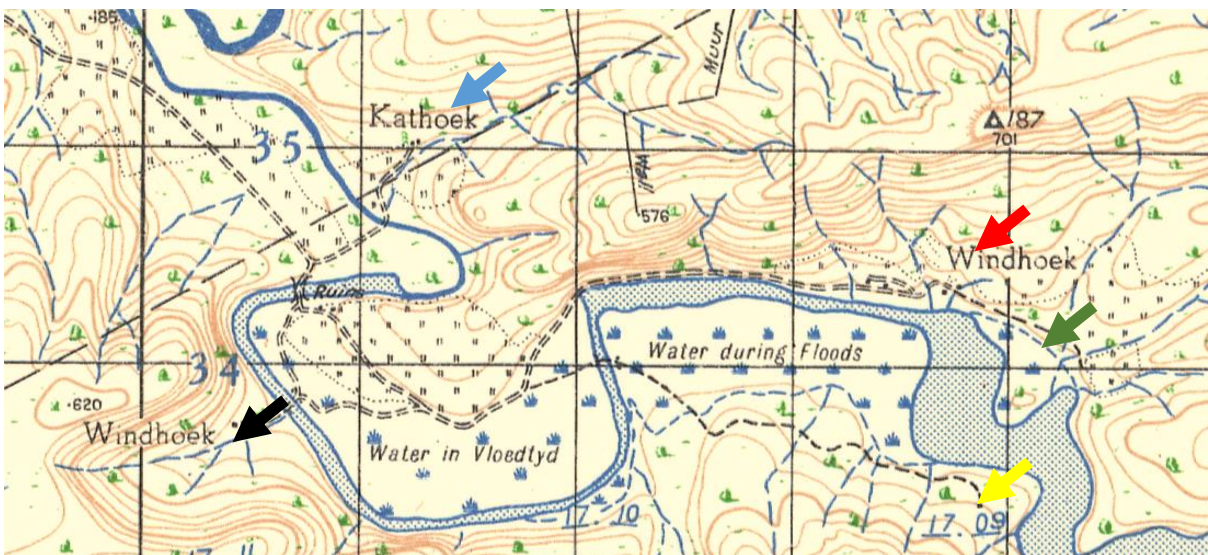


M. SALT RIVER GORGE

Field Note M7. Archaeology

The Salt River Gorge was inhabited in the past. There are two abandoned, historical farms on the north bank of the Salt River Gorge, namely the Kathoek Farm and the Windhoek Farm, and two ruins on the south bank, which were the outbuildings of the Windhoek Farm. The road, on the north bank was built by the settlers (Figures 1 and 2).



Figures 1 (top) and 2 (bottom). Topographic maps from 2014 (top) and 1942 (bottom) showing the locations of the historic Kathoek Farm (blue arrow; the present Kathoek farm is located 2 km to the north), historic Windhoek Farm (red arrow), the ruin in Koleskloof (black arrow), the ruin near Fonteinkloof (yellow arrow) and the historic road (green arrow).

[Read more about the history of the farms in the gorge in Ann and Mike Scott’s book:” The people of De Hoop Nature Reserve”, 2002].

Farms

Apolstein, part of the Kathoek Farm is located some 350 m north of the Salt River. It is now abandoned and in ruins (Figures 3 to 6). (The modern Kathoek Farm is south of, and next to the road to Wydgeleë).



Figure 3. Satellite image showing the location (arrow) of the historic Kathoek Farm.



Figure 4. The ruins of Apolstein, part of the historic Kathoek Farm.



Figure 5. The ruins of Apolstein, part of the historic Kathoek Farm.



Figure 6. The ruins of Apolstein, part of the historic Kathoek Farm.

The Windhoek Farm is located on a hill 100 to 200 m north of the Salt River Marsh. It is now abandoned and in ruins (Figures 7 to 12).



Figure 7. Satellite image showing the historic Windhoek Farm.



Figure 8. The Windhoek Farm. View from The Island.



Figure 9. View to the west on the Windhoek Farm.



Figure 10. The church on Windhoek Farm.



Figure 11. The church of the Windhoek Farm.



Figure 12. Newer buildings on the historic Windhoek Farm. They were used as offices and staff accommodation of the De Hoop Nature Reserve, some decades ago.

Ruins

The ruin in Koleskloof is close to the fountain (Figures 13 and 14).



Figure 13. Satellite image showing the location (arrow) of the ruin in Koleskloof.



Figure 14. The ruin in Koleskloof.

The ruin near Fonteinkloof is of a cottage, which was probably used by the shepherds of the Windhoek Farm (Figures 15 and 16).



Figure 15. Satellite image showing the location (arrow) of the ruin near Fonteinkloof.



Figure 16. The ruin (arrow) near Fonteinkloof.

Roads

A road was built by the settlers of the Windhoek Farm, probably to deliver the guano from the Guano Cave, southeast of The Island, (Figures 17 to 20).



Figure 17. Satellite Image. When the water level in the marsh is low, the road is exposed on a low dyke above the marsh floor.

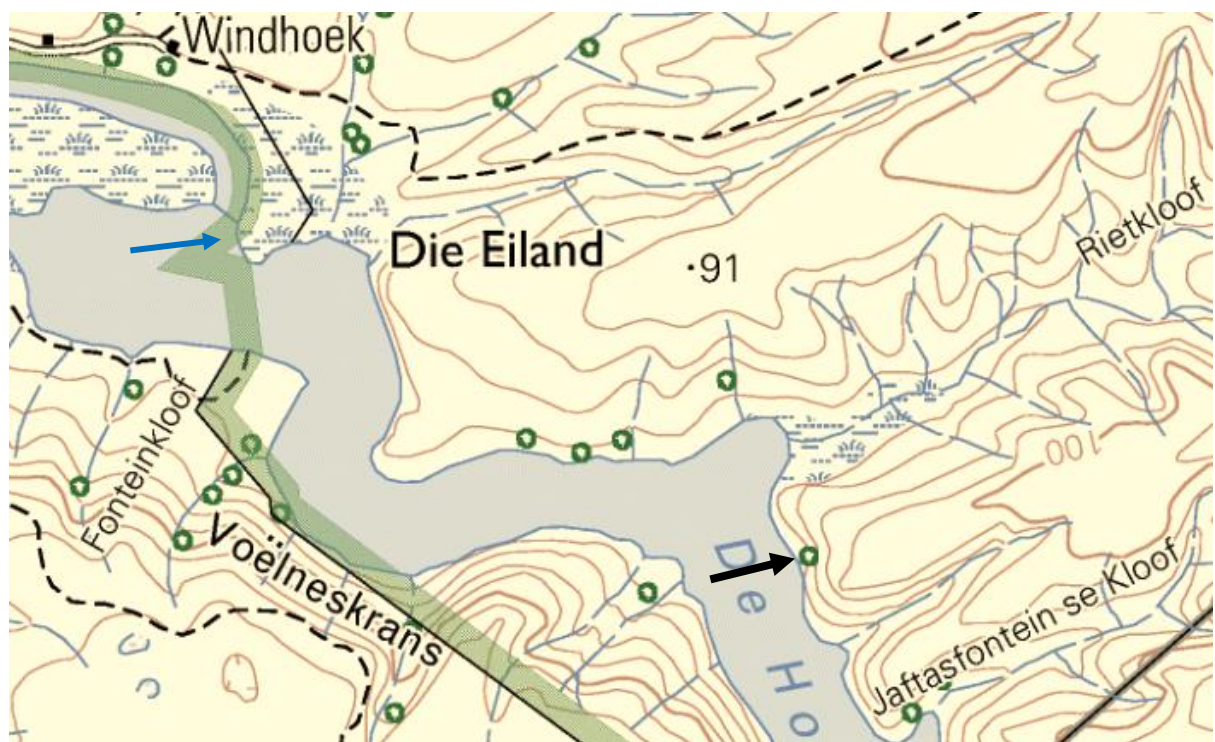


Figure 18. Map of the north part of the De Hoop Vlei. The Island location is indicated by the blue arrow. The entrance to the Guano Cave is indicated by the black arrow.



Figure 19. The road on a low dyke (yellow arrows) between The Island and the east shore of the Salt River Marsh. View to the east. The distance on the road to the Guano Cave is about 1.5 km.

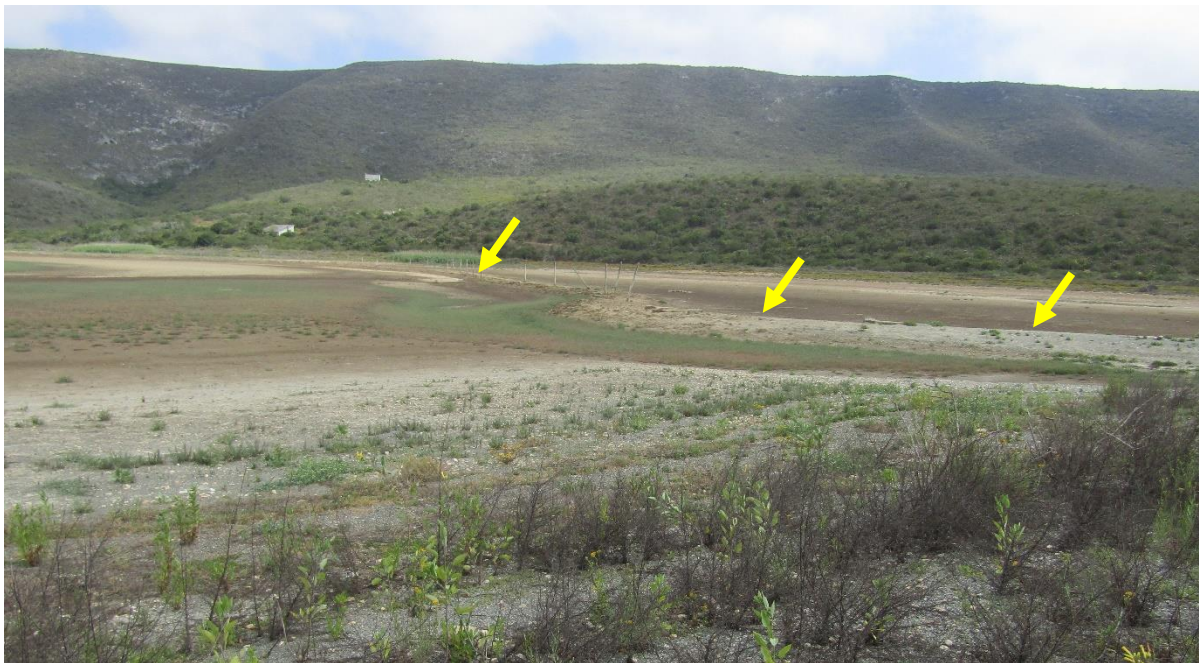


Figure 20. The road on a low dyke (yellow arrows) between The Island and the Windhoek Farm. View to the northwest.

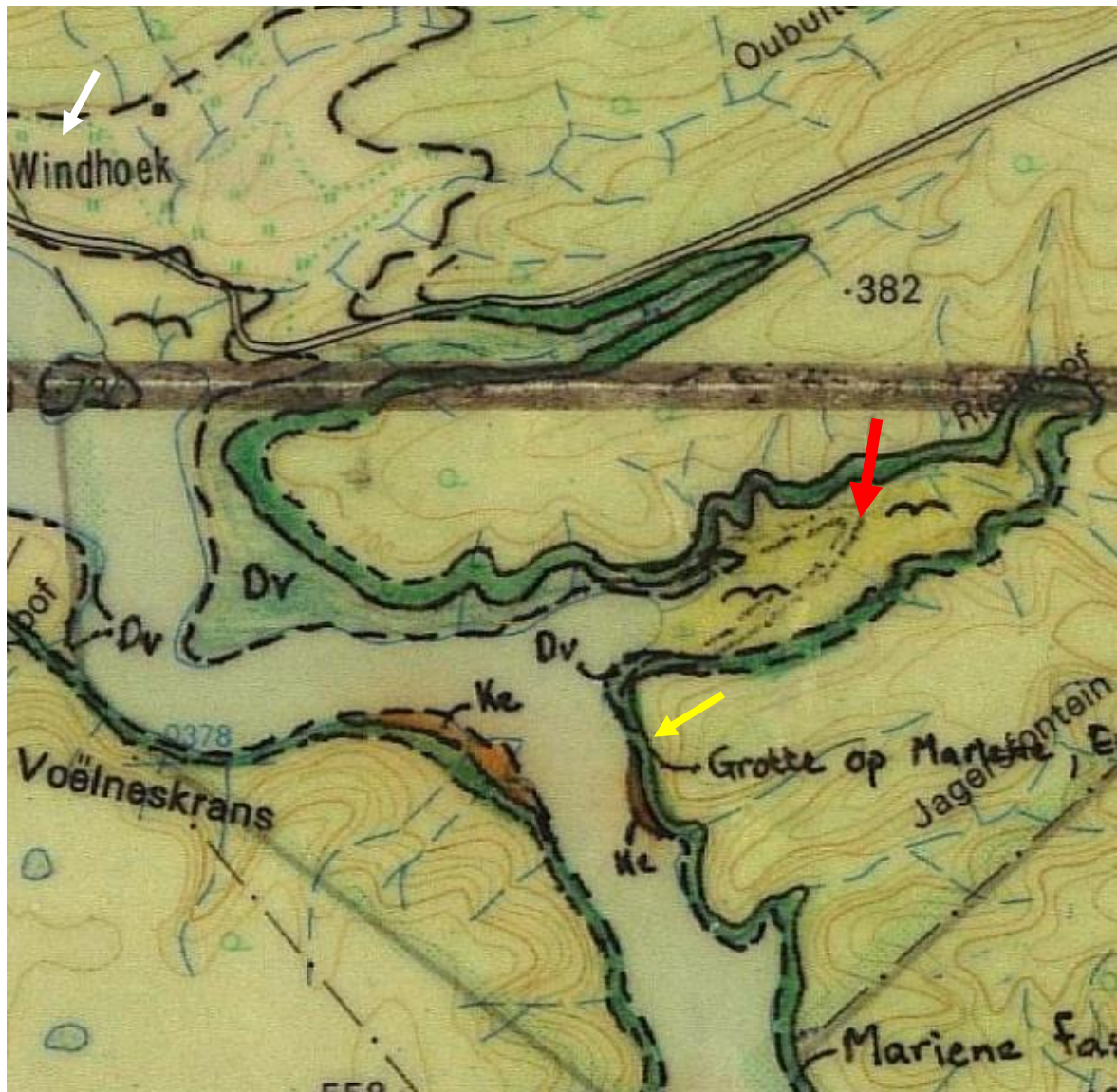


Figure 19. Section from the geology field sheet of the area. The red arrow points to what looks like a road, which took from the cave (yellow arrow) to the Windhoek Farm (white arrow), in the lower Rietkloof Valley. The Valley is overgrown and wet and could not be studied.

Human remains and implements

The Ghwanogatekloof may contain archaeological artefacts, according to a verbal report by Jean Joubert, a long-time resident of the area, and per the following paragraph, from the book "The People of De Hoop", by Ann and Mike Scott, 2002:

While searching for guano in a cave on the farm Windhoek during the latter half of 1949, Mr PSH ("Toekie") Badenhorst unearthed a collection of skeletons and implements (Grobbelaar and Goodwin 1952). These remains were housed in the Zoological Institute of the University of Stellenbosch but may now be curated at Iziko-South African Museum in Cape Town (?) The cave lies a few feet beneath a capping of Quaternary (probably Late Pleistocene) surface calcrete, below the level of the plain. The base of the cave is described as being more or less circular, 20' in diameter, the floor being covered by a deposit of bat and owl guano 5' thick. According to ML Wilson (2/9/92) nobody has been able to relocate the cave but it is possibly in Wasdam se Kloof, or between Rietkloof and Jagersfontein se Kloof, or in Ghwanogatekloof.

The following is a scan of the first page from the abstract of the article mentioned above (on archaeological findings in a cave near Bredasdorp), from SA archaeological Bulletin, 7, 1952 (with someone's hand-written notes):

