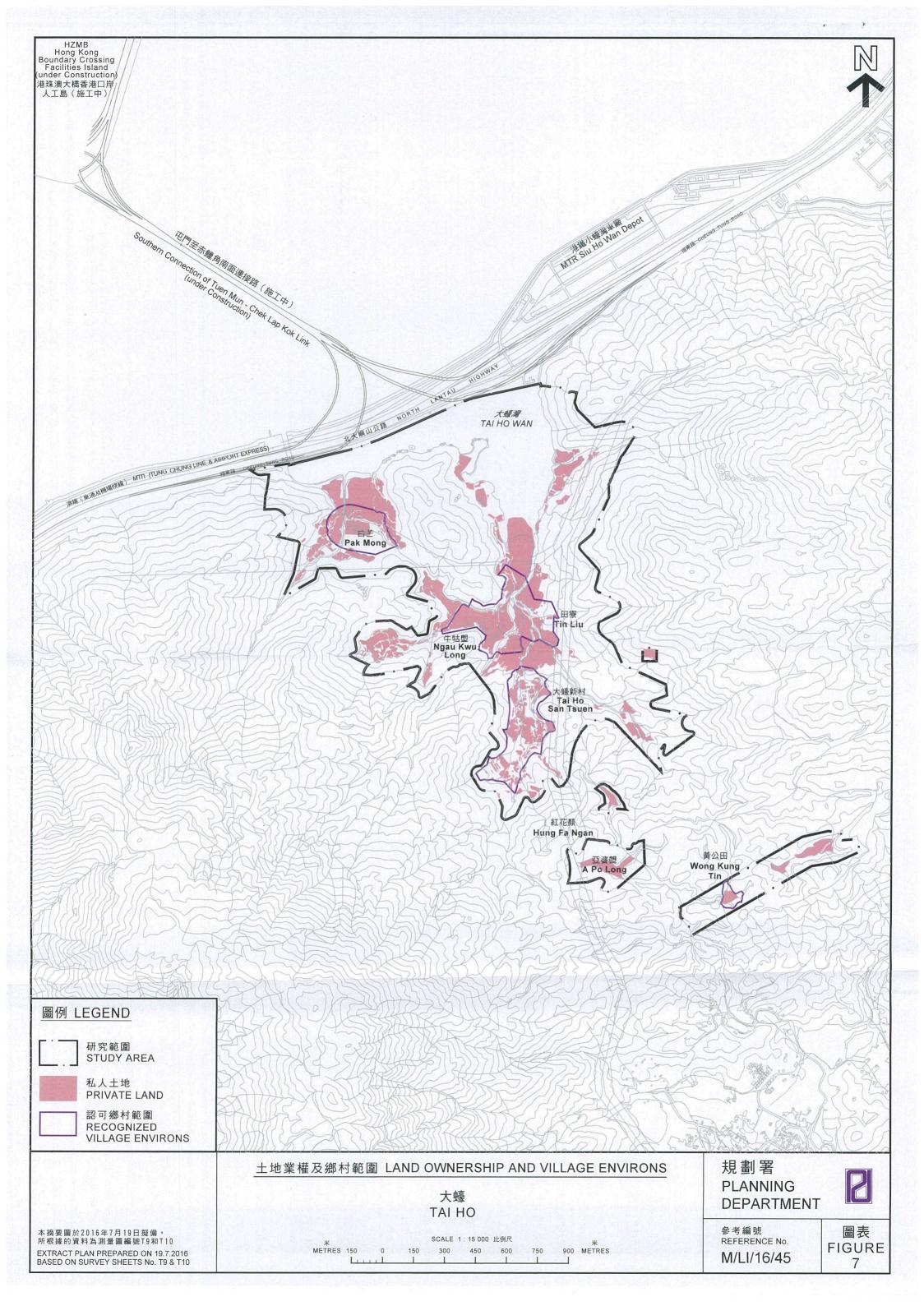


梁媽廟 Leung Ma Temple

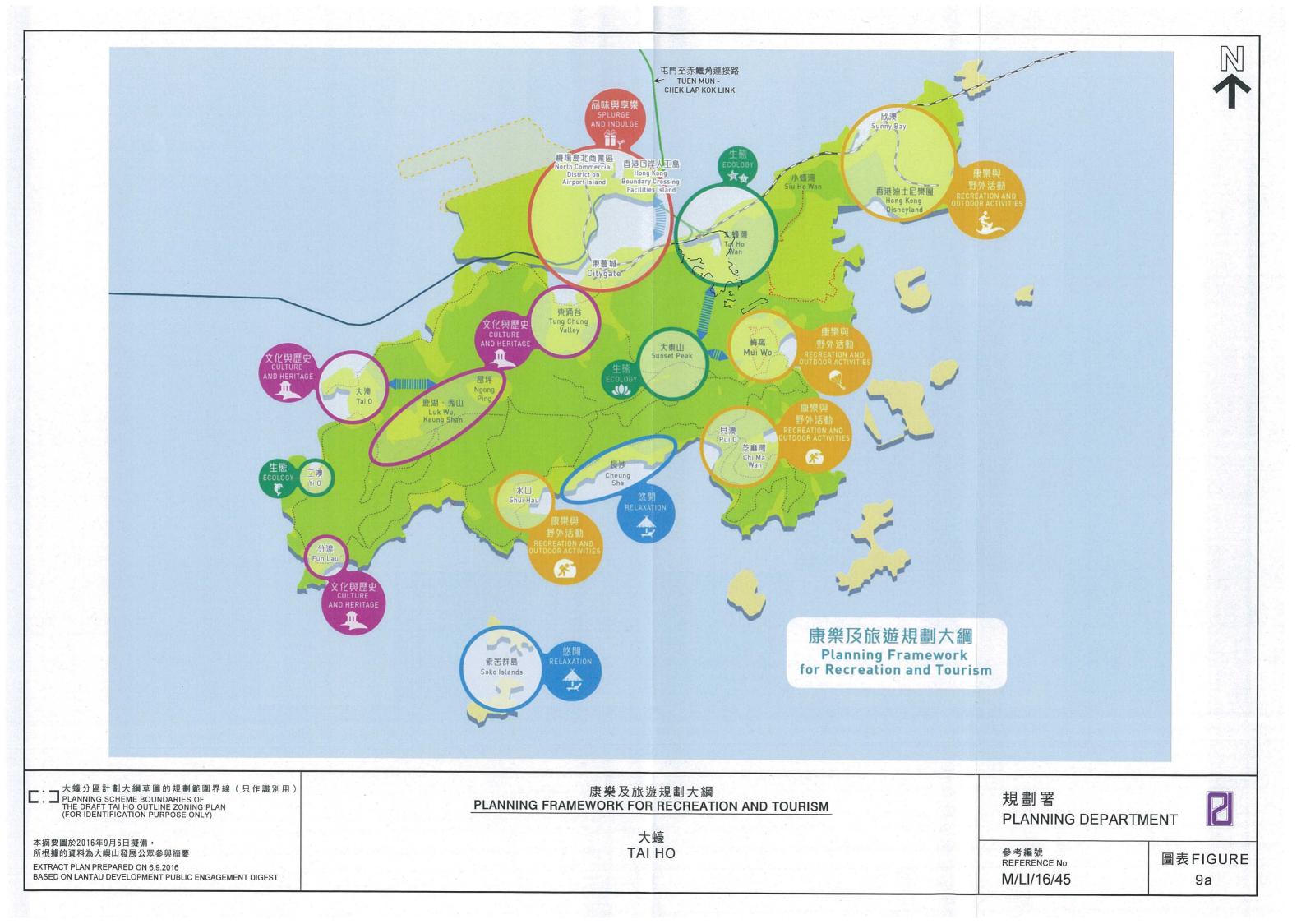


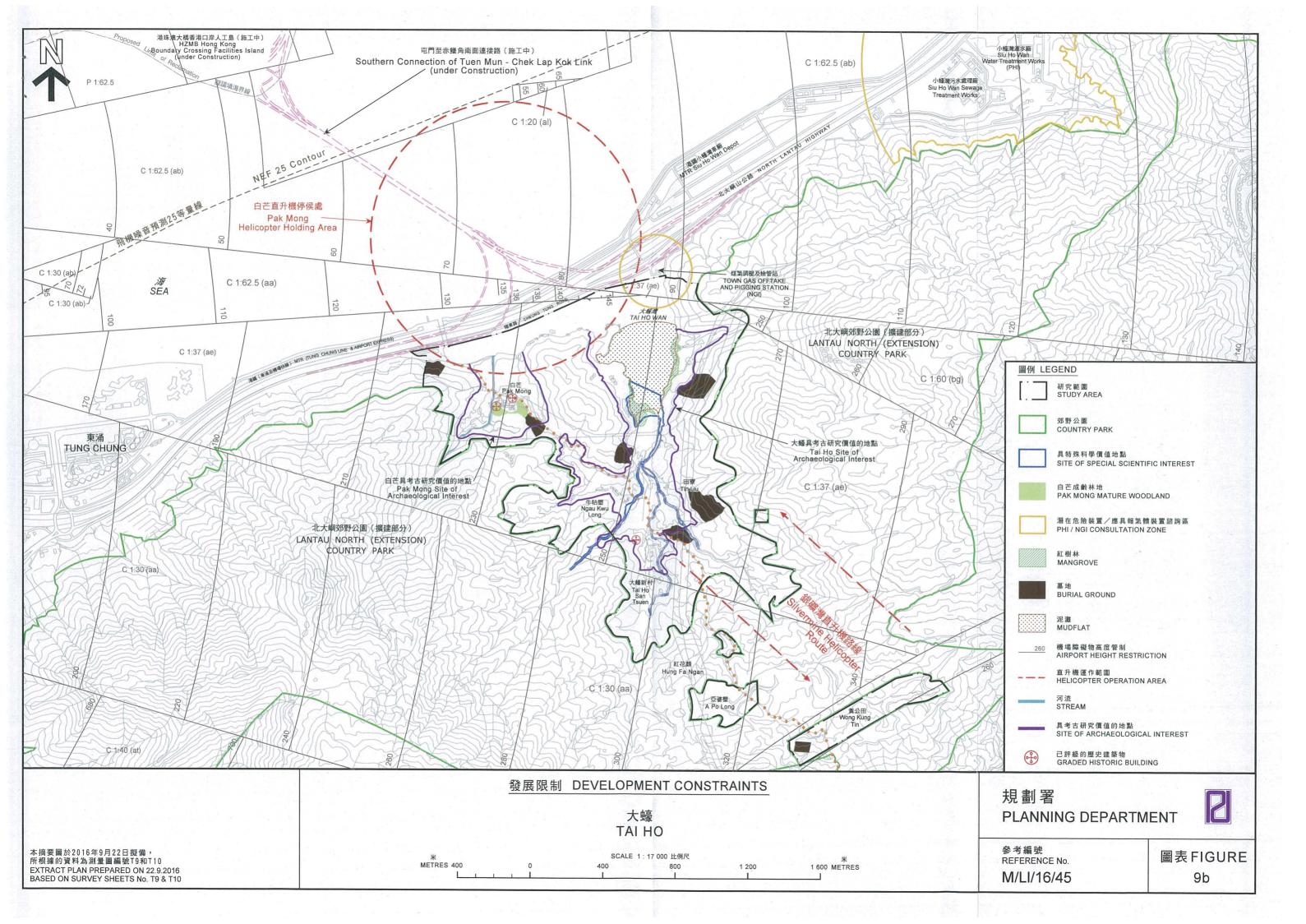
大蠔新村村屋 Village Houses in Tai Ho San Tsuen

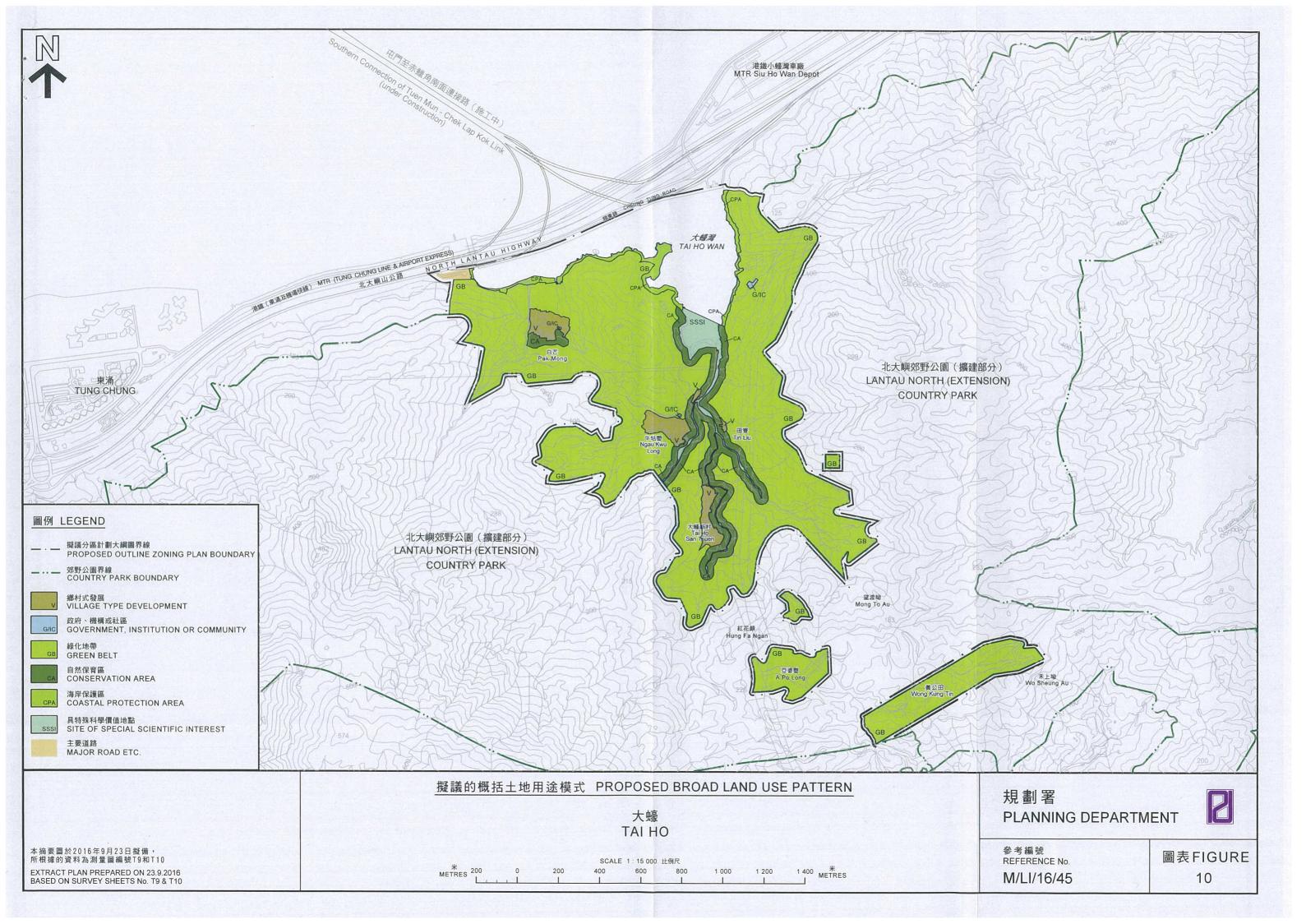
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	大蠔新村	DEPARTMENT	
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Appendix V of

TPB Paper No. 10186

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Ξ.

未來十年內的小型屋宇需求預算

本人/我們是<u>大嶼山區梅窩鄉白芒村</u>的原居民代表,現根據本村的情況向貴處提供 在未來十年內合資格的男性原居村民¹申請興建小型屋宇的需求預算,以便政府有關 部門對此有較具體的了解²。有關的資料如下:

甲部. 現時(即截至 2015 年 12 月 31 日)年滿十八歲或以上的男性原居村民

			現居	香港	僑居海外	
(A) 編	8人數 75人			642	ић	
	8人數當中已經行使其小型屋宇資格 ³ 6 文: CA	的人		67		
$1 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot$	8人數當中未行使其小型屋宇資格的 ^数	的人		55 K	in-	
• •	○行使其小型屋宇資格人數當中預算 →年內會申請興建小型屋宇的人數	未來		55人 (i)	11 h (i	i i)
: :						••••
乙部.	未來十年內將會滿十八歲(即截至) 原居村民	2015	年12	月31日時為。	八至十七歲)的男	性
:	原居村民		···· · · · ·	現居香港	僑居海外	••÷
(E) #	8人數: 72人			61K	IIK	•
	8人數當中預算十年內會申請興建小 、數:	型屋	宇的	61 h (i	ii) 11 K (i	v)
<u> </u>				• <		
	未來十年內小型屋宇需求預算[(i)+((ii) +	(iii) +	(iv)] :	12/	
	大嶼山梅窩白芒村	•		·	N 44	
姓名		署	Z	夏克	林里.	
姓名	资	署				
日期	27-1-2016.	·			·	
				• •		
		•	, .			
1 男性	京居村民指父系源自 1898 年時為香港新界認可鄉村居民	民的男子	7.			

2 因應需要,有關政府部門可能會要求提供其他相關補充資料。

3 行使小型屋宇資格即為已獲批准興建小型屋宇,或獲轉讓未曾移除限制轉讓條款的小型屋宇,

致:離島地政處

檔案: (303) in DLO/IS 91/CPY/59 Pt. 3

- 6 JAN 2016

未來十年內的小型屋宇需求預算

本人/我們是<u>大嶼山區梅窩鄉牛牯塱村</u>的原居民代表,現根據本村的情況向貴處提供在未來十年內合資格的男性原居村民¹申請興建小型屋宇的需求預算,以便政府有關部門對此有較具體的了解²。有關的資料如下:

甲部. 現時(即截至 2015 年 12 月 31 日)年滿十八歲或以上的男性原居村民

	現居香港	僑居海外
(A) 總人數:	40	35
(B)總人數當中已經行使其小型屋宇資格 ³ 的人 數:	VO	9
(C)總人數當中未行使其小型屋宇資格的人 數:	30	26
(D)未行使其小型屋宇資格人數當中預算未來 十年內會申請興建小型屋宇的人數:	≥ o (i)	2.6 (ii)

乙部. 未來十年內將會滿十八歲(即截至 2015 年 12 月 31 日時為八至十七歲)的男性 原居村民

		現居香港		僑居海外	
(E)	總人數:	1		6	
(F)	總人數當中預算十年內會申請興建小型屋宇的 人數:	•	(iii)	6	(iv)

未來十年內小型屋宇需求預算[(i) + (ii) + (iii) + (iv)]:____

	大嶼山梅窩牛牯塱村		A	•
姓名	原居民代表林世明先生	簽署	e A	· · · · ·
姓名	林世界	簽署	Ŧ.	
日期	4/1/2016		Grif	Polon A Fi
	I III	61/20	16	In TERFIVED I
¹ 男性原	居村民指父系源自1898年時為香港新界認可鄉村	后民的男子・	z, GF.17	Lands Depatment
2因應需	CEDI TY .	<u> </u>		
3行使小	型屋宇資格即為已獲批准興建小型屋宇,或獲轉讓		轉讓條款的小型屋宇。	10/152/2

6 K.

24 DFf: 2015

致: 離島地政處

From:

檔案: (297) in DLO/IS 91/CPY/59 Pt. 3

未來十年內的小型屋宇需求預算

本人/我們是 <u>大嶼山</u> 區<u>梅窩</u>鄉<u>黄蜂田村</u>的原居民代表,現根據本村的情況向 貴處提供在未來十年內合資格的男性原居村民¹申請興建小型屋宇的需求預算,以便 政府有關部門對此有較具體的了解²。有關的資料如下:

甲部. 現時(即截至 2015 年 12 月 31 日)年滿十八歲或以上的男性原居村民

	現居香港	僑居海外
(A) 總人數:	0.	
(B)總人數當中已經行使其小型屋宇資格 ³ 的人 數:	ð.	
(C)總人數當中未行使其小型屋宇資格的人 數:	0	
(D)未行使其小型屋宇資格人數當中預算未來 十年內會申請興建小型屋宇的人數:	(i)	(ii)

乙部. 未來十年內將會滿十八歲(即截至 2015 年 12 月 31 日時為八至十七歲)的男性 原居村民

	現居香港	僑居海外
(E) 總人數:	0	
(F)總人數當中預算十年內會申請興建小型屋宇的 人數:	(iiii)	(iv)

未來十年內小型屋宇需求預算[(i) + (ii) + (iii) + (iv)]:_____

	梅窩鄉事委員會 主席		1Az
姓名 .	黃文漢先生	_ 簽署	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
姓名	董友资	_ 簽署	
日期	24-12-2015		

1 男性原居村民指父系源自1898年時為香港新界認可鄉村居民的男子。

2 因應需要,有關政府部門可能會要求提供其他相關補充資料,

[;]·行使小型屋宇資格即為已獲批准興建小型屋宇,或獲轉讓未曾移除限制轉讓條款的小型屋宇。

Appendix VI of TPB Paper No. 10186

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Summary of Deviations from the Master Schedule of Notes

Zonings	Column 1 Uses	Column 2 Uses	
Village Type	-	Remove:-	
Development		- Burial Ground*	
		- Flat*	
		- Hotel (Holiday House	
		only)*	
	1	- Market*	
		- Petrol Filling Station*	
		- Private Club*	
		- Public Transport Terminus	
		or Station	
		- Public Vehicle Park	
		(excluding container	
		vehicle)	
Government, Institution	Remove:-	Remove:-	
or Community	- Ambulance Depot	- Correctional Institution	
2	- Animal Quarantine Centre	- Driving School	
	(in Government building	- Flat*	
	only)	- Hotel*	
	- Broadcasting, Television	- Marine Fuelling Station*	
	and/or Film Studio	- Mass Transit Railway Vent	
	- Eating Place (Canteen,	Shaft and/or Other	
	Cooked Food Centre only)	Structure above Ground	
	- Exhibition or Convention	Level other than	
	Hall	Entrances*	
2	- Hospital	- Off-course Betting Centre	
	- Pier*	- Office	
	- Public Transport Terminus	- Petrol Filling Station	
	or Station	- Refuse Disposal	
	- Public Vehicle Park	Installation (Refuse	
	(excluding container	Transfer Station only)*	
	vehicle)	- Zoo	
	- Research, Design and		
	Development Centre		
	- Service Reservoir		

Zonings	Column 1 Uses	Column 2 Uses
	- Training Centre	
	- Wholesale Trade	
· .	· · ·	
Green Belt	Remove:-	Remove:-
	- Country Park*	- Cable Car Route and
		Terminal Building*
		- Firing Range*
		- Flat*
		- Golf Course*
		- Marina*
		- Marine Fuelling Station*
		- Mass Transit Railway Vent
		Shaft and/or Other
		Structure above Ground
		Level other than
		Entrances*
	;	- Petrol Filling Station
		- Pier*
		- Public Transport Terminus
		or Station
		- Public Vehicle Park
		(excluding container
		vehicle)
		- Zoo*
Coortel Ducto etion Anno	Democratic	D
Coastal Protection Area	Remove:-	Remove:-
	- Barbecue Spot*	- Holiday Camp*
	- Country Park*	
	- Picnic Area*	
Conservation Area	Remove:-	Remove:-
	- Country Park*	- Barbecue Spot*
	- Country I alk	 Barbecue Spot Holiday Camp*
		- Pier*
		- Tent Camping Ground*
		Tom Camping Ground
Site of Special	Remove:-	Remove:-

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Zonings	Column 1 Uses	Column 2 Uses
Scientific Interest	- Country Park*	- Picnic Area*
		- Tent Camping Ground*
	• • •	

* Add where appropriate

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