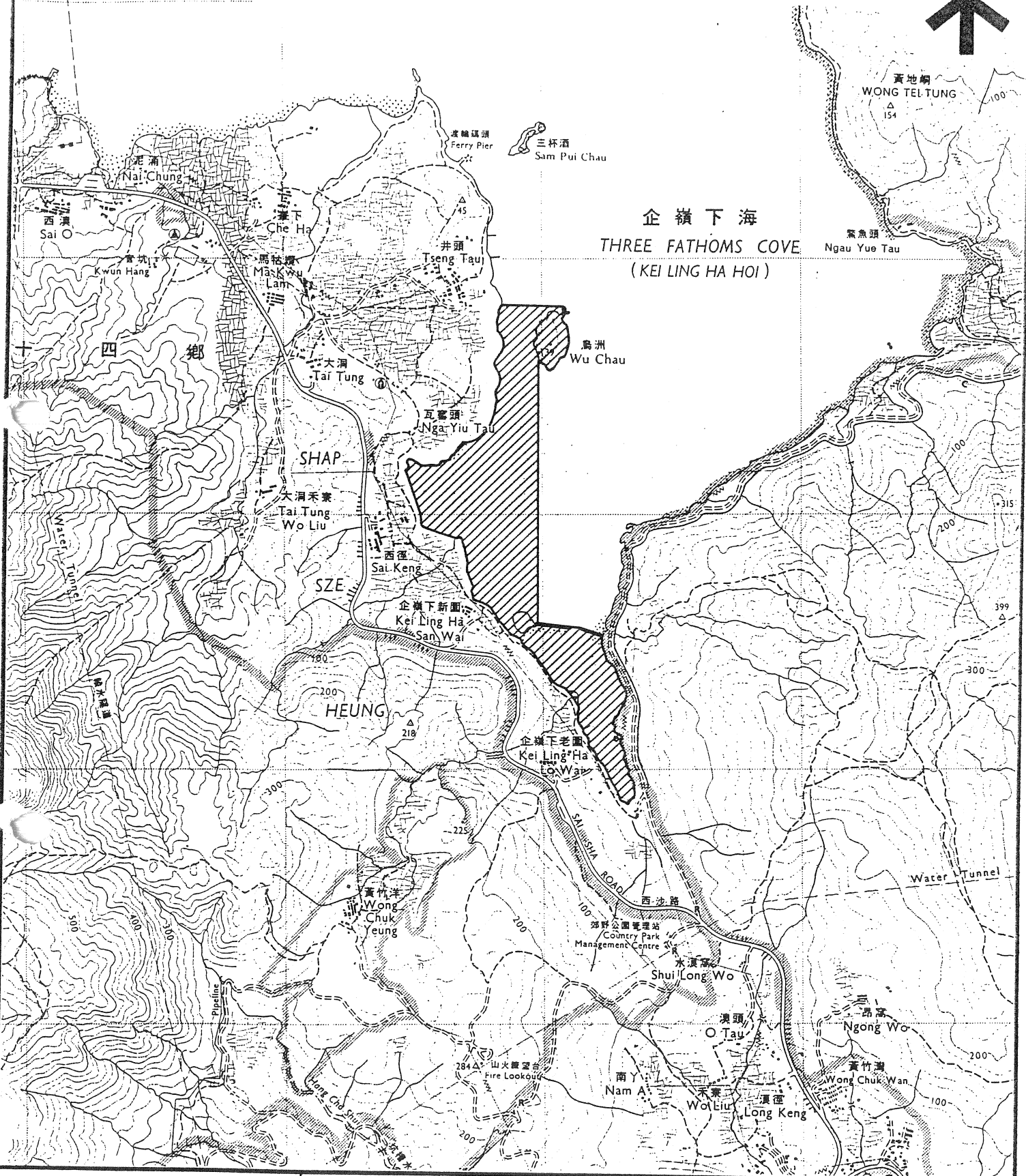


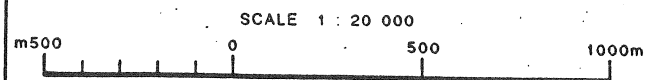
Indicative SSSI boundaries only
 具特殊科學價值地點的界線只屬指示性質



REFERENCE

DATE OF DESIGNATION : 13-8-94
 BASE PLAN EXTRACTED FROM :
 HM20C SHEET 7, 8
 DATE : 5-5-95

SITE OF
 SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST—
 KEI LING HA MANGAL



PLANNING
 DEPARTMENT



PLAN No.
 TPB/M/92/6

SITE No.
 56

No. 56 - Kei Ling Ha Mangal

Site

The site includes the mangal community and the mud flat covering the western coast of Kei Ling Ha Hoi (Three Fathoms Cove) from Tseng Tau southward to the inner bay. The total area is about 48.4 hectares. The mangal community receives discharges from a number of small freshwater streams originating from Ma On Shan. The largest stand of mangroves can be found near Sai Keng.

Date of Designation

13 August 1994

Special Scientific Interest

This mangal is one of the largest stand of mangroves in Hong Kong. Like the mangal in Ting Kok SSSI, it is the remain of the mangroves once flourishing the Tolo Harbour. Unlike other mangals which consist of mainly silty and muddy substrate, the substrate here also includes sand covered with cobbles in many places. Almost all mangroves and their associated plants recorded in Hong Kong can be found here, including the rare Bruguiera gymnorrhiza and the uncommon Lumnitzera racemosa. The latter is rather common at the back of this mangal.

A clear zonation pattern can be observed : Kandelia candel and Aegiceras corniculatum dominate the seaward part of the community with the former normally grows on more muddy substrate. At the more landward part, Avicennia marina, Acanthus ilicifolius, Lumnitzera racemosa and Exoecaria agallocha can be found. At the back of the mangal is a well developed strip of mangrove associates including Hibiscus tiliaceus, Clerodendron inerme, Pandanus tectorius and other shore plants. Such well developed shore back community is now becoming rare.

The mangal community, especially the part near Sai Keng, is one of the favourite sites for postgraduate research (e.g. Leung 1987) and ecological field trips. The site is also a study place for courses organized by the Field Study Centre of Education Department at Sai Kung.

The mud flat outside the mangal is also of biological importance. It supports numerous invertebrates which in turns provide food for larger animals such as birds and fish. Invertebrate new to science have been found here (Hirayama 1992, Mackie 1991).

Degree of Hazard

The development of small houses in the villages along Sai Sha Road has led to some illegal construction and dumping activities at some parts of the coast.

No. 56 - Kei Ling Ha Mangal (Cont'd)

Recommended Protection Measures

The Agriculture & Fisheries Department should be consulted on development proposals which will affect the site.

References

- Leung, H.C. 1987. Aspects of leaf litter decomposition in *Kandelia candel* (L.) Druces. M.Phil. thesis, University of Hong Kong
- Hirayama, A. 1992. Phoxocephalidae and Urothoidae (Crustacea : Amphipoda : Phoxocephaloidea) from Hong Kong. *Asian Marine Biology* 9 : 117-138.
- Mackie, S.Y. 1991. A New Species of *Scoloplos* (Polychaeta : Orbiniidae) from Hong Kong and a comparison with the closely related *Scoloplos marsupialis* Southern, 1921 from India. *Asian Marine Biology* 8 : 35-44.