

Fung Yuen

1. General Information

1.1. Location and boundaries

The site refers to the Fung Yuen Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest and is the forested ravine behind the village of Fung Yuen.

1.2. Site description

1.2.1. Land status / tenure

- Government land = 39.3 ha
- Private land = 3.4 ha

1.2.2. Existing land use

Most of the site is covered by natural / disturbed vegetation. There are some orchards in the foothill areas. A Fung Yuen Butterfly Reserve (2ha) has been managed by the Tai Po Environmental Association under the Management Agreement Scheme since November 2005.

1.2.3. Existing statutory plan coverage

The site is listed as a “Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)” on Outline Zoning Plan S/TP/23. The SSSI is listed for reasons that the forested ravine supports some rare / protected plants such as Illigera (*Illigera celebica*), and also provides an important breeding site for some uncommon butterflies such as White Dragontail (*Lamproptera curius*), Common Birdwing (*Troides helena*) and Common Rose (*Pachliopta aristolochiae*).

2. Evaluation

Assessment Criteria (Weighting)	Comments	Score	Weighted score
1. Naturalness (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The major habitats are woodland and abandoned agricultural land and thus considered as semi-natural. 	2	0.30
2. Habitat diversity (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site comprises two major habitat types, namely woodland and agricultural land. 	2	0.30
3. Non-recreatability (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The major habitat is semi-natural woodland and it will take a long time to be re-created. 	2	0.20
4. Species diversity & richness (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports high butterfly diversity (>50% of the total species recorded in Hong Kong) – 135 species (57%) and moderate diversity (20% < diversity ≤ 50%) of amphibians – 9 species (39%). 	3	0.90
5. Species rarity / endemism (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports populations of rare species of three taxa groups – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants: <i>Aristolochia tagala</i>, <i>Illigera celebica</i>, <i>Mucuna championii</i> Birds¹: Greater Coucal*, Lesser Coucal*, Emerald Dove. Butterflies²: Common Pierrot <i>Castalius rosimon</i>, Forget-me-not <i>Catochrysops strabo</i>, Red Lacewing <i>Cethosia bible</i>, Dark Brown Ace <i>Halpe porus</i>, Psyche <i>Leptosia nina</i> and Common Dart <i>Potanthus pseudomaesa</i>. 	2	0.60
		Total:	2.30

¹ Rare birds include those species that are (i) listed as “Critically Endangered”, “Endangered” or “Vulnerable” in IUCN Red List, or (ii) listed as “Endangered”, “Vulnerable” or “Rare” in the China Red Data Book. Species marked with an asterisk (*) are locally common.

² Rarity follows Young and Yiu (2002).