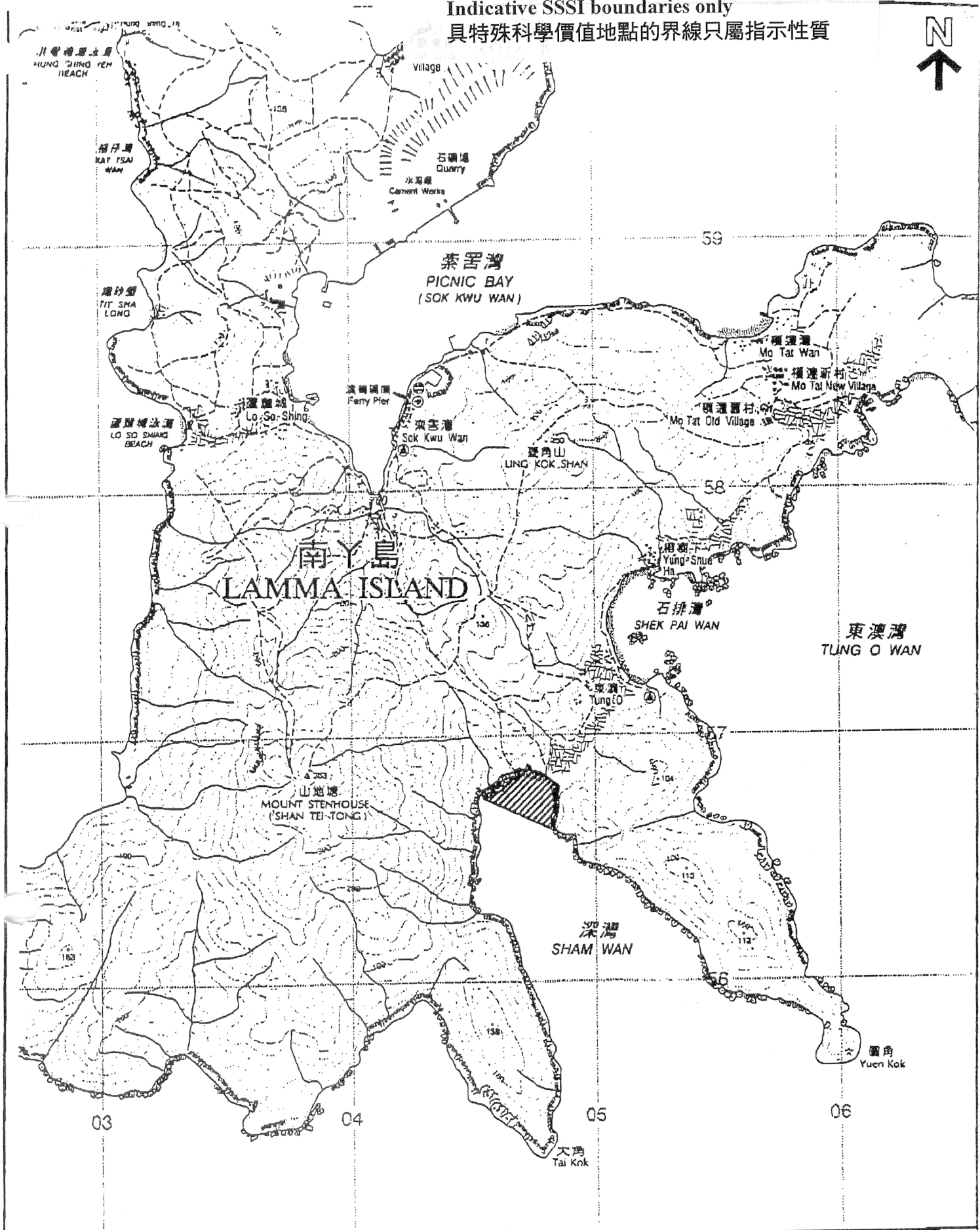


Indicative SSSI boundaries only
 具特殊科學價值地點的界線只屬指示性質



REFERENCE

DATE OF DESIGNATION : 3-6-99
 BASE PLAN EXTRACTED FROM :
 HM20C SHEET 15

DATE : 2-7-99

SITE OF
 SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST -
 SHAM WAN, LAMMA ISLAND

METRES 400

SCALE 1 : 20 000

0 400

800 METRES

PLANNING
 DEPARTMENT



PLAN No.

TPB/M/92/6

SITE No.

64

No. 64 - Sham Wan, Lamma Island

The site is located at the sea inlet of South Lamma. It includes a sandy beach about 0.5 hectare in area and the adjoining shallow shore. The total size of the site is about 4 hectares. It falls on Government land.

Date of Designation

3 June 1999

Special Scientific Interest

The site is the only known nesting site for Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Hong Kong. In 1998, up to 12 nestings were recorded at the site. The site is also one of the few remaining nesting sites in Southern China. Therefore, the site is important to the survival of this species in both the local and regional context.

Green Turtle is one of the three species of sea turtles found in Hong Kong waters, but so far only the Green Turtle is known to breed locally. It is a highly endangered species listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. In Hong Kong, Green Turtle is protected under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170).

Green Turtles, like other sea turtles, return to nest at the beach where they were born. During their breeding season (from June to October), the turtles migrate from their feeding ground to mate in shallow waters off their nesting beach. The females come ashore twice or more a season on an average of every 3 years to lay eggs in a nest cavity on the beach. Thus their activity area during their breeding season also covers the waters immediately adjoining the beach.

Degree of Harzard

Green Turtles normally have a very low survival rate due to predation and natural mortality. Mature turtles only lay eggs every three years on the average. As the Green Turtles invariably return to the same beach to nest, any development and human activities that will change the natural environment of the nesting site and/or cause obstructions to the migratory route of the Green Turtles would wipe out the local population. Habitat destruction or alteration on the nesting beach has therefore a direct

impact on the viability of the entire population. Illumination and noise produced behind the nesting beach as a result of beach development, recreational activities or roads will deter the female turtles from coming ashore to nest. Also, intensive illumination will disorient the turtle hatchlings from going into the sea, causing deaths to the hatchlings. Debris washed ashore hinders movement of nesting turtles and hatchlings.

Boating and fishing activities in the sea area during the breeding season of the turtles (from June to October) may also cause disturbance to their mating activity. They could also be accidentally caught in the nets and hit by the propellers. Poaching of eggs by human will also cause severe population decline.

Existing/Recommended Protection Measures

The site is designated as a SSSI to alert departments and agencies concerned with planning and development of the area for its importance for Green Turtle nesting so as to ensure that no incompatible development should be permitted in or around the nesting site. Agriculture and Fisheries Department should be consulted for any development proposals which may affect the site.

The back of the beach which is close to the SSSI should also be protected against development and preserved as far as possible through appropriate land use zonings on the departmental plans and the statutory plan for Lamma Island.

The sandy beach of the site is specified as a Restricted Area under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170). Entry to the sandy beach is restricted during the period from 1 June to 31 October each year for the protection of Green Turtles during their breeding season.