

D. DURICRUSTS

Field Note D4a7. Pedogenic silcretes – G. Hilltop castles



Hilltop silcrete castle.

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Silcrete protrusions are the least abundant silcrete occurrences in the Study Area after silcrete caps and silcrete boulders and are very different from them. These castles, up to 30 m long, which emerge out of the ground to a height of up to 6 m, are very conspicuous and can be seen from a distance. Most of the castles are heavily ferruginised.

None of the protrusions has been described before and their formation has never been discussed. This Field Note will present some of the several hilltop silcrete castles in the Study Area.

Byneskop



Figure 1. Satellite image of the silcrete castle (arrow) on Byneskop, on the farm Rheeheuwel.



Figure 2. Top and bottom: the silcrete castle on Bynekop, on the farm Rheeheuwel.



Figure 3. Top and bottom: the silcrete castle on Bynekop, on the farm Rheeheuvel.



Pilgrim Garden



Figure 4. Satellite image of the Pilgrim Garden silcrete castle (arrow) on the farm Rheeheuwel.

The silcrete castle is located 300 m east of the Pilgrim Garden.



Figure 5. The Pilgrim Garden near the silcrete castle. Top – satellite image. Bottom – ground view.



Figure 6. Top and bottom: the Pilgrim Garden silcrete castle on the farm Rheeheuwel.



Figure 7. Top and bottom: the Pilgrim Garden silcrete castle on the farm Rheeheuwel.

Brakfontein



Figure 8. The Brakfontein castle. Top – satellite image. Bottom – view from the east.



Figure 9. Top and bottom – the Brakfontein castle.

Die Kop twin castles

These castles, 150 m apart on the farm Die Kop NE from Ouplaas, are very prominent and can be seen from a distance.



Figure 10. Satellite images of the silcrete castles which protrude two hilltops on the Die Kop Farm (arrows).



Figure 11. Views of the silcrete castles on the farm Die Kop. Top – view from the northwest (Potberg at the background). Bottom - view from the north-east.



Figure 12. Top and bottom: views from the south of the northern castle.



Figure 13. Views from the north (top) and from the east (bottom) of the southern castle.



Figure 14. Closer views of the southern castle.

All the castles in the Study Area are far from roads and most of them are only accessible by foot. Many are still to be visited.



Figure 15. A castle northeast of Die Plaat.