

No. 53 - Tai Po Egretry

Site

The site is a small woodland situated on a small hill adjacent to Wong Shiu Chi Middle School and Tai Po Market KCR Station. The area is about 1.2 hectares.

Date of Designation

13 August 1994

Special Scientific Interest

The woodland is used by a colony of Night Herons (Nycticorax nycticorax), Little Egrets (Egretta garzetta) and Chinese Pond Herons (Ardeola bacchus) as nesting site during the breeding season. The close proximity of this egretry to human activities is very interesting.

The woodland itself consists of a number of large and mature trees. Such kind of woodland is now becoming rare in the Tai Po Market area after the development of Tai Po New Town.

Degree of Hazard

The main threats come from the increasing development activities around the site which could lead to greater chances of disturbance to the breeding birds and their nests (e.g. from poaching and stealing of eggs), as well as physical damage to the site itself.

Recommended Protection Measures

Departments concerned with planning and development of the area should be made aware of the importance of the site, so that no incompatible development will be permitted in or near it. The Agriculture & Fisheries Department should be closely consulted on development proposals which may affect the site or the birds habitats nearby.