

2 – INVESTIGATIONS PRIOR TO ON-SITE INSPECTION

The first step toward assessing the feasibility of building a farm dam is to collect data in preparation for the on-site inspection. There are two common ways to obtain basic property information – via an interview with the farmer, and by conducting a map study. These are detailed below.

2.1 Farmer Interview

This interview can be done over the phone with the aim of obtaining the following information:

- Property description and contact details
- Current water availability
- Proposed dam location, type and proximity to irrigation area
- Rough estimate of catchment area
- Cropping details (area, crops, rotations)

2.2 Map Study

Before visiting a site it is worthwhile obtaining a range of maps, which will provide information on the property and surrounding areas.

- A BLIN (Basic Land Information Network) map is inexpensive and is available from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NRM). This will provide information on land tenure in the area and will identify items such as easements and road reserves. These are commonly found on farming land, but are frequently overlooked during planning processes.
- Topographical maps aid in delineating the catchment area and are available from SUNMAP.
- Recent aerial photographs, available from NRM, indicate objects such as tree groupings and building locations.
- Soil maps indicate the common soil types in an area and are found in Land Management Manuals, also available from NRM.

Figure 2.1 to 2.4 show typical examples of these maps.

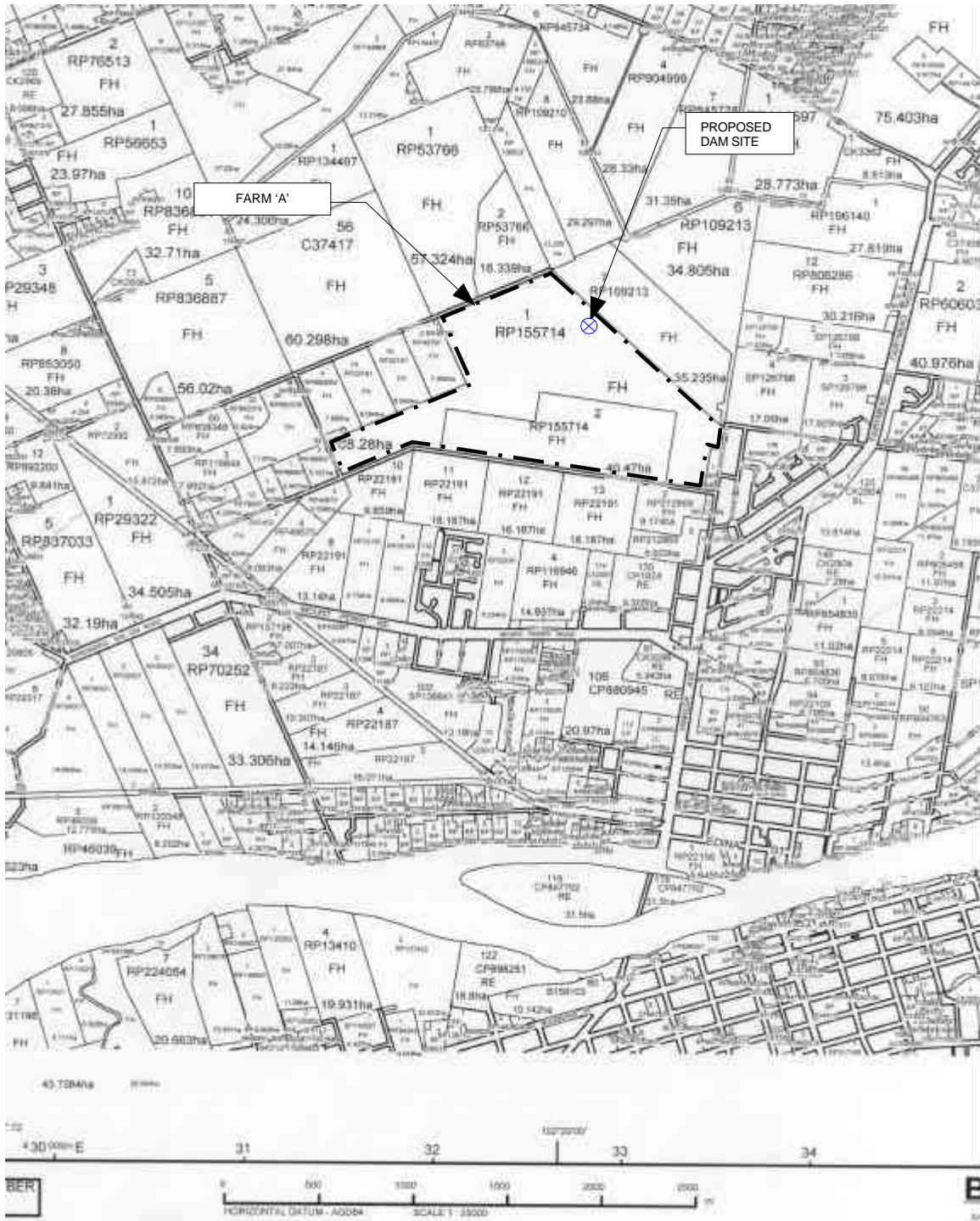


FIGURE 2-1 – EXAMPLE BLIN MAP (CADASTRAL PLAN)



FIGURE 2-2 – EXAMPLE 1:25,000 TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



FIGURE 2-3 – EXAMPLE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

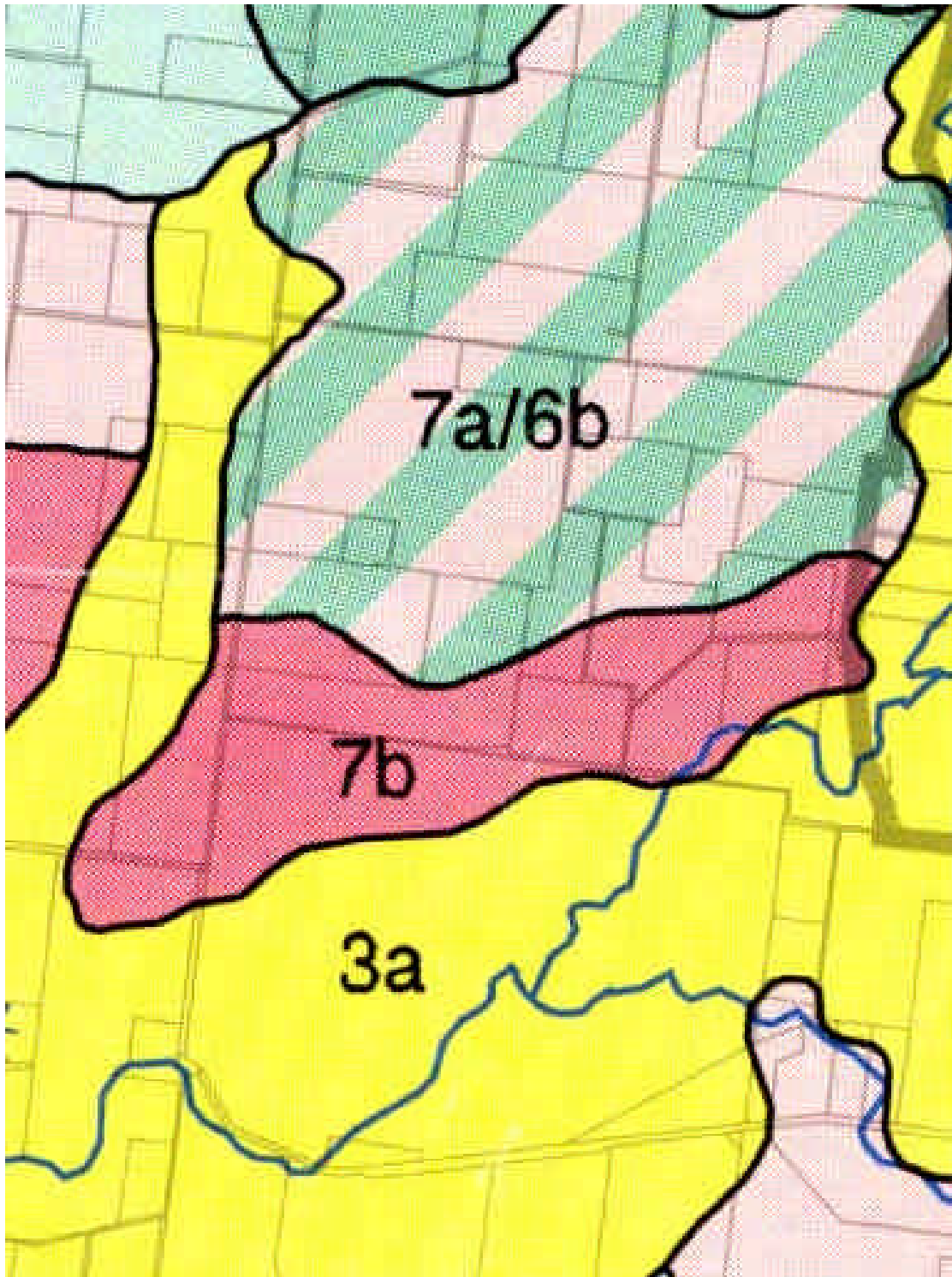


FIGURE 2-4 – EXAMPLE SOIL RESOURCE MAP