

N. DE HOOP VLEI GORGE

Field Note N9c. Archaeology - Roads, dykes and stonewalls



Stone-cladded dyke between the vlei and the dams in Die Mond.

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Several roads, dykes and stone walls have been built around the gorge and across it. This Field Note describes them briefly, from north to south (Figure 1).

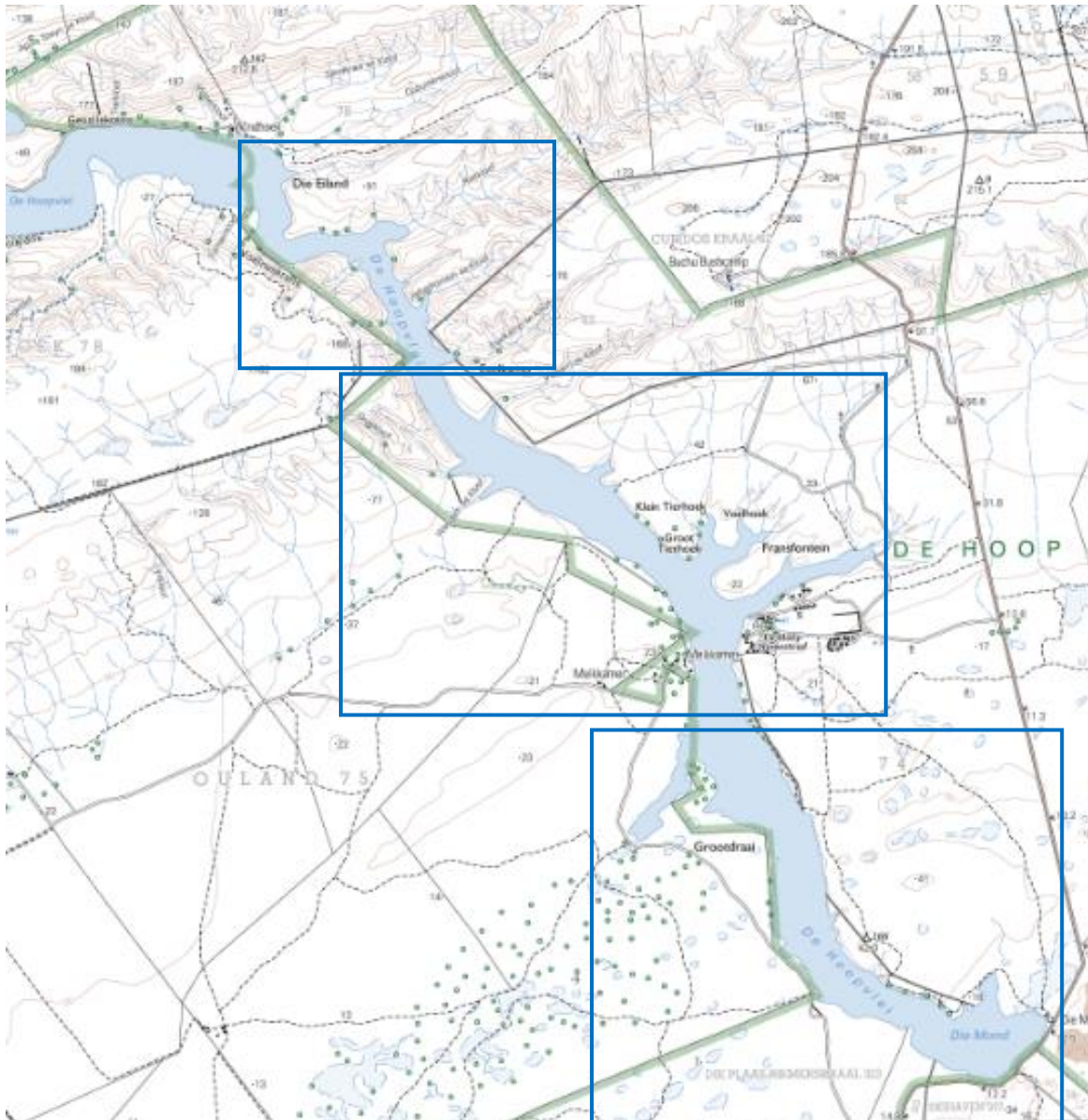


Figure 1. Topographic map of the De Hoop Vlei Gorge. Boxes indicate sections of the gorge. Features in these sections are described below.

There are one road and two stonewalls in the northern section of the gorge (Figure 2).

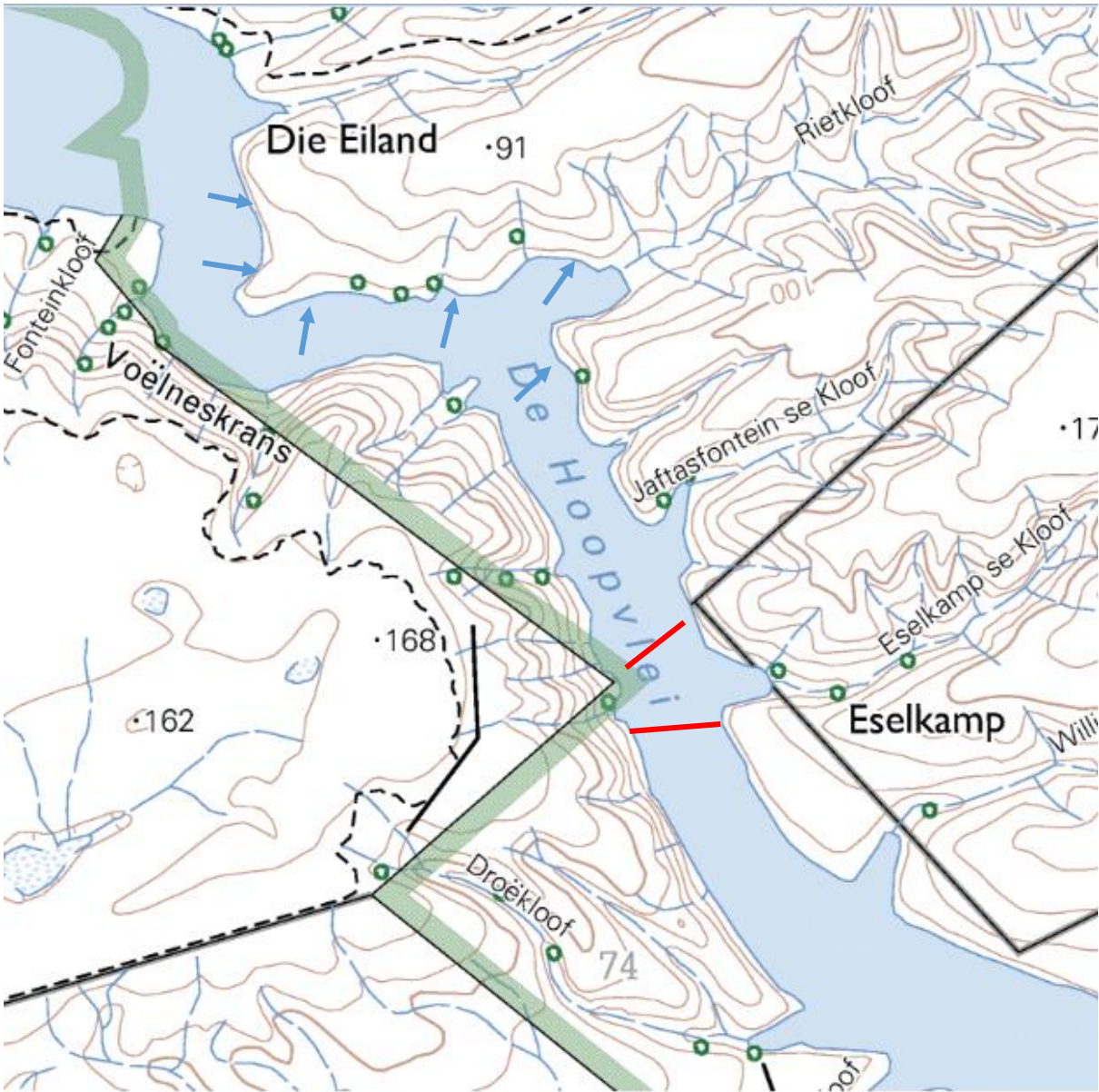


Figure 2. Topographic map of the northern section of the gorge, showing the location of the road (blue arrows) and the stonewalls (red lines).

The road was probably built by the settlers of the Windhoek Farm to the Guano Cave (Figures 3 to 7). [The section of this road within the Salt River Gorge was described in Chapter M].



Figure 3. Satellite image showing the road (blue arrows) from the Guano Cave (yellow arrow) along the east bank of the vlei, to the Windhoek Farm (located outside the image).



Figure 4. Satellite image showing the road (blue arrows) going around the wet area of the Rietkloof Valley northeast of the Guano Cave, as depicted in Figure 5.

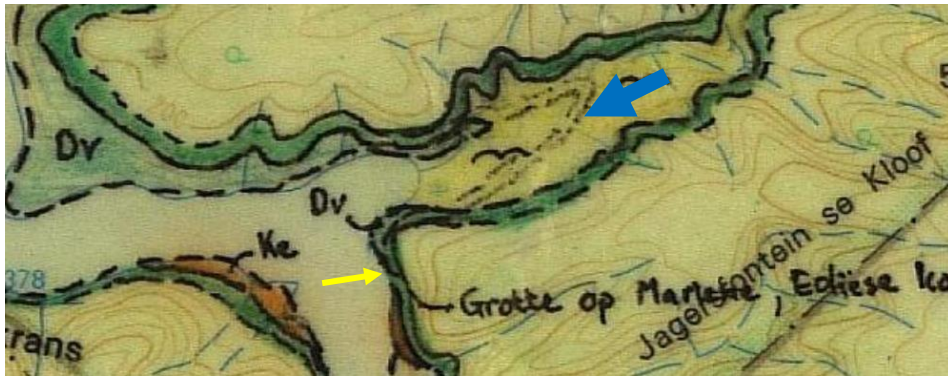


Figure 5. Section of the geology field sheet (J Malan, 1984), showing the road in the Rietkloof Valley (blue arrow). Yellow arrow points to the entrance to the Guano Cave.



Figure 6. The road to the Guano Cave (view to the south). Arrow points to the entrance location.



Figure 7. The Guano Cave cliffs. (See Field Note N7b). Arrow points to the entrance location.

Two stonewalls were built across the vlei in the middle section, at the outlet of Eselkloof, northwest of the Esselkamp ruins (Figures 8 to 11).



Figure 8. Satellite image of the stonewalls across the vlei (yellow arrows) at the outlet of Eselkloof (white arrow). Red arrow points to the Esselkamp Ruins.



Figure 9. The south Esselkamp stonewall. White arrow points to the Esselkamp Ruins.



Figure 10. The north Eselkamp stonewall.



Figure 11. The Eselkamp stonewalls are built of rocks up to 800 mm in diameter.

Stonewalls and a dyke were built in the middle section of the gorge, across the vlei and the Fransfontein Valley (Figures 12 to 19).

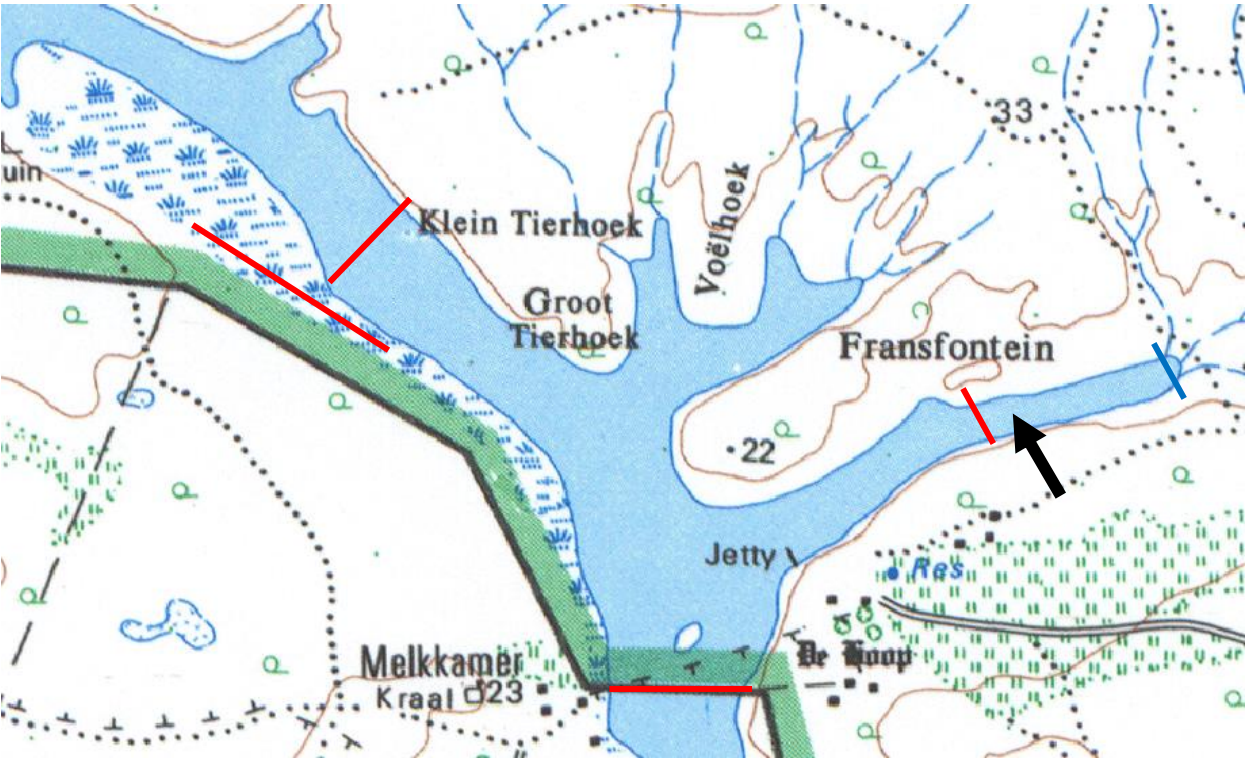


Figure 12. Topographic map of the middle section of the gorge, showing the approximate locations of stonewalls (red) and a dyke (blue). Arrow points to the Fransfontein Valley.



Figure 13. Satellite image of the stonewall along the west bank (yellow arrows) and across the vlei (white arrow).



Figure 14. Top - the stonewall along the west bank of the vlei. Bottom - the ruins of the stonewall, which extends into the vlei, from the wall shown in the top photographs.



Figure 15. Satellite image showing stonewalls across the vlei (yellow arrow) and along the western shore (white arrow), between Melkkamer and the resort.



Figure 16. Satellite image showing a stonewall (yellow arrow) and a dyke (white arrow) across the Fransfontein Valley.



Figure 17. A stonewall (top) and a dike (bottom) across the Fransfontein Valley. Views to the northwest.

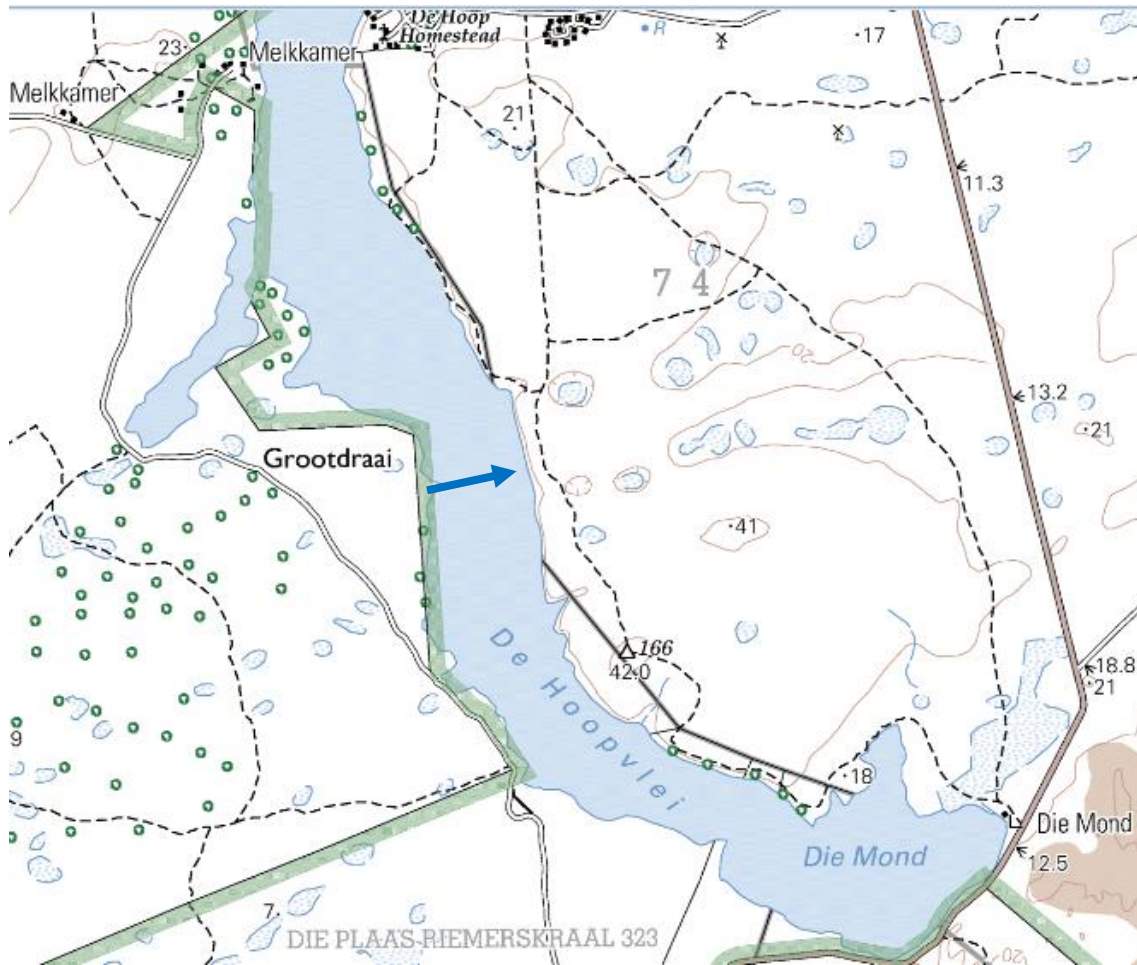


Figure 18. A stonewall (arrow) on the east bank of the vlei. Top – topography map. Bottom – satellite image.



Figure 19. Top – a stonewall (arrow) on the east bank of the vlei. Bottom - the steps leading to it from the east.

Stonewalls and dykes were built in the southern section of the gorge, across the vlei and on the western shore (Figures 20 to 29).

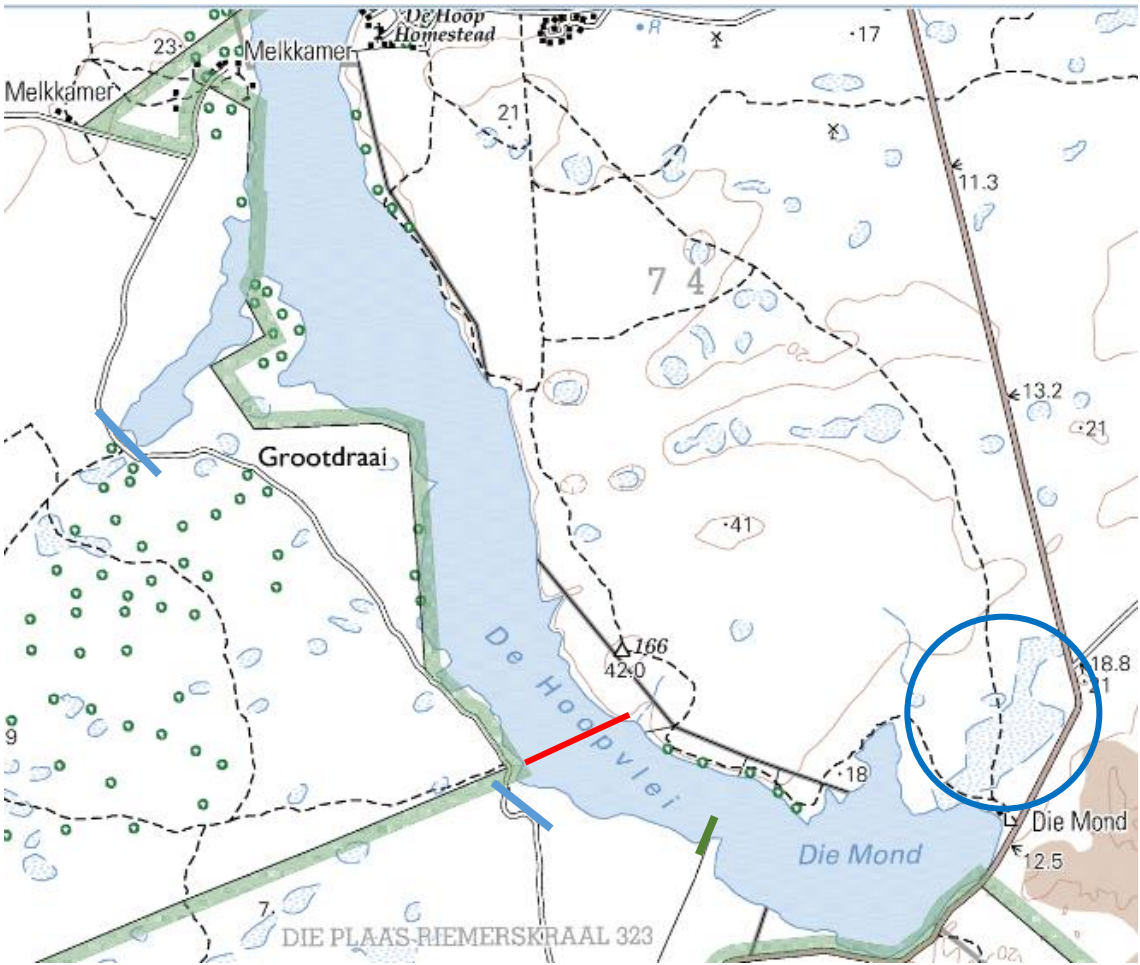


Figure 20. Topographic map of the southern section of the gorge, showing the approximate locations of stonewalls (red), dykes (blue, northern and southern) and a stonewall extension (green). For dykes and other features in the blue circle (Die Mond Depression) see Field Note on dams and canals.



Figure 21. Satellite image of a stonewall across the vlei (arrow).



Figure 22. Satellite image of the northern road-protection dyke (arrows).



Figure 23. Satellite image of the same road-protection dyke, when the water level of the vleis was high.



Figure 24. Satellite image of the southern road-protection dyke (arrow).



Figure 25. Satellite image of the same road-protection dyke (arrow) when the water level of the vleis was high.



Figure 26. Satellite image of a stonewall (arrow), which was extended in the direction of the vlei.



Figure 27. The extension of the stonewall shown in Figure 26.

A road was built along the southeast shore of Die Mond (Figures 28 and 29).



Figure 28. Satellite image showing the road (arrow) along the east shore of Die Mond.



Figure 29. The road along the east shore of Die Mond.