U. SHORES

Field Note U8c1. Arniston shores – Geomorphological features – Notches and caves

Inside the Waenhuiskrans Cave.

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Field Note U8c1. Arniston shores – Geomorphological features – Notches and caves

The Waenhuiskrans Formation cliffs along the Arniston shores are subject to relentless wave action, which resulted in the formation of wave-cut notches and caves.

Notches

Most of the notches around Arniston are found along the East Shore (Figures 1and 2).

Figure 1. Notches along the East Shore.

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Caves

Several small caves are located along the East Shore of Arniston (Figures 3 and 4).

Figure 3. Top and bottom – caves along Arniston East Shore.

Figure 4. Top and bottom – caves along Arniston East Shore.

Waenhuiskrans Cave

Entry into the cave is only possible at low tide, through a small opening (Figures 5 and 6).

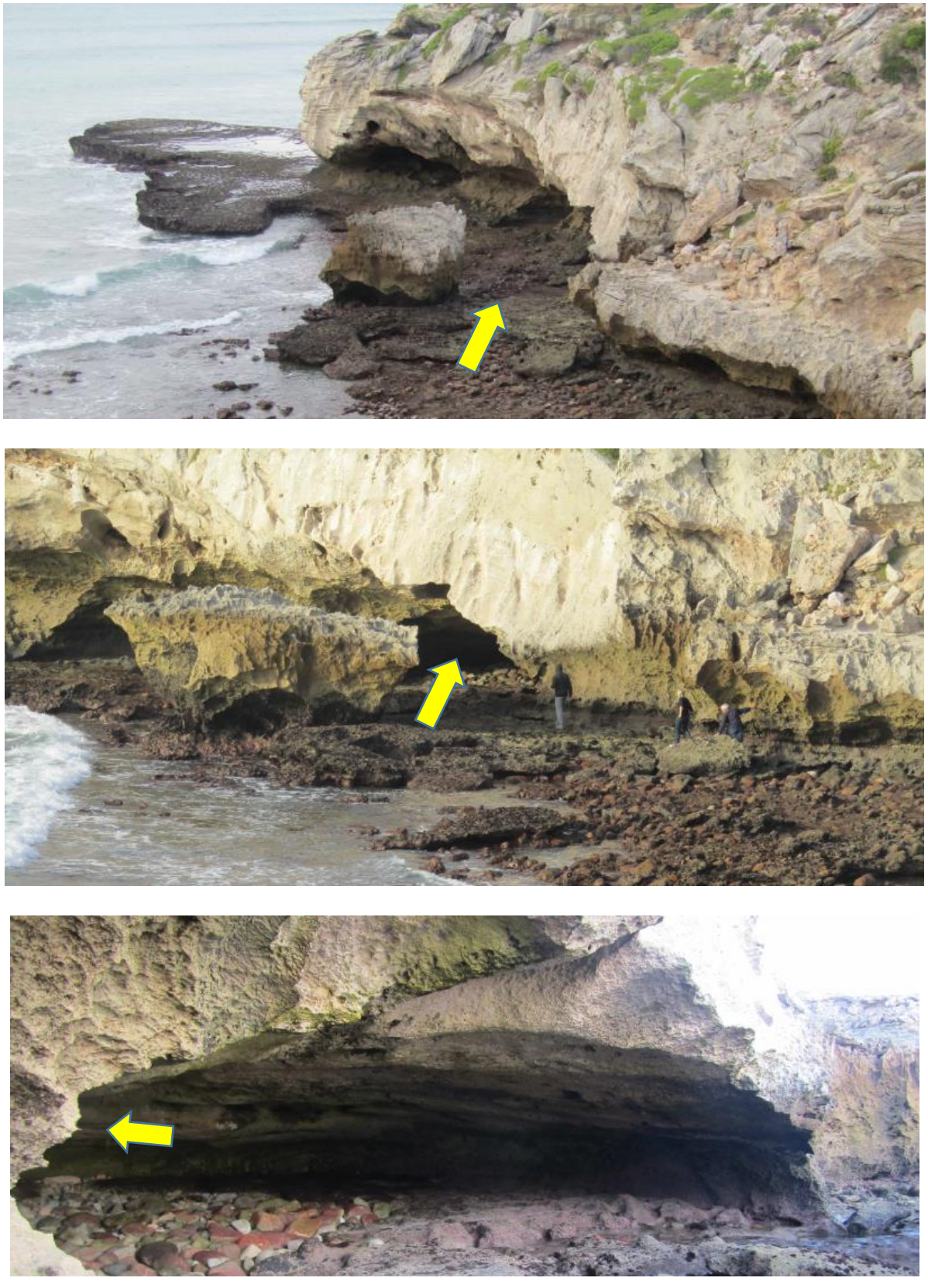

Figure 5. Top, middle and bottom – the access to the Waenhuiskrans Cave (arrows).

Figure 6. The low, narrow entrance to the Waenhuiskrans Cave. Top – view from outside the cave. Bottom - view from inside the cave.

The Waenhuiskrans Cave has an 'entrance' chamber, ~15 m in diameter with a ~3 m high ceiling, and a 'hall', ~25 m in diameter with a ~10 m high ceiling (Figures 7 to 10).

Figure 7. The cave floor. Top - well-rounded boulders of the TMG Rietvlei Formation are washed by the waves into the cave. Bottom – fluting*.

*Fluting is a process of differential weathering and erosion by which an exposed well-jointed coarse-grained rock develops a corrugated surface of flutes; especially the formation of small-scale ridges and depressions by wave action.

Figure 8. Some of the boulders on the floor of the cave are ~0.7 m long.

Figure 9. Top – the cave walls. Bottom - the cave ceiling.

Figure 10. Top and bottom – photographs of the cave taken from the Internet.

