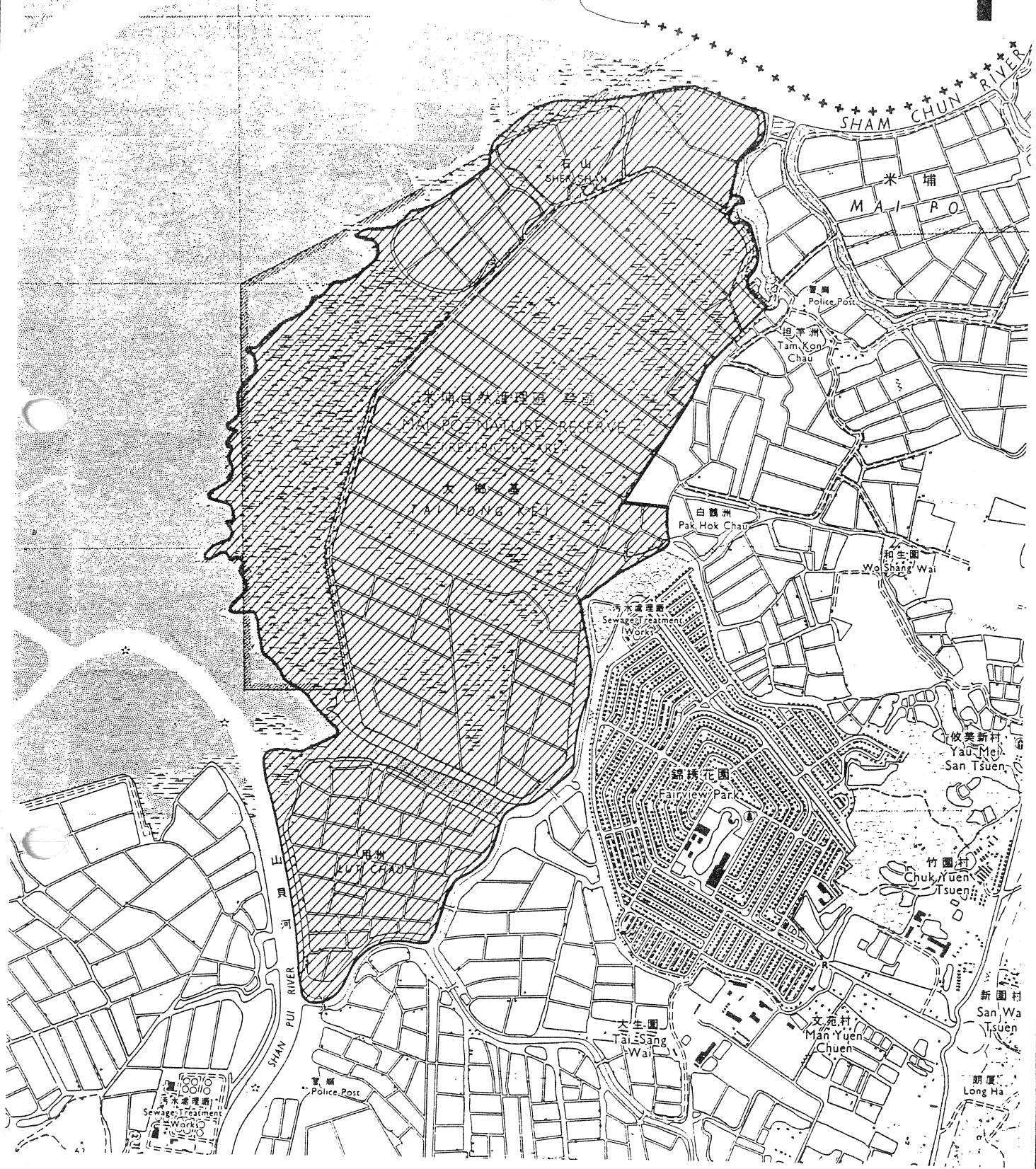
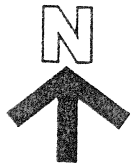


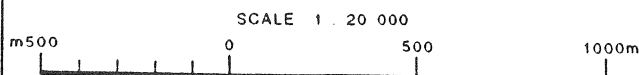
Indicative SSSI boundaries only
 具特殊科學價值地點的界線只屬指示性質



REFERENCE

DATE OF DESIGNATION : 15-9-76
 BASE PLAN EXTRACTED FROM :
 HM20C SHEET 2
 DATE : 30-9-92

SITE OF
 SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST—
 MAI PO MARSHES



PLANNING
 DEPARTMENT



PLAN No.
 TPB/M/92/6

SITE No.
 10

No. 10 - Mai Po Marshes

Site

The Mai Po Marshes cover an area of about 393 hectares of which 209 hectares are kei wais (shallow shrimp ponds) and bunds, the remainder being tidal creeks and dwarf mangrove.

Date of Designation

15 September 1976

Special Scientific Interest

The Marshes contain the largest and most important area of dwarf mangrove in Hong Kong. This highly productive seral community and the related man-made kei wais provide a rich food source for both resident and migratory birds, as well as nesting habitats for a number of species. The Marshes are the only area in Hong Kong where large number of duck, shore and marsh birds can regularly be seen and, as such, have a very considerable recreational and educational potential.

Degree of Hazard

A total of some 98 structures with about 200 inhabitants are present in the area.

There is continual illegal netting of birds during spring and autumn migrations and throughout the winter. A certain amount of illegal shooting occurs.

The housing development at Tai Shang Wai will directly affect the area unless controls are placed on access as it is certain that construction workers, and later residents, will visit the area. With continued infilling of the existing fish ponds, some of the people currently living on the development site may move across onto the Marshes.

Graphite mining is being conducted near the Tam Ken Chau Police Post. There appear to be some 40 structures in the area at present covered by the mining licence and the occupants may move out onto the Marshes if mining continues.

An illegal fish pond was found in the outer mangrove belt in March 1974. Should further such ponds be developed in the mangrove the results could be serious, not only for the wildlife of the area but also in relation to the operation of the kei wais and the productivity of the oysterbeds.

No. 10 - Mai Po Marshes (Cont'd)

Existing Protection Measures

The area is currently listed under Schedule Four of the Wild Birds and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance Cap. 170.

The land tenure of the most important kei wais has been formalised by the issue of permits carrying special conditions which relate to the manner of working the kei wais for shrimp and fish production vis a vis their value for conservation purposes.

Recommended Additional Protection Measures

Suitable measures should be taken to prevent :-

- (a) direct access from the Tai Shang Wai housing estate onto the Marshes;
- (b) any increase in the number of people living on the Marshes and to prevent the construction of additional temporary structures;
- (c) any further development of fishponds in the outer mangrove.

It should be borne in mind that the area is currently under consideration as a Nature Conservation and Nature Education Area.

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