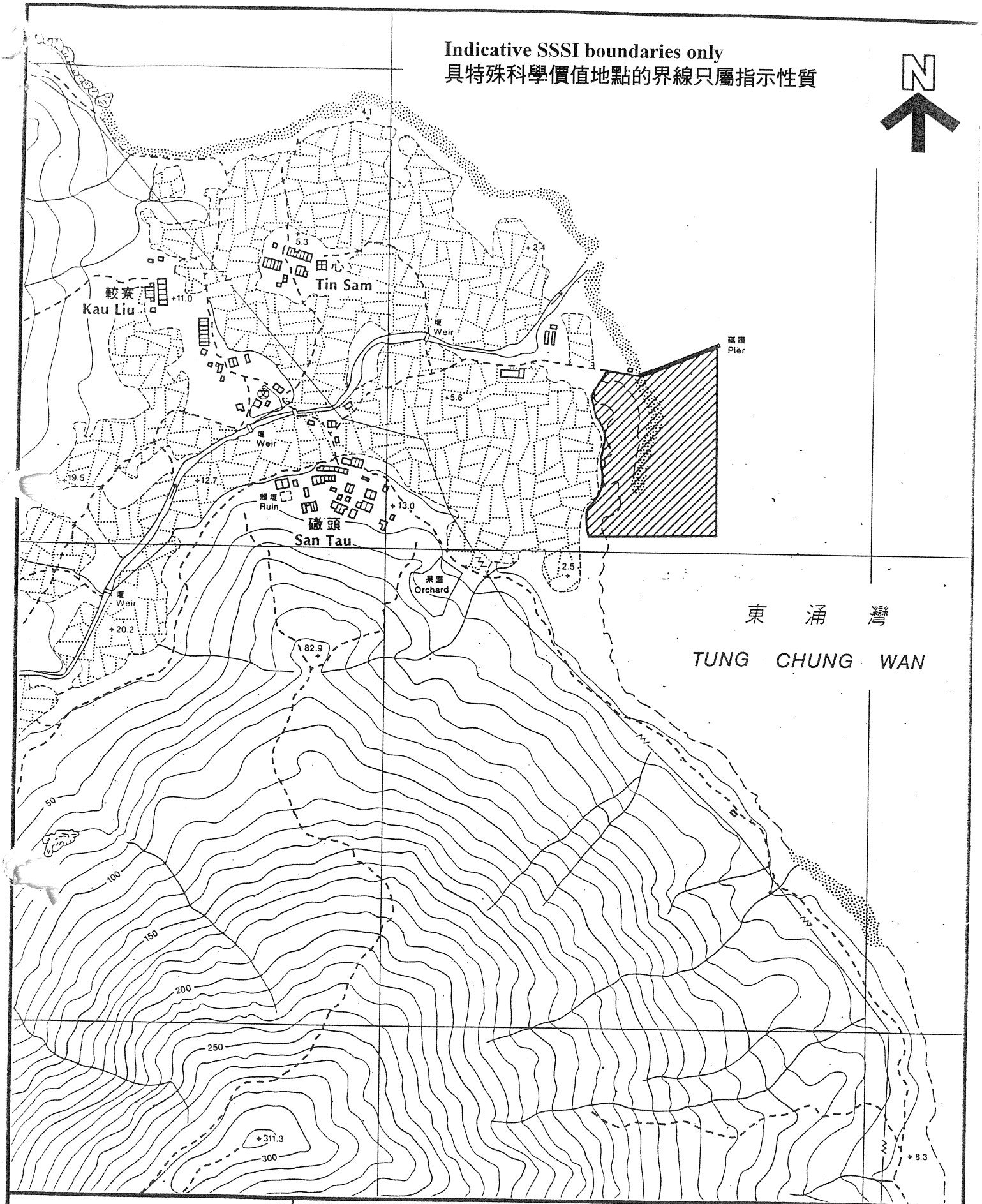

REFERENCE	SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST— SAN TAU BEACH	PLANNING DEPARTMENT	
DATE OF DESIGNATION : 19-10-94 BASE PLAN EXTRACTED FROM : HP5C SHEET 9-SE-A DATE : 5-5-95	SCALE 1 : 5 000 m 100 0 100 200m	PLAN No. TPB/M/92/6	SITE No. 58

No. 58 - San Tau Beach

Site

The site is a shallow sheltering beach of about 2.7 hectares with fine sand and silt. It is situated at the west coast of Tung Chung Wan on Lantau Island.

Date of Designation

19 October 1994

Special Scientific Interest

The site consists of a small area of mangroves which include the rare Bruguiera gymnorrhiza (Many petaled Mangrove). Outside the mangroves is a sea grass bed of Zostera japonica (Marine Eel Grass) and Halophila ovata. These seagrass beds support an interesting assemblage of marine invertebrates.

In Hong Kong, very few flowering plants of Zosteraceae and Hydrocharitaceae are found growing under strictly marine conditions in intertidal waters or below except Zostera and Halophila species.

Apart from San Tau, Zostera is also found in two other sites in Hong Kong, namely the Lai Chi Wo Beach SSSI and a small beach nearby. Zostera is of special interest to plant geographers as its distribution was previously thought to be limited to the temperate regions.

Degree of Hazard

The change in water quality, especially increase in siltation, resulted from the nearby developments and reclamations is the major threat.

Recommended Protection Measures

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department should be consulted on development proposals which may affect the site. In view of the imminent reclamation and development works at Tung Chung, transplanting of small population of the seagrass to other suitable sites has been undertaken on a trial basis. Consideration will be given to transplant and establish more seagrass population at other suitable site subject to the result of the trial transplanting operation.

No. 58 - San Tau Beach (Cont'd)

References

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