

Chapter 8

Economic Geology

Economic deposits of the district consist principally of non-metalliferous minerals and construction aggregates. There are no known economic or potentially economic metalliferous mineral deposits in the district.

Non-metalliferous Minerals

Large fissure veins infilled with quartz have traditionally been mined as a source of high grade silica for glassware and pottery throughout the Territory. All licences have now expired, and mining for quartz has ceased. Within the district, a prominent quartz vein marking a major N-S trending fault has been mined at Cheung Shue Tau (2800 2465) on the north side of Tsing Yi. Production figures are unknown.

A prominent kaolinized rhyolite dyke has been worked for its clay content at Shek Wan (Plate 15) on the west side of Tsing Yi. Mining commenced in 1976, and a haulage road down to Wok Tai Wan on the west side of the island was built in 1981. Mining ceased in 1983.

Construction Materials

Many areas along the coastline of Tsing Yi have been used as borrow areas to provide fill for reclamation and flat land for industrial development. Most of the excavated areas lie on the south side of the island where the rock is dominantly medium-grained granite.

In the southwestern part of the district lies part of the Kap Shui Mun marine borrow area. Until late 1993, alluvial and marine sand were extracted from this area, the total reserves of which were estimated at around 8 Mm³. Excavation ceased before the borrow area was exhausted after a dredger was severely damaged by a bomb from the nearby explosives dumping ground.

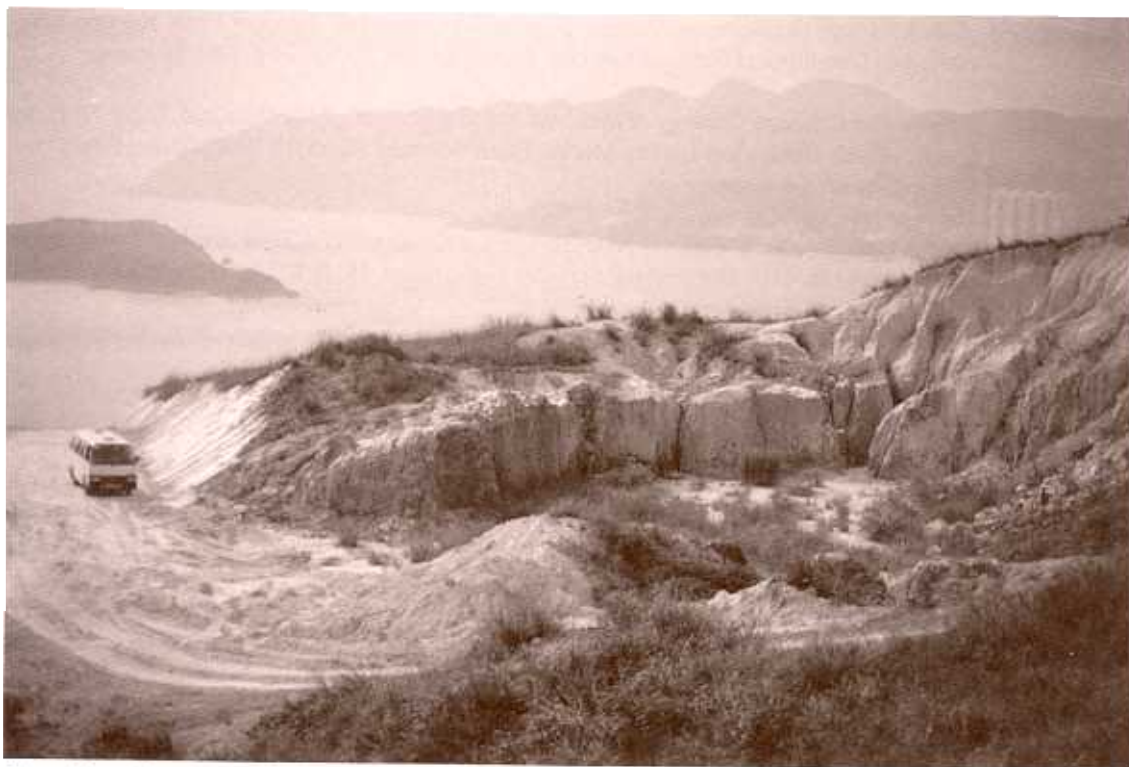


Plate 15 - Abandoned Kaolin Mine at Shek Wan (2726 2327)