

# **Sham Chung**

## **1. General Information**

### **1.1. Location and boundaries**

The site is located in Tai Po. It lies adjacent to the Sai Kung West Country Park and situated at the east mouth of Kei Ling Ha Hoi (Three Fathoms Cove).

### **1.2. Site description**

The site contains a mixture of habitats including natural stream course, freshwater marsh, abandoned wet agricultural land, mangrove stand, woodland, *Fung Shui* woods and villages. The area is just slightly above sea level with a low gradient stream course flowing through the marsh and abandoned agricultural land and draining into the coastal mudflat. The western Sham Chung faces Kei Ling Ha Hoi whereas the other sides are enclosed by the Sai Kung West Country Park.

#### **1.2.1. Land status / tenure**

- Government land = 16.8 ha
- Private land = 13.9 ha

#### **1.2.2. Existing land use**

The area comprises mainly agricultural land (mostly abandoned) with a few village houses. The once extensive marshes were drained and destroyed.

#### **1.2.3. Existing statutory plan coverage**

The area is covered by the Sham Chung Outline Zoning Plan S/NE-SC/3, with majority of the area being “Agriculture” and “Conservation Area”. Other zones also include “Coastal Protection Area”, “Green Belt” and Village Type Development”.

## 2. Evaluation

Assessment Criteria (Weighting)	Comments	Score	Weighted score
1. Naturalness (15%)	● The majority of the site is abandoned wet agricultural land which is largely man-made.	1	0.15
2. Habitat diversity (15%)	● The site comprises three major habitat types, namely stream and marsh, mangrove stand and woodland.	2	0.30
3. Non-recreatability (10%)	● The major habitats are the stream and marsh on abandoned agricultural field, which is easy to be recreated.	1	0.10
4. Species diversity & richness (30%)	● Low diversity ( $5\% < \text{diversity} \leq 20\%$ ) of amphibians, birds, butterflies and freshwater fish.	1	0.30
5. Species rarity / endemism (30%)	● Supports the endemic Hong Kong Paradise Fish <i>Macropodus hongkongensis</i> though its population declined sharply after the habitat has been much disturbed.	2	0.60
		Total:	1.45