

Sha Lo Tung

1. General Information

1.1. Location and boundaries

The site is located in Northeastern New Territories, which is approximately 3.8 km from the centre of the Tai Po New Town to its south and is surrounded by Pat Sin Leng Country Park.

1.2. Site description

The site comprises a mix of village housing, *Fung Shui* woods, woodland, agricultural land, grassland, shrubland, marshes, and freshwater streams. The area is located within the upper indirect water gathering ground with low gradient stream courses flowing through the abandoned agricultural areas and drain to the Hok Tau Reservoir located to its north. Sha Lo Tung Valley is relatively flat (160 m) due to the re-engineering to provide agricultural lands in the 1960s. It is surrounded by series of ridges and spurs. The west of the area is Cloudy Hill of an elevation of 440 m, north of the site is Ping Fung Shan Range which is over 600 m and south to it is an unnamed ridge peaks at over 300 m.

1.2.1. Land status / tenure

- Government land = 29.1 ha
- Private land = 25.5 ha

1.2.2. Existing land use

- Abandoned agricultural areas with few village houses.

1.2.3. Existing statutory plan coverage

The majority of the Sha Lo Tung area is zoned “Conservation Area” and “Green Belt” on Outline Zoning Plan S/NE-SLT/4. The stream courses and the 30 m buffer area on both sides of the streams are zoned “Site of Special Scientific Interest” and the existing villages and their expansion areas are zoned “Village Type Development”.

2. Evaluation

Assessment Criteria (Weighting)	Comments	Score	Weighted Score
1. Naturalness (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The major habitats are freshwater marsh, natural stream and abandoned agricultural land. The site is thus considered as semi-natural. 	2	0.30
2. Habitat diversity (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site comprises three major habitat types, namely natural stream and the seasonal marsh, abandoned dry agricultural land and <i>Fung Shui</i> wood. 	2	0.30
3. Non-recreatability (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a very heterogeneous site consisting of various habitat types including stream, freshwater marsh and <i>Fung Shui</i> wood. Thus it is considered very difficult to be recreated. 	3	0.30
4. Species diversity & richness (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports high diversity (> 50%) of amphibians (14 species, 61%) and dragonflies (72 species, 65%) and moderate diversity (20% < diversity ≤ 50%) of butterflies (95 species, 40%). 	3	0.90
5. Species rarity / endemism (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports endemic Dragonfly <i>Macromidia ellanae</i> and endemic freshwater fish <i>Macropodus hongkongensis</i> Support populations of rare species of six taxa groups – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants: <i>Viburnum hanceanum</i>, <i>Carex phacota</i> Mammal: Chinese Pangolin <i>Manis pentadactyla</i>. Birds¹: Bonelli’s Eagle, Crested Goshawk, Lesser Coucal*, Greater Coucal* and Emerald Dove. Reptile: Three Banded Box Terrapin <i>Cuora trifasciata</i>. Butterflies²: <i>Catochrysops strabo</i> and 	3	0.90

¹ Rare birds include those species that are (i) listed as “Critically Endangered”, “Endangered” or “Vulnerable” on 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).

Assessment Criteria (Weighting)	Comments	Score	Weighted Score
	<i>Caltois bromus</i> . ■ Dragonflies ³ : <i>Lamelligomphus hainanensis</i> and <i>Sieboldius alexanderi</i> .		
		Total:	2.70

³ Rarity follows Wilson (2003).