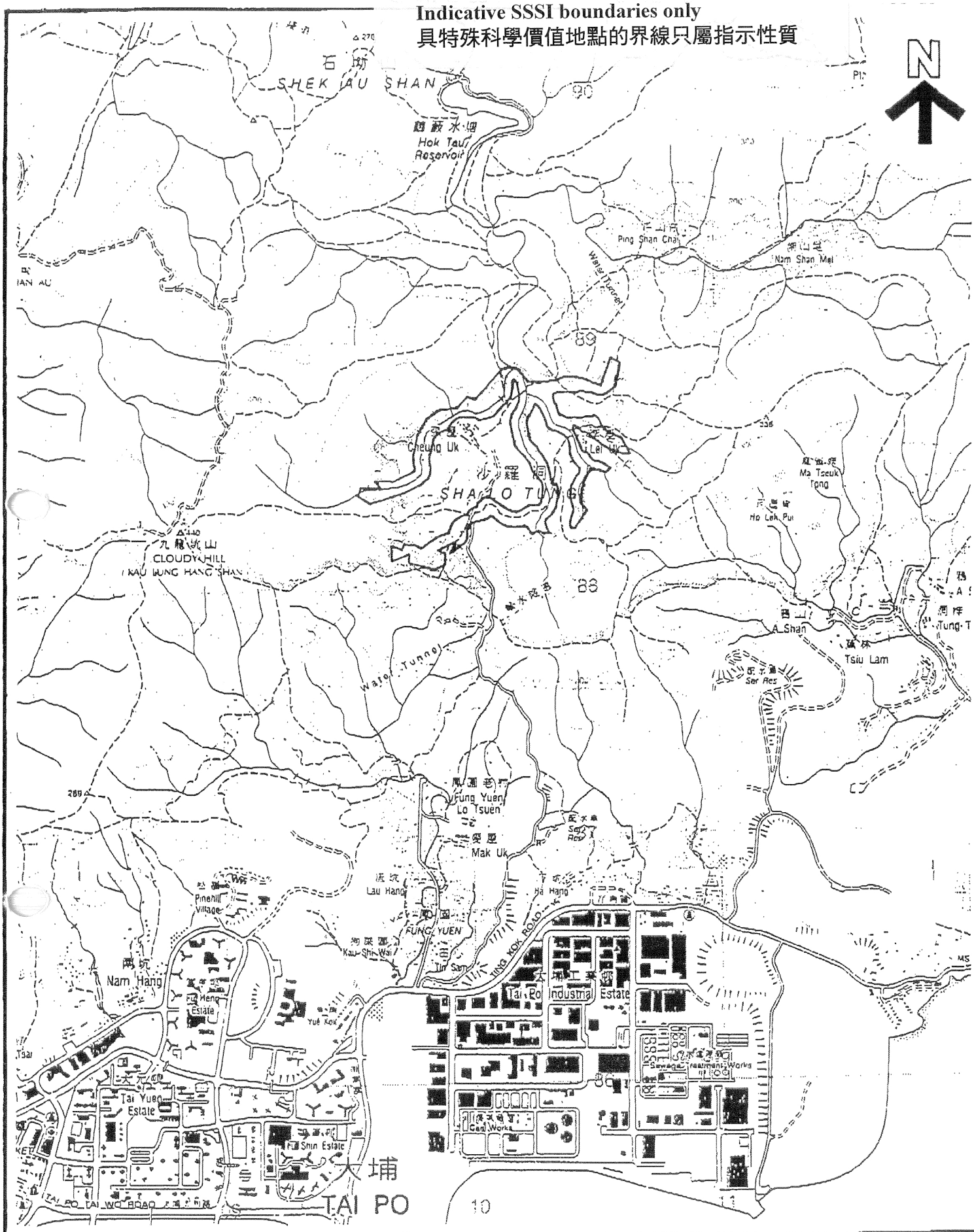

REFERENCE	SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST— SHA LO TUNG	PLANNING DEPARTMENT
DATE OF DESIGNATION : 16.7.1997 BASE PLAN EXTRACTED FROM : HM20C SHEET 3 & 7 DATE : 27.3.1998	SCALE 1 : 20 000 500m 0 500 1000m	PLAN No. TPB/M/92/ 6 SITE No. 59

No. 59 - Sha Lo Tung

The site is located in Sha Lo Tung, which is approximately 3.8 km from the centre of the Tai Po New Town to its south. It comprises the stream courses and the 30m buffer areas on both sides of the streams. The stream courses are low gradient streams approximately 3-5m in width, with shallow riffles and pools to 1.5m in depth meander through the abandoned agricultural areas and drain to the Hok Tau reservoir located to the north. The area is about 22.05 hectares.

Date of Designation

16 January 1997

Special Scientific Interest

The stream courses are important habitats of an extremely diverse community of dragonflies. The number of species recorded in the catchment area is more than any other sites in Hong Kong. Currently, there are 68 species of dragonflies recorded in the Sha Lo Tung area from a total of 106 species known from the whole territory. Many of the species recorded are rare stream specialists. It is the type locality for two endemic species. Sha Lo Tung area is also the only site in the world to possess two Macromidia species, some of which are also newly described in Hong Kong. The stream courses where dragonflies lay their eggs and live through their larval stage are important habitats for their breeding and development. The stream courses are also important habitats for other aquatic fauna such as fresh water fish and amphibian.

Degree of Hazard

Any development which may lead to deterioration of the water quality of the streams and loss of riparian and nearby woodlands will threaten the survival of the fauna in particular the larval stage of the dragonfly community.

Recommended Protection Measures

The site has been zoned "SSSI" on the draft Sha Lo Tung DPA Plan. Stringent planning control has been imposed on the development within this zone. Any unauthorized development will be subject to planning enforcement actions.