



BY EMAIL ONLY

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29 March 2017

Dear Sirs/Madams,

**Eco-vandalism in “Conservation Area” Zone in Tung Chung River Valley before
Implementation of Tung Chung New Town Extension**

Green Power would like to draw your attention to a suspected illegal development case at Shek Lau Po, Tung Chung which reveals the existing deficiencies to protect the ecologically-important Tung Chung River and imminent impedance for Tung Chung New Town Extension, especially the flood-control infrastructures.

Green Power visited Tung Chung, Lantau on 16 March 2017 and spotted a plot of bitumen-paved land with vegetation cleared and two containers resting on it. The fencing of the site seemed to be in progress during our visit. The complaint site is located beside an illegal bridge built on Tung Chung River connecting Shek Lau Po and Nim Yuen. And we also witnessed the site worker extract river

water from Tung Chung River. (please refer to the attached map and photos)

According to Tung Chung Valley Outline Zoning Plan (please refer to attached map), the complaint site is located in “Conservation Area” which acts as a buffer zone to protect ecologically important Tung Chung River from any developments. Moreover, the suspected illegal development is within the polders which will be constructed to relieve the flood risk under Tung Chung New Town Extension.

Green Power is gravely concerned about the adverse impacts imposed by this case and more importantly its implications for the future development of Tung Chung River Valley. We are grateful for responses of relevant bureaus, departments and/or government authorities for the following questions:

1. The suspected illegal development is located in “Conservation Area” zone in Tung Chung Outline Zoning Plan. Is it legal to pave the complaint site with bitumen and place containers on the site? If not, then when and what actions will be taken to remedy the case?
2. Does the complaint site cover government or private lands? How can the Administration ensure that both the government and private lands will be developed according to the landuse zoning stipulated in the statutory landuse plan for Tung Chung New Town Extension?
3. The bitumen and fill materials have encroached the riverbanks of Tung Chung River which is an Ecologically Important Stream designated by the Government and inhabits various rare and important species. Has the water quality been affected by the suspected illegal development?
4. Also, has the suspected illegal development damaged or threatened any protected, rare and concerned species found in Tung Chung River?
5. According to the Recommended Outline Development Plan of Tung Chung New Town Extension, polders will be built on both sides of Tung Chung River courses to relieve the flood risk. Then, will the suspected illegal development increase the flood risk at present and when the polders are constructed?
6. Also, how can the Administration prevent the incompatible and/or improper development within polders which will increase the flood risk and/or hinder the construction of polders?
7. Furthermore, are there any measures taken by the Administration to halt any further incompatible developments and disturbance in Tung Chung River Valley and Bay, such as planning enforcement and traffic restriction for construction vehicle and machineries?

Green Power appreciates the intention and efforts of the Administration taken to protect Tung Chung River and Bay through publishing a Development Permission Area plan and the following Outline Zoning Plan for Tung Chung River Valley. However, the lands adjoining Tung Chung River and its river water quality have been damaged and threatened over a decades by proliferating incompatible developments and this case demonstrates that the situation is worsening in a fast pace.

We hope that the Administration investigates this complaint case seriously and takes prompt actions to stop, rectify and prevent any environmental, hydrological and ecological damages.

For any inquiries, please contact the undersigned at Green Power (T: 3961 0200, F: 2314 2661, Email: lkcheng@greenpower.org.hk).

We look forward to your reply and actions as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheng Luk-ki', written in a cursive style.

Dr. CHENG Luk-ki

Division Head, Scientific Research and Conservation, GREEN POWER

Map Showing the location of complaint site and landuse zoning (S/I-TCV/1)

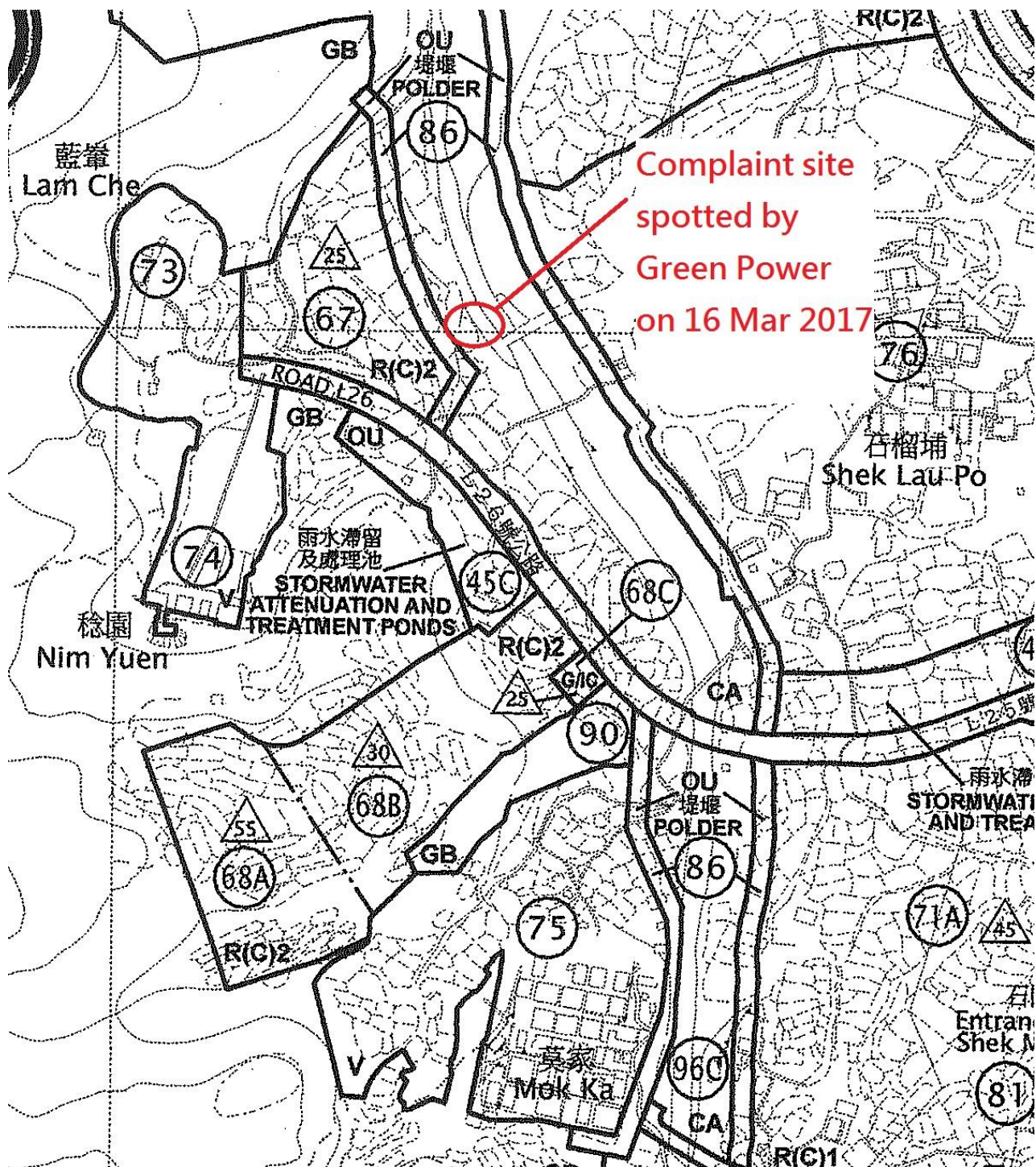


Photo 1 showing the illegal bridge connecting Shek Lau Po and Nim Yuen. The complaint site is situated on the right of vehicular access where two containers are placed.



Photo 2 showing the complaint site was placed with bitumen



Photo 3 showing the bitumen-paved complaint site resting with two containers and worker was taking buckets of water extracted from Tung Chung River



Photo 4 showing the pipe and electric pump for extraction of water from Tung Chung River

