

**AN INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITE FOR THE  
PROPOSED "PARMALAT DAM" ON PORTION 103 (A  
PORTION OF PORTION 6) OF THE FARM  
BOSJESMANSDRIFT 174**

**Magisterial district: Swellendam**

Assessment conducted in terms of  
Section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Prepared for

**Storey Engineering (Pty) Ltd**

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Report by

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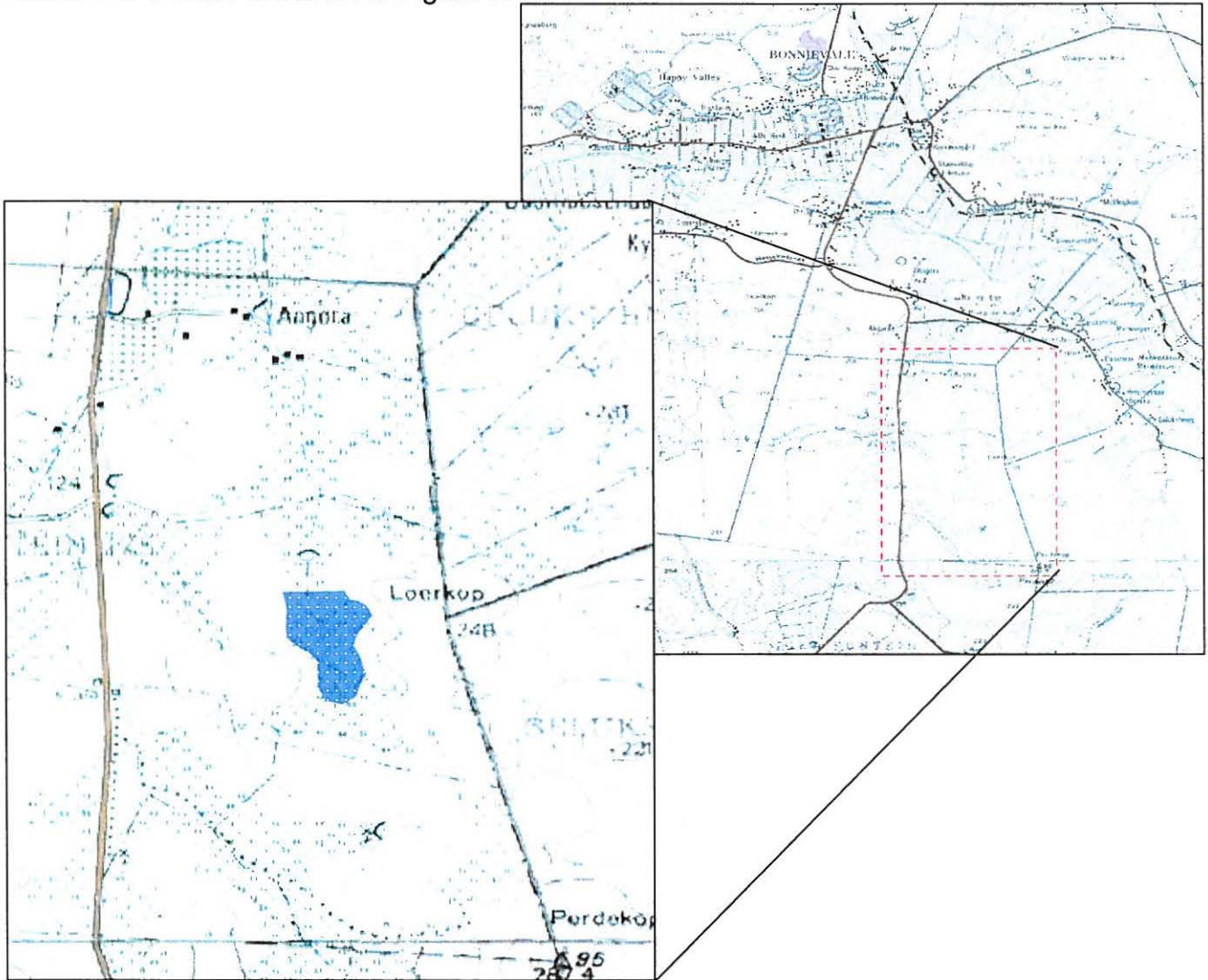
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Location

The Archaeology Contracts Office was requested to carry out a preliminary assessment of the site to determine if any archaeology would be impacted by the proposed dam. The location of the site is shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1:** The location of the proposed "Parmalat Dam" is shown within the rectangle (dashed red) off the R317 south of Bonnievale. The detailed insert shows an estimation of the extent of the dam basin.

## 1.2 Terms of reference

Parmalat dispose of treated effluent water by irrigating lands on a farm near their factory. The volume of treated effluent, particularly in winter, exceeds the capacity of the lands to absorb the water. As a result treated effluent runs off the lands to lower lying areas. They therefore wish to construct a dam which will serve as buffer / temporary storage for the treated effluent.

The construction of the dam is deemed to have a minimal impact on the environment, but we need to have this confirmed by initial specialist investigations. This done, and provided our

views are confirmed, we will, on behalf of Parmalat, apply for exemption from the EIA processes.

A small earth dam exists immediately to the north of the proposed new dam and at least 4 more are present in the vicinity

## 2. METHODS

The site was visited on the 27<sup>th</sup> July by Mr D. Halkett. The site of the proposed dam wall was located and inspected, and the dam basin was assessed for heritage sites. Since the dam is still in early planning stage, no precise details could be supplied. The inspection can be seen as a pre-planning exercise to determine if any impacts are likely to occur or not. It was easy to estimate from the topography where the likely basin and maximum FSL would be when flooded. Visibility of the ground surface was good to excellent.

## 3. OBSERVATIONS

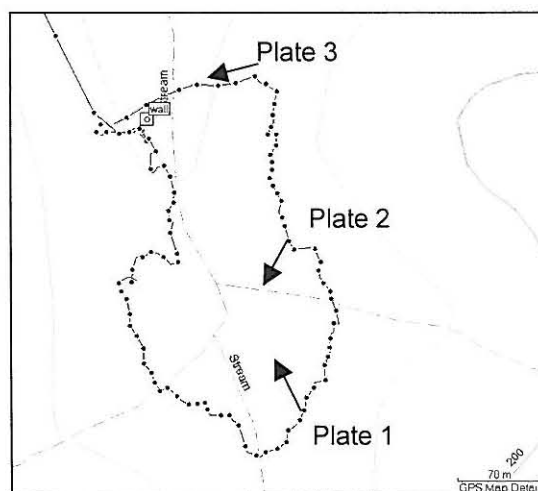
The area was assessed on foot. No archaeological sites, structures or graves were identified within the footprint of the proposed dam. No rocky outcrops or other foci were identified as likely sites for occupation or other types of activity.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In my opinion, a moderately sized earth walled dam will have no impact on archaeological sites. Lying in a shallow valley, the site is shielded from the nearest public road and no visual impact is anticipated. An earth walled dam is consistent with the current agricultural usage and would not be out of place.

Subject to approval by HWC, no further heritage intervention is required at the site.

## 5. WALK PATH



**Figure 2:** Walk path around edge of likely dam basin. Positions and directions of photographs shown by arrows

## 6. PHOTOGRAPHS



**Plate 1:** Looking to the north in the direction of Bonnievale



**Plate 2:** Looking south west across proposed dam basin



**Plate 3:** Existing dam. Earth heaps mark geotechnical trials for proposed dam wall