

M. SALT RIVER GORGE

Field note M2. Roads and causeways



The causeway on the Salt River at the entrance to the Salt River Gorge.

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Roads

Two roads take to the Salt River gorge: the road from the west, which starts at the gravel road from Bredasdorp to Potberg turn-off, just before the road goes over the Salt River (Figures 1 and 2), and the road from the east, which bifurcates from the road to the gate of the De Hoop Nature Reserve (Figures 3 and 4).

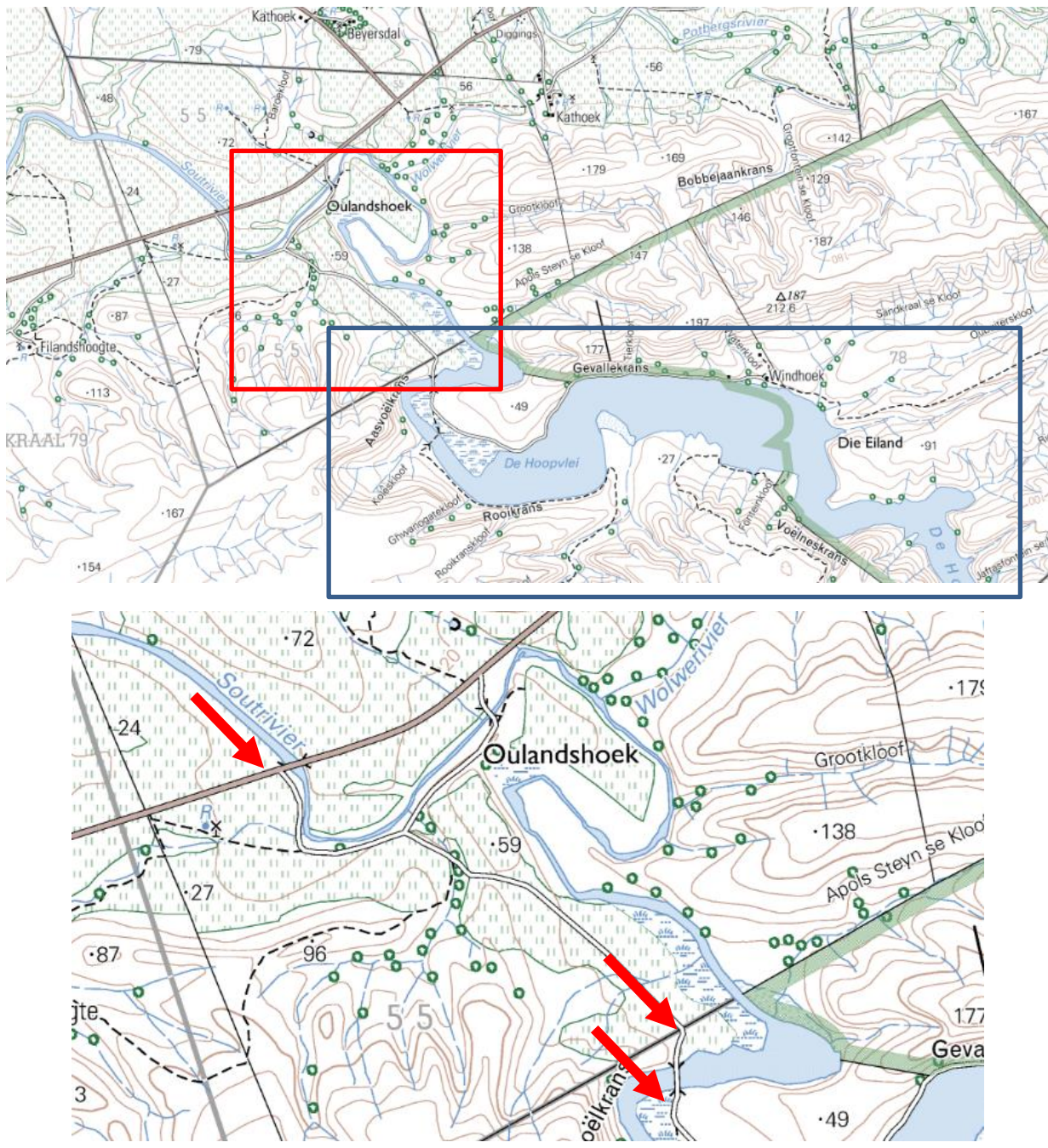


Figure 1. Top - the west road to the Salt River Gorge (blue box). Bottom – enlargement of the red box in the top map. There are 3 gates to get there (red arrows).

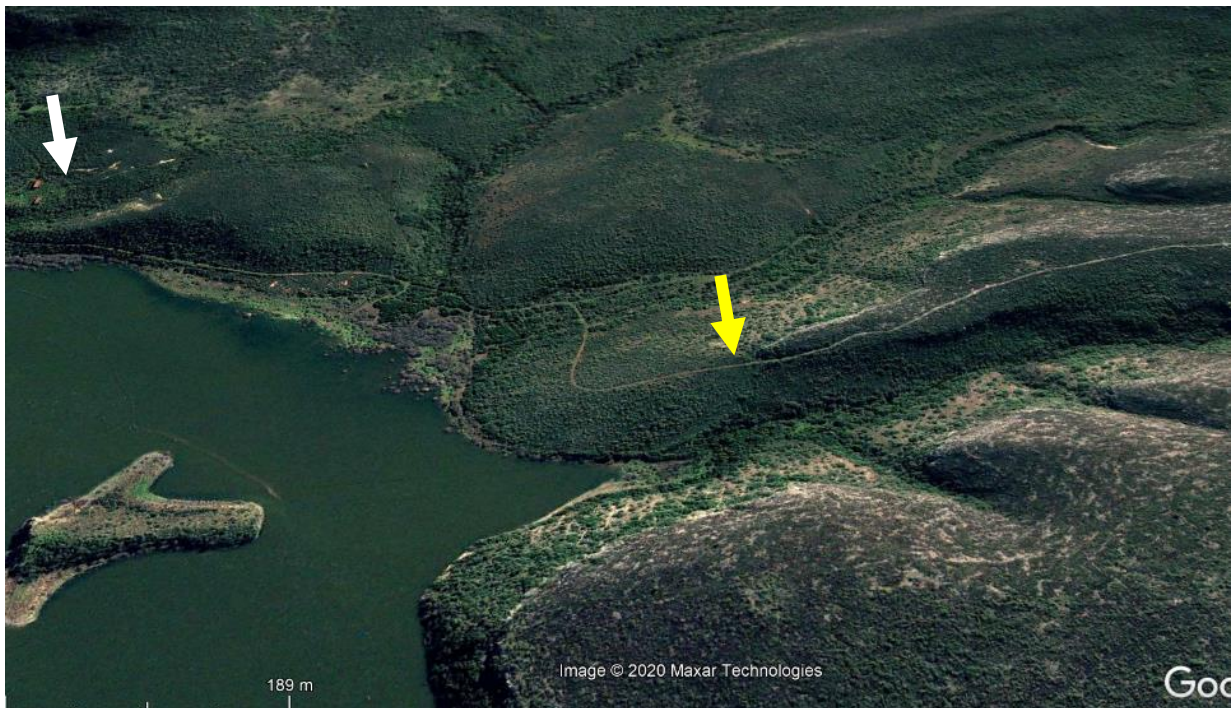
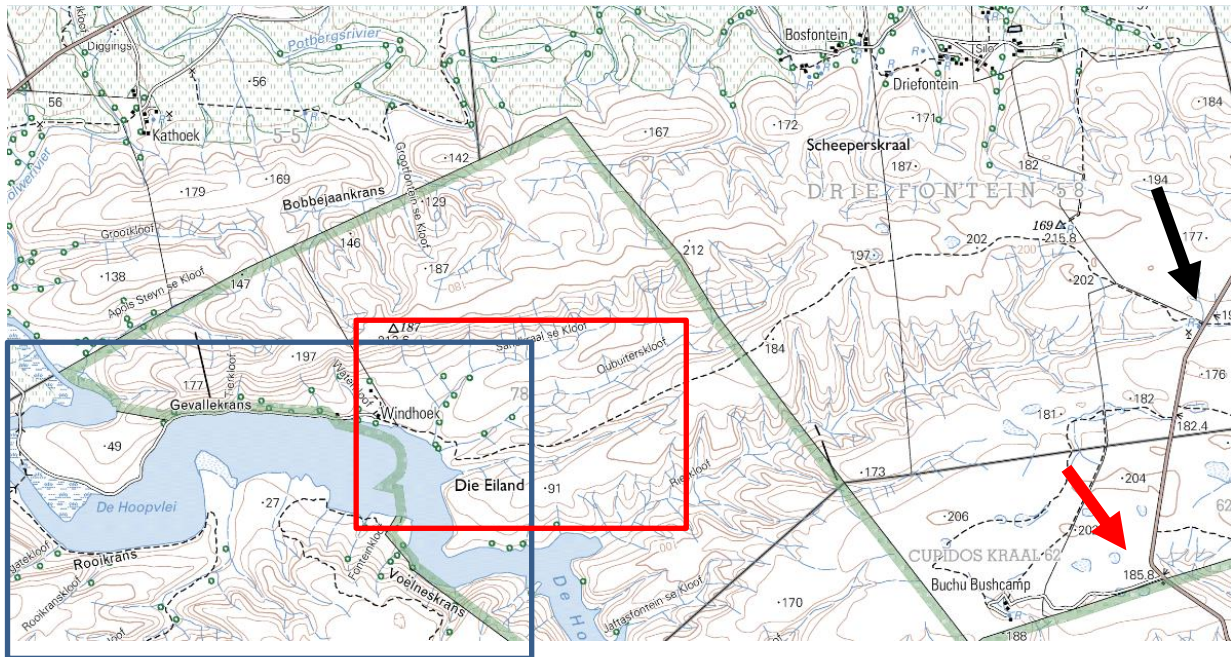


Figure 2. Top - the east road to the Salt River Gorge (blue box). There are no gates along this road. Black arrow points on the start of the road; red arrow points to the gate of the De Hoop Nature Reserve. Bottom - satellite image of the area in the red box in the top map. Yellow arrow points to the road. White arrow points to the buildings of the historical Windhoek Farm.

There are roads on the south and on the north banks of the gorge and a road into Koleskloof (Figures 2 to 4).



Figure 2. Topography map showing the north bank road (red arrow) and the south bank road (black arrow).



Figure 3. Satellite image showing the east part of the south bank road (arrows).



Figure 4. Top - satellite image showing the roads inside Koleskloof; bottom – enlargement of the box in the top image.

Causeways

There are three causeways over the Salt River within the Salt River Gorge. The causeways are exposed most of the time but submerged in years when the river delivers large quantities of water (Figures 5, 6 and 7).

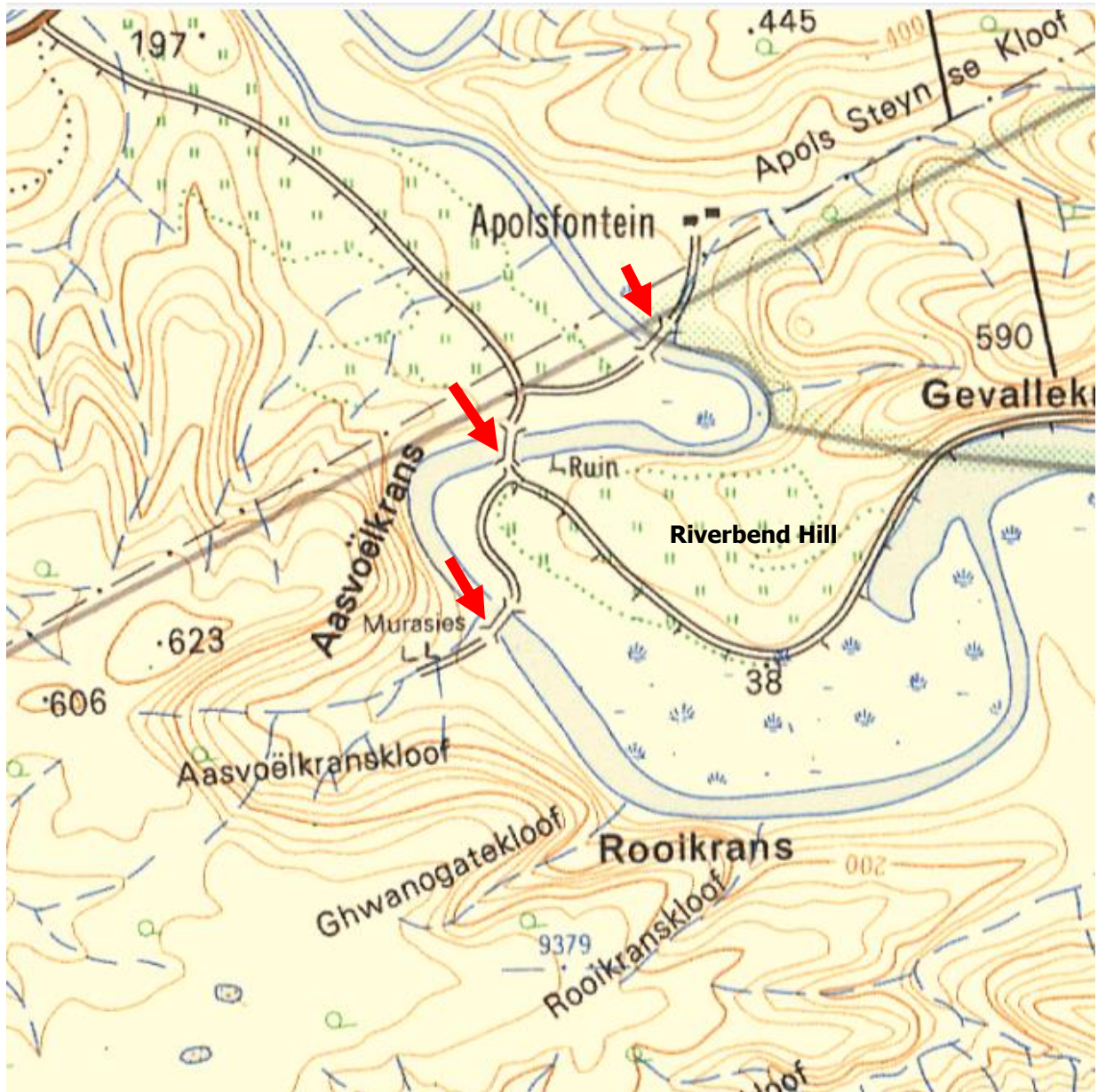


Figure 5. Topography map from 1942, showing the three causeways (arrows). The name Riverbend Hill was given by the author.



Figure 6. Satellite image of part of the Salt River Gorge from June 2018. The roads and the causeways are exposed.

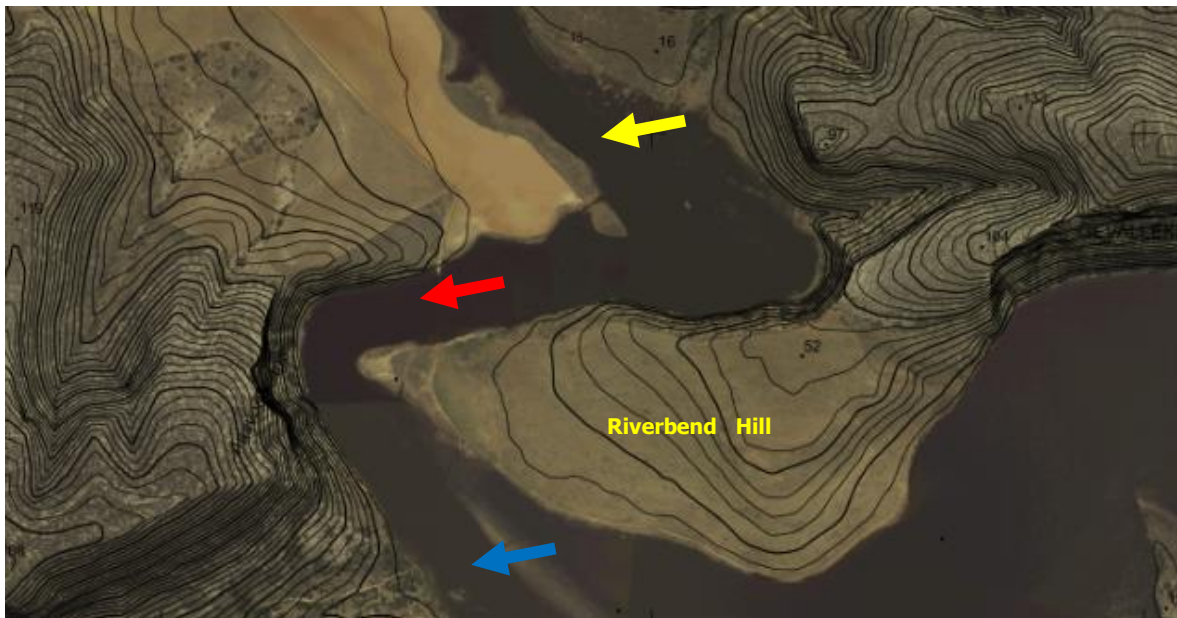


Figure 7. Topography map of the west side of the Windhoek Gorge. The causeways and the roads on the banks are submerged. Arrows: yellow - Apolsfontein rocks causeway; red – concrete causeway; blue – Koleskloof rocks causeway.

The following figures are closer images of the causeways: the Apolsfontein rocks causeway (Figures 8 and 9), the concrete causeway (Figures 10 and 11) and the Kloeskloof rocks causeway (Figures 12 and 13).



Figure 8. Satellite image showing the Apolsfontein rocks causeway (arrow), about 30 m long. Circle indicates the location of the ruins of Apolsfontein (part of the historic Kathoek Farm).

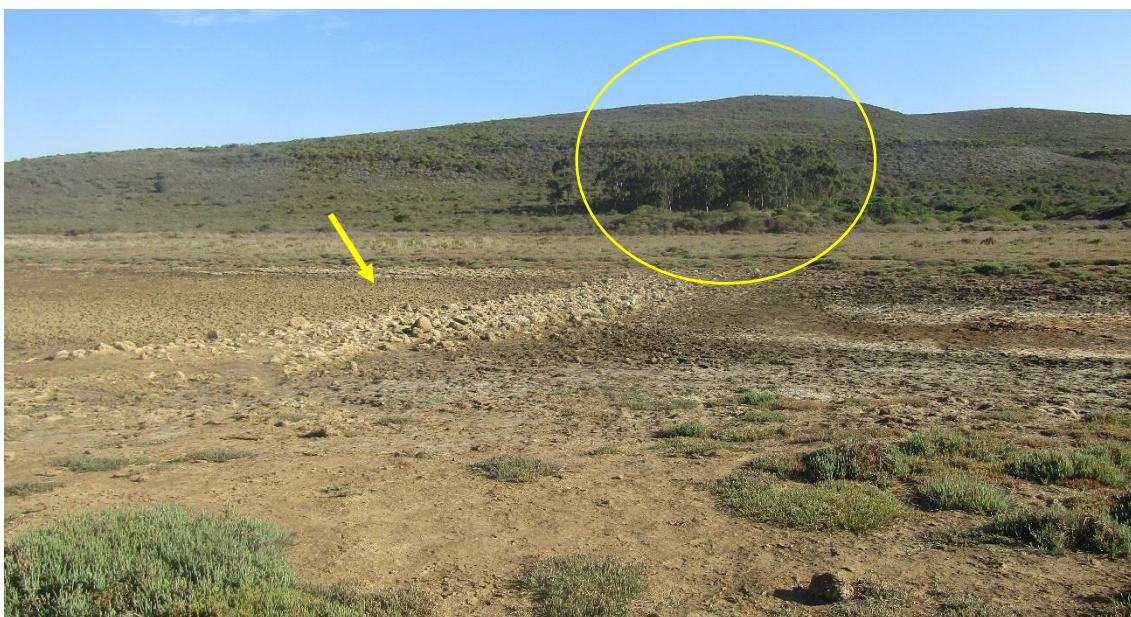


Figure 9. The Apolsfontein rocks causeway (arrow). It led to the buildings (now abandoned and in ruin) of Apolsfontein (circle), the south part of the historic Kathoek Farm.



Figure 10. The concrete causeway. View to the southwest from the Riverbend Hill. (It was built during the 1950s next to the old, rocks causeway; Figure 11).



Figure 11. The concrete causeway is about 85 m long. View to the south. The old, rocks causeway can be seen to the right (west) side of the new one. The riverbed is ~9 m above sealevel and the top of the causeway is ~2 m above the riverbed, or ~11 m above sealevel.



Figure 12. The rocks causeway over the Salt River, leading into Koleskloof, partially submerged. View to the west-southwest.



Figure 13. The exposed rocks causeway over the Salt River, leading into Koleskloof. View to the west-southwest.