N. DE HOOP VLEI GORGE

Field note N2. Morphology

The De Hoop Vlei Gorge is situated in the middle of the Study Area (Figures 1 and 2). It contains the De Hoop Vlei, which has no outlet to the sea. It is separated from the sea by a ~2.5 km wide field of shifting dunes.

Figure 1. Satellite image of the De Hoop Vlei Gorge area.

The De Hoop Vlei Gorge is probably the result of faulting, of an earthquake, or by both (see Field Note N5).

Morphologically, the gorge can be divided into two major sections: a. the northern section, where the two sides of the gorge are steep and b. the middle and south sections, where the east side is steep and the west side is low and nearly flat. In the south, the Die Mond area is low with dunes on the south side (Figure 2).

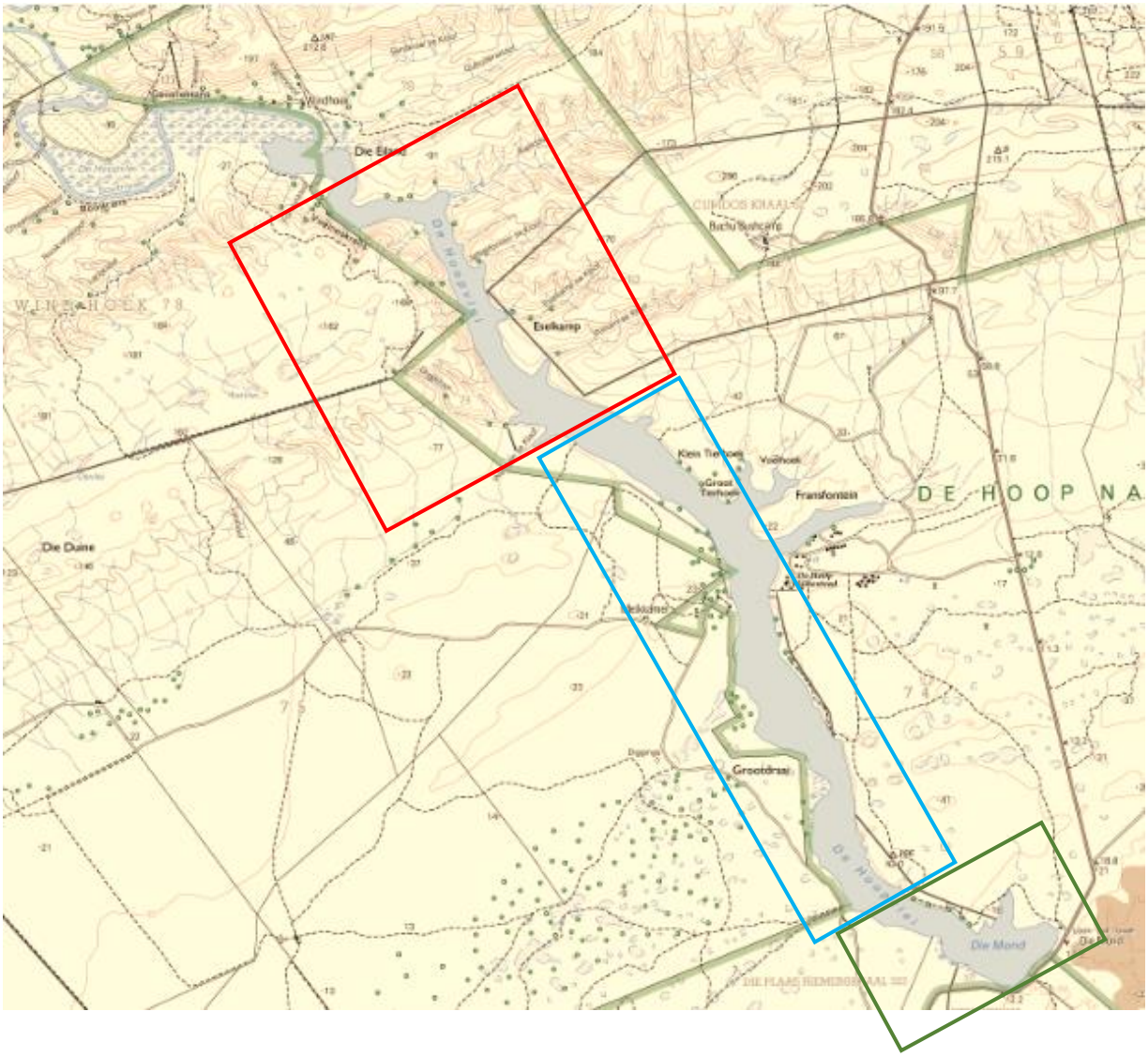

Figure 2. Topography map of the De Hoop Vlei Gorge area, showing morphological sections of the De Hoop Vlei Gorge. Red – the northern section, where the two sides of the gorge are steep; blue – the middle and southern sections, where the east side is steep and the west is nearly flat; green – the Die Mond area, where sand dunes form the south side (see Field Note N4).

Figure 3. Satellite image of the north section of De Hoop Vlei Gorge, which connects to the Salt River Gorge via The Neck (arrow) (name given by the author).

The north section of the gorge is narrow with steep walls, particularly on the west side (Figures 4 to 8).

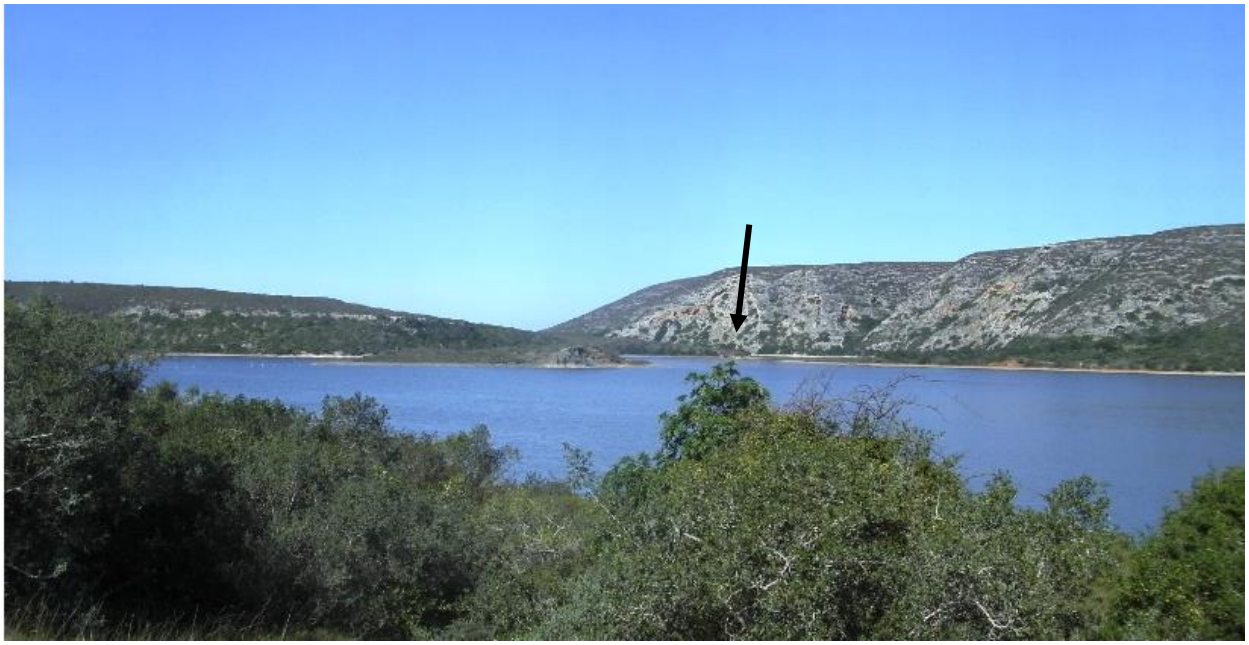

Figure 4. View to the south from the Windhoek Farm to The Neck (arrow).

Figure 5. View to the north from within the gorge the northern end of the gorge. Arrow points to The Neck). The east side of the gorge (right) is lower than the west side (left).

Figure 6. View from the hotel to the north into the northern end of the gorge (arrow).

Figure 7. View on the east side of the north section of the gorge.

Figure 8. View on the west side of the north section of the gorge.

In the middle section, the east side is characterised by nearly vertical cliffs and the west side is lower (Figures 9 to 14).

Figure 9. Satellite image of tierhoek. The cliffs are nearly vertical.

Figure 10. Topography map showing a section of the steep wall of the east side of the gorge north of the hotel.

Figure 11. Steep wall on the east side of the middle section of the gorge.

Figure 12. Steep wall of the Tierhoek coves, on the east side of the middle section of the gorge.

Figure 13. Steep wall on the east side of the middle section of the gorge.

The west side is getting gradually lower southwards (Figures 14 and 15)

Figure 14. The west side of the middle section of the gorge.

Figure 15. The west side of the middle section of the gorge, opposite the hotel.

In the southern section, the east wall is generally steep, while the west side is very low (Figures 16 to 18).

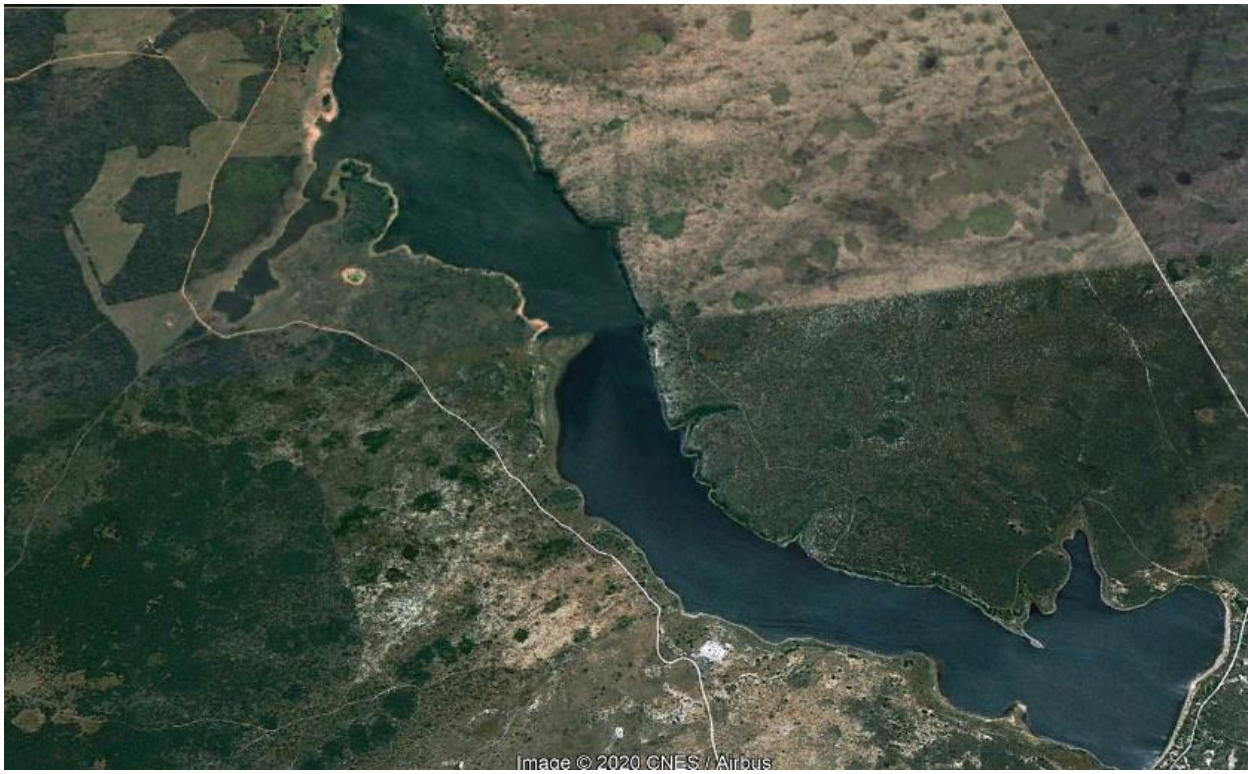

Figure 16. Satellite image of the southern section of the gorge.

Figure 17. Steep wall on the east side of the southern section of the gorge.

Figure 18. Steep wall on the east side of the southern section of the gorge.

The banks of Die Mond are low in the north side and flat on the south side (Figures 19 to 22).

Figure 19. The north shore of Die Mond.

Figure 20. The east shore of Die Mond.

Figure 21. The shore on the south side of Die Mond.

Figure 22. The shore on the south side of Die Mond.