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Circulation:

Consultant: info@nm-lfs.hk

Secretary for Development sdev@devb.gov.hk

Director, Planning Department imkchung@pland.gov.hk Secretary for Environment and Ecology see@eeb.gov.hk

Director, CEDD michaelfong@cedd.gov.hk

URGENT

Dear Sirs/Madams.

Lau Fau Shan- Land Use Review Study

COMMENTS

The Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong (AGHK) was founded in 2007 as a conservation NGO with the primary objectives of conserving the valuable geological heritage and landscape of Hong Kong; to disseminate scientific information of our earth; to promote sustainable geotourism and eco-tourism as well as to make Hong Kong a better place to live.

Geodiversity, Geoheritage, Geoconservation

The concepts of "Geodiversity" and "Geoconservation" have become a key focus for nature conservation. This is reflected by various resolutions by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2008. Furthermore, in 2021 UNESCO designated 6 October of every year to be the International Geodiversity Day. In Hong Kong, the importance of geoconservation is becoming well appreciated with the designation of Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark.

Geodiversity and Geoconservation

While many advance countries have now been mapping "Geosites" and increasingly incorporated Geodiversity into their planning process, the concepts of Geodiversity and Geoconservation have not been considered at all in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Hong Kong. Current Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is grossly inadequate in both depth and scientific basis in assessing development impacts on our natural environment.

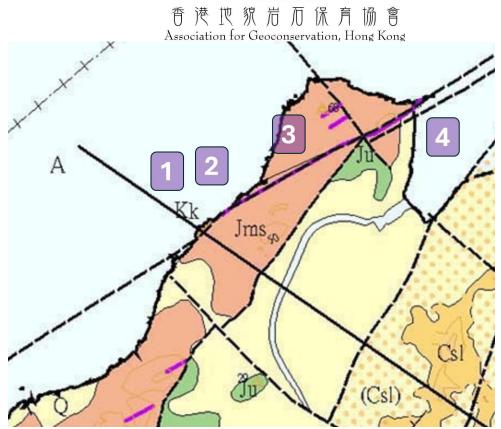
Geodiversity at Lau Fau Shan

Although Lau Fau Shan is a low-lying area, there is rich and interesting geodiversity including:

- Exposure of the Tuen Mun Formation
- Extensive altered rock formation
- Outcrops of fault lines
- A large quartz vein
- A stretch of Upper Cretaceous sedimentary formation along the shorelines

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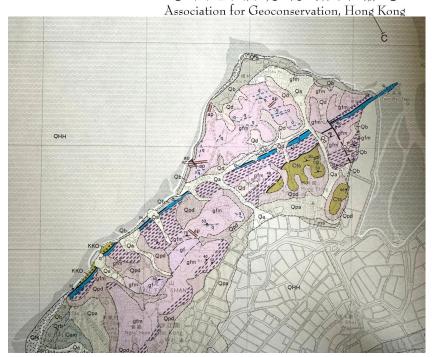


- 1. Upper Cretaceous "Kat O" Formation
- 2. Fault scarp exposure along shore (inferred)
- 3. Wide quartz vein along fault line
- 4. Fault scarps and Tuen Mun Formation (inferred) (source of map: CEDD online geological map)



Northeast-trending fault scarp of Deep Bay Fault, Lau Fau Shan (source: CEDD Geological Landscape)





CEDD's 1:20000 geological map showing the wide quartz vein (blue) and the Kat O Formation (KKO)

Geoconservation and Engineering Geology

Hong Kong already has a wealth of geological data and inventory being managed by the Civil Engineering and Development Department, but the primary aim of such knowledge is for engineering needs in developments. In contrast, while respecting the need for development, Geoconservation aims to:

- Conserve features for scientific and education value
- Promote the unique geology-landscape character and identity of an area
- Integrate geodiversity and biodiversity into landscape planning and geotourism

We always advocate in-situ preservation of prominent features. Where excavation is unavoidable for site formation and road infrastructure, our recommended approach is to expose rock strata with suitable landscape treatment.

We object to the use of fake rocks for any outdoor landscaping work.



Recommendations

We recommend that Geodiversity is given the earliest attention into the planning of the proposed development at Lau Fau Shan. This would cover:

- Review of geodiversity resources
- Compilation of inventory and classification
- Conservation plan under the development
- Integration into landscape and biodiversity strategy

We look forward to your positive feedback. In addition, we would be pleased to be included in your list of groups for consultation in the future.

Best regards,

(As signed)

Cindy Choi Chairman Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong Email: cindy@rocks.org.hk MP: (852) 9490 5122