

Development of Organic Waste Treatment Facilities, Phase 2

Vegetation Survey Report (Rev. 4)



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Attn: Mr. Gabriel Wong

11 September 2023
By e-mail

**Re: EPD Contract EP/SP/86/15 - Organic Waste Treatment Facilities Phase 2
Vegetation Survey Report (Revision 4)**

With reference to the Vegetation Survey Report (Rev. 4) submitted on 7 September 2023, please note that we have no adverse comment on the captioned submission. We herewith certify the captioned submission pursuant to Specific Condition 2.3 of the Environmental Permit no. EP-460/2013/A and FEP-01/460/2013/A.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact the undersigned at Tel: 2959-6059 or Fax: 2959-6079 or Email: twtam@fordbusiness.com.

Yours Sincerely,
For and on Behalf of
Action-United Environmental Services & Consulting (AUES)



T. W. Tam
Environmental Team Leader
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Your ref OWTF2/ALC/CSF/ENV/01635
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Attn: Mr. Samuel Wu

11 September 2023

Dear Sir

**Contract No. EP/SP/86/15
Organic Waste Treatment Facilities Phase 2
Submission of Vegetation Survey Report (Rev.4)**

Referring to your email dated 7 September 2023, pursuant to Permit Condition 2.3 of the Further Environmental Permit (FEP) No.FEP-01/460/2013/A, we hereby verify that the captioned report complied in general with the requirements as set out in the FEP.

Should you have any queries, please contact the undersigned at 2268 3437.

Yours faithfully



Ricky Chui
Independent Environmental Checker

cc EPD – Ms. Winnie Chu, Mr. Sunny Chiu, Mr. Jason Tsang, Mr. Julian Lam
Mr. W.W. Lau, Mr. Peter Wong, Mr. Gilbert Wong, Mr. David Ng
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Issues and Revision Record

Issue	Date	Description
1	2 October 2019	Issue 1
2	9 October 2019	Issue 2
3	24 October 2019	Issue 3
4	20 April 2020	Issue 4
5	17 March 2021	Issue 5
6	15 Sept 2021	Issue 6

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1. BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 The Director of Environmental Protection (the Director) granted the Environmental Permit (No. FEP-01/460/2013) to Agrivert Limited, The Jardine Engineering Corporation Limited, and Alchmex International Construction Limited trading as AJA Joint Venture on 9 December 2013. The Project scale and scope are to construct and operate a biological treatment facility with a capacity of about 300 tonnes per day at Sha Ling, North District to convert source-separated organic waste into compost and biogas.
- 1.1.2 An application for Further Environmental Permit (FEP) was made on 10 Sept 2019, and FEP No. FEP-01/460/2013 was granted on 9 Oct 2019.
- 1.1.3 Another application for variation of the above EP under Section 13(1) of the EIA Ordinance was submitted on 21 Aug 2020. The Director amends the Further Environmental Permit (No. FEP-01/460/2013) based on the Application No. VEP-579/2020. Both EP-460/2013/A and FEP-01/460/2013/A were granted on 14 Sept 2020. The project scale and scope are to construct and operate a biological treatment facility with a capacity of about 300 tonnes per day at Sha Ling, North District to convert source-separated organic waste into compost/fertilizer and biogas.
- 1.1.4 In the course of preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report "AEIAR-180/2013 Development of Organic Waste Treatment Facilities, Phase 2", two plant species of conservation importance (*Cattleya* spp. and *Aquilaria sinensis*) were found within the Project Area and 500m assessment area. Although the orchid species *Cattleya* spp. was found within part of the planting area of the Project Area which is proposed to be retained, no direct impact on this species is expected according to the EIA study. One individual of *Aquilaria sinensis* was located within the Project Area where vegetation is proposed to be preserved. Hence, the ecological significance of impact on the flora species of conservation importance is considered as negligible and no specific mitigation measure for the species is considered necessary according to the EIA study. As a precautionary measure, it was recommended to conduct a detailed vegetation survey as baseline monitoring to update the exact locations, number and condition of the flora species of conservation importance. The requirements of survey under Condition 2.3 (a) and (b) of both EP-460/2013/A and FEP-01/460/2013/A are addressed in the report.
- 1.1.5 As stipulated under Condition 2.3 of the captioned EP and FEP, a Vegetation Survey Report with the findings and recommendations of the detailed vegetation survey shall be provided, to update the exact locations, number and condition of *Aquilaria sinensis* and any other vascular floral species of conservation importance within the Project Area prior to commencement of any construction works. The survey shall include the following:
- (a) confirmation and updating the number, locations and condition of the *Aquilaria sinensis* identified in the EIA Report (Register No.: AEIAR-180/2013) and any other floral species of conservation interest;
- (b) propose protective measures on individuals of any floral species of conservation interest identified in the detailed vegetation survey likely to be affected by the Project.
- 1.1.6 The Project Area is located at Organic Waste Treatment Facility 2 at Kong Nga Po

Road (hereafter referred to as the “Project”). The Site Location Plan is shown in **Figure 1**.

1.1.7 Ecosystems Ltd. was commissioned by WSP Asia Limited in September 2019 to conduct detailed vegetation survey for the Project.

1.1.8 The date of commencement of construction works is 3rd December 2019.

1.2 Purpose of the Report

1.2.1 This is the Vegetation Survey Report prepared for the Project. The report presents a summary of all the detailed vegetation survey works conducted on 23 Sept 2019.

2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

2.1.1 The ecological characteristics of the Project Area were identified through a comprehensive review of the accessible literature.

2.1.2 The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ordinances and regulations relevant to the ecological surveys for this consultancy assignment include the followings:

- Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96) and its subsidiary legislation, the Forestry Regulations
- Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and its subsidiary legislation
- The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and its subsidiary legislation;
- The Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) (Cap. 499) and the associated Guidance Notes No. 6/2010, 7/2010, 10/2010 and Technical Memorandum

2.1.3 This detailed vegetation survey also makes reference to the following Mainland legislation:

- List of State Protected Wild Plants, promulgated by the State Council 國家重點保護野生植物名錄;

2.1.4 Other international conventions and guidelines that are relevant to this detailed vegetation survey include the following:

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This Convention regulates international trade in animal and plant species considered to be at risk from such trade. The main categories of species relevant to Hong Kong are Appendices I and II. Species listed in Appendix I are species threatened with extinction that are or may be affected by trade; species listed in Appendix II are those that, while not necessarily under current threat of extinction, may become threatened unless trade is subject to strict regulation. Hong Kong's obligations under this Convention are enforced via the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance.
- International Union of Conservation for Nature (IUCN). The IUCN maintains, through its Species Survival Commission, a Red List of globally threatened species of wild plants and animals (see <http://www.redlist.org>). The Red List is considered the authoritative publication to classify species as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, near threatened or lower-risk.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1.1 The following previous studies were reviewed:

- AEIAR-180/2013 Development of Organic Waste Treatment Facilities, Phase 2
- The Terrestrial Biodiversity Survey conducted by HKU;
- Porcupine! – Newsletter of Division of Ecology & Biodiversity of University of Hong Kong;
- Hong Kong Biodiversity – Newsletter of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation; and
- AFCD publications.

3.1.2 Two flora species of conservation importance were recorded within the Project Area, namely *Aquilaria sinensis* and *Cattleya* spp. under the Ecological Impact

Assessment of the EIA Report (AEIAR-180/2013 Development of Organic Waste Treatment Facilities, Phase 2) by Mott Macdonald (2013). Within the Project Area, one seedling of *Aquilaria sinensis* with height less than 1 metre and unspecified number of individuals of *Cattleya* spp. were found. Detailed information of these species of conservation importance is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Vascular Flora Species of Conservation Importance Recorded within the Project Area from the Reviewed Literature

Species name	Locations within the Project Area from Mott Macdonald (2013) ¹	Rarity in Hong Kong	Distribution ²	Protection status / Concern Level
<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i>	Plantation	Common ²	Lowland forest and fung shui woods ²	IUCN Red List (2019): Vulnerable ³ Threatened Species List of China's Higher Plants: Vulnerable in China ⁴ China Plant Red Data Book: Vulnerable in China ⁵ Included in Illustrations of Rare & Endangered Plant in Guangdong Province ⁶ Listed in Rare and Precious Plants of Hong Kong ⁷ Cap. 586 ⁸ State protection (category II) ⁹
<i>Cattleya</i> spp.	Unspecified habitat (In planter)	-	-	Cap. 586 ⁸

Notes:

1. Mott Macdonald (2013).
2. Corlett *et al.* (2000). Hong Kong Vascular Plants: Distribution and Status.
3. IUCN (2019). IUCN Red List Version 2019-2.
4. Qin *et al.* (2017). Threatened Species List of China's Higher Plants.
5. Fu & Chin (1992). China Plant Red Data Book – Rare and Endangered Plants.
6. Wu & Hu (1988). Illustration of Rare & endangered plant in Guangdong Province.
7. Hu *et al.* (2003). Rare and Precious Plants of Hong Kong.
8. Cap. 586 Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance
9. State Forestry Administration & Ministry of Agriculture (1999). List of Wild Plants under State Protection (Part 1).

4. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

4.1.1 Detailed vegetation survey was conducted on 23 September 2019. Habitats within the Project Area were mapped based on aerial photos and ground truthing. Walk-over surveys were conducted at representative areas of each habitat type. Plant species in each habitat type were identified (with the aid of binoculars when necessary) and their relative abundance were recorded, with special attention to rare and protected species, particularly *Aquilaria sinensis* and *Cattleya* spp., which

were recorded during the EIA stage in 2012 (Mott Macdonald 2013). Color photographs were taken of all habitats encountered on site and of ecological features of special importance. Habitat map of the Project Area was produced at the required scale using GIS software. Nomenclature of plant species follows those documented by Hong Kong Herbarium (2019), while rarity of plant species in Hong Kong follows Corlett *et al.* (2000) and Yip *et al.* (2010) where applicable.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Detailed Vegetation Survey Results

Habitat

- 5.1.1 Two habitats were recognized within the Project Area, namely developed area and plantation (**Figure 2**). The habitats present within the Project Area are shown in **Table 2** and **Figure 2**. Photos of the habitats are presented in **Figure 3**. Plant species and their relative abundance within each habitat within the Project Area are listed in **Appendix A**. The Project Area is predominated by developed area surrounded by plantation belts.
- 5.1.2 The seedling of *Aquilaria sinensis* and *Cattleya* spp. recorded within the Project Area during the EIA stage by Mott Macdonald (2013) were absent. The seedling of *Aquilaria sinensis* was possibly naturally outcompeted by surrounding species during vegetation succession spanning over seven years, whereas *Cattleya* spp. hypothesized as intentional ornamental plants by Mott Macdonald (2013) were likely removed.

Table 2 Habitats recorded within the Project Area

Habitat	Size within the Project Area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Developed Area	1.61	64.7
Plantation	0.88	35.3
Total	2.49	100

- 5.1.3 Developed area in the Project Area mainly comprises Organic Waste Treatment Facility 2 at Kong Nga Po Road and roads and is entirely concrete-paved with little space allowed for vegetation growth. Pioneer weeds species *Bidens alba*, *Cleome rutidosperma*, *Hedyotis corymbosa*, *Mikania micrantha*, *Paederia scandens* and *Melinis repens* were prominent in such urban landscape.
- 5.1.4 Plantation stands established along the periphery of the Project Area are grown with mainly exotic tree species, such as *Acacia confusa*, *Acacia auriculiformes*, *Acacia mangium*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Eucalyptus urophylla* and *Leucaena leucocephala*. Exotic pioneer climber (e.g. *Ipomoea triloba*, *Mikania micrantha*, *Momordica charantia* var. *abbreviata* and *Passiflora suberosa*) herb species (e.g. *Bidens alba*, *Cleome rutidosperma* and *Melinis repens*) were abundant in the understorey of these stands. Limited recruitment of native species was observed in the understorey of these stands. Native tree species *Bridelia tomentosa*, *Ficus microcarpa*, *Melicope pteleifolia* and *Trema tomentosa* were also grown as part of the plantation stands.

Vegetation

- 5.1.5 95 vascular plant species were recorded within the Project Area during the detailed vegetation survey, 64 and 30 of which are known to be native and exotic to Hong Kong respectively and the remaining one is of uncertain origin (**Appendix A**). They

are mostly common in Hong Kong and none of them is of conservation importance.

6. REQUIREMENT OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES

- 6.1.1 Present detailed vegetation survey confirmed that no plant species of conservation importance were recorded within the Project Area. As a result, no mitigation measure is proposed.
- 6.1.2 No flora species of conservation importance in the plantation area would be protected by the temporary protective fence. However, erection and maintenance of temporary protective fence along the plantation area, where trees and vegetation would be retained within the Project Area is recommended for precautionary purpose to avoid any impact from construction activities such as vehicle movement and materials storage.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 This Vegetation Survey Report updated vegetation record within the Project Area and confirmed that vascular flora species of conservation importance was absent from the Project Area during the detailed vegetation survey.
- 7.1.2 AFCD had visit the site within one month of initial submission, no further comments had been received.

8. REFERENCES

Corlett, R. T., Xing, F. W., Ng, S. C., Chau, K. C. & Wong, L. M. Y. 2000. Hong Kong vascular plants: distribution and status. *Memoirs of the Hong Kong Natural History Society* 23:1-148.

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FIGURES

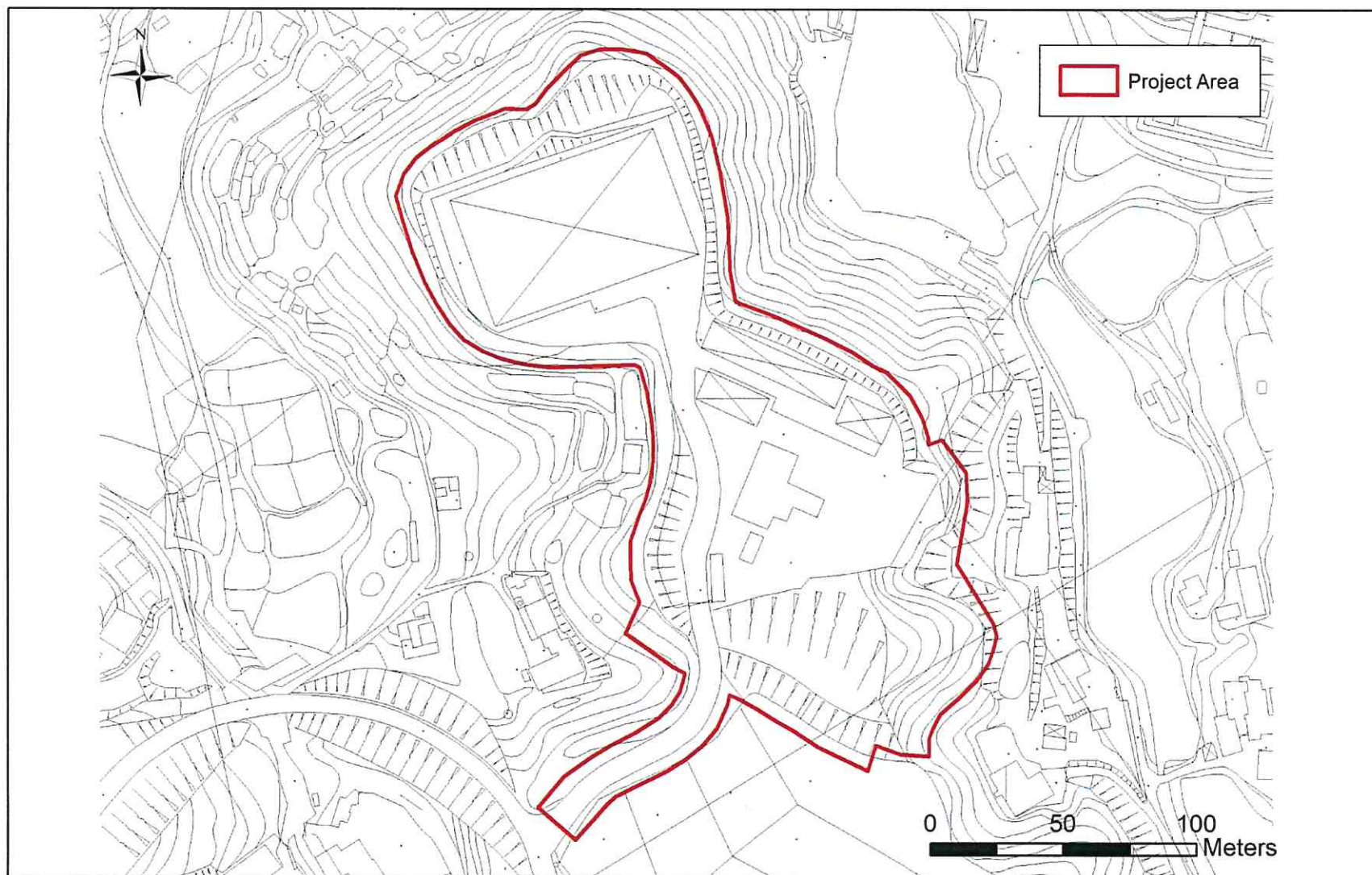


Figure 1 Location of the Project Area

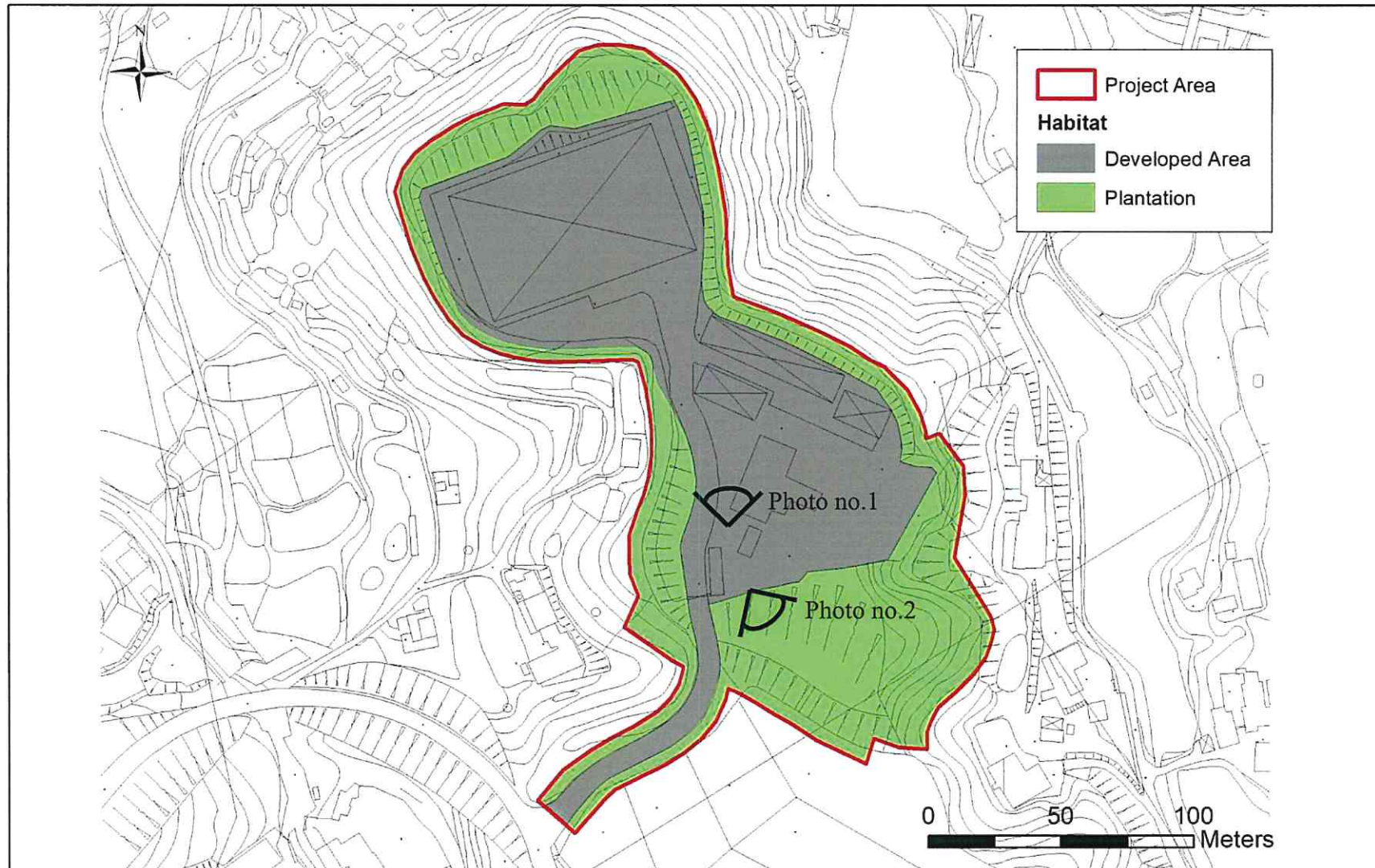


Figure 2 Habitat Map (◀ View angle of Figure 3)



Photo no.1 - Developed Area



Photo no.2 - Plantation

Figure 3 Habitat Photos (View angles are shown in Figure 2)

Appendices

Appendix A Relative Abundance of Vascular Plant Species Recorded within the Project Area

Scientific name	Growth form	Origin	Rarity in Hong Kong ¹	Conservation status	Project Area	
					Developed Area	Plantation
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	Tree	Exotic	-	-	S	C
<i>Acacia confusa</i>	Tree	Exotic	-	-		C
<i>Acacia mangium</i>	Tree	Exotic	-	-		C
<i>Acronychia pedunculata</i>	Tree	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Alangium chinense</i>	Tree	Native	Common	-	S	
<i>Alocasia macrorrhizos</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		O
<i>Aporosa dioica</i>	Tree	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Baeckea frutescens</i>	Tree	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Bauhinia x blakeana</i>	Tree	Native	-	-		S
<i>Bidens alba</i>	Herb	Exotic	Very common	-	C	C
<i>Breynia fruticosa</i>	Shrub	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	Shrub	Native	Very common	-		C
<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	Tree	Exotic	Rare	-		C
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Shrub	Exotic	-	-	O	
<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	Tree	Native	Common	-		O
<i>Clausena lansium</i>	Tree	Exotic	-	-		S
<i>Cleome rutidosperma</i>	Herb	Exotic	Restricted	-	C	C
<i>Cocculus orbiculatus</i>	Climber	Native	Common	-		S
<i>Cratoxylum cochinchinense</i>	Tree	native	Very common	-		S
<i>Cyclosorus parasiticus</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Desmodium heterocarpon</i>	Shrub	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Desmos chinensis</i>	Shrub	Native	Common	-		S
<i>Dianella ensifolia</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Dicranopteris pedata</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		O
<i>Digitaria longiflora</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-	C	O
<i>Dimocarpus longan</i>	Tree	Exotic	Restricted	-		C
<i>Duranta erecta</i>	Climber	Exotic	-	-		S
<i>Eleusine indica</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-	O	
<i>Eragrostis tenella</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-	S	O
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Tree	Exotic	-	-		S
<i>Eucalyptus urophylla</i>	Tree	Exotic	-	-		C
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Herb	Exotic	Very common	-		S
<i>Ficus hirta</i>	Shrub	Native	Common	-		S
<i>Ficus hispida</i>	Shrub	Native	Very common	-	O	O
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	Tree	Native	Common	-		C
<i>Ficus variegata var. chlorocarpa</i>	Tree	Native	Common	-	S	
<i>Hedyotis corymbosa</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-	C	
<i>Hedyotis hedyotideae</i>	Shrub	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		O
<i>Ipomoea triloba</i>	Herb	Native	-	-	C	C

Scientific name	Growth form	Origin	Rarity in Hong Kong ¹	Conservation status	Project Area	
					Developed Area	Plantation
<i>Kalanchoe pinnata</i>	Herb	Exotic	Common	-		S
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Shrub	Exotic	Very common	-	O	C
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	Shrub	Exotic	-	-		S
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	Tree	Exotic	Common	-		C
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Tree	Native	Common	-		O
<i>Litsea cubeba</i>	Shrub	Native	Common	-		O
<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	Tree	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Litsea rotundifolia</i> var. <i>oblongifolia</i>	Shrub	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Lophatherum gracile</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Tree	Exotic	-	-		S
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		C
<i>Macaranga tanarius</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>	Tree	Native	Common	-	O	O
<i>Mallotus paniculatus</i>	Tree	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i>	Shrub	Native	Common	-		S
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Tree	Exotic	Common	-		O
<i>Melicope pteleifolia</i>	Shrub	Native	Common	-		C
<i>Melinis repens</i>	Herb	Exotic	Very common	-	C	C
<i>Microcos nervosa</i>	Shrub	Native	Common	-		O
<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Herb	Exotic	Very common	-	C	C
<i>Mirabilis odorata</i>	Herb	Exotic	-	-		C
<i>Miscanthus floridulus</i>	Herb	Native	Common	-		O
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Tree	Exotic	-	-		S
<i>Mussaenda pubescens</i>	Climber	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Neyraudia reynaudiana</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-	S	
<i>Paederia scandens</i>	Climber	Native	Very common	-	C	C
<i>Panicum brevifolium</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		C
<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Herb	Exotic	Common	-		O
<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	Climber	Exotic	Very common	-		S
<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	Climber	Exotic	Common	-		C
<i>Persicaria chinensis</i>	Herb	Native	Common	-		S
<i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i>	Herb	Native	Common	-	S	
<i>Psychotria asiatica</i>	Tree	Native	Very common	-		O
<i>Pteris vittata</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	Shrub	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i>	Shrub	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Rhus hypoleuca</i>	Shrub	Native	Common	-		S
<i>Rhus succedanea</i>	Shrub	Native	Common	-		O
<i>Scleria ciliaris</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Smilax china</i>	Climber	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	Tree	Exotic	-	-		S
<i>Spermacoce remota</i>	Herb	Unknown	-	-		S
<i>Sporobolus fertilis</i>	Herb	Native	Very common	-	S	

Scientific name	Growth form	Origin	Rarity in Hong Kong ¹	Conservation status	Project Area	
					Developed Area	Plantation
<i>Stephania longa</i>	Climber	Native	Common	-	S	
<i>Syngonium podophyllum</i>	Herb	Exotic	-	-		S
<i>Syzygium jambos</i>	Tree	Exotic	Common	-		S
<i>Tetracera asiatica</i>	Climber	Native	Very common	-		S
<i>Tetradium glabrifolium</i>	Tree	Native	Common	-	S	C
<i>Toxocarpus wightianus</i>	Climber	Native	Very common	-		O
<i>Trema tomentosa</i>	Shrub	Native	Common	-		C
<i>Tridax procumbens</i>	Herb	Exotic	Very common	-	O	
<i>Urena lobata</i>	Herb	Native	Common	-		S
<i>Zanthoxylum avicennae</i>	Tree	Native	Common	-		O
<i>Zanthoxylum nitidum</i>	Climber	Native	Very common	-	S	S

Note:

1. Corlett *et al.* (2000). Hong Kong Vascular Plants: Distribution and Status.

Abbreviations:

Relative abundance: C = Common; O = Occasional; S = Scarce

Independent Consultant's Comments

Deliverable Title: Vegetation Survey Report

Deliverable Ref: OWTF2/ALC/CSF/CIV02/00032

No.	Section/Clause	Comment	Response
1	Section 2.1, Section 3 and Section 5.1	Headings are repeated.	Noted and revised.
2	Section 2.1.2	Please also include EIAO Guidance Notes No. 6/2010, 7/2010 and 10/2010	EIAO Guidance Notes No. 6/2010, 7/2010 and 10/2010 have been included in Section 2.1.2 of the latest issue.
3	Table 1	No reference 3 in the footnote	Noted and revised.
4	Section 5.1.1	Please also discuss the <i>Cattleya</i> spp. and <i>Oncidium</i> spp. in the literature review to tally with the discussion in Section 6.1.1	<i>Cattleya</i> spp. and <i>Oncidium</i> spp. have been discussed in Sections 3.1.2, 4.1.1 and 6.1.1 of the latest issue to ensure coherence throughout the report.