

N. DE HOOP VLEI GORGE

Field note N4. Die Mond



View of Die Mond from its SW corner.

N. DE HOOP VLEI GORGE

Field note N4. Die Mond

Die Mond is the southern section of the De Hoop Vlei Gorge. It is separated from the sea by a ~2.5 km wide field of shifting dunes (Strandveld Formation), which have been deposited over the calcarenite ridges of the Waenhuiskrans Formation. (Figures 1 to 5).



Figure 1. Satellite image of the De Hoop Vlei Gorge area. Die Mond is encircled.



Figure 2. Topography map of Die Mond.



**Figure 3. Top and bottom - satellite image of Die Mond when the vlei level was high.
Arrow points to 'The Tongue' (name given by the author).**



Figure 4. Top and bottom - satellite images of Die Mond when the vlei level was low. Arrow points to 'The Tongue'.

'The Tongue' is mostly rocky and used by birds to build their nests (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Top, middle - 'The Tongue'. Bottom – view from 'The Tongue' to the east shore.

The northeast extension of Die Mond, comprising several dolines, was named by the author the Die Mond Depression (Figure 6). (See also Field Notes on archaeology in this Chapter).



Figure 6. The Die Mond Depression. Top – vleiside; arrow points to the depression. Middle – the middle part; the dolines are full. Bottom – a dry doline in the NE part of the depression.

The north shore of Die Mond is rocky (Figures 7 to 10).



Figure 7. Satellite image of north shore, showing the line of rocks (arrows).



Figure 8. Rocks along the north shore. View to the northwest.



Figure 9. View to the northeast corner of Die Mond. Calcrete is capping the thinning-out De Hoop Vlei Formation. Arrow points to the site shown in Figure 10.



Figure 10. The rocks on the north side of Die Mond disappear under sand and bushes, at its northeast corner.

The east shore of Die Mond is rocky and backed by dunes (Figures 11 to 13).



Figure 11. Satellite image of the east shore, showing line of rocks (arrows).



Figure 12. The southern section of the east shore. Arrows point to: black - the old road; yellow - the new road; white - the rock line.



Figure 13. The rocky part of the east shore. Black arrow points to the old road; white arrow points to the line of rocks.

The southernmost part of the east shore is sandy with calcrete capping (Figure 14).



Figure 14. Top, middle and bottom - views of the southernmost part of the east shore.

The south shore of Die Mond is nearly flat and capped with calcrete (Figure 15).



Figure 15. Top and bottom - the south shore of Die Mond.

Further study of the Die Mond area, when the De Hoop Vlei is completely dry, may shed light on the drainage of the vlei.