

D. DURICRUSTS

Field Note D4a5. Pedogenic silcretes – E. Hilltop boulders



Hilltop silcrete boulders.

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Several hills and rises in the Study Area have silcrete boulders of various habits present on their tops. These boulders are not the result of a disintegrated cap; they were most probably formed as individual boulders. Hills with boulders at their tops look different to capped hills. There are three basic occurrences of hilltop boulders, namely *spaced*, *clustered* and *heaped* (Figure 1).

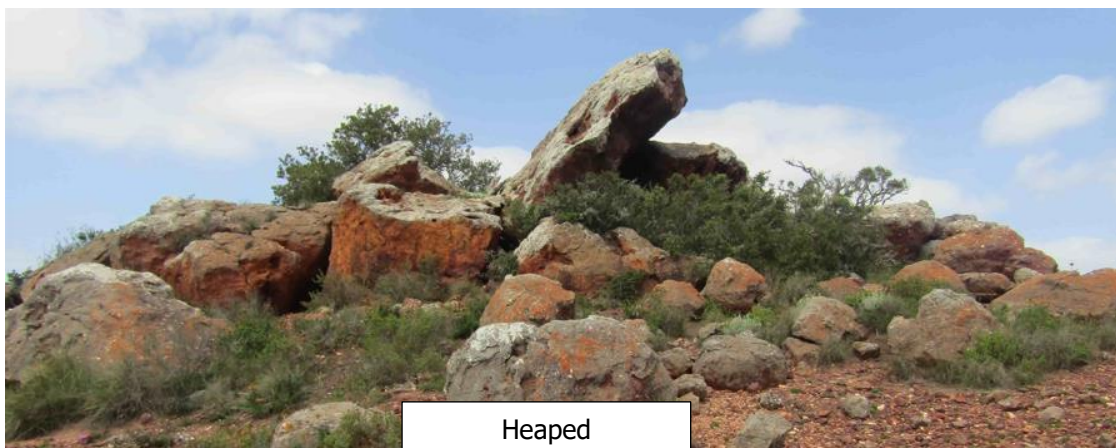


Figure 1. Occurrences of hilltop boulders.

Hilltop spaced boulders

Hilltop spaced boulders are of various habits and in places can be discerned from a distance and even from satellite images (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Hilltop spaced boulders (arrow) (on Muurkraal Farm). Top – satellite image. Bottom – view from a hill ton the north-west (Slaapkop).

Hilltop spaced boulders are usually cubical or shapeless (Figures 3 and 4).



Figure 3. Top and bottom - spaced boulders on a hilltop on Muurkraal Farm. Note the cubical boulders at the very top (black arrow) and the rounded boulders on the slope.



Figure 4. Top and bottom – spaced cubical boulders on a hilltop on Muurkraal Farm.

On a nearly flat-topped rise (on Weltevrede Farm) cubical boulders, some of which are stacked, are very well spaced from each other (Figures 5 to 7).



Figure 5. Top and bottom - spaced boulders on a rise on Weltevrede Farm. Some stacks are present.



Figure 6. Top and bottom – spaced cubical boulders on a rise on Weltevrede Farm. Some stacks are present.



Figure 7. Top and bottom - spaced cubical boulders on a hilltop on Weltevrede Farm. Some stacks are present.

On a hill on the farm Die Kop shapeless, small boulders are present (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Top and bottom: small, shapeless boulders on a hill on Die Kop Farm.

Hilltop clustered boulders

Hilltop clustered boulders are of various habits and in some cases can be discerned from satellite images (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Satellite image of clustered boulders on two rises (arrows) (on the farm Uitvlug).

On twin low rises, about a hundred metres apart, on the farm Uitvlug, pillowy and shapeless boulders comprise the cluster on the western rise, and spherical boulders comprise the cluster on the other, eastern rise, 100 m away (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Top and bottom: shapeless and pillowy boulders on the western rise on Uitvlug Farm.



Figure 11. Top and bottom: spherical boulders on the eastern rise on Uitvlug Farm.

On a hill some 10 km north of Bredasdorp, individual polyhedral boulders cover an area of about 0.3 x 0.3 km (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Top and bottom: polyhedral boulders on a hilltop north of Bredasdorp.

Hilltop heaped boulders

Hilltop heaped boulders are of various habits and in some cases can be discerned from a distance and from satellite images, as shown in Figures 13 and 14.



Figure 13. Hilltop heaped boulders. Top - satellite image (arrow). Bottom – ground view from the south. On Goereesoe farm.



Figure 14. Top and bottom: large boulders (slabs, cubes, spheres and shapeless) on Goereesoe Farm.