

No. 54 - Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine

Site

The site is located on the northern part of the New Territories within the frontier closed area. The mine had been deserted since 1950s, leaving behind numerous galleries at different levels. Entrance to some of the galleries were blocked. The site covers an area of about 10 hectares of scrubland.

Date of Designation

13 August 1994

Special Scientific Interest

All bats are protected in Hong Kong under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance Cap.170. The galleries at this site provide an undisturbed resting ground for bats and has become one of the most important bat colonies in Hong Kong. The galleries harbour large winter populations of Miniopterus schreibersii fuliginosus (Common Bent-winged Bat) and Miniopterus magnater macroden (Greater Bent-winged Bat, a species discovered in Hong Kong) numbering more than 2,000 bats. The site also provides a summer breeding ground for these two species and the following five species:

Myotis myotis chinensis (Large Mouse-eared Bat)
Myotis ricketti (Ricketts Big-footed Bat)
Rhinolophus pusillus (Least's Horeshoe Bat)
Rhinolophus rouxi sinicus (Rufous Horeshoe Bat)
Rousettus leschenaulti (Leschenault's Rousette Bat)

Rousettus leschenaulti was re-discovered in this site after Hong Kong's last record in 1874. This particular fruit bat may have an important ecological role to play as a seed dispersal agent in local habitats.

Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine is also an important historical relic representing one of the most extensive systems in Hong Kong's mining history.

Degree of Hazard

The site is within the frontier closed area and access to it is restricted. Hence it is relatively undisturbed and provides a perfect physical condition for winter hibernation of bats. Future development, degradation and disturbance of this site will threaten the survival of bat population.

Recommended Protection Measures

The Agriculture & Fisheries Department should be consulted on development proposals which will affect the site.