

D. DURICRUSTS

Field Note D6d. Gourikwa Nature Reserve silicified sandstone



Silicified sandstone on the Gourikwa Nature Reserve.

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Two isolated, small silicified sandstone outcrops are present close to the shore Gourikwa Nature Reserve, some 12 km west of Gouritsmond (Figures 1 and 2).

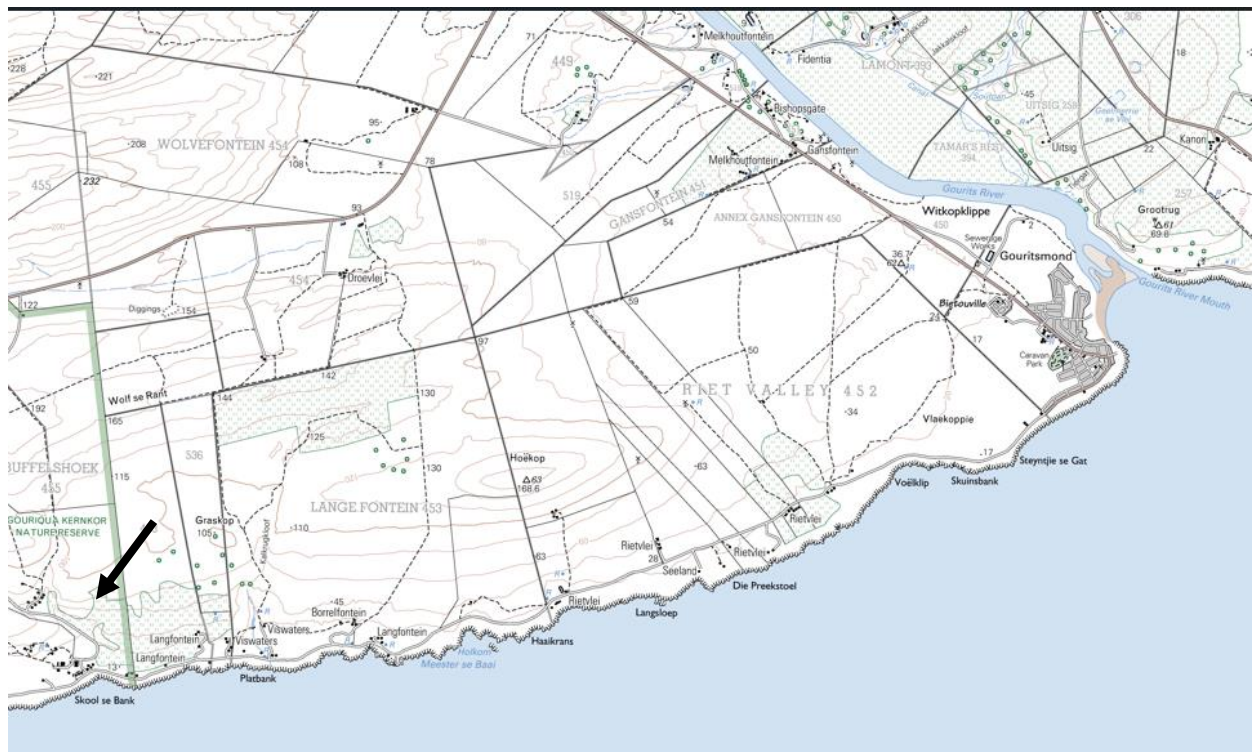


Figure 1. Topography map (top) and satellite image (bottom), showing the location of the Gourikwa Nature Reserve (arrows).

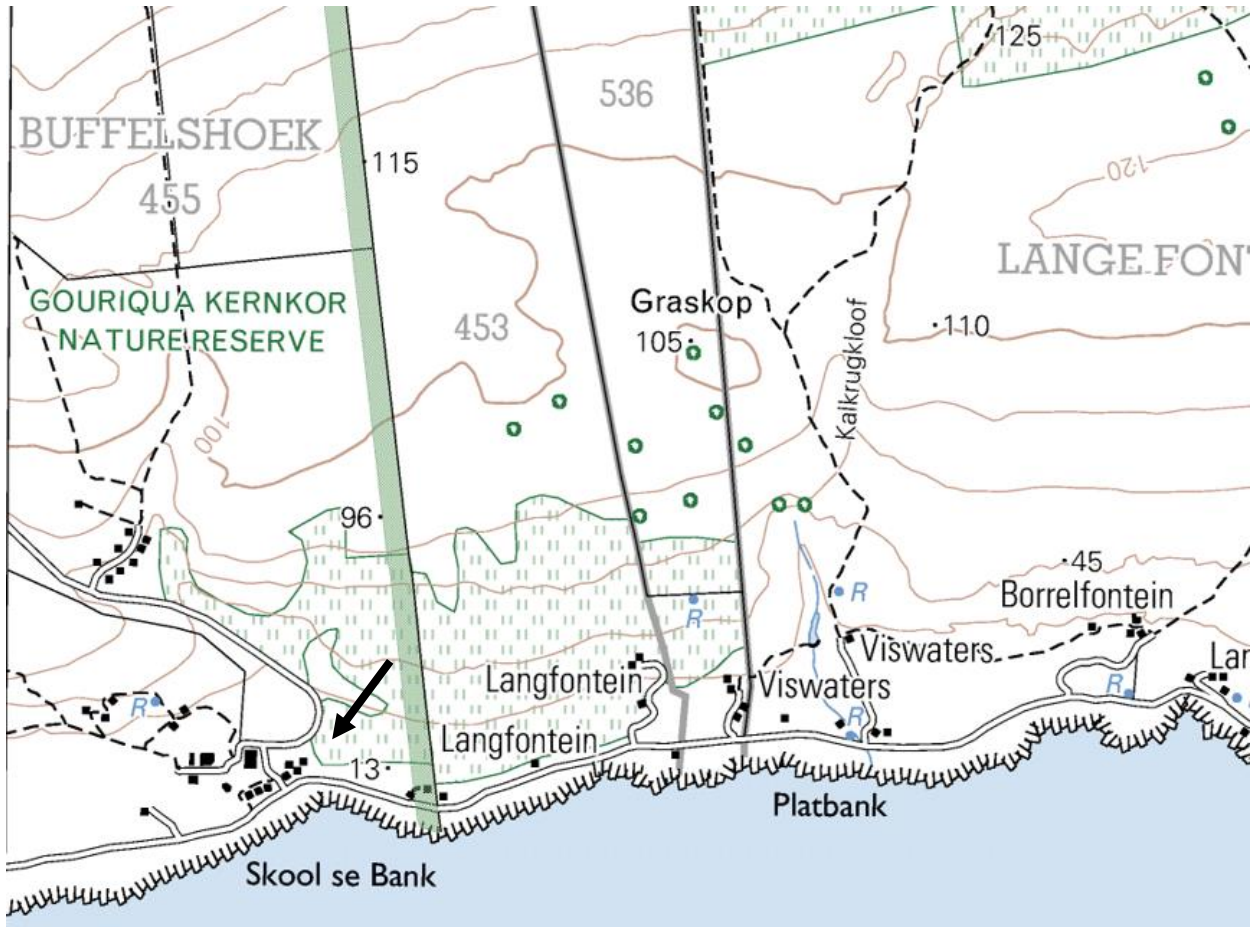


Figure 2. Topography map (top) and satellite image (bottom), showing the location of the silicified outcrops on the Gourikwa Nature Reserve (arrows).

The Gourikwa silicified sandstone outcrops, situated east of the chapel, emerge from the sand ~6 m above sealevel, some 120 m from the rocky (TMG sandstones) seashore. They are of three habits: pillowy, conical, and cubical (blocky).



Figure 3. Satellite image showing the location of the outcrops on the Gourikwa Nature Reserve. Cluster A (pillowy and conical habits, in the yellow circle) is 80 m from the chapel, and cluster B (cubical habit, in the white circle) is 120 m from the chapel.

Cluster A is a mixture of pillowy and conical habits (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 4. Top and bottom - pillowy and conical habits in Cluster A.

Most of the rocks in this cluster are jointed (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Top and bottom - the rocks in Cluster A are jointed.

Cluster B consists of cubical (blocky) habits (Figures 6 to 8).



Figure 6. Top and bottom: Cluster B – cubical habits.

The rocks in Cluster B are jointed (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Top and bottom: Cluster B – jointed cubical silcrete.



Figure 8. Cubical habit close to the shore on Gourikwa Nature Reserve.

These silicified sandstone clusters are very uncommon. They constitute a unique feature of the Gourikwa Nature Reserve.