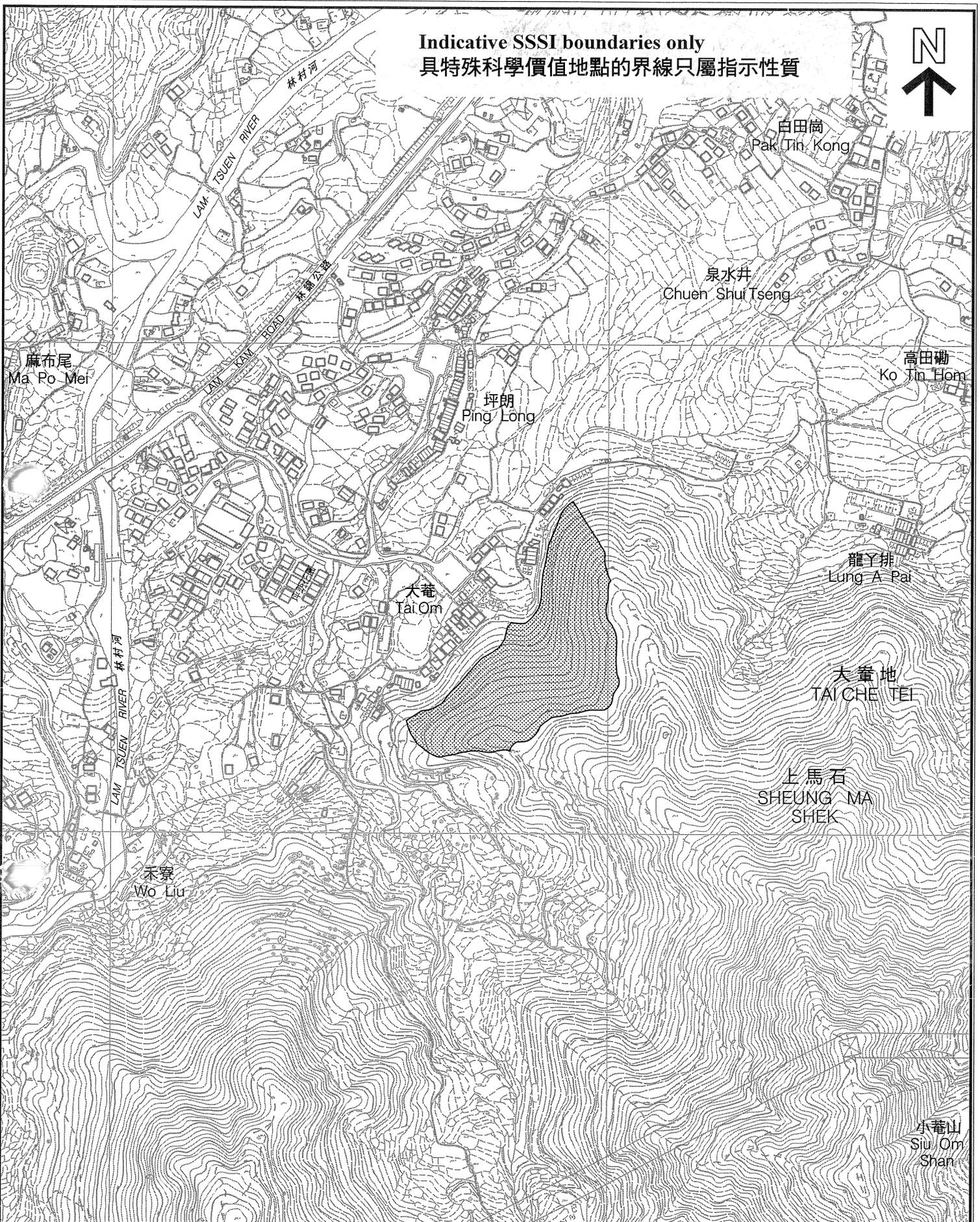


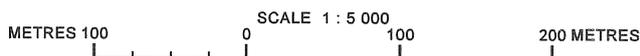
Indicative SSSI boundaries only  
 具特殊科學價值地點的界線只屬指示性質



**REFERENCE**

DATE OF DESIGNATION : 30.12.2005  
 BASE PLAN EXTRACTED FROM :  
 HP1C SHEETS  
 DATE : 13.1.2006

**SITE OF  
 SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST -  
 TAI OM**



**PLANNING  
 DEPARTMENT**



**PLAN No.  
 M/NE/06/03**

**SITE No.  
 66**

No. 66 - Tai Om Fung Shui Woodland

Site

Tai Om Fung Shui Woodland is located in the Lam Tsuen Valley, Tai Po. The area of the woodland is approximately 2.7 ha.

Date of Designation

30 December 2005

Special Scientific Interest

The site is a typical representative of Fung Shui woodland, which is a unique feature of the South China countryside. The woodland is in a well-defined crescent-shape, lying protectively around the rear of Tai Om Village. The woodland is very dense and its upper canopy attains a height of 30 metres, providing a remarkable contrast with the adjacent shrubby hillsides and agricultural land.

The woodland demonstrates clear vertical stratification, a characteristic of tropical forest in which different plant species constitute canopy layer and understorey and result in a diverse habitat. The canopy layer is dominated by *Schima superba* (木荷), *Ardisia quinquegona* (羅傘樹) and *Psychotria asiatica* (九節) among other shade tolerant plants from a dense understorey. Many tree trunks and branches in and below the canopy are covered with a dense tangle of vines. An example is the *Gnetum lofuense* (羅浮買麻藤) an individual of the species with a stem as thick as 30 cm in diameter was identified indicating the woodland is very old and relatively free from human disturbance.

A total of 170 plant species has been recorded at Tai Om Fung Shui Woodland. The species richness is very high considering the relatively small size of the woodland. Most significantly, a new plant record for Hong Kong, *Popowia pisocarpa* (嘉陵花) was found at the site. This rare shrub species is abundant there, constituting a representative population for conservation. To date, this species has only been recorded at one other location at Ng Tung Chai but that population is much smaller. Another rare plant species *Geophila herbacea* (愛地草) which is a herbaceous species was found at the site. This is one of the few localities where this species was recorded.

### Degree of Hazard

The site is currently outside existing country parks and statutory plans. There is only a small orchard located between the woodland and the village houses and the site is largely free from disturbance. However, any village development that encroaches upon the site would have adverse impact to the woodland.

### Protection Measures

Departments concerned with planning and development of the site should be made aware of its importance so that due consideration of the site will be given when development in or near the site is proposed. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department should be consulted for any development that may directly or indirectly affect the site.

### References

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- Yip, J. K. L., Ngar, Y. N., Yip, J. Y., Liu, E. K. Y. & Lai, P. C. C. (2004). *Venturing Fung Shui Woods*. Friends of the Country Parks, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and Cosmos Books Ltd., Hong Kong.