

OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP (OGG)

(OGG – Reg. No. 275-138 NPO)

Onrus River/Hemel & Aarde Valley Geological History Excursion

Saturday, 6th June, 2026

John Blaine, Dylan Blake & John Bristow

The excursion will originate in the parking area at the Wine Village on the corner of the R43 (Main Road) and R320 (Hemel & Valley Road that proceeds to Caledon). The meeting/start time at the Wine Village is 08h00 for 08h30 departure up the Valley and will finish late-afternoon (~16h00), with a short lunch/refreshment break at about 13h00. Please bring your own picnic/refreshments.

Outline:

The Onrus River is a relatively short (18km) drainage system, with relatively low waterflow, mostly as result of offtake for agriculture and domestic consumption, including the town of Hermanus.

The course of this the river exhibits features that that hint to a far more active past history. Some of this is evidenced by the damage experienced during the Heritage Day September 2023 storm event.

We will examine features such as:

- Old land surfaces.
- High level conglomerate terraces.
- Results of “mass wasting” and “debris flows”.
- Waterfalls, “nick points” and “river capture”.
- How the Onrus River cut the “poort”.
- Features in the ~10,000 yr old peat bed.
- Evidence of early human occupation.

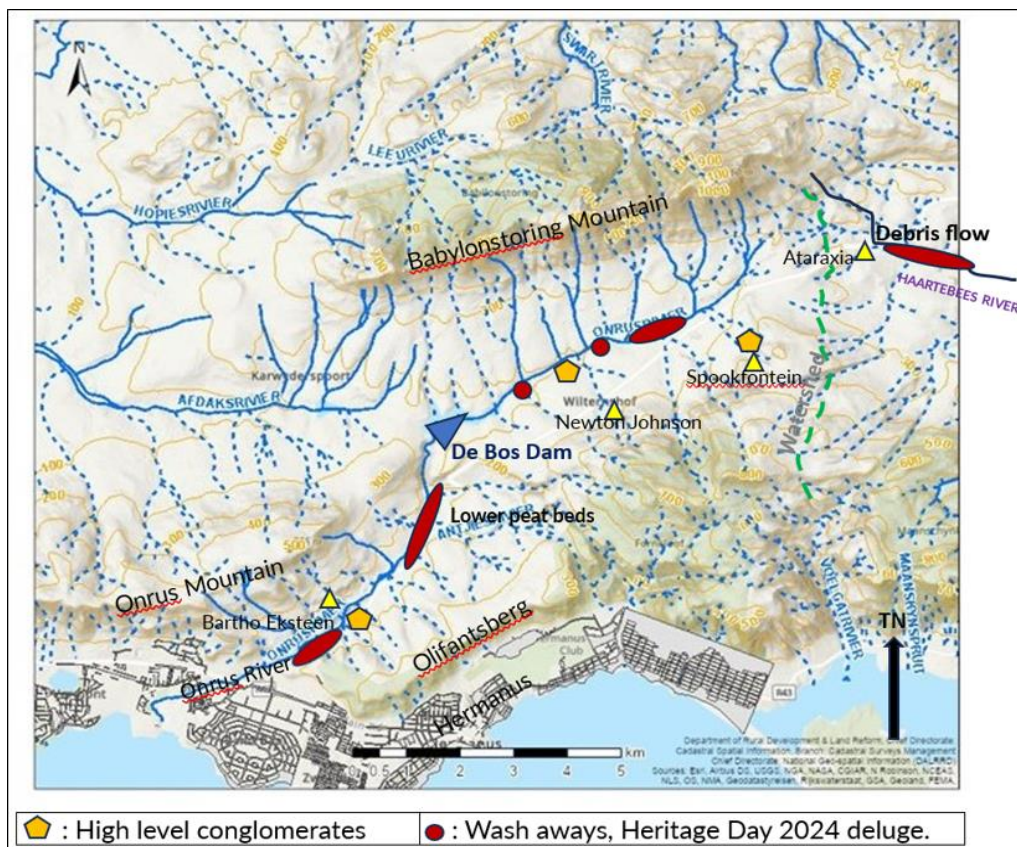
Summary of Program Activities:

Overview: A short description of the geology of the area and the day’s activities.

1. Stop: At the top of the HaV near Creation, visit the remnants of the African Land Surface and discuss the age and origin.
2. Proceed back towards Hermanus - Stop: Ataraxia entrance to view to overall land surfaces looking down the valley, as well as the debris flows along Babylonstoring mountain.
3. Stop: Spookfontein to view conglomerate boulders, remnants of a higher level of the Onrus River.
4. Stop: De Werf to view erosional damage from September 2023 floods.
5. Stop: Dejavue to view Cape Granite outcrops and Onrus River Terrace boulders.
6. Stop: Turnoff to Karwyderskraal/Debos Dam. Fault intersections and groundwater infrastructure (Dylan Blake)

7. Stop: Volmoed Retreat: Lunch break and walk to waterfall and examine features in the gorge.
8. Stop: Peat beds. Walk to examine exposures of dried peat and sedimentary features. Damage caused by September 2023 floods.
9. Stop: Hamilton Russell Vineyards. View a private collection of artifacts and the “mystery” boulder.
10. Stop: Bartho Eksteen to examine outcrop of high level Onrus River conglomerate and to discuss the formation of Onrus Poort.
11. End at Wine Village

A certain amount of clambering into the peat bed will be required as well as the walk to the Volmoed Waterfall (~ 1,5km return).



Overview of the Onrus River valley (Hemel en Aarde) showing some of the features to be discussed and examined.



Erosion damaged caused to the Lower Onrus Peatbed



A Nick point. Waterfall at Volmoed

