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1 February 2013

By e-mail & fax

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Ecological Vandalism in Ta Tit Yan, Tai Po

Green Power would like to report a recent vandalism case found in Ta Tit Yan, Tai Po, which involved over 8,000 square meters of excavation and vegetation clearance. We suspect that such a massive vandalism may be an illegal development that has already destroyed the ecology and stream habitats there and polluted the source of drinking water and posed substantial flood risk for downstream of Tai Po River.

The case was discovered by Green Power's regular site visit at Ta Tit Yan on 26 Jan 2013. We discovered large scale excavation work and site formation in Ta Tit Yan (Appendix 1 for the location of vandalism) and two pieces of shrubland near the access road had been cleared (Appendix 2 for the related photos). The two vandalized sites are estimated to be 6800 and 1600 square meters in area respectively. All trees and shrubs within the excavation area were erased massively by dredgers. Moreover, a tributary within the affected area has been excavated and filled completely. We are concerned that such massive river works would cause soil erosion and flooding in the middle and lower courses



of Tai Po River.

In addition, this would also damage government's water works facilities in the future. The vandalized area is located within Water Services Department's water gathering ground, any unauthorized development or agricultural activities may pollute the water source.

As Ta Tit Yan is one of the recognized butterfly hotspots in Hong Kong, such vandalism has reduced the food plants for adult butterflies and their larvae and threatens their survival as well as other wildlife there.

Yuen Tun Ha, another ecological hotspot nearby, was vandalised repeatedly in recent years (e.g., in July 2010, October 2011 and June 2012) and it is worrisome such destructive activities have already impacted the ecology and river water quality in that area. We urge your department to investigate the vandalism at Ta Tit Yan and advise us whether any an illegal development/ activity is involved. If so, please inform us what enforcement actions your department will take to stop the illegal development/ activity and whether the site is required to be reinstated.

Should you have any inquiries or need any further information, please contact me at 3961 0202 or via email matthews@greenpower.org.hk.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to your prompt reply.

Yours faithfully,

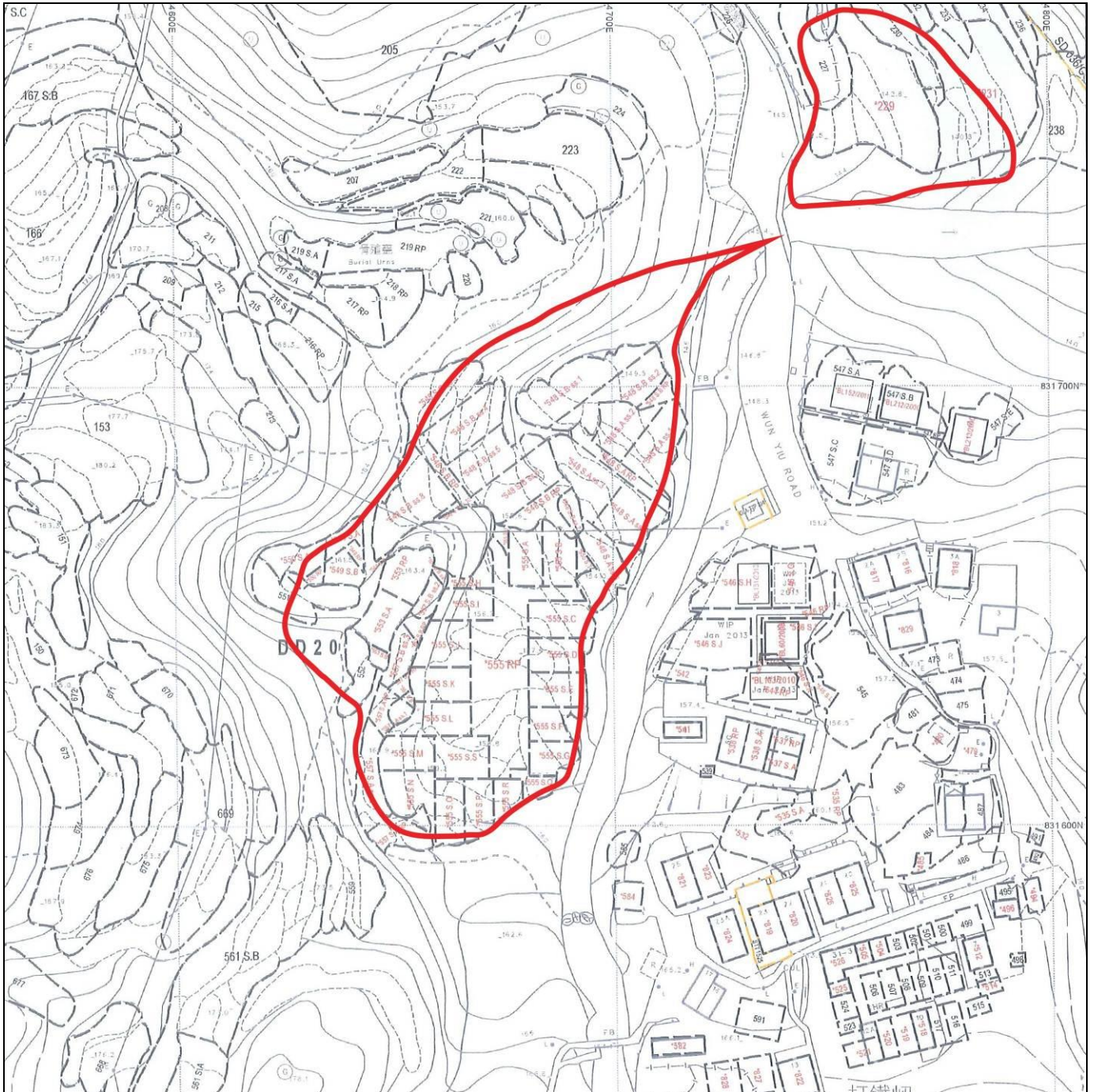
SIN Kar Wah
Senior Environmental Affairs Manager
Green Power

Attachment – Appendices

Appendix 1 – Location map of the vandalised site in Ta Tit Yan

Appendix 2 – Photos showing vandalism at Ta Tit Yan, Tai Po

Appendix 1 Location map of the vandalized site in Ta Tit Yan.



Appendix 2 Photos showing vandalism at Ta Tit Yan, Tai Po
(photos taken on 26 & 31 January 2013)

