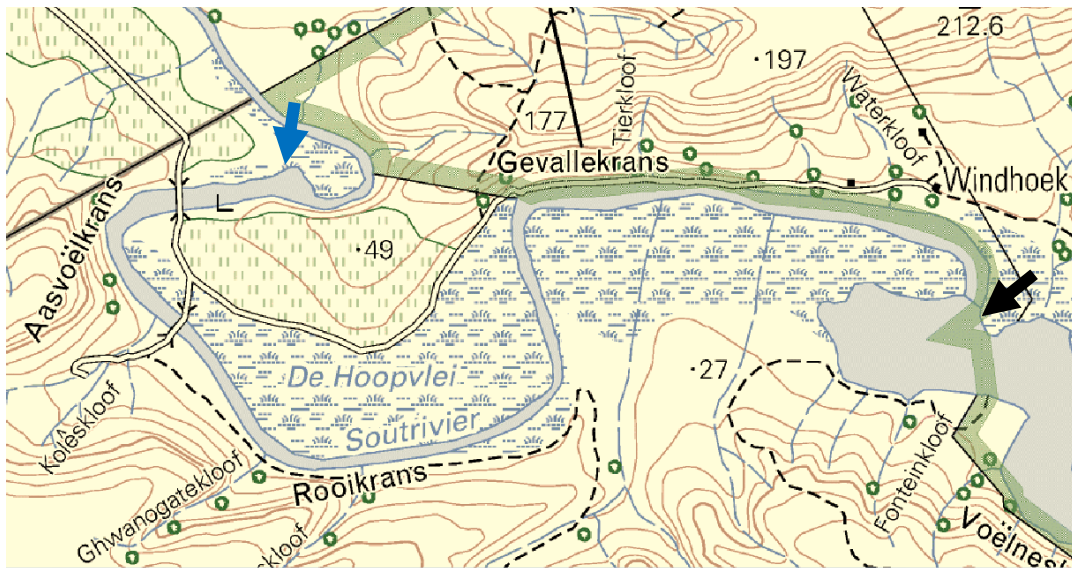


**M. SALT RIVER GORGE**

**Field Note M6a. Hydrology - The Salt River Marsh**

***The marsh***

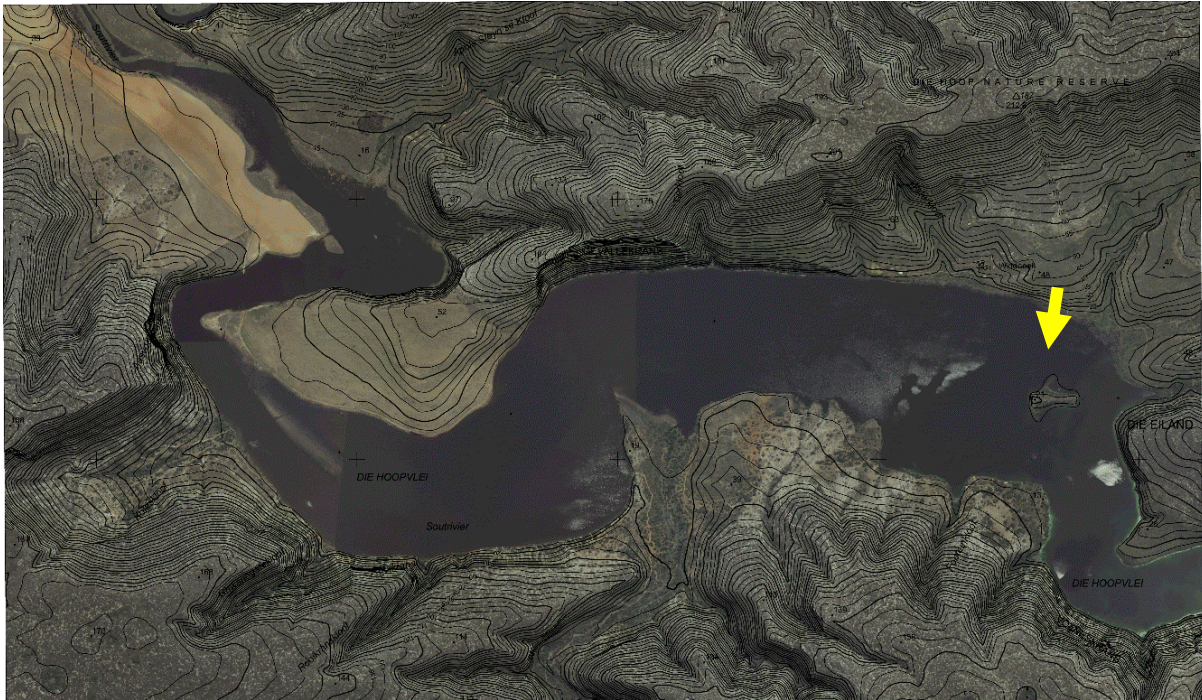
East of the concrete causeway the Salt River enters a marsh (the north end of De Hoop Vlei), as shown in Figure 1. The marsh is very shallow and in years of poor rainfall it is partially or totally dry (Figures 2 to 6). [The De Hoop Vlei was declared a RAMSAR Site (see Appendix X), but the marsh is not part of it].



**Figure 1. Topographic map showing the course of the Salt River from the entry point (blue arrow) through the marsh into De Hoop Vlei, near The Island (black arrow).**



**Figure 2. The Salt River enters the Salt River Marsh, east of the concrete causeway (yellow arrow). View to the west from Riverbend Hill.**



**Figure 3. Topography map (2014) of the Salt River Marsh when it was flooded. Note that the causeways and the roads along the shores are submerged and that The Island (arrow) is surrounded by water.**



**Figure 4. Satellite image (2011) of the Salt River Marsh when it was partially dry. The northern limit (arrow) of the De Hoop Vlei is south of The Island (which is connected to the shore).**



**Figure 5. Satellite image (2003) of the Salt River Marsh when it was totally dry. [The De Hoop Vlei was almost completely dry in that year]. Arrow points to The Island.**



**Figure 6. The dry Salt River Marsh floor. View to the east from the top of Koleskloof.**

Read about the Salt River Marsh vegetation in Appendix Y.

### ***The River bed***

In dry periods, the riverbed and the marsh floor harden in several forms (Figures 7 and 8).



**Figure 7. The dry riverbed. View to the west-southwest on the concrete causeway. The riverbed next to, and south of, the causeway is about 2 m below its top, or ~8 m above sealevel.**



**Figure 8. The cracked, dry riverbed.**