

FIELD NOTES
FROM THE RIVER
AMATHOS:

*Between the dam and sea,
28 March 2014*



10:33 / 34° 44' 36.36" N, 33° 5' 8.15" E

10:24

Driven to car park over bridge by dam. Dropped here. Sat on wall.
To N is the reservoir. To the S, views over valley and the sea in the
distance. “Phinikaria Community Boundary.” Men cutting wood
with chainsaws. No one on or around reservoir otherwise.



10:31 / 34° 44' 36.37" N, 33° 5' 8.20" E



10:37 / 34° 44' 36.46" N, 33° 5' 7.67" E



10:39 / 34° 44' 36.70" N, 33° 5' 6.36" E



10:47 / 34° 44' 37.31" N, 33° 5' 5.39" E

10:45

Midway across bridge. Stairs (stone) leading down to S – over rocks toward river bed.



10:55 / 34° 44' 38.14" N, 33° 4' 59.87" E

11:01

By the emergency spillway. Large number of pigeons – cooing – in metalwork. Sparrows in bushes. Eucalyptus trees recently pruned: branches on ground.



10:48 / 34° 44' 36.96" N, 33° 5' 4.67" E



11:08 / 34° 44' 36.04" N, 33° 4' 59.82" E



11:03 / 34° 44' 37.93" N, 33° 4' 59.41" E



11:06 / 34° 44' 36.12" N, 33° 4' 59.84" E

11:16

Followed unmade road down. Climbed over rocks on to river bed. Presumably natural, eroded rock formations at start, also large boulders placed at sides. Thick growth of tall grasses and trees. Sounds of songbirds and a cat whining from somewhere in the undergrowth. River bed stony and completely dry.



11:21 / 34° 44' 33.65" N, 33° 5' 1.43" E



11:15 / 34° 44' 33.70" N, 33° 5' 1.43" E



11:25 / 34° 44' 33.62" N, 33° 5' 3.26" E



11:24 / 34° 44' 33.56" N, 33° 5' 3.11" E

11:27

Able to walk along river bed to first bridge. Concrete with 4 (probably) steel pipes. Shingle road crosses here.



11:33 / 34° 44' 32.75" N, 33° 5' 4.40" E



11:39 / 34° 44' 31.09" N, 33° 5' 5.66" E



11:39 / 34° 44' 31.12" N, 33° 5' 5.68" E



11:40 / 34° 44' 30.78" N, 33° 5' 5.69" E

11:41
Larger rocks and concrete / broken ceramics, some rubbish.
As far as I can go on the river bed: growth much thicker.



11:37 / 34° 44' 31.66" N, 33° 5' 5.03" E



11:43 / 34° 44' 30.53" N, 33° 5' 5.62" E



11:46 / 34° 44' 29.29" N, 33° 5' 4.31" E

11:47
 Pump – sound of running water. Abandoned concrete building. Dogs barking. Sky hazing over slightly – a couple of very high clouds forming. Fly tipping of garden waste (mainly palm-tree leaves) next to river. Swallow.



11:51 / 34° 44' 28.25" N, 33° 5' 4.68" E



11:46 / 34° 44' 29.39" N, 33° 5' 4.21" E



11:53 / 34° 44' 27.62" N, 33° 5' 5.67" E



11:55 / 34° 44' 27.11" N, 33° 5' 5.66" E

11:53
Riverside track. Broken bricks. Olive and citrus plantation.
Prickly pear cacti. Grasses in river extremely high (4–5
metres perhaps).



11:58 / 34° 44' 25.43" N, 33° 5' 6.62" E



11:59 / 34° 44' 24.47" N, 33° 5' 7.14" E



12:04 / 34° 44' 22.64" N, 33° 5' 8.97" E



12:10 / 34° 44' 20.38" N, 33° 5' 5.81" E

12:05

Litter on track. Small amounts of stagnant water in river. Furthest I can get along river. Track veers off into palm-tree plantation – mature palms in plastic pots. Makeshift farm buildings block path by river.



12:13 / 34° 44' 17.95" N, 33° 5' 9.11" E



12:21 / 34° 44' 17.48" N, 33° 5' 8.41" E

12:16

Path leads back to river. Water in gently flowing stream over concrete. Presumably pumped from plantations' irrigation systems. Opposite river bank high – earth and discarded paving stones. Sky increasingly hazy – light cloud coverage.



12:23 / 34° 44' 15.16" N, 33° 5' 8.71" E



12:24 / 34° 44' 15.22" N, 33° 5' 9.01" E

12:25

Small bridge over river leading to gated farm buildings.
Water up to top on both edges. Tall pampas-like grasses.
Sounds of wading birds, though none in sight.



12:28 / 34° 44' 13.82" N, 33° 5' 8.56" E



12:24 / 34° 44' 15.23" N, 33° 5' 9.02" E



12:29 / 34° 44' 12.52" N, 33° 5' 8.16" E

12:33

Pathway follows river but veers away slightly beside nursery of ornamental trees and shrubs. Can't tell whether water present. Mature eucalyptus trees line river. On other side, caged dogs barking when they see me. Cockerel crowing. Sound of mechanical whirring and birds calling in trees. Strange croaking noise – possibly frogs.



12:36 / 34° 44' 8.51" N, 33° 5' 7.39" E



12:31 / 34° 44' 12.07" N, 33° 5' 7.93" E

12:37

River appears dry.



12:43 / 34° 44' 6.84" N, 33° 5' 8.28" E



12:43 / 34° 44' 6.01" N, 33° 5' 8.21" E

12:39

River actually not dry – small stream now visible. Water-garden centre. Frogs not in river but in artificial ponds.



12:41 / 34° 44' 6.86" N, 33° 5' 8.21" E



12:49 / 34° 44' 1.93" N, 33° 5' 10.34" E



12:48 / 34° 44' 3.44" N, 33° 5' 10.00" E

12:50

Much less dense growth in river and still a small amount of water. More rubbish on path than before: polystyrene, pruned branches of trees and cacti with signs of recent fire. Croaking: this time definitely coming from river. Path veers away beside mound of earth, gravel and cactus branches.



12:55 / 34° 43' 57.69" N, 33° 5' 9.95" E



12:54 / 34° 43' 58.32" N, 33° 5' 10.26" E



12:57 / 34° 43' 56.79" N, 33° 5' 10.41" E



12:57 / 34° 43' 57.38" N, 33° 5' 9.55" E

12:59

Small metal (steel?) bridge crosses river. Croaking extremely loud. Definitely frogs. Moorhens disappear into grasses before I have a chance to photograph them. River very wide here, flowing in the wrong direction.

13:03

Kingfisher. River seems to flow out on to the road. Sun quite hot now, still a little hazy but not getting any worse. Mechanical whirring noise. More croaking – sounds almost a little disturbing.



13:08 / 34° 43' 54.22" N, 33° 5' 11.63" E

13:09

River is blocked by a mound of gravel. Other side dry. Water runs along road.



13:13 / 34° 43' 49.82" N, 33° 5' 11.27" E



13:15 / 34° 43' 48.00" N, 33° 5' 10.04" E

13:15

River now on other side of the track. Water pump explains whirring noise – it seems water is being pumped out. Path continues. Large grasses. Mature cypress trees. Village now above valley to W. Quite smart modern villas.



13:19 / 34° 43' 47.89" N, 33° 5' 10.19" E



13:19 / 34° 43' 47.78" N, 33° 5' 10.19" E



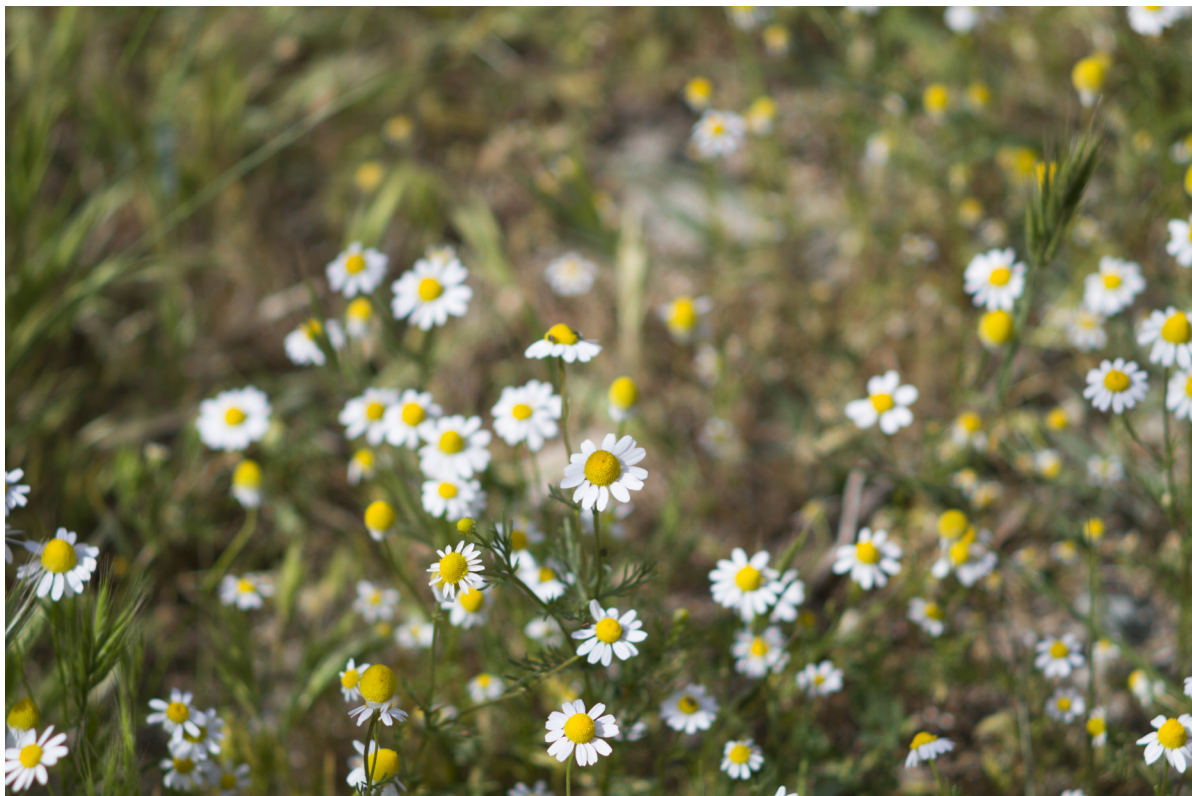
13:23 / 34° 43' 44.21" N, 33° 5' 8.75" E



13:23 / 34° 43' 43.76" N, 33° 5' 8.83" E

13:26

Bridge crosses river. Concrete with seven tunnels and rusty steel railing. River getting drier. Still some stagnant water with algae. Sounds of croaking and crowing now combined with drilling from men working on road. Over bridge, I can walk on the W side of the river again. Tarmac on road.



13:26 / 34° 43' 41.99" N, 33° 5' 8.32" E



13:32 / 34° 43' 41.02" N, 33° 5' 8.06" E



13:31 / 34° 43' 41.09" N, 33° 5' 8.05" E



13:38 / 34° 43' 37.94" N, 33° 5' 8.60" E

13:33

Next to road workers (with truck and digger). River now completely dry. Out of sight of workers, behind a eucalyptus tree, I climb back on to river bed. Farm (vines / olive trees) on E side. Cacti on other side. Pebbles cover bed. Poppies.



13:42 / 34° 43' 36.14" N, 33° 5' 10.10" E

13:44

Some sort of fence/hosepipe. Growth ahead is too thick to continue. Bit concerned about snakes. Track along other side but seems to be private property. Climb up back to main road beside chicken coops.



13:40 / 34° 43' 37.68" N, 33° 5' 8.51" E



13:48 / 34° 43' 35.31" N, 33° 5' 10.38" E



13:44 / 34° 43' 35.89" N, 33° 5' 10.78" E

13:52

Followed Potamias Street a short distance then turned into road to farm with pigs and chickens. Concrete bridge over river. Similar to previous one, with 7 tunnels. Dry but tall grasses. Some discarded building materials. Path runs beside river. Sound of turkeys.



13:55 / 34° 43' 34.13" N, 33° 5' 14.62" E



13:56 / 34° 43' 33.97" N, 33° 5' 14.68" E



13:59 / 34° 43' 33.42" N, 33° 5' 14.65" E



14:01 / 34° 43' 31.10" N, 33° 5' 17.27" E

14:03
More pumping equipment. Whirring. Path veers away from river past fenced fields. Citrus groves. A few small buildings.



14:05 / 34° 43' 29.88" N, 33° 5' 17.22" E

14:07
Dirt track leads back on to road. River completely out of sight – no access. Hilltop villas to E. Village to W. Well kept farms.



14:09 / 34° 43' 25.42" N, 33° 5' 16.01" E



14:11 / 34° 43' 24.71" N, 33° 5' 16.15" E

14:13

Back into river. Grey pebbles/shingle. Poppies. Greenfinch.



14:14 / 34° 43' 22.61" N, 33° 5' 16.26" E



14:16 / 34° 43' 22.42" N, 33° 5' 16.44" E



14:22 / 34° 43' 20.03" N, 33° 5' 15.59" E



14:27 / 34° 43' 16.79" N, 33° 5' 15.50" E

14:30

Next bridge – same as previous: 7 tunnels. Slightly wider with tarmac road going over. Other side grass – a little too thick to walk through. Path along E side. Small new-looking park/picnic area to W. Memorial to Mari power-station disaster 2011. I stopped here to eat a little/drink water and assess photos. Sky almost completely clear apart from haze on horizon and a few clouds over mountains. Conscious about time. Left park at 14:51.



14:33 / 34° 43' 14.21" N, 33° 5' 15.80" E



14:34 / 34° 43' 13.76" N, 33° 5' 15.67" E



14:54 / 34° 43' 11.25" N, 33° 5' 17.95" E

14:55

River has concrete walls either side. To W is football field – astroturf – path along E. Now going through a more built-up area. Piles of gravel/building sand next to path.



14:57 / 34° 43' 10.50" N, 33° 5' 18.39" E



15:01 / 34° 43' 8.01" N, 33° 5' 20.90" E

15:04

Road crosses through river. River continues with tall reeds, following road from here.



15:07 / 34° 43' 4.25" N, 33° 5' 20.77" E



15:09 / 34° 43' 1.81" N, 33° 5' 21.21" E

15:10

Next bridge: 7 tunnels, galvanized steel railing. Since the road crossing and tall grasses, there has been shallow, stagnant water. Frogs again.



15:09 / 34° 43' 2.23" N, 33° 5' 21.08" E



15:14 / 34° 43' 0.18" N, 33° 5' 21.14" E

15:15

River now dry again. Grey – almost white – mud, cracked a little on surface. Grasses on both banks. Main road along riverside to W.

15:20

6 tunnels: 3 closest to road in staggered formation. River passes under road and continues on W side.



15:22 / 34° 42' 57.19" N, 33° 5' 19.58" E



15:22 / 34° 42' 56.86" N, 33° 5' 19.19" E



15:23 / 34° 42' 56.68" N, 33° 5' 19.19" E



15:25 / 34° 42' 54.94" N, 33° 5' 19.16" E

15:27

Small bridge: 3 tunnels, white painted railing. Roadside litter. Waste ground to side with housing development signs. Grit track crosses river to W. What I assume was a hummingbird hawk moth. Collared doves. Cockerel crowing.



15:30 / 34° 42' 52.27" N, 33° 5' 19.51" E

15:32

River bed thick with grasses and shrubs. Road and tree nursery to E. Some sort of scrapyard/dumping ground to W.



15:35 / 34° 42' 44.30" N, 33° 5' 23.54" E

15:36
Next bridge: 6 tunnels. Roads getting busier. I seem to be in the midst of a very large garden centre.



15:38 / 34° 42' 43.87" N, 33° 5' 23.81" E



15:38 / 34° 42' 43.91" N, 33° 5' 23.86" E



15:40 / 34° 42' 41.86" N, 33° 5' 25.60" E

15:43
Next bridge: 6 tunnels. Keep trying to walk in river but grasses a little long. Main road veers to left. Side road follows river. Piles of cut grass. Athletic centre. Sun noticeably lower. Highway now visible. Swallows.



15:45 / 34° 42' 37.61" N, 33° 5' 25.81" E



15:48 / 34° 42' 35.56" N, 33° 5' 23.84" E



15:49 / 34° 42' 32.83" N, 33° 5' 22.52" E

15:51

River bed almost on same level as road. More litter than before. Discarded building materials. Greenfinches – sneezing call. Highway very close. Noise of traffic. Reeds increasingly thick and tall. Pump.



15:53 / 34° 42' 30.66" N, 33° 5' 21.62" E



15:56 / 34° 42' 29.04" N, 33° 5' 21.36" E

15:57
River passes under highway flyover. Pigeons. Riverbed seemingly ploughed up and barren. Graffiti on concrete underpass.



15:59 / 34° 42' 27.49" N, 33° 5' 21.88" E



16:01 / 34° 42' 27.46" N, 33° 5' 21.86" E



16:03 / 34° 42' 24.22" N, 33° 5' 22.21" E

16:07

Other side of highway – some sort of pump. River and road start again. Thick tall grasses in river, lined with evergreen saplings.

N.B. GPS tracking failed at this point. From here on, coordinates are approximate.



16:09 / 34° 42' 22.17" N, 33° 5' 22.71" E



16:10 / 34° 42' 21.96" N, 33° 5' 22.57" E



16:11 / 34° 42' 21.76" N, 33° 5' 22.91" E

16:13

Tunnel leads into river from E. More pumping equipment: black instead of usual blue.



16:15 / 34° 42' 15.99" N, 33° 5' 22.41" E



16:17 / 34° 42' 14.58" N, 33° 5' 22.40" E



16:23 / 34° 42' 13.22" N, 33° 5' 22.26" E

16:23

River bed is now stony and easy to walk along. Fence to sports arena to W side. More cooing. Bushes get thicker blocking way along river.



16:18 / 34° 42' 14.47" N, 33° 5' 20.99" E

16:19

Larger bridge: 4 spans, white railings, neatly paved and tarmacked road. Electricity substation to W. Riverside path continues on E side. Collared doves cooing.



16:26 / 34° 42' 12.78" N, 33° 5' 22.28" E



16:28 / 34° 42' 9.05" N, 33° 5' 21.88" E

16:29

In housing estate: quite well-to-do. Surroundings are distinctly suburban. Neat path leads behind houses then beaten track goes into river. Tennis court on river bed to one side.



16:33 / 34° 42' 8.08" N, 33° 5' 20.87" E



16:37 / 34° 42' 2.75" N, 33° 5' 18.89" E



16:34 / 34° 42' 6.50" N, 33° 5' 19.97" E

16:35

Coal tits. Swallows. River easy to walk along between tall apartment buildings and sports fields. Couple walking baby in pram.



16:36 / 34° 42' 5.59" N, 33° 5' 19.74" E

16:40

Next bridge: 3 spans. Expensive-looking new lamp standards. Stairs leading up to W. Piping also on W.



16:41 / 34° 41' 58.24" N, 33° 5' 17.48" E



16:42 / 34° 41' 58.14" N, 33° 5' 17.82" E

16:44

Historical stone-built bridge (I assume this is the medieval bridge) crosses over. River banks are now concrete. River bed is tarmac (although not very neatly made). A few people milling around. I believe they are speaking Russian. Cars parked.



16:47 / 34° 41' 55.61" N, 33° 5' 17.72" E



16:48 / 34° 41' 54.96" N, 33° 5' 18.48" E

16:49

Stadium seating either side. A few cars driving on river bed.



16:52

River bed is now a car park. Very little to suggest you are in a river. Tall apartment blocks on both sides. Public conveniences on W side of river. Young man loitering, disappears into toilets.



16:55 / 34° 41' 48.94" N, 33° 5' 21.16" E



16:55 / 34° 41' 48.54" N, 33° 5' 21.42" E

16:57
Passes under seafront road. 4-span bridge. Rental bikes
stationed on bridge. Christmas lights still attached to lamp-
posts. Police station on other side.



16:59 / 34° 41' 47.89" N, 33° 5' 21.60" E



17:02 / 34° 41' 47.33" N, 33° 5' 21.77" E



17:02 / 34° 41' 45.04" N, 33° 5' 22.97" E



17:04 / 34° 41' 44.10" N, 33° 5' 21.36" E

17:06
River (“Yermasoyeia Municipality Parking Place”) meanders
W behind hotels of Germasogeia tourist area. Sun starting
to go down. Pigeons cooing. Hooded crows.



17:08 / 34° 41' 43.30" N, 33° 5' 19.78" E



17:09 / 34° 41' 40.35" N, 33° 5' 17.12" E

17:12
Sea finally visible. Gardens to right. Palm trees. Geraniums.



17:14 / 34° 41' 37.61" N, 33° 5' 15.64" E



17:15 / 34° 41' 36.83" N, 33° 5' 15.42" E

17:17

River meets grey sand and shingle of beach. Very narrow here with small concrete pier (of some description). Rocky breakwaters. Buoys bobbing in sea. Ships leaving port in distance. Losing sunlight. City of Limassol visible to W. Tourists. Sparrows.



17:25 / 34° 41' 34.92" N, 33° 5' 15.35" E



17:27 / 34° 41' 34.59" N, 33° 5' 15.50" E



17:32 / 34° 41' 34.59" N, 33° 5' 15.50" E

Stephan Takkides
2014