

No. 11 - Bluff Island & Basalt Island

Site

The site consists of the Bluff Island and the Basalt Island in the Eastern Waters of Hong Kong. The site of the area is about 147 hectares.

Date of Designation

16 February 1979

Special Scientific Interest

The vegetation on these two islands is representative of many of the off-shore islands of Hong Kong which are covered exclusively by grassland.

A consideration of the environmental conditions existing on these islands suggests that the grassland may be a climax community whilst much hillside grassland in the New Territories is not a climax but is maintained by frequent hillfires.

The grassland community on these two islands is a vegetation type which is limited by extreme exposure to wind, often salt-laden; by the rocky, steep slopes carrying only shallow soils and by being subject to extremes of dryness due to the quick runoff of rainfall and the exposure to direct insolation.

The landform of both the islands shows clearly that the influence of sea waves on the islands is much stronger on the eastern side than on the western. The basalt on the eastern coast of the Basalt Island is especially spectacular and is of geographical interest.

Degree of Hazard

Unknown.

Recommended Protection Measures

The two islands should be designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Agriculture & Fisheries Department should be consulted when there are proposals for development or mining on the islands.