

Heritage Overlay No.: 050
Citation No.: 082
Place: Former Clarke Dam

Other Names of Place: None
Location: 544-618 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd, Diggers Rest
Critical Dates: Construction: unknown (c.mid-late nineteenth century).
Existing Heritage Listings: The site, described as ‘Clarke’s Dam, Melton Shire’ is listed in the Victorian Heritage Inventory: H7822-0147
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE



Statement of Significance:

The former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest is significant as a rare and the third largest known drystone wall private pastoral dam in Victoria. It is also the third of the large dams in a series of at least four large and medium sized drystone dams built on the former WJT Clarke *Rockbank* station in the Shire of Melton. The former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest appears to be substantially intact.

The former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest is structurally and aesthetically significant at the STATE level (AHC D2, E1, F1) as a well constructed and visually impressive structure employing an unusual construction technique. Its random rubble form uses unworked bluestone, characteristically split fieldstone, without mortar, in a style that appears to be essentially based on drystone wall construction techniques, but using large stones. Its wall is roughly coursed, each course using similar sized stones. As with the *Rockbank* headstation dam, and the Plumpton dam with which it compares most closely, the dam contains an angle towards its centre. Its design is unique and slightly more sophisticated than comparable Clarke dams in incorporating a (lower) rear drystone wall behind its earth wall embankment, and stone-lined overflow channels at both ends of dam. Its intact rural context contributes to the dam's aesthetic. It retains its coping stones, and appears to be of high integrity. Together with other similar dams built on the Clarke *Rockbank* estate, it represents an innovative design solution to local climatic and geographical challenges.

The former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest is historically significant at the STATE level. (AHC B2, H1) It is important as one of the three most substantial examples of the series of at least four large and medium sized dams built by Clarke in the Shire of Melton as part of his *Rocklands* pastoral property. No comparable structure or group of structures, comprising long stone dam walls over wide shallow gullies, is known elsewhere in Victoria. This grand scheme was a local response to the particularly low rainfall of the plains area, the difficulty of sinking 'tank' dams in the shallow bedrock of the area, and the local availability of bluestone. Smaller Melton pastoralists and farmers constructed much smaller and more makeshift dams which were also variations on the same principle. The dam is also significant for its association with Australia's mid nineteenth century pastoral giant WJT Clarke, and his son Sir WJT Clarke, Victoria's leading citizen in the late nineteenth century, and Australia's first baronet. The dam is expressive of the strategic and inherent importance of the 40,000 acre *Rockbank* property to the Clarke pastoral empire, especially in relation to the fattening and delivery of sheep for the Newmarket meat trade. It also conveys a sense of the scale of the *Rockbank* station, whose domination of the Melton Shire was an increasingly acute grievance to local farmers, culminating in the break-up of the estate in the early twentieth century. It is a major relic of the era of large pastoral estates close to Melbourne.

Overall, the former Clarke *Rockbank* station dam at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest is of STATE significance.

Description:

The former Clarke *Rockbank* station at 544-618 Diggers Rest – Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest is a well constructed and visually impressive structure employing an unusual construction technique. It is c.85 metres long, and holds water. Its random rubble form uses unworked bluestone, characteristically split fieldstone, without mortar, in a style that appears to be essentially based on drystone wall construction techniques, but using large stones. Its wall is roughly coursed, each course using roughly similar sized stones. As with the *Rockbank* headstation dam, and the Plumpton dam with which it compares most closely (although the Plumpton Dam is more finely built, with roughly squared bluestone), the dam contains an angle towards its centre.

This dam would appear to be unique among the Clarke dams in having a slightly more sophisticated design, incorporating a (lower) rear drystone wall behind its earth wall embankment, and stone-lined overflow channels at both ends of dam.

Its intact rural context contributes to the dam's aesthetic, and historic, values. It retains its large coping stones, and appears to be of high integrity.

An drystone wall – perhaps early twentieth century - extends into dam area. Adjacent mid-late twentieth century works - a sugar gum plantation providing shelter to stock and a small farm workers hut, and 1974 corrugated iron shearing shed and sheep yards, enhance the pastoral context of the dam.

The dam is in reasonable condition, but maintenance appears to have been neglected in recent years; rabbit burrows in its earth wall are undermining the wall, and might pose a threat to the stability of the dam.

History:

Clarke's Rockbank Estate

On 24 August 1850 WJT ('Big') Clarke threw the administration of Port Phillip into turmoil by applying to purchase 20,000 acres of Sunbury land under a previously unused provision of an 1842 Imperial Land Act. Despite the strongest protests by existing squatters (including Rockbank pastoralist WC Yuille) he succeeded in purchasing 31,317 acres of this prime land. Clarke's consequent entitlement to lease three times that area of lands that adjoined this freehold (his 'grass-right') 'spelt disaster' for the existing pastoralists.¹

Clarke's grass-right entitlement didn't last long as during the 1850s most of the leased land was put up for auction by the Crown. However most former pastoralists could not afford to purchase sizeable holdings, and their reduced holdings (often just a 640 acre pre-emptive right) were too small to graze profitably. Former Melton squatters such as Yuille, Pinkerton and Pyke were squeezed out, some ruined. Those pastoralists who had accumulated capital - Clarke, the Chirnsides, and Staughton - soon dominated the whole Port Phillip district.² In Melton other substantial pastoral properties were the *Green Hills* station at Toolern Vale, and William Taylor's 10,000 acre Keilor estate *Overnewton* (which included much of the area between Mt Kororoit and Sydenham).

So during the 1850s Big Clarke bought thousands of acres of cheap Crown land to extend his Sunbury Special Survey south-westwards towards Melton, Derrimut, and the Werribee River.³ He purchased vast tracts of plains land (around Mt Cotterell, Rockbank, and Truganina), and also much smaller and more strategically located pockets along Kororoit Creek. One of these allotments - Crown Allotment 12, Parish of Holden, of 509 acres, purchased by Clarke on 29th January 1852 – was the property on which this dam was later constructed.⁴ Higher up on the same gully his neighbours the Beaty family would also build a dam with a dry-stone wall.

Over the next 20 years Clarke vigorously bought up small farms whose owners had fallen on hard times.⁵ Melton local Alexander Cameron explained that there was 'a very dry season

¹ Clarke, Michael, *'Big' Clarke* (Queensberry Hill, Carlton, 1980), pp.103-5; Batey, Isaac, RHSV manuscript (1910), p.4.

² Peel, Lynette, *Rural Industry in the Port Phillip Region 1835 – 1880* (MUP, Melbourne, 1974), pp.56, 129-131,133.

³ Clarke, Michael, *Clarke of Rupertswood, 1831-1897: The Life and Times of William John Turner Clarke, First Baronet of Rupertswood* (Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 1995), p.31

⁴ Parish Plan, Parish of Holden. The dam was constructed by 1916 (Sunbury Sheed, 1916 Army Ordnance Map).

⁵ Peel, *op cit*

with no feed or water and small farmers were forced to sell out, their properties being added to the Rockbank estate.’⁶ For example, while Clarke had easily obtained many thousand acres of stony dry land at Crown sales, he initially had been much less successful in buying the rich land adjoining the Kororoit Creek. Yet by 1892 he owned almost all of it. The few exceptions were mostly in the hands of other pastoral estates (*Overnewton* and *Mt Aitken*), or owned by small pastoralists, the Moylan and Beaty families.⁷

Clarke divided this vast estate into different stations including *Bollinda Vale*, *Red Rock* (both north of Sunbury, and including *Rupertswood*) and *Rockbank* (which extended south of Sunbury to near Werribee, mostly from Diggers Rest to Tarneit). The *Rockbank* station had originally been established in the early 1840s; the headstation of its previous owner, WC Yuille, had been at the Beatty’s Road crossing of Kororoit Creek, the location of the former Rockbank Inn.

Upon Big Clarke’s death in 1874 his son WJ Clarke (later to become Australia’s first baronet) inherited his Victorian estate, including 136,310 acres in the Melbourne vicinity, stretching in an arc from about Sunshine, Tarneit, Balliang, Rockbank, Diggers Rest, Sunbury, Bolinda Vale and across to the Hume Highway.⁸

The Development of Rockbank Station

Once freehold tenure to their runs had been obtained, pastoralists’ major investment was in land and improvements and no longer in livestock. Building fences and securing water points were the two first priorities, together with sheds, sheep-washing facilities and, more slowly, when finances allowed, building comfortable homesteads.⁹

With the appointment of William Francis Watson as manager, by the early 1860s work had begun on fencing, and drainage channels on the swampy ground around the *Rockbank* headstation. In 1864 disaster struck *Rockbank* when a fire destroyed many of the improvements. WJ Clarke, who was managing the estate for his father at this stage, was forced to build a new managers residence, new workmen’s cottages, and a new 22-stand shearing shed.¹⁰ The bluestone shearing shed, built 1864, with additions in 1884, by architects Reed and Barnes, is today one of the oldest woolsheds in Victoria, and included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

Apart from managers and workers cottages, there was no homestead built on *Rockbank* at this time. WJ Clarke lived at Sunbury, but although Big Clarke lived in the city, he spent a lot of time at *Rockbank*. Once a fortnight he drove the few miles out there with his stock agent’s two leading salesmen, William Hudson and John Murray Peck. ‘At Rockbank, Clarke was accustomed to make a personal selection of the fat sheep that were to be walked to Newmarket.’¹¹

⁶ Cameron, Alexander, ‘Melton Memoirs’ (MDHS), p.16. (This would have been in the dry seasons of 1861-65, which concluded with a destructive flood in 1865.)

⁷ SLV Houghton, Plan I 29 (15/5/1854); Parish Plan: Kororoit; ‘Shire Map Series’ plans, SLV, 821.1A (1892)

⁸ Peel, *op.cit.*, pp.130-1; Clarke (1980), *op cit*, opposite p.247

⁹ Peel, *op cit*, p.62

¹⁰ Clarke, 1995, *op cit*, p.36

¹¹ *ibid*, p.241

JM Peck's young son Harry, later to become a legendary Newmarket stock agent, used to ride out with the men, and. His memoirs carry high praise for the Clarke stock, bred under the 'genius' of the Clarke's overall manager Robert Clarke (no relation). They also suggest the significance of the *Rockbank* property:

'For many years the wethers and cast-for-age-ewes of English Leicester-Merino crosses from the Clarke stations travelled in on the hoof in mobs of 500-1000, week after week, right through the winters, and topped Newmarket for quality and price. Never since have we seen the like in such numbers for evenness of type and quality combined. Subdivision of the Clarke properties resulting in the dispersal of these flocks was a distinct loss to the pastoral community.'¹²

As was evident by Big Clarke's personal control of *Rockbank*, the station was a major part of the Clarke's operations, providing fattening for the stock, which could then arrive at Newmarket in good condition. Melton's Alexander Cameron also elaborated on *Rockbank's* two-fold advantages of in his memoirs. Firstly, 'the grass on the Keilor plains was sweet, and the property specialised in fattening wethers and barren ewes for the Newmarket sales.' Secondly, *Rockbank*, 'being so close to Melbourne market' allowed the drovers to 'start with the sheep in the evening and be at the market in the morning.'¹³

In 1873, when WJ Clarke was the President of Melton Shire, he was also bestowing considerable personal attention on the nearby Rockbank estate, rebuilding a number of its cottages.¹⁴ Again in October and November 1876 Clarke was reported to be improving conditions for his shepherds ... 'the huts are being pulled down on Rockbank and nice houses are being erected.'¹⁵ The other bluestone cottages that remain today at *Rockbank* date from the 1870s.

Big Clarke died in 1874 and WJ Clarke inherited his Victorian pastoral estates. Whereas Big Clarke was notorious for his parsimony, WJ Clarke was progressive and prepared to invest. While no references have been found to the construction of any of the *Rockbank* dams, it would be consistent with WJ Clarke's general approach to property if they were built in his era.

Before leaving on his 1874-75 Grand Tour of Europe, Clarke took great pains to organise the running of his huge estates during his absence. 'Each manager and agent was given a program to follow and told to submit monthly reports to him by mail.' 'Frequent letters also went to Robert Clarke, the manager of Bolinda Vale, and to WF Watson, in charge of *Rockbank*.' He sent them specific instructions regarding sheep, cattle, improved grasses and the preservation of the hares.¹⁶

A report on the property by the *Australasian's* 'Travelling Reporter' in 1876 advised that *Rockbank* sheep station was 40,000 acres in extent, and carried some 33,000 to 36,000 sheep (depending on the season), and some 800 head of cattle. The land was 'all open plains, with scarcely any shelter for the stock'. The station homestead comprised buildings of 'the ordinary description', with the exception of 'a fine roomy woolshed built of stone with a galvanized iron

¹² Peck, HH *Memoirs of a Stockman*, fourth edition (Stock & Land Publishing Co, Melbourne, 1972), p.97

¹³ Cameron, *op cit*, p.16; Clarke (1980), *op cit*, p.241

¹⁴ *ibid*, p.56

¹⁵ The *Melton Express*, 21/10/1876; 14/11/1876

¹⁶ Clarke, 1995, *op cit*, p.85

roof, fitted up with all the necessary conveniences'. No mention is made of the distinctive Clarke dams.¹⁷

In 1879 the local paper advertised that 'Stonewallers wanted on Rockbank Station. Apply the Manager.' Again in 1880 the paper carried an advertisement:- 'Wanted. Stonewallers on Rockbank Station. Apply The Raglan Hotel or Monmouthshire Hotel.'¹⁸ It is possible that the project was the large drystone dams that remain on the property today. If not, these advertisements at least add to the evidence - of the cottage building, and extensions to the shearing shed - that this was a time of considerable redevelopment on the property.

The Rockbank Station Dams

Pastoralists' first 'permanent improvements' after obtaining security of tenure were erecting fences and sinking waterholes.¹⁹ Provision of water was particularly problematic in the Shire of Melton as the plains area, situated in a rainshadow, has a significantly lower rainfall than the rest of the Port Phillip region.

The excavation of large 'tanks' (dams in paddocks or across 'dry' gullies rather than on watercourses) only began to come into general use in the 1870s,²⁰ so it is possible that the dams pre-dated this later solution. However the excavation of 'tanks' in Melton's plains districts would have been particularly difficult, if not impossible in many places, due to the very shallow basalt bedrock of much of the area. Unable to dig 'tanks' in the earth, the Clarke solution seems to have been to construct earthen dams across depressions and gullies of the district, probably built with the shallow topsoil (likely scooped-up with the aid of horses or bullocks²¹), which were then faced with a dry stone wall, built to different degrees of craftsmanship. Hence a series of at least four earthen dams with dry stone wall faces was built across the Clarke estate, mainly in the north around Diggers Rest, but also at the *Rockbank* headstation. (Two others may have been built on Clarke property outside of the Shire, one at Balliang²², and another south of Doherty's Road.)

It is possible that idea for and the construction of the dams evolved over years. They could date to 1860s, when the the shearing shed was built, or even earlier; it is also possible that they were a part of the capital improvements that are known to have occurred in the late 1870s – early 1880s when Sir WJ Clarke assumed management of *Rockbank*. By the late 1880s and 1890s another source of stock water - windmills pumping groundwater – were becoming widespread in rural areas.²³

¹⁷ *Australasian Travelling Reporter*, 28/10/1876

¹⁸ *The Melton Express*, 10/5/1879; 6/3/1880.

¹⁹ Peel, *op cit*, pp.108-109; also Brown, PL (ed), *The Narrative of George Russell of Golf Hill* (OUP, London, 1935), pp.373-374

²⁰ Hughes, Trueman, Ludlow, 'Wells and Underground Tanks', prepared for the Heritage Council of NSW (nd), pp.25-28; also Albrecht, CE, *Measurments and Drawings of Tanks and Dams*, Melbourne, Arnell & Jackson, [1885?]

²¹ In early days pastoral tanks were scooped out manually, with the aid of a plough and wheelbarrow. This was superseded by use of horses, and bullocks for very large tanks such as were built by the Clarkes. Afterwards there was debate about the economy of using steam powered ploughs and scoops, but these never seem to have been extensively used. (Cannon, Michael, *Life in the Country: Australia in the Victorian Age: 2* [Nelson, West Melbourne, 1978], p.221; also A Pepys Wood, 'Tanks and Wells of New South Wales, Water Supply and Irrigation', in *Journal of the Royal Society of New South Wales*, Vol.17, 1883, pp.149-189.)

²² Context Pty Ltd, 'Rural Heritage Study, Western Region of Melbourne' (Melbourne Western Region Inc, 1994), p.200.

²³ Hughes *et al*, *op cit*, pp.68-70; Pepys Wood, *op cit*

The dams are a major, distinctive, and perhaps unique legacy of the pastoral era in Victoria. They express the need for a permanent water supply within 3 or 4 miles of sheep pastures, and the major role of the *Rockbank* station in fattening sheep for the Newmarket saleyard.

The Break-up of Rockbank Pastoral Station.

By the end of the nineteenth century historical changes were afoot. The view that the Clarke and other local sheep-runs were holding back development had been long-held amongst many of the Melton population, and became widely popular around the turn of the century. At this time political pressure increased on the owners of pastoral landowners in Melton, and around the country, to ‘break-up’ their huge estates. Some of the Melton pastoralists – Sir RTH Clarke of *Rupertswood* and Samuel Staughton of *Eynesbury* – were also local parliamentary representatives in this period, and happy to maintain their family reputations as benevolent local squires. In 1897 Sir Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke Bart, the new inheritor of the Clarke empire, had mused in Parliament about cutting up 40,000 acres of his estate to lease to dairy farmers. He was under some local pressure to make land available for farming, and declared himself keen not to ‘disappoint public expectations.’²⁴ The Victorian Municipal Directory 1898 entry for Melton Shire made the first of a series of unprecedented reports on movements by big local landholders such as Rupert Clarke, Harry Werribee Staughton, and Harvey Patterson to sell and lease (often under the ‘share system’) large portions of their estates to small farmers and graziers.²⁵

This ‘break-up’ of the large estates coincided with major developments in farming in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, as new science, technologies, fertilisers, transport and markets enabled huge productivity increases. With inventions such as the Babcock separator, the development of local co-operative creameries and butter factories, and advances in refrigeration creating new export markets, dairying in particular suddenly boomed.

And so the beginning of the twentieth century marked a major new era in the history of Melton. It saw the subdivision and sale of thousands of acres of the Clarke, Taylor, and Staughton pastoral empires, and after the First World War, of smaller pastoral estates such as *Melton Park* and *Green Hills*. In 1905 the Closer Settlement Board purchased *Overnewton* and subdivided it into smaller farming allotments.

In about 1901-1909, and especially in the 1905-07 period, Sir RTH Clarke subdivided and sold the vast *Rockbank* estate, and most of *Rupertswood*, *Red Rock* and *Bolinda Vale* estates that had been so carefully acquired and tendered by his grandfather and father.²⁶ While he subdivided it for farming, the lots, especially in the plains areas, were larger than those sold in the area by the Closer Settlement Board, and many appear to have been purchased by established neighbouring farmers and smaller graziers. The first land sales of the *Rockbank* property, near Werribee, were held in 1901. In 1907 17,000 acres of the southern part of *Rockbank* were subdivided and sold. In 1909 it was reported that Clarke had sold all of the land in the *Rockbank* Estate around Digger's Rest.²⁷

²⁴ *Sunbury News*: 31/7/1897, 7/8/1897, 4/9/1897.

²⁵ *Victorian Municipal Directory*, 1898, and following years.

²⁶ Michael Clarke, ‘*Big*’ Clarke (Queensberry Hill Press, Melbourne, 1980), *passim*; Sir RTH Clarke Bart. sold the vast section of the Rockbank Estate that lay south of the Western Highway in November 1906; it would appear that he sold the northern portion about a year earlier. (PROV VPRS 560/P0 (35850); also CT Vol.3211 Fol.642206, pertaining to an 8000 acre portion south part of this estate; and also Shire of Melton Ratebooks from 1905-06 which record local farmers as owners of parts of the *Rockbank* estate.

²⁷ *The Sunbury News*, 24 July 1909, p.2.

In 1909 the 2000 acre *Rockbank* homestead allotment was sold to John Richmond Smith of Mount Gambier, who established a Merino stud on the property, and renamed the property *Deanside*. It may have been Smith who built the lavish homestead on the site (not extant).²⁸ William Angliss was one who bought part of the *Rockbank* property to agist cattle and sheep prior to their transport and sale at Newmarket (as the Clarkes had done).

Thematic Context / Comparative Analysis:

Melton Historical Themes: 'Water', 'Pastoralism'

Known comparable examples:

No other similar pastoral dams appear to have been identified in the Victorian Heritage Register, or the National Trust register. The VHR registration of the Western District pastoral property *Murndal* includes a 'dams and lakes system' that appears to be significant primarily for its designed landscape qualities rather than its pastoral utility (although one of the three listed dams is the 'Woolshed Dam'). There is no description of the construction of the dams, or note of anything structurally unusual or significant about them. Similarly, the lake at *Rupertswood*, Sunbury, with bluestone channels and edging, is an ornamental feature of a landscape garden.

In the Melton district there are a numerous large former pastoral dams. This dam is the third of the larger dams in a series of at least four large and medium sized drystone dams to have been built on the Clarkes' *Rockbank* station in the Shire of Melton. These dams are the subject of separate reports in this study:- the *Rockbank* Headstation Dam (Site No.443); the Plumpton Dam (Site No.151); the Diggers Rest Dam (Site No.077); and the Holden Road Dam (Site No.110). These five dams are all marked on the 1916 Sunbury Army Ordnance Map in the Shire of Melton.

Several other former Clarke property dams have recently been identified through historical maps, survey and aerial photographs. One of these sites, on Sections 32 and 33, Parish of Maribyrnong, on the north-east corner of the Melton Highway and Plumpton Road, as two dams. The larger one is smaller than both the *Rockbank* Headstation and Plumpton Dams, but may also be of drystone wall construction. They do not appear on the 1916 Ordnance Map, but this is not conclusive (the Beaty dam also does not show on this map). An inspection of these dams would be required to validate this information.

The other dam is situated to the west of Troups Road, on Crown Allotment 2, Section 4, Parish of Pywheatjorrk. It is constructed of fieldstone, and may date to the Clarke ownership.

It is also likely that there is another one of the *Rockbank* estate dams in the adjacent Shire of Wyndham. The 1938 plan shows a dam on a former Clarke property in the Shire of Werribee, south of Doherty's Road (Crown Allotment 18, Parish of Tarneit). It is marked as 'tank'. This may be the southernmost of the *Rockbank* estate drystone wall dams.

There is also a dry stone wall dam substantially constructed of fieldstone, with several walls on several sides, and across part of the dam, at 847-1071 Blackhill Road Diggers Rest. This dam would have been built by the Beaty family.

²⁸ MDHS Notes state that it may have dated to 1880 but there is no information of the Clarkes building a major homestead there. The Clarkes themselves lived at *Rupertswood* in Sunbury and *Clivedon* in East Melbourne.

The Western Region Rural Heritage Study also includes a dam (which it did not view or assess), described as the ‘WJT Clarke Dam, Ripleys Road, Balliang’.²⁹

The other comparable drystone wall dam in the Shire is situated on the former property of the Beaty family (*Rocklands*) also in Coimadai - Diggers Rests Road (Site No.164). It is also the subject of a separate report in this study.

There are also several surviving former large pastoral dams in the area associated with William Taylor’s *Overnewton* pastoral estate. One of these is in the City of Brimbank:- Taylors Dam, now the ‘lake’ of Taylor’s Lake, on Chichester Drive, Taylors Lakes. It is described as:- ‘Unlike the other large stone-walled dams associated with large pastoral runs [M19 (Deanside), and M34 (Plumpton Park Dam)] Taylors Dam has an earthen wall and stone and concrete overflow. Its size is comparable to the dam on the Colglenn property.’³⁰ This dam is not comparable to the *Rockbank* drystone wall dams.

Another former Taylor dam is situated in the Shire of Melton (Site 444), on a gully tributary to the Kororoit Creek, north of Taylors Road, and west of Gourlay Road. This site is interesting in that, unlike the *Rockbank* dams, it appears to have been provided with its own site in the subdivision of *Overnewton*, perhaps to enable all of the new farmers to access it. It is a large dam that still holds water. It is an earthen walled dam built across a gully, with a little fieldstone shoring. Structurally it is not comparable with the *Rockbank* drystone wall dams. Neither is it as high, or as extensive in its use of fieldstone in construction, as the more similar *Rockbank* Holden Road dam (Site 110).

Condition:

Fair

Integrity:

Substantially Intact

Recommendations:

Recommended for inclusion in the:

- Victorian Heritage Register
- Melton Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay

Recommended Heritage Overlay Schedule Controls:

External Paint Controls:	<i>No</i>
Internal Alteration Controls:	<i>No</i>
Tree Controls:	<i>No</i>
Outbuildings and/or Fences:	<i>No</i>

Other Recommendations:

- The dam structure appears to be threatened by rabbit burrows. A Conservation Management Plan is recommended to assess and respond to any threats of the structure.

²⁹ Context, *op cit*, Site W73, p.200

³⁰ *ibid*, Site K30, p.89

