

# Drains act as paths to hideouts and secret forest trails

Last October, one Bukit Panjang resident saw a man inside a drain close to her Senja Road estate. The sighting led ST on a two-month probe, uncovering a complex network of drains that conceals the movement of various men as they make their way to hideouts and secret paths within Bukit Panjang.



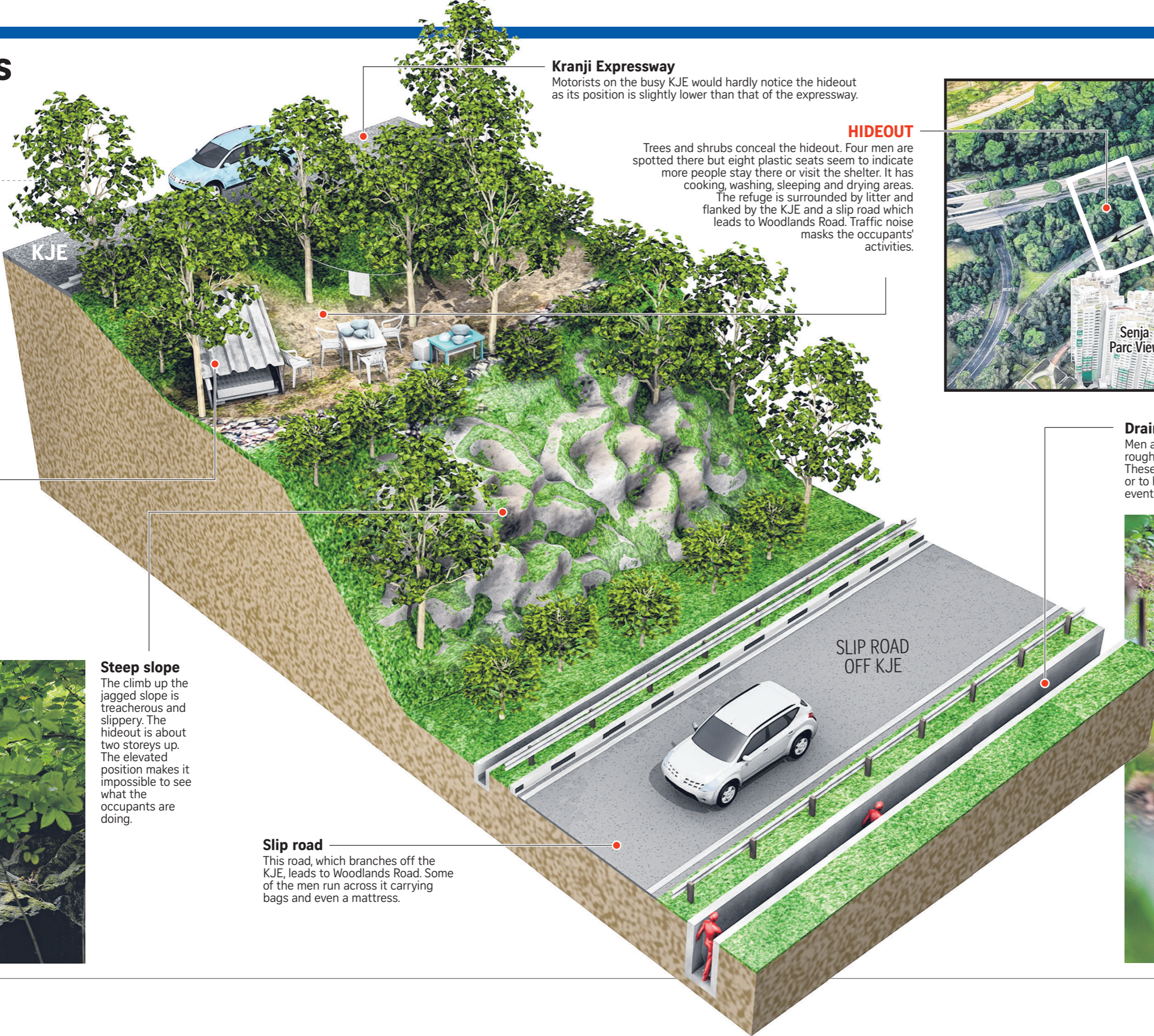
## Sleeping area

A zinc roof shelters a king-size mattress at the hidden encampment. Bags, pants and waist pouches hang on beams supporting the roof structure where luggage is stored.



## Steep slope

The climb up the jagged slope is treacherous and slippery. The hideout is about two storeys up. The elevated position makes it impossible to see what the occupants are doing.



## Slip road

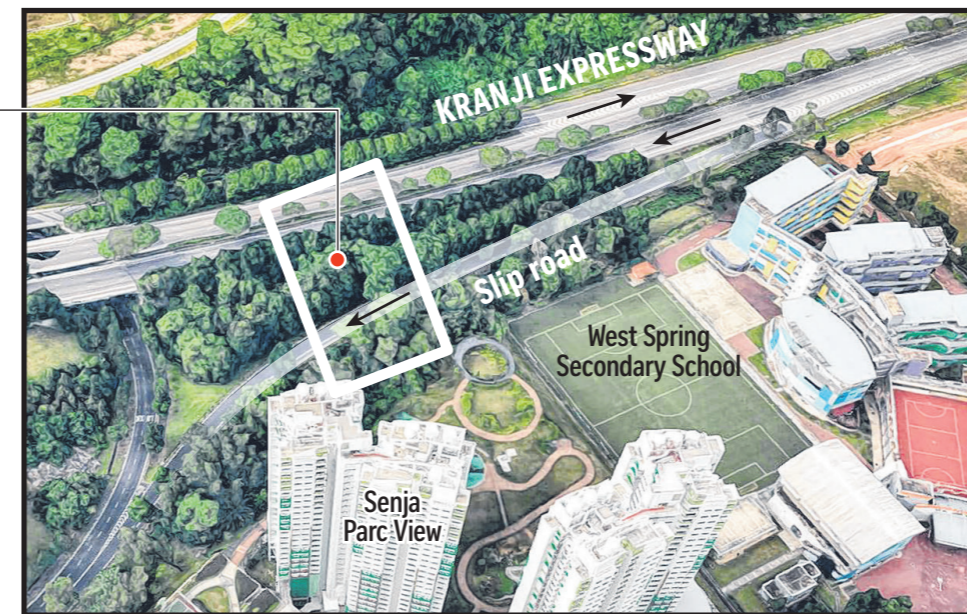
This road, which branches off the KJE, leads to Woodlands Road. Some of the men run across it carrying bags and even a mattress.

## Kranji Expressway

Motorists on the busy KJE would hardly notice the hideout as its position is slightly lower than that of the expressway.

## HIDEOUT

Trees and shrubs conceal the hideout. Four men are spotted there but eight plastic seats seem to indicate more people stay there or visit the shelter. It has cooking, washing, sleeping and drying areas. The refuge is surrounded by litter and flanked by the KJE and a slip road which leads to Woodlands Road. Traffic noise masks the occupants' activities.

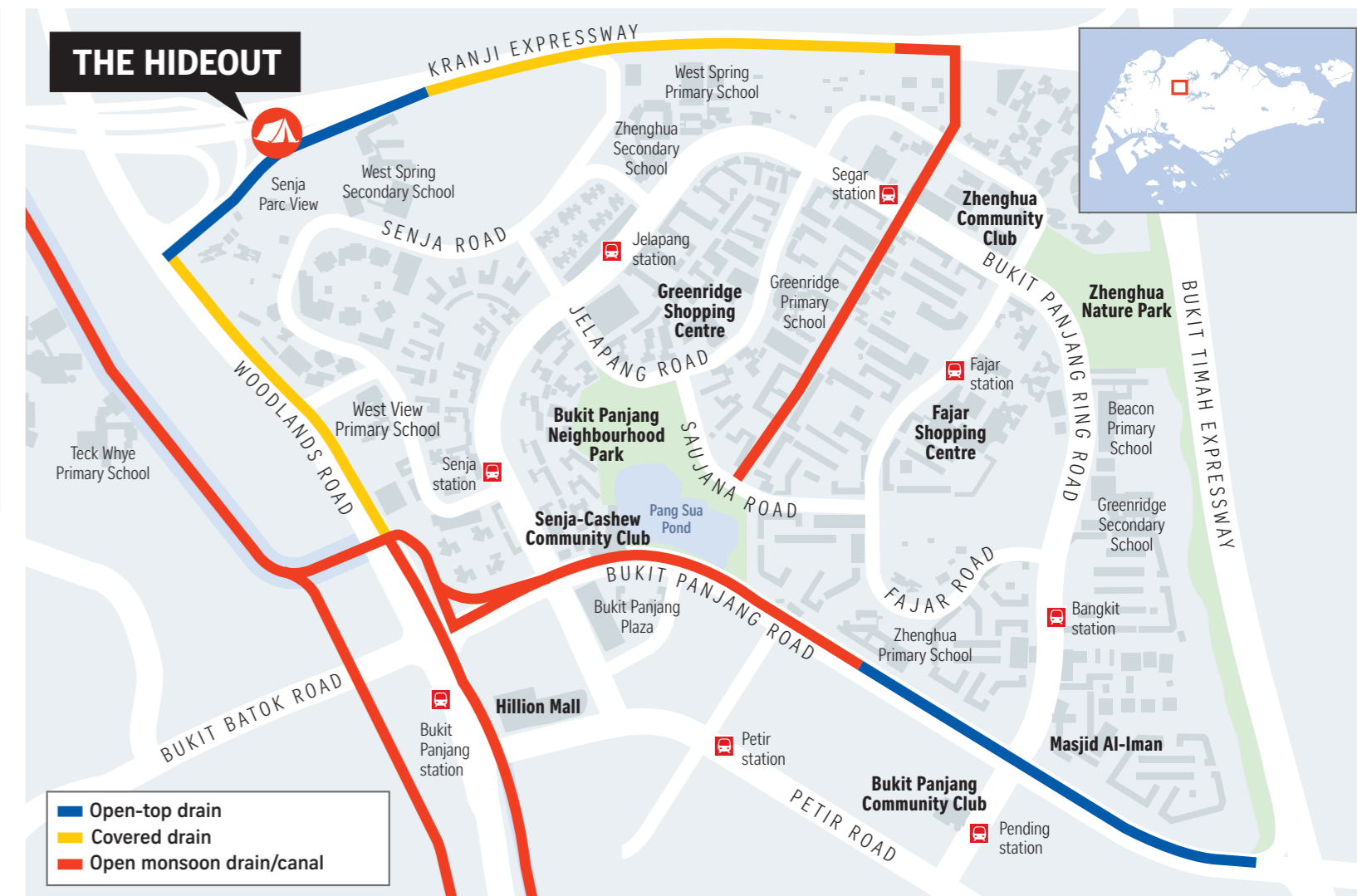


## Drains conceal movement

Men are observed walking in a shoulder-width drain, roughly 1.6m deep, that links to a network of covered drains. These covered drains allow them to head to Mandai Road or to housing estates in Bukit Panjang. The smaller drains eventually lead to bigger canals.



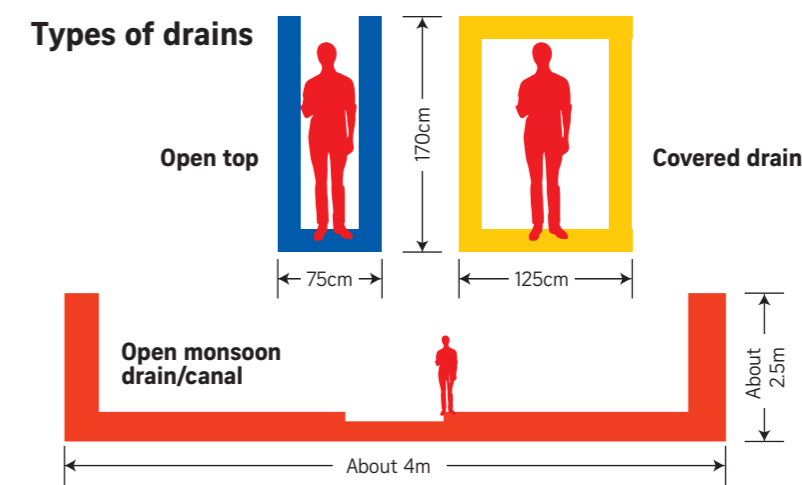
## THE HIDEOUT



## THE NETWORK OF DRAINS

The network of drains flanking the Bukit Panjang area consists of shoulder-width drains leading to huge open monsoon drains. It is believed that these drains form an 'underground highway' for illegal overstayers in the area.

## Types of drains



A drain close to Segar, Bukit Panjang, with personal belongings such as a brush. The drain connects Segar to Bukit Timah Hill and Mandai.