

BASE PLAN EXTRACTED FROM:

HM20C SHEET 7

DATE: 30-9-92 SCALE 1 20 000 1000m

PLAN No. TPB/M/92/6 SITE No. 7

No. 7 - Ma On Shan

Site

The north and north-east slopes of the Hunchbacks and the east slope of Ma On Shan. The area is about 118 hectares.

Date of Designation

23 June 1976

Special Scientific Interest

This is an area of typical montane scrub forest in which occurs a number of rare and interesting plants.

Five of the six known native species of Rhododendrons grow wild in this site.

A <u>Pertya</u> and a <u>Gesnerid</u>, both new species of herbs which are not yet described and formally named, occur in this site.

Rare trees include <u>Amentotaxus argotaenia</u>, <u>Manglietia fordiana* and Mangolia championi</u>.

*Manglietia fordiana Oliv. (Hong Kong Tree Lotus).

This species was known to the scientific world only through one tree at Victoria Peak. It was out during the World War and the species was thought to be extinct. However it was discovered in this site by Dr. S.Y. Hu on May 11, 1969.

<u>Manglietia</u> belongs to the family Magnoliaceae which represents a very old stock in the natural history of flowering plants. Furthermore among members of the Magnoliaceae family, the <u>Manglietia</u> branch is believed to be older than its cousin branches of <u>Magnolia and Michelia</u>.

Degree of Hazard

Being a site on Crown Land, the plants are under the general protection of the Forestry Ordinance Cap 96. Agriculture & Fisheries Department is aware of the site.

However, the site is vulnerable to bush-fire.

Rhododendrons, Manglietia, Magnolia & Amentotaxus are attractive plants and are likely to be attractive to plant "collectors" who may not be aware of their scientific importance.

No. 7 - Ma On Shan (Cont'd)

Recommended Additional Protective Measures

NTA: District Officer (Sai Kung), and District Officer (Shatin), Highways (New Territories) Division and Town Planning Office should also be made aware of the importance of the site to ensure that no building, roads development etc. will be allowed in the site.

References

Hu, S.Y. (1969)
"The Conservation of a Unique Hong Kong Tree" Wildlife Conservation Newsletter No. 6, pp. 8-10