

JOB NO.: TCS00694/13

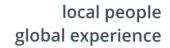
AGREEMENT NO. CE 45/2008 (CE) LIANTANG/HEUNG YUEN WAI BOUNDARY CONTROL POINT AND ASSOCIATED WORKS

ECOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE WOODLAND COMPENSATION AREA (MARCH TO MAY 2018)

PREPARED FOR
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT (CEDD)

Date	Reference No.	Prepared By	Certified By
7 June 2018	TCS00694/13/600/R1524v2	D-	This
		Keith Wong (Ecologist)	Tam Tak Wing (Environmental Team Leader)

Version	Date	Remarks
1	24 April 2018	First Submission
2	7 June 2018	Amended according to the IEC's comment on 30 April and 6 June 2018





Our ref:

7076192/L23133/AB/AW/MCC/rw

8 June 2018

AECOM 8/F, Grand Central Plaza, Tower 2 138 Shatin Rural Committee Road Shatin, N.T.

By Email & Post

Attention: Mr Simon LEUNG

Dear Sir

Agreement No. CE 45/2008 (CE)
Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and Associated Works
Independent Environmental Checker – Investigation
Quarterly Ecological Monitoring Report for Woodland Compensation Area (No .3) –
March to May 2018

With reference to the Quarterly Ecological Monitoring Report for Woodland Compensation Area No. 3 for March to May 2018 (Version 2) certified by the ET Leader, please be noted that we have no adverse comments on the captioned submission. We herewith verify the captioned submission in accordance with Section 8.3.2.2 of the EM&A Manual.

Thank you for your attention and please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on tel. 3995-8120 or by email to antony.wong@smec.com; or our Mr Arthur CHIU on tel. 3995-8144 or by email to arthur.chiu@smec.com.

Yours faithfully

Antony WONG

Independent Environmental Checker

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

- 1.1.1 The "Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and Associated Works Project" (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") comprises a new Boundary Control Point (BCP) proposed at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai (LT/HYW), its connecting road and other associated works; and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report (Register No.:AEIAR-161/2011) of the Project has identified that ~6.2ha of secondary woodlands will be directly lost due to the construction of the portals of tunnels and some sections of the connecting road. Subsequently, creation of a 18.6 ha compensatory woodland at Cheung Shan has been recommended in the EIA report to avoid residual ecological impacts from the Project.
- 1.1.2 Under the Environmental Permit (EP-404/2011/D), an updated Woodland Compensation Plan (WCP) detailed with the planting strategy and the subsequent maintenance and monitoring requirements of the compensatory woodland has been submitted and approved by the Authority in the 4th Quarter of 2015, and a revision of the updated WCP (i.e., WCP Revision 2) has been approved by EPD in 2017.
- 1.1.3 The woodland compensation include an initial planting phase and enhancement planting phase over a 6 years period on the grassland and shrubland at Cheung Shan, i.e., the "Woodland Compensatory Area" (WCA) as shown in the **Drawing No.** 60212563/SK7037 of the WCP and included here as *Appendix A*; and the planting works fall within the work scope of Contract No. CV/2013/08 Liantang/ Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point Site Formation and Infrastructure Works Contract 6.
- 1.1.4 As part of the EM&A's requirements of the Project, this submission presents the findings of the 3rd quarterly vegetation monitoring after the first year of initial planting and in according to the latest status of the initial planting phase (refer to the "as-built" plan as shown in *Appendix B* for details), and cover the Reporting Period from March to May 2018.



2. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

2.1 MONITORING PROGRAM OF THE INITIAL AND ENHANCEMENT PLANTING PHASES

- 2.1.1 According to the Section 6.5 of the WCP (ver. 2), the frequency of the monitoring is proposed to be bi-monthly during the first year of the initial planting phase and should be reduced to quarterly from the second year.
- 2.1.2 Change of monitoring frequency if needed will be advised by the Project Ecologist of the ET and approved by Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) before implementation.

2.2 MONITORING METHODOLOGY

- An inspection walk monitoring by means of "transect route" and "direct observation" has been undertaken within the WCP as such to provide an overview and observe the general condition of the WCA; After due considerations of the latest planting arrangement within the WCA, the potential trampling damage to the planted seedlings, as well as the limitations in visibility, site access and safety concern when undertaking the monitoring among the steep hillslope, the transect routes has been selected to cover all representative areas where planting has been undertaken within the WCA as far as practicable.
- 2.2.2 The transect routes are illustrated in **Appendix C**, and the following observations have been made during the inspection walk:
 - Weather condition during the time of monitoring
 - The general condition of the WCA, including any signs of anthropogenic or natural disturbance/events (such as landslide, lighting strikes, wildlife damage) that has affected the health condition of the planted seedlings, or regeneration or invasive of grassy or self-seeded weedy plants that would or have affected the establishment of the planted vegetation
 - The general health condition of each planted species graded in "Good", "Fair" or "Poor" with the following criteria:
 - i) Phenology signs of any abnormality in the phenology of the species (such as abnormal flowering/fruiting/ leaf shedding)
 - ii) Foliage colour, size and general appearance, signs and severity of insect and fungal infection
 - iii) Branches presence and extent of die-back, and signs and severity of insect and fungal infection
 - iv) Stem/Trunk signs and severity of cavities or internal/external decay; signs and severity of insect infection and mechanical damage
- 2.2.3 Since the monitoring approach adopted for the transect inspection, i.e., "direct observations", would not yield any quantitative information, the survival rate (%) of the planted seedling will be evaluated from the results collected from the quadrat sampling as detailed in next section.

2.3 QUADRAT SAMPLING

A sampling approach has been proposed in the WCP to monitor the survival rate of the planted seedlings by the use of nine 20mx20m quadrats which are to be evenly located within the planted area of the WCA. Based on the as-built planting plan provided by the contractor (see **Appendix B**), as well as the local topography of the planted area within the WCA, the practicality in accessing, placing and monitoring nine 20m x 20m fixed quadrats within the planted area of the WCA has been extensively reviewed, 2 of the monitoring quadrats are fixed on the ridgeline of Cheung Shan and 7 of them are located on the north-facing slope of the WCA (see **Appendix C**).



- 2.3.2 Information collected within each sampling unit include:
 - General condition of the sampling quadrat especially those factors that would or have found affected the survival rate of the planted vegetation, including biological or environmental factors (such as inter-specific competition as well as signs of stress from water, heat, or pest and disease, etc)
 - The total number of established seedlings for each planted tree and shrub species
 - Health condition of each planted species graded in "Good", "Fair" or "Poor" with the following criteria:
 - i) Phenology signs of any abnormality in the phenology of the species (such as abnormal flowering/fruiting/ leaf shedding)
 - ii) Foliage colour, size and general appearance, signs and severity of insect and fungal infection
 - iii) Branches presence and extent of die-back, and signs and severity of insect and fungal infection
 - iv) Stem/Trunk signs and severity of cavities or internal/external decay; signs and severity of insect infection and mechanical damage
- 2.3.3 The survival rate of the planted species during the initial planting phase will be evaluated against the referenced baseline updated for the monitored quadrats after the supplementary planting work undertaken in September 2017, and if needed the implementation of the measures as detailed in the "Trigger and Action Levels" specified in the **Table 3** of the WCP would be recommended (included here as **Table 1** below).

 Table 1
 Trigger and Action Levels for Monitoring and Action Plan

		Ting and Action I ian
Parameters	Trigger and Action Level	Action Plan
General Health Condition of planted species (i.e. good/fair/poor; based on parameters e.g. wilting, insect attack, disease, fungal infection, browsing damage)	of individual plant species in poor health	 the ET should inform Contractor and IEC immediately; identify the causes(s) of the exceedance; advise Contractor the necessity of replanting the ET should inform Contractor and IEC immediately; identify the cause(s) of the exceedance; advise remedial action and work out solution including change of species in re-planting, re-soiling of the target areas; and seek acceptance from AFCD; once the remedial action has been accepted by AFCD, the Contractor should implement the remedial action.
Survival of Planted Species (i.e. dead)	Survival rate of	 the ET should inform Contractor and IEC immediately; identify the causes(s) of the exceedance; advise Contractor the necessity of replanting.



Action Level: Survival rate of individual plant species <70%	identify the cause(s) of the exceedance;advise remedial action and work out solution including change of
	3 /
1	3
<70%	
	species in re-planting, re-soiling of the target areas; and seek acceptance from AFCD; - once the remedial action has
	been accepted by AFCD, the Contractor should implement the remedial action.

- 2.3.4 Since most of the planted native species are also naturally grown within the WCA and it would be infeasible and impracticable to differentiate whether the individual plant encountered along the transect or within the quadrat is planted, natural recruited, or regenerated after the pre-planting clearance of the site; and hence all established individuals of the planted species found within the sampling unit has been counted during the monitoring.
- 2.3.5 The WCA monitoring was undertaken by the Environmental Team (ET) and under the supervision of the Qualified Ecologist of the ET, and the Qualified Ecologist has also undertaken a joint transect inspection with representative of the IEC in the reporting.

2.4 REPORTING

Bi-monthly Woodland Compensation Monitoring Reports

2.4.1 The results and findings of the bi-monthly (i.e., once every two months) monitoring including the landscape inspection during the first year of the initial planting phase and the first year of the enhancement planting phase will be recorded in a bi-monthly woodland compensation monitoring reports prepared and submitted by the ET Leader within 10 working days from the end of each reporting month. The details to be included in the report will follow the Section 7.3 of the WCP.

Quarterly Woodland Compensation Monitoring Reports

2.4.2 Starting from the second year of the initial planting phase and the enhancement planting phase, the frequency of the monitoring is reduced to quarterly basis, the results and findings of the quarterly monitoring as well as the landscape inspection after the first year of the initial planting phase and the first year of the enhancement planting phase shall be recorded in the quarterly woodland compensation monitoring reports prepared and submitted by the ET Leader within 10 working days from the end of each reporting month. The details to be included in the report will follow the Section 7.3 of the WCP.



3. RESULTS

3.1 TRANSECT INSPECTION

- 3.1.1 The transect inspection was carried out on 19^{th} March 2018 with the ecological specialist of the IEC, an overview of the site condition is presented in *Appendix D* and the following presents the observations made during the transect inspection:
 - It was cloudy during the day of the transect inspection.
 - The health condition of the planted species noted along the transect were generally fair
 - The growth of the exotic tree *Acacia mangium* was found to be vigorous despite white mildew was occasionally noted on the foliage.
 - Re-sprouting of *Sapium discolor, Phyllanthus emblica* and *Rhahiolepis indica* was noted along the transect
 - The establishment of the seedlings planted in September 2017 along the eastern ridgeline and on the northern hillslope of the Cheung Shan was found to be fair and steady.
 - Weeding of herbaceous plants was noted among the monitoring quadrats.
 - Signs of disturbance from wild boar, i.e., vegetation trampling, earth ploughing, as well as uprooted seedlings (from planted/self-seeded vegetation) were occasionally noted on the north-facing slope of Cheung Shan.
 - Re-sprouting, regrowth, and establishment of several native woody and herbaceous species, such as the trees *Melicope pteleifolia* and *Cratoxylum cochinchinense*, the shrub *Baeckea frutescens* and *Breynia fruticosa*, as well as the fern *Dicranopteris pedata* were found to be vigorous within the planted area (initial planting) of the WCA, and some of those plants have out-grown the planted seedlings and may affect the establishment/growth rate of the planted plants because the inter-specific competition.
- 3.1.2 The general health condition of the planted species, based on the observations made along the transect, is tabulated in the following table.

Table 2 Health condition of the established seedlings noted during the transect inspection

Cmosing.	Health Condition					
Species	Good	Fair	Poor			
Trees						
Acacia confusa		$\sqrt{}$				
Acacia mangium		$\sqrt{(1)}$				
Castanopsis fissa		$\sqrt{}$				
Litsea glutinosa		$\sqrt{(3)}$				
Mallotus paniculatus		√ ⁽³⁾				
Phyllanthus emblica		√(2 (3)				
Sapium discolor		$\sqrt{(2)(3)}$				
Schima superba	√(3)					
Shrubs						
Gordonia axillaris		$\sqrt{}$				
Melastoma candidum		$\sqrt{(3)}$				
Melastoma sanguineum		$\sqrt{(3)}$				
Rhaphiolepis indica		$\sqrt{(2),(3)}$				
Rhodomytus tomentosa		√ ⁽³⁾				

Note:

- (1) White mildew was occasionally noted on foliage
- (2) Most of the foliage of this species was found to be smaller in size



(3) – self-seeded seedlings or wild population of this species was presence within the planting area (initial planting) of the WCA, and since it is impracticable and sometimes unfeasible to differentiate them from the planted seedlings, the health condition was evaluated as a whole for this species encountered during the transect walk.

3.2 QUADRAT SAMPLING

- 3.2.1 The nine 20m x 20m sampling quadrats have been placed within the planted area of the WCA, and at area where the majority of the seedlings were planted and considered suitable for long term monitoring; in which 2 of them were located on the ridgeline and the rest are located on the north-facing slope of Cheung Shan (see **Appendix C**). The quadrat monitoring was conducted on 19th and 20th March 2018, and the weather was mostly cloudy on 19th March 2018 and cloudy with sunny period on 20th March 2018.
- 3.2.2 The condition of the quadrats during the time of monitoring is shown in *Appendix D* and the monitoring result of the reporting period and the survival rate of the planted species since the commencement of the quarterly monitoring (initial planting phase) are shown in *Table 3* and *Table 4* respectively.

Table 3 The number of seedling recorded for each species within the sampling quadrats

	Quantity* and General Health^ Condition of the Established Seedling Recorded in Each Sampling Quadrat								Total Qty.	
	R1	R2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	
Trees	1			1		1	1		•	
Acacia confusa	5	13	9	6	12	0	4	2	13	64
Acacia mangium	27	28	28	14	23	0	19	17	29	185
Castanopsis fissa	0	2	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	13
Litsea glutinosa	10	6	11	7	6	1	1	2	6	50
Mallotus paniculatus	15	12	9	7	15	12	6	7	12	95
Phyllanthus emblica	8	6	8	5	12	0	3	2	6	50
Sapium discolor	1	7	8	1	2	0	0	0	3	22
Schima superba	3	6	0	8	0	52	0	0	0	69
Sub-Total	69	80	73	48	70	76	33	30	69	548
Shrubs										
Gordonia axillaris	4	15	36	41	45	24	18	10	8	201
Melastoma candidum	9	12	29	34	39	17	19	21	31	211
Melastoma sanguineum	7	66	31	50	61	7	8	14	21	265
Rhaphiolepis indica	46	32	34	46	59	13	12	20	40	302
Rhodomyrtus tomentosa	68	61	74	62	<i>78</i>	24	39	42	88	536
Sub-Total	134	186	204	233	282	85	96	107	188	1515

Notes: ^ General Health Condition:

- Good No. in normal font type (e.g., "99")
- Fair No. in Italic font (e.g., "99")
- Poor No. in italic & underlined (e.g., "99")
- * the quantity include all individuals of the planted species within the quadrat regardless whether they are self-seeded or planted (see Section 2.3.4)



Table 4 Survival Rate of the Planted Species since the Commencement of the Quarterly Monitoring of the Initial Planting Phase

Species	Qty. of Seedlings				Survival Rate* (%)		
	Reference	Nov 17	Jan 18	Mar 18	Nov 17	Jan 18	Mar 18
	baseline^						
Acacia confusa	113	59	59	64	52.21	52.21	56.64
Acacia mangium	193	188	190	185	97.41	98.45	95.85
Castanopsis fissa	39	14	13	13	35.90	33.33	33.33
Litsea glutinosa	79	52	51	50	65.82	64.56	63.29
Mallotus paniculatus	80	93	93	95	100.00	100.00	100
Phyllanthus emblica	64	61	38	50	95.31	59.38	78.13
Sapium discolor	39	27	22	22	69.23	56.41	56.41
Schima superba	82	82	79	69	100.00	96.34	84.15
Gordonia axillaris	148	162	195	201	100.00	100.00	100
Melastoma candidum	352	222	214	211	63.07	60.80	59.94
Melastoma sanguineum	313	227	269	265	72.52	85.94	84.66
Rhaphiolepis indica	438	312	313	302	71.23	71.46	68.95
Rhodomyrtus tomentosa	824	549	558	536	66.63	67.72	65.05

[^] updated in Sep 2017 in accordance with the "as-built" planting plan for the initial planting

phase as well as the monitoring findings between Aug 2017 and Nov 2017

- 3.2.3 Based on the recorded data and observations made within the sampled quadrats and the data presented in *Table 3* and *Table 4*, the following provides a brief account of the findings from the quadrat monitoring:
 - Health condition: Generally speaking all of the planted seedlings were found in fair health condition, and re-sprouting of leaves was noted on the seedlings of Sapium discolor, Phyllanthus emblica and Rhaphiolepis indica.
 - Survival Rate: The survival rate of the planted species were more or less steady, except the tree species *Phyllanthus emblica* where its survival rate has increased from 59.38% to 78.13%, and the *Schima superba* has dropped from 96.34% to 84.15%.
 - On the other hand, 7 planted species were recorded with a survival rate less than 70%, including the trees *Castanopsis fissa* (33.33%), *Acacia confusa* (56.64%), *Litsea glutinosa* (63.29%), *Sapium discolor* (56.41%); as well as the shrubs *Melastoma candidum* (59.94%), *Rhaphiolepis indica* (68.95%), and *Rodomyrtus tomentosa* (65.05%).
- 3.2.4 The possible causes of poor survival rate has been postulated in previous reports, including
 - poor vigor of the planted seedling
 - animal disturbance such as herbivory and trampling
 - insufficient horticultural maintenance (such as watering/weeding)
 - the seedlings were out-competed (for light and space) by the adjacent planted,

^{*} no. in bold denotes the survival rate trigger action listed in Table 1



- self-seeded or retained vegetation
- human disturbance during the previous maintenance activities in 2017, including replanting and weeding.
- 3.2.5 According to the action plan as stated in the *Table 1*, replanting of 7 species with survival rate less than 70% would be required. Since replanting has already been undertaken within the WCA in September 2017 and during which the replanting requirement as identified in the August 2017's report has only been partially addressed, the recommended replanting quantity as shown in *Table 5* below is calculated based on the latest monitoring results and the "as-built" planting schedule, and take into consideration the quantity of seedlings already replanted in Aug 2017 and the seedlings required for restoring the updated referenced baseline for the continuity of the quadrat monitoring.

Table 5 Recommended Replanting Quantity for Species Recorded with Survival Rate <70%

Kate < 70 /0							
	Survival	Quantity					
Species	Rate/% (Mar'18)	As-built [#]	Replanting Required (Mar'18)	Replanted in Sep'17#	Outstanding/ Recommended*		
Acacia confusa	56.64	5480	2376	680	1696 (49)		
Castanopsis fissa	33.33	3300	2200	2200	(26)		
Litsea glutinosa	63.29	2350	863	2200	(29)		
Sapium discolor	56.41	2350	1024	2200	(17)		
Melastoma candidum	59.94	15340	6145	4900	1245 (141)		
Rhaphiolepis indica	68.95	15240	4732	4900	(136)		
Rhodomyrtus tomentosa	65.05	15240	5327	4900	427 (288)		

[#] Information provided and updated by the Main Contractor

- 3.2.6 All of the replanting works should make reference and conform to the Section 5 "Planting Management" of the approved Woodland Compensation Plan (WCP), in particularly it should be undertaken within the planting season and in suitable locations within the WCA where pre-planting site preparation such as clearance of herbaceous plants (in particularly the fern *Dicranopteris pedata*) should be undertaken prior the planting work as such to expedite the planting work once the seedlings on-site and facilitate their recovery from the planting shocks and establishment; and the planted seedlings would not be shaded from adjacent plants to avoid competition for light and other resources (see Section 4.9 of the WCP).
- 3.2.7 Other remedial actions recommended to address the possible causes of poor survival rate of the 8 species reported above are presented in *Table 6*. According to Table 1, the Contractor is responsible for the implementation of replanting and other remedial measures agreed by AFCD.

Table 6 Remedial Actions Recommended for the Poor Survival Rate of the Planted Species

^{*} Qty in the blanket indicate the replanting quantity required to restore the referenced baseline data in the monitoring quadrats



Possible Cause	Remedial Action
Animal	Prominent signs of disturbance from animal activities, in addition to
disturbance	those previous noted, has not been observed within the WCA as a whole
	after the replanting conducted in September 2017, and the necessity for
	further action to be reviewed
Poor vigor of	The Contractor should ensure the seedlings fulfills the requirements of
the planted	the pertinent specification during replanting; and they should be planted
seedlings	on the same day of delivery as far as possible with appropriate actions to
	minimize their desiccation stress
Vegetation	Strengthen the vegetation maintenance (in particularly weeding) within
maintenance	the WCA, and provide adequate briefing to the maintenance team to
	avoid/minimize the potential trampling/mechanical damage to the woody
	plants within the WCA. In addition, the use of motorized weeding
	equipment in areas densely covered with woody vegetation should be
	avoided as far as practicable, and the removed weed should be properly
	disposed to avoid shadowing of the planted seedlings.
Inter-specific	Undertake weeding of herbaceous plants in particularly the fern
competition	Dicranopteris pedata; and any replacement planting should be
	strategically planted to minimize the shading effect from other
	vegetation

3.2.8 **Table 7** below summarizes the possible cause of the poor survival rate recorded for the 8 species with survival rate <80% and the recommended actions.

Table 7 Summary of the Recommended Remedial Actions for Species with Survival Rate <80%

Species	Survival	Possible Cause	Recommended	Replanting
	Rate (%)		Remedial Action	
Acacia confusa	56.64	I, II, III, V	Refer to the Table 6	Yes
Castanopsis fissa	33.33	I, II, III, IV		Yes
Litsea glutinosa	63.29	I, II, III, IV		Yes
Phyllanthus emblica	78.13	I, II, III, IV, VI		N/A
Sapium discolor	56.41	I, II, III, IV, VI		Yes
Melastoma candidum	59.94	I, II, III, IV, V		Yes
Rhaphiolepis indica	68.95	I, II, III, IV, V		Yes
Rhodomyrtus tomentosa	65.05	II, III, V		Yes

I : Poor vigor of the planted seedling

II : Animal Disturbance/Trampling/Herbivory

III : Insufficient Maintenance

IV : Out-competed by adjacent vegetation

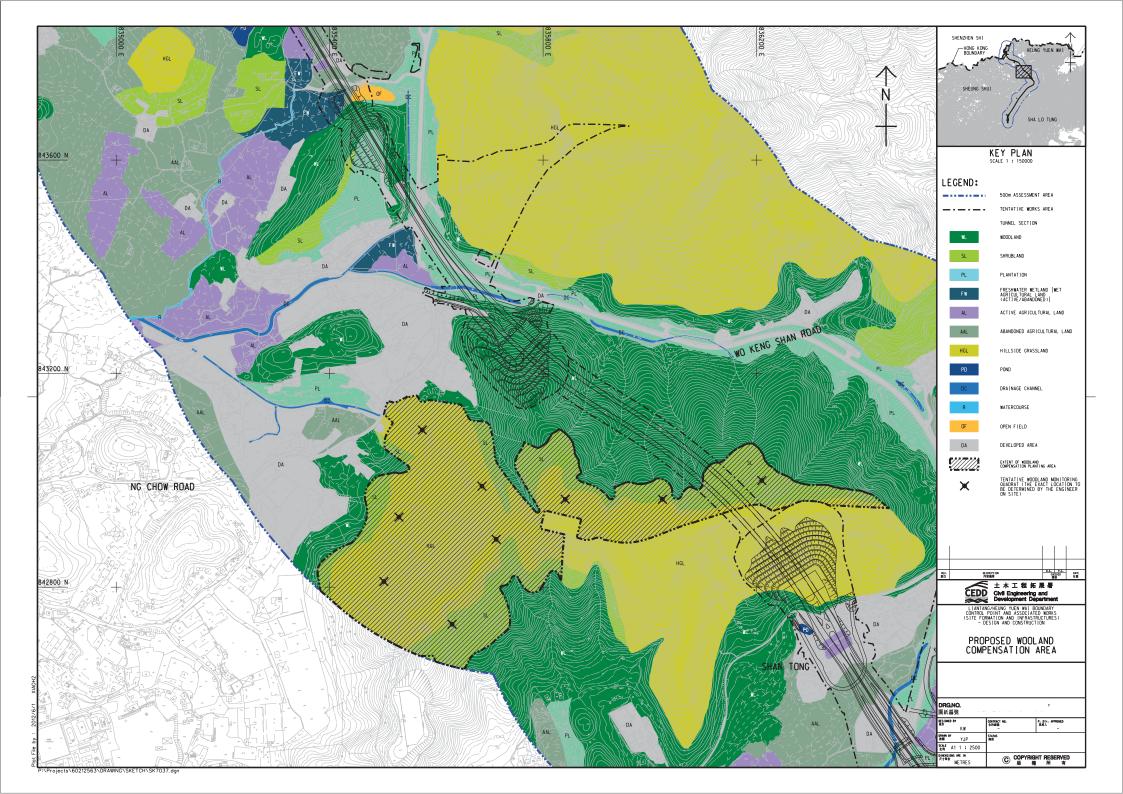
V : Human Disturbance (Maintenance Activities)

VI : Seasonal changes



Appendix A

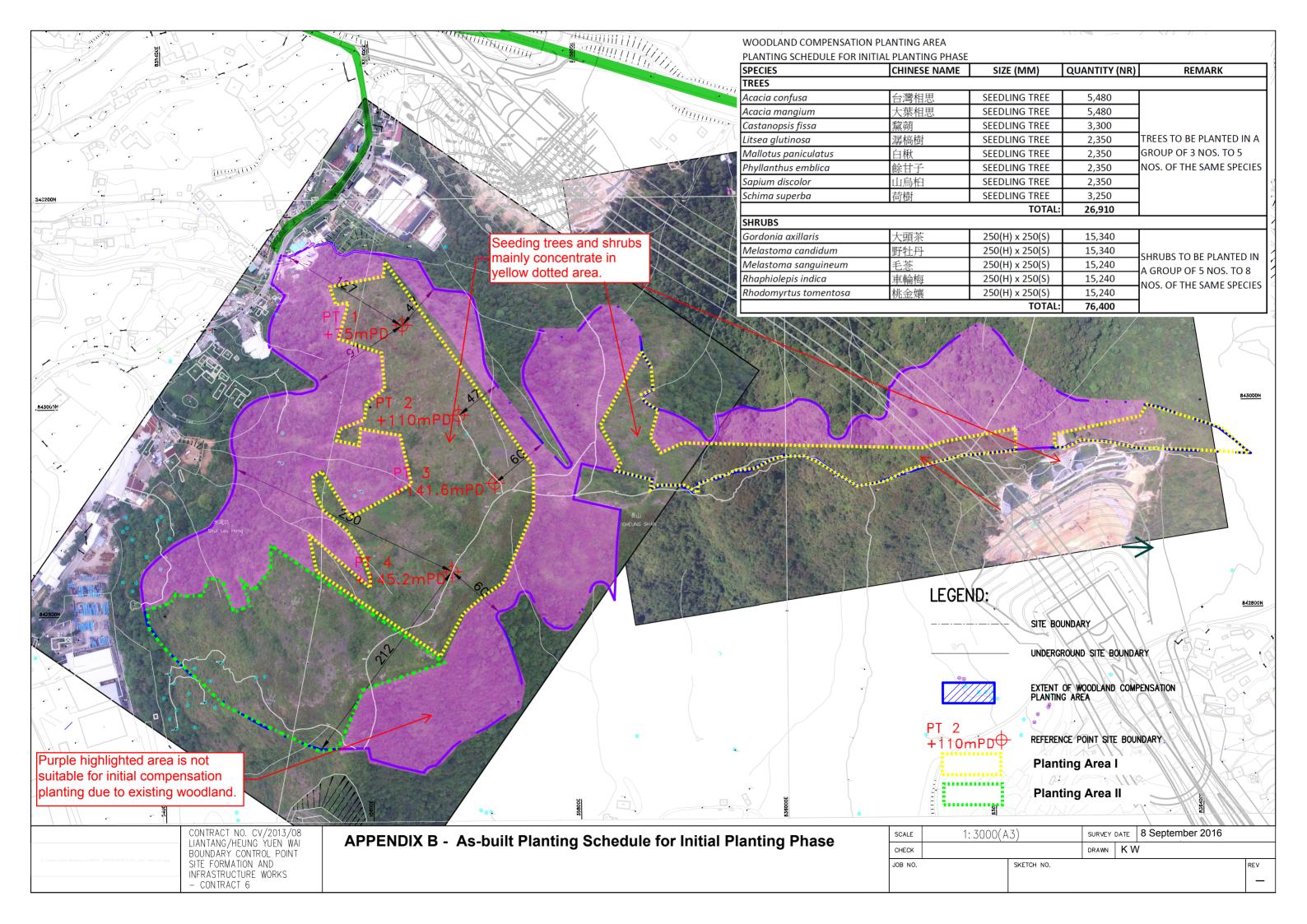
Drawing No. 60212563/SK7037 of the Woodland Compensation Plan





Appendix B

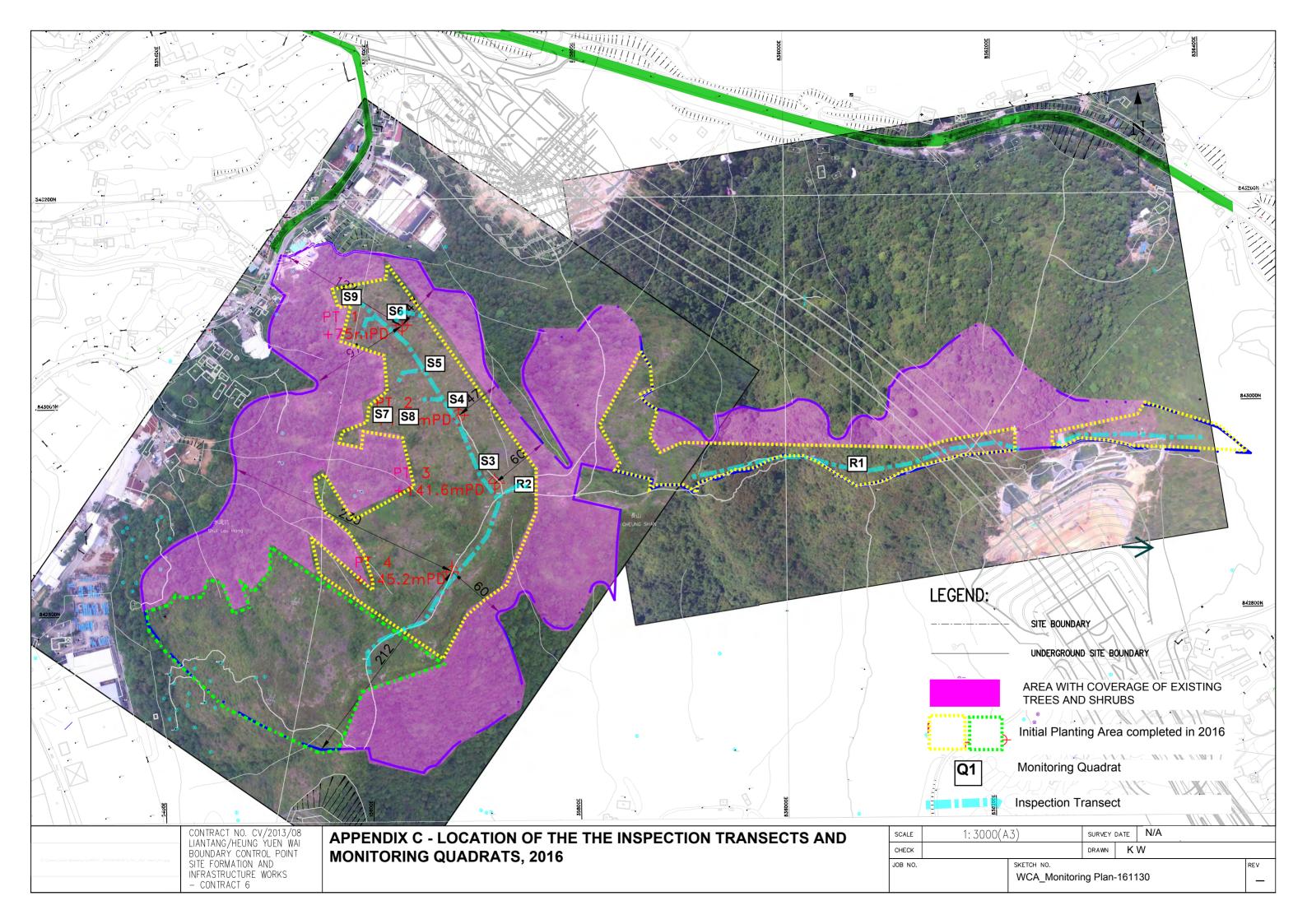
As-built Planting Schedule for Initial Planting Phase





Appendix C

Transect Routes and Sampling Quadrats of Woodland Compensation Monitoring





Appendix D

Photographic Records



Photographic Record (March 2018)







Overview of the Northern Slope of Cheung Shan



Overview of the Ridgeline of Cheung Shan

Photographic Record (March 2018)



Appendix E

Replanting Plan



		Replanting L	ting	Total	
		Area A	Area B	Area C	Qty.
Trees					
Acacia confusa	台灣相思	200	280	200	680
Acacia mangium	大葉相思	200	280	200	680
Castanopsis fissa	黧蒴	544	1018	638	2200
Litsea glutinosa	潺槁樹	544	1018	638	2200
Mallotus paniculatus	白楸	68	127	425	620
Phyllanthus emblica	餘甘子	68	127	425	620
Sapium discolor	山烏桕	544	1018	638	2200
Schima superba	荷樹	544	1018	638	2200
Sub-total		2712	4886	3802	11400
Shrubs					
Gordonia axillaris	大頭茶	1415	2123	1362	4900
Melastoma candidum	野牡丹	1415	2123	1362	4900
Melastoma sanguineum	毛菍	1415	2123	1362	4900
Rhaphiolepis indica	車輪梅	1415	2123	1362	4900
Rhodomyrtus tomentosa	桃金孃	1415	2123	1362	4900
Sub-total	1	7075	10615	6810	24500
	7	Total			35900

