

DRAFT MAP OF THE PROPOSED ROBIN'S NEST COUNTRY PARK

Explanatory Statement

1. AUTHORITY

1.1 This statement forms part of the draft map of the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (the proposed Country Park), prepared by the Country and Marine Parks Authority under Section 8 of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208).

2. LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

2.1 The proposed Country Park is located at Sha Tau Kok in the north-eastern part of the New Territories. It is in close proximity to the border between Hong Kong and Mainland China. The mountain ridges of the proposed Country Park and the Wutong Mountain Scenic Area of Shenzhen are connected.

2.2 The proposed Country Park is bounded to the north by the Lin Ma Hang Road along its southern kerb from the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to its eastern end at Sha Tau Kok Town except the area around San Kwai Tin which has been excluded; to the south-east by a mid-hill boundary which runs mostly along existing features and the contour lines ranging from 90m - 180m broadly parallel to Sha Tau Kok Road with an additional narrow strip of woodland near the Sha Tau Kok Police Station; and to the west by the upper section of the unnamed single-lane road above Wo Keng Shan and the natural slopes above Lin Ma Hang and Tong To Shan Tsuen. The proposed Country Park covers an area of about 530 hectares and it does not include any village environs, permitted burial grounds and private lands.

3. OBJECTIVES

3.1 The proposed Country Park is a hilly terrain with secondary woodland and shrubland habitats dominating on the northern slopes and forming a continuous blanket of greenery. The southern slopes are predominately covered by upland grassland with sparse shrubland. The area is rural in character with high degree of naturalness presenting a pleasant landscape of high aesthetic value. The proposed Country Park is also rich in biodiversity resources of high ecological value. In particular, the southern slopes support a population of the globally-threatened Chinese

Grassbird while the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine SSSI is a bat roosting site and supports one of the most important bat colonies in Hong Kong. The lead mine was also one of the most extensive mining systems in Hong Kong's mining history. Together with the two MacIntosh Forts which are Grade-2 historic buildings, they are the key heritage resources in the proposed Country Park.

3.2 The proposed Country Park also offers opportunities for outdoor recreation and countryside education. Recreation and education facilities would be provided at suitable locations to facilitate hiking and nature/heritage appreciation by the general public.

3.3 The overall management objectives of the proposed Country Park are to conserve the natural environment, its biodiversity and heritage resources, preserve the scenic landscape and promote outdoor recreation, through country park management measures such as hill fire control, vegetation management, regular patrol and enforcement, and provision of recreation and education facilities at suitable locations to facilitate hiking and nature / heritage appreciation.

4. ACCESS

4.1 There are four major access points for the proposed Country Park. At the eastern end, visitors can access via Shan Tsui Village Road between Sheung Tam Shui Hang and Shan Tsui. A new footpath will be constructed next to the Sha Tau Kok Police Station to connect to the proposed Country Park. Both accesses will be served by a number of public bus and minibus routes alongside the Sha Tau Kok Road.

4.2 At the western end, visitors can access via the Lin Ma Hang Road and a footpath that connects to Lin Ma Hang village where a long staircase leads to the proposed Country Park.

4.3 At the south-western end, access could be made via an unnamed single-lane vehicular access road leading from Wo Keng Shan Road. However, the road is a steep and winding track which is not suitable for the use of general vehicles. It can serve as a hiking track and a controlled access for vehicles of government departments, utilities operators and emergency services.

5. ZONING

5.1 The proposed Country Park will be subdivided into conceptual zones appropriate to different uses, an arrangement which can be adjusted to accommodate future requirements.

- (a) Conservation Zone – Areas with conservation interest, including Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine SSSI, the southern grassland slopes which support the Chinese Grassbird, and the northern woodland slopes which connect and form an ecological corridor with Shenzhen Wutong Mountain. Conservation and protection of natural habitats and heritage resources should be the priority of the management of this zone. Disturbance due to human activities should be minimised as far as possible .
- (b) Wilderness Zone – The hilly and less accessible areas serve as a scenic backdrop of Robin’s Nest. This zone facilitates public enjoyment of the natural landscape and carrying out of passive recreation activities in harmony with the natural setting such as hiking and nature appreciation.
- (c) Recreation Zone – Conservation is the primary objective of the proposed Country Park. The hilly terrain in the proposed Country Park also poses constraints to relatively intensive recreation activities such as barbecuing and camping. However, supporting facilities for hiking trail network and viewing points would be provided where appropriate.

6. VISITOR FACILITIES

6.1 Suitable existing footpaths will be upgraded and new footpaths will be constructed to create a hiking trail network for the proposed Country Park. Information boards, waymarks and directional signages will be erected as supporting facilities. Picnic sites, rain shelters, viewing points, seating benches, etc. will also be provided at suitable locations. Information of the proposed Country Park and the cultural / historical heritages in the neighbouring villages will be provided near the major entrances of the proposed Country Park and through departmental website. The Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine cave will be revitalised as an open museum to showcase its mining history and information on bat ecology.

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