

D. DURICRUSTS

Field Note D5d. Heavily ferruginised shales – hilltops



Hilltop ferruginised shales

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Overview

This Field Note describes the morphological characteristics of ferruginised shales on hilltops. The shales have lost their laminated structure and appear as thick layers, or ‘walls’. These ‘walls’ were resistant to erosion and survived, and now protrude the surface, in places nearly vertically. These outcrops do not comprise parts of the silcrete cuirass, which was formed on the eroded plateaux, and look very different from the silcrete-capped hills.

1. Muurkraal

The highly ferruginised shales on Muurkraal, form thick walls. They are the most spectacular of their kind in the Study Area (Figures 1 to 5).



Figure 1. ferruginised shale walls protrude a hilltop on the farm Muurkraal (probably named so after the walls). Top – satellite image; yellow arrows point to the ‘walls’. Black arrow points to a series of ‘walls’. Bottom – view from the northeast.



Figure 2. Heavily ferruginised group of shale walls protrude the hilltop on the farm Muurkraal. Top – view from the northeast. Bottom – view from the west.



**Figure 3. Wall of ferruginised shale on the farm Muurkraal. Views on the south face of the wall:
top - from the east; bottom – from the west.**



Figure 4. The north face of the wall shown in Figure 3.



Figure 5. Eroded, lower walls next to the wall shown above.

2. Die Kop hills

Ferruginised 'walls', some of which are folded, protrude two hilltops on the farm Die Kop near Potberg (Figures 6 to 9).



Figure 6. Views of the ferruginised shale hilltops on the farm Die Kop. Top – view from the west (Potberg at the background). Bottom - view from the north-east.



Figure 7. Top and bottom: views from the south of the northern ferruginised shale hilltop on the farm Die Kop.



Figure 8. Views from the north (top) and from the east (bottom) of the southern ferruginised shale hilltop on the farm Die Kop.



Figure 9. The southern ferruginised shale hilltop on the farm Die Kop.