

Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung

1. General Information

1.1. Location and boundaries

The Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung area is situated between the River Beas (Sheung Yue River) and River Sutlej. It is widely recognised as being of high ecological value primarily due to the variety of freshwater wetland-dependent bird species that use its patchwork of wet agricultural habitats.

1.2. Site description

1.2.1. Land status / tenure

- Government land = 52.7 ha
- Private land = 98.5 ha

1.2.2. Existing land use

The main land use of the site is agriculture. There are wet and dry agricultural land (actively managed for crop production), and permanent or temporary abandoned wet and dry agricultural land.

Some mitigation wetlands were formed in the area to compensate for wetland lost due to the construction of the Main Drainage Channel at River Beas. These wetlands are actively managed for nature conservation purpose.

Over 12ha of wet agricultural land and fish ponds have been managed by Conservancy Association and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society under the Management Agreement Scheme since 2005.

1.2.3. Existing statutory plan coverage

The majority of the site is zoned “Agriculture” on Outline Zoning Plans S/NE-KTN/8 and S/FSS/15. Agricultural use is always permitted while construction of small houses requires the permission of the Town Planning Board.

2. Evaluation

Assessment Criteria (Weighting)	Comments	Score	Weighted score
1. Naturalness (15%)	● The site is under active agricultural use and is highly modified by human.	1	0.15
2. Habitat diversity (15%)	● The site comprises three major habitat types, i.e. fish pond, wet agricultural land (including marsh as abandoned wet agricultural land) and <i>Fung Shui</i> wood.	2	0.30
3. Non-recreatability (10%)	● The majority of the site can be easily recreated since it is entirely man-made and its ecological value depends entirely on human management input.	1	0.10
4. Species diversity & richness (30%)	● Supports moderate diversity (20% < diversity ≤ 50%) of five taxa groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 13 mammal species (25%) ■ 187 bird species (40%) ■ 9 amphibian species (39%) ■ 71 butterfly species (30%) ■ 26 dragonfly species (23%) 	3	0.90
5. Species rarity / endemism (30%)	● Supports populations of rare species of three taxa groups – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mammal: Lesser Club-footed Bat <i>Tylonycteris pachypus</i>. ■ Birds¹: Asian Dowitcher, Greater Spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Japanese Yellow Bunting, Manchurian Reed Warbler, Baikal Teal, Bonelli's Eagle, Osprey, Crested Goshawk, Greater Coucal*, Lesser Coucal*, Black-winged Kite. ■ Butterflies²: <i>Caltoris bromus</i>, <i>Castalius rosimon</i>, <i>Catochrysops strabo</i>, <i>Halpe porus</i>, <i>Horaga albimacula</i>, <i>Taraka hamada</i>, <i>Vagrans egista</i>, . 	2	0.60
		Total:	2.05

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).