RNTPC Paper No. 6/20 For Consideration by the Rural and New Town Planning Committee on 18.9.2020

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE APPROVED MA ON SHAN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN NO. S/MOS/22

1. Background

- 1.1 On 21.8.2020, Members' agreement was sought on the proposed amendments to the approved Ma On Shan Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/MOS/22 (RNTPC Paper No. 4/20 at F-Appendix I) as shown on the draft OZP No. S/MOS/22A (Attachment II in F-Appendix I) as well as its Notes (Attachment III in F-Appendix I) and the Explanatory Statement (ES) of the OZP (Attachment IV in F-Appendix I) for exhibition for public inspection under section 5 of the Town Planning Ordinance (the Ordinance).
- 1.2 Members generally supported the proposed amendment items for public housing development (Amendment Items A, B1, and D), had no adverse comments on the proposed amendment items for water pumping station, primary school and service reservoir (Amendment Items C, E and F), and had no objection to Amendment Items B2 and H to reflect an existing road and to rationalize the boundary of the Sha Tin Cavern Sewage Treatment Works.
- 1.3 Some Members, however, had concerns regarding proposed Amendment Item G for rezoning a site at the upper end of Ma On Shan Tsuen Road from "Green Belt" ("GB") to "Residential (Group B)6" ("R(B)6") for private housing with a proposed maximum plot ratio (PR) of 3.6 and a maximum building height (BH) of 250 mPD. They were concerned about its relatively high development intensity in the midst of "GB" zone near the Ma On Shan Country Park and the likely precedent effect on other similar proposals in the context of the overall planning framework of the Ma On Shan OZP.
- 1.4 After deliberation, the Committee agreed that the proposed Amendment Items A, B1, B2, C, D, E, F and H to the approved Ma On Shan OZP No. S/MOS/22 as shown on the draft Ma On Shan OZP No. S/MOS/22A and its Notes were suitable for exhibition for public inspection under section 5 of the Ordinance, but decided to defer a decision on the proposed Amendment Item G pending submission of supplementary information from relevant government departments on how the proposed development at Site G would fit into the overall planning framework of

the Ma On Shan OZP and examples of similar rezoning proposals within "GB" zones in other areas for its consideration. The Committee also decided to defer exhibition of the proposed amendments to the approved Ma On Shan OZP No. S/MOS/22 for public inspection under the Ordinance pending a decision on the proposed Amendment Item G. An extract of the minutes of the RNTPC meeting held on 21.8.2020 is at **F-Appendix II**. In response to Members' concern, further information is provided in the ensuing paragraphs for Members' reference.

2. Urban Design Framework of Ma On Shan New Town

- 2.1 With waterfront location on its western side and the Ma On Shan ridgeline averaging in height of 575m on its eastern side, the development concept of Ma On Shan New Town has adopted a stepped height approach with building height (BH) generally increasing progressively from the waterfront to inland area/hillside and decreasing progressively from the town centre and the eastern gateway node (i.e. MTR Wu Kai Sha Station) towards the peripheries to respect the distinct urban form of the new town. Buildings falling within the height band of 100mPD to less than 150mPD occupy the major town proper while the tallest buildings within height band of 150mPD or above are found in/near the town centre around MTR Ma On Shan Station and near MTR Wu Kai Sha Station (Plan FA-1).
- 2.2 Being located to the southern hillside of the town centre, the proposed housing site under Amendment Item G, with its maximum BH of 250mPD, will generally follow the stepped height concept of Ma On Shan New Town by keeping taller buildings on the hillside and lower buildings towards the waterfront. Setting at the lower parts of Ma On Shan (existing site levels of 140 to 190mPD), with the ridgeline of Ma On Shan mountain averaging in height of 575m with a maximum height of about 680mPD at the Hunch Backs running at a northeast-southwest direction forming a dominant backdrop, the proposed development with maximum BH of 250mPD will be lower than the existing average ridgeline of the Ma On Shan Mountain, allowing about 60% of height buffer to preserve the ridgeline and hence will not adversely affect the integrity of the Ma On Shan ridgeline.
- 2.3 As regards development intensity, Ma On Shan has been well-developed with most of the existing and proposed developments between Tai Shui Hang and Wu Kai Sha relatively high in development intensity. Developments zoned "Residential (Group A)" ("R(A)") including Hang On Estate, Chung On Estate, Yiu On Estate, Lee On Estate, Saddle Ridge Garden and Kam Tai Court are subject to a maximum PR of 5.0 or a maximum non-domestic PR of 9.5 or the composite formula of 5/9.5 for mixed residential and commercial developments. All these "R(A)" sites and most of the other sites in the town area have been developed with a total PR of 5.0 or above. Medium-density developments with a total PR between 3.0 and 5.0 are found at various locations in the northern, central and southern parts of the new town. For low-density developments at a PR lower than 3.0, they are concentrated in the eastern part, e.g. Whitehead or around Nai Chung (**Plan FA-2**).

2.4 Site G is located at the upper end of Ma On Shan Tsuen Road and is about 500m away from the nearest residential development, Heng On Estate. reference to the medium-density developments in the town area and having regard to the policy directive of increasing the maximum domestic PR by 20%, a maximum PR of 3.6 is proposed for the private housing site under Amendment Item G. The proposed housing site will pose moderately adverse visual impact at some viewpoints. However, the site is well-connected with the town centre by the existing Ma On Shan Tsuen Road, which will be re-aligned and upgraded to a 7.9m/7.3m wide single 2-lane carriageway with 2.75m/2.0m wide footpath on both sides up to Site G (F-Appendix III). While the site is generally covered with vegetation, it is dotted with buildings/structures with some human disturbance. The proposed development will not be out-of-context with the Ma On Shan town area. In view of the pressing housing demand in the territory, the proposed maximum PR of 3.6 and BH of 250mPD are on balance justified and acceptable, in particular when no insurmountable technical concern has been identified under the Engineering Feasibility Study (EFS) (Attachment VI (in CD-ROM) in **F-Appendix I).** According to the EFS, the proposed private housing development can provide about 1,040 flats for an estimated population of about 3,120 and a 150-place Residential Care Home for the Elderly will be provided in the development.

3. Similar Rezoning Proposals within the "GB" Zone

- 3.1 It was stated in the 2013 Policy Address that the Government would adopt a multi-pronged land supply strategy to build up land reserve with a view to meeting housing and other development needs. It was reaffirmed in the 2014 Policy Address that the Government would continue to review various land uses and rezone sites as appropriate for residential use. Among others, the Government has taken steps to review the "GB" sites in two stages. The Stage 1 review mainly focused on the "GB" sites which were formed, deserted or devegetated. The Stage 2 review covered "GB" sites in the fringe of built-up areas close to existing urban areas and new towns, and those vegetated areas with relatively less buffering effect and lower conservation value.
- 3.2 Since 2013, the statutory planning process for rezoning of 38 "GB" sites for residential purpose (including 24 for private housing and 14 for public housing) has been initiated¹. For the 24 "GB" sites intended for private housing, 19 of them were successfully rezoned and five sites were not agreed by Town Planning Board (the Board)/Metro Planning Committee (MPC). A list of the 24 cases is attached at **F-Appendix IV** and their locations are shown in Plan **FA-3a** to **FA-3l**.

¹ Of the 38 sites, 32 sites were successfully rezoned and the other 6 sites were not agreed by the Town Planning Board/Metro Planning Committee.

- 3.3 For the 19 successfully rezoned sites (five each in Tuen Mun and Tai Po, three in Sha Tin, two each in Tsing Yi and Kowloon, 1 each in Sai Kung and Southern District), they are within or near the fringes of new towns or in close proximity to existing settlements; near or accessible to existing roads; either mostly vegetated or partly paved/previously disturbed and partly vegetated. The PRs proposed for these sites (i.e. PR of 0.6 to 6.0) are either comparable to or higher than its nearby residential developments.
- 3.4 For the remaining five cases, they were either not agreed by the MPC (for the two sites in Southern District) for gazetting of the proposed amendment or reverted to original "GB" zoning by the Board (for two sites in Tai Po and one site in Sai Kung) after the consideration of representations and comments. The reasons for not supporting the proposed amendments mainly relate to whether the concerned sites form part of an integral part of the larger "GB" zone, and whether the sites are considered to have relatively high buffer value. Other site specific factors taken into account by the MPC or the Board include massive tree felling, loss of landscape and ecological value, adverse visual and environmental impact, site constraints, and limited flat production. Generally speaking, the site context of Amendment Item G is not totally similar to those 24 "GB" sites, as explained in paragraph 2.4 above.
- 3.5 The subject site is adjacent to the Ma On Shan Country Park separated by Ma On Shan Tsuen Road. There are examples of existing residential developments adjoining Country Park which include the Hong Kong Parkview surrounded by the Tai Tam Country Park, the Kornhill Development adjoining Tai Tam Country Park (Quarry Bay extension), and the Shui Chuen O Estate adjacent to Ma On Shan and Lion Rock Country Parks.

4. <u>Further Information on Tree Survey, Landscape Assessment and Environmental Assessment</u>

At the RNTPC meeting on 21.8.2020, some Members considered that the information related to tree survey and environmental assessment in support of the proposed amendments to the Ma On Shan OZP were insufficient as compared with other EFS such as that for the proposed amendments to Tseung Kwan O OZP. In response to Members' concern, the tree survey report (**F-Appendix Va**), landscape assessment reports (**F-Appendices Vb to Vd**) and the preliminary environmental assessment reports (**F-Appendices Ve and Vf**) are provided herewith in DVD-ROM for Members' reference.

5. <u>Decision Sought</u>

Members are invited to consider the further information as highlighted in paragraphs 2 and 3 above and to:

- agree to the proposed Amendment Item G to the approved Ma On Shan OZP No. (a) S/MOS/22;
- agree that the revised draft Ma On Shan OZP No. S/MOS/22A at Attachment II in **F-Appendix I** (to be renumbered as S/MOS/23 upon exhibition) and its Notes at Attachment III in F-Appendix I are suitable for exhibition for public inspection under section 5 of the Ordinance; and
- (c) adopt the revised ES at Attachment IV in F-Appendix I for the draft Ma On Shan OZP No. S/MOS/22A (to be renumbered as S/MOS/23) as an expression of the planning intentions and objectives of the Board for various land use zonings on the OZP and the revised ES will be published together with the OZP.

6. **Attachments**

F- Appendix I	RNTPC Paper No. 4/20 for consideration by the Rural and New Town Planning Committee on 21.8.2020
F- Appendix II	Extract of the Minutes of the Rural and New Town Planning Committee meeting held on 21.8.2020
F- Appendix III	Conceptual Layout Plan for the Proposed Housing and School Developments along the Re-aligned and Upgraded Ma On Shan Tsuen Road
F- Appendix IV	Private Housing Sites Proposed to be Rezoned from "GB" Through Land Use Review Since 2013
F- Appendix Va	Final Preliminary Tree Survey Report (in DVD-ROM)
F- Appendix Vb	Final Landscape Assessment (for Amendment Items A and B1 and Associated Infrastructural Works) (in DVD-ROM)
F- Appendix Vc	Final Landscape Assessment (for Amendment Items D and E and Associated Infrastructural Works) (in DVD-ROM)
F- Appendix Vd	Final Landscape Assessment (for Amendment Item G) (in DVD-ROM)
F- Appendix Ve	Final Preliminary Environmental Study Report (for Amendment Items A and B1) (in DVD-ROM)
F- Appendix Vf	Final Preliminary Environmental Study Report (for Amendment Items D, E and G) (in DVD-ROM)

Plan FA-1 Building Height Restrictions for Residential Sites on

Draft Ma On Shan OZP No. S/MOS/22A

Plan FA-2 Plot Ratio Restrictions for Residential Sites on Draft Ma

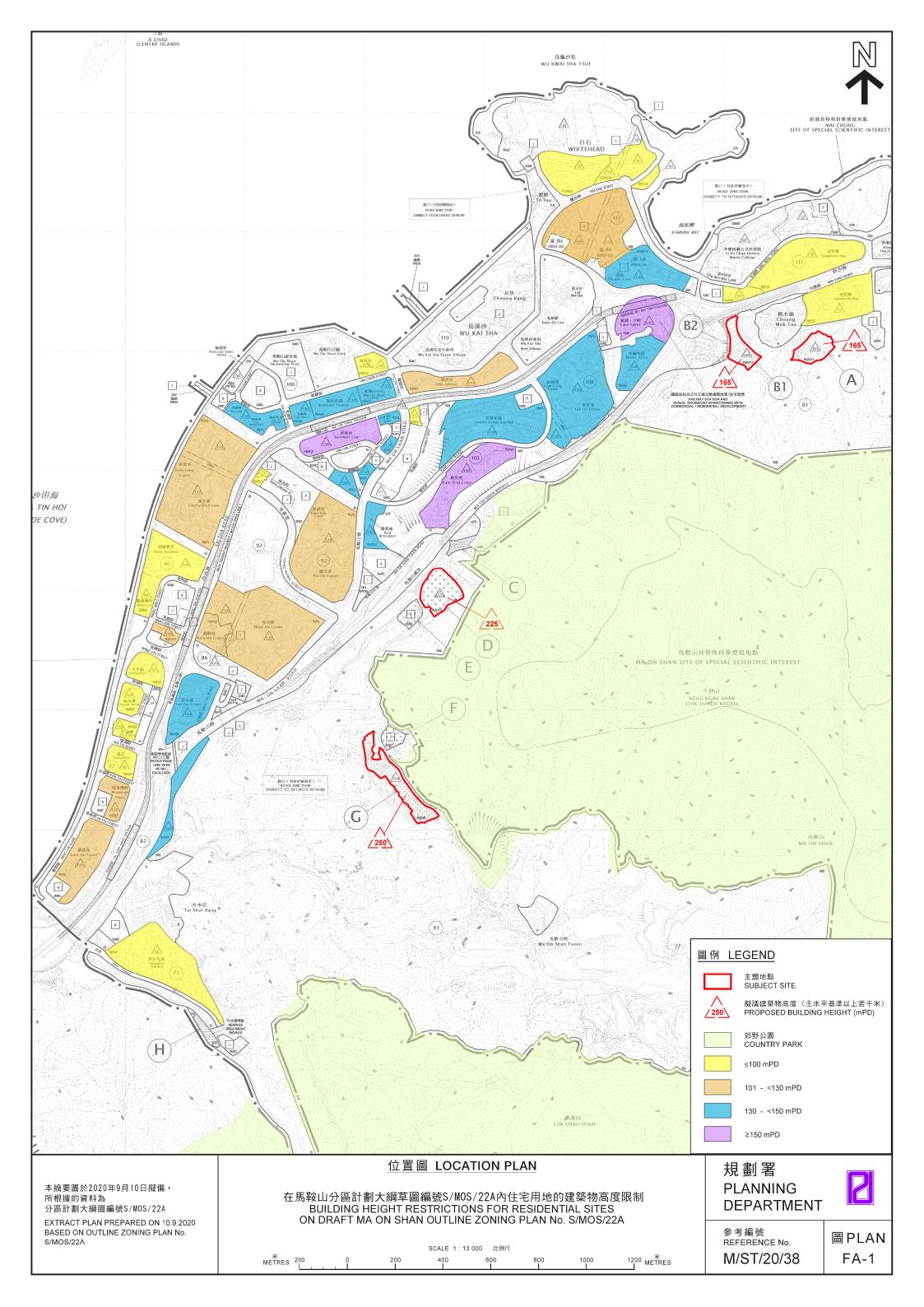
On Shan OZP No. S/MOS/22A

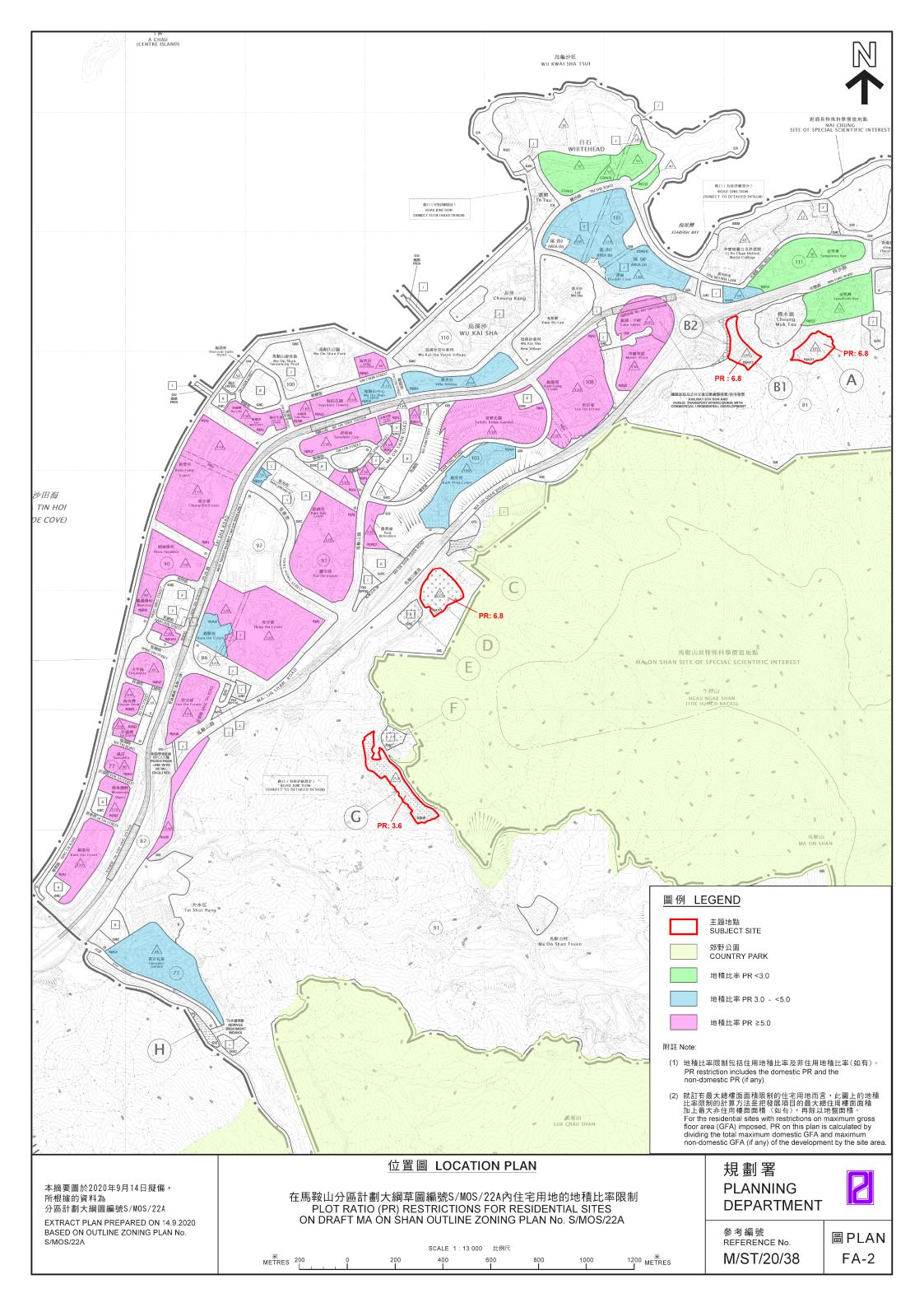
Plan FA-3a to 31 Location Plans of the 24 "Green Belt" Sites for Private

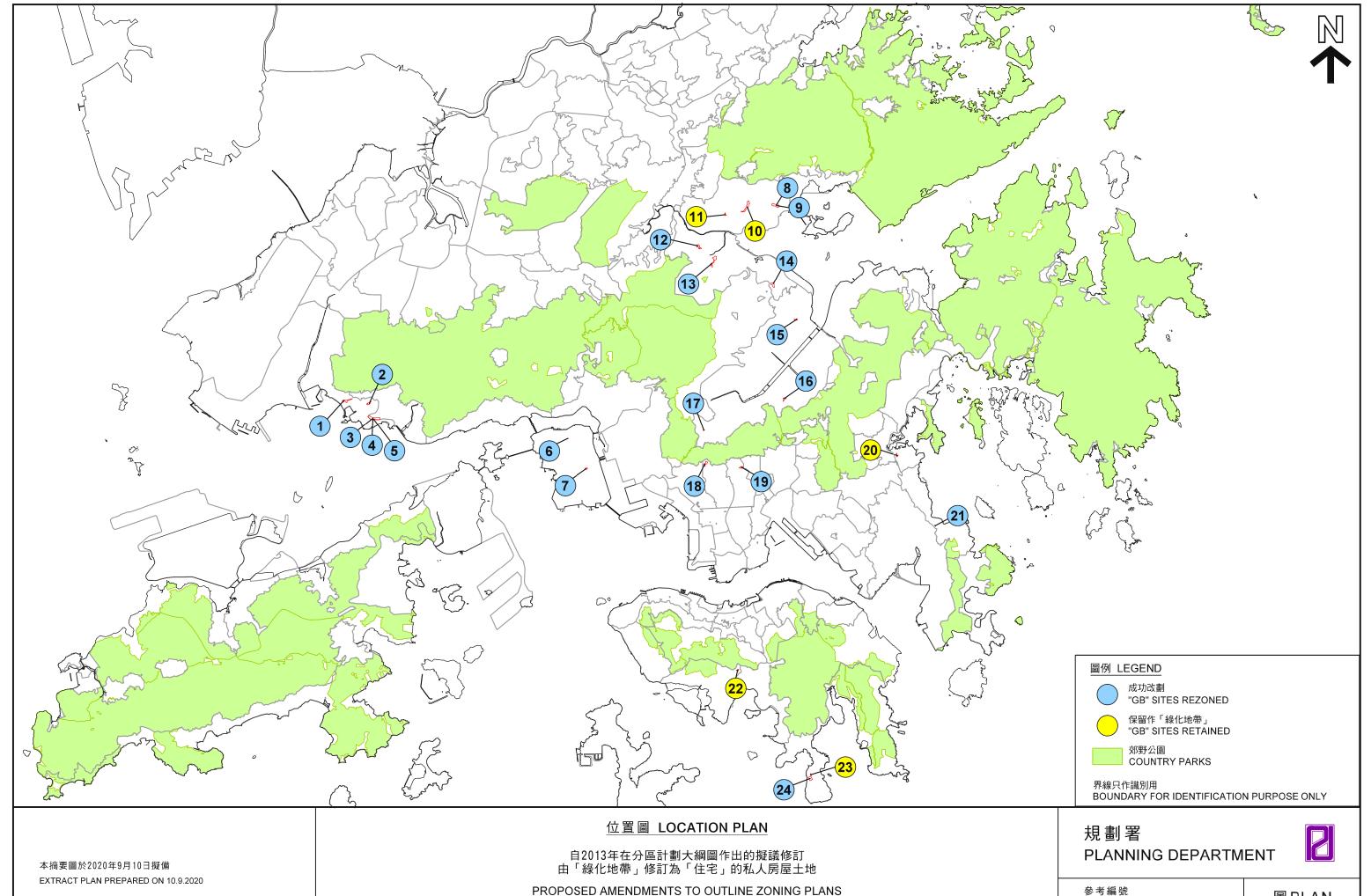
Housing Development through the land use review since

2013

PLANNING DEPARTMENT SEPTEMBER 2020







PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO OUTLINE ZONING PLANS FROM "GB" TO "RESIDENTIAL" FOR PRIVATE HOUSING SINCE 2013

參考編號 REFERENCE No. M/ST/20/42

圖PLAN FA-3a

