

**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED NATIONAL ROAD R54
SECTION 1 FROM POTCHEFSTROOM (KM 0.0) TO PREVIOUS NW/GP BORDER
(KM 41.60), GAUTENG AND NORTH WEST PROVINCES.**



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Khanyisile Bonile
Tel: 021 202 8669
Email: kbonile@sahra.org.za
Case ID: 25262

Date: Wednesday, 16 July, 2025

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)/In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited
South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited
38 Ida Street, Menlo Park, Pretoria, 0081
Private Bag X17, Lynnwood Ridge
Pretoria
0040

PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd (PGS) was appointed by Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd (Zitholele) on behalf of South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL) to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for to upgrade National Road R54, Section 1, stretching from Potchefstroom to the former Northwest/Gauteng provincial border, Gauteng Province and Northwest Province.

The strategic infrastructure initiative prioritizes the incorporation of Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) facilities and enhancements to public transit services to ensure safer and more inclusive mobility. The project objectives are to improve road safety for both vehicles and pedestrians, support surrounding community development, and modernize existing infrastructure to meet future demands. Planned upgrades include road widening to increase capacity and accommodate all road users, new pavement construction for improved ride quality and durability, and enhanced drainage systems to prevent flooding and structural degradation

Project structures will be redesigned to meet updated hydraulic and structural requirements aligned with the new road geometry. These structures will be replaced and upgraded, including approximately 112 minor culverts, four major culverts, and five bridges. To support construction activities, five borrow pits have been identified. The anticipated material requirements include approximately 480,000 m³ of G6–G8 materials from five sources, 500,000 m³ of G5 materials from three sources, and 600,000 m³ of G1 materials from three sources.

In terms of palaeontological sensitivity, the site is located on unknown to very high palaeontological sensitivity area According to the SAHRA palaeontological sensitivity map and the likelihood of fossil materials being uncovered in this project area is likely.

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Angel, J. October 2024. Heritage Impact Assessment for proposed Improvement on National Road R54 Section 1 From Potchefstroom (km 0.0) To Previous NW/GP Border (km 41.60). North West Province.

No heritage resources identified within the development footprint and within the surrounding area, the proposed development will not have a negative impact on the heritage resources.

- Chance Finds Procedure is recommended and must be implemented.

Butler, E. October 2024. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed R54 Road Upgrade (section 1 from Potchefstroom (km 0.0) to previous NW/GP border (km 41.60) in Gauteng Province and in North West Province.

No fossiliferous outcrop was detected during the site investigation; fossil heritage of scientific and conservational interest is relatively rare in the development area. A High Palaeontological Significance has been allocated for the construction phase of the R54 road upgrade Project pre-mitigation and a Low significance post mitigation. No significant impacts are expected to impact the Operational and Decommissioning phases; the Cumulative impact of the development is medium pre- mitigation and Low post mitigation and falls within the acceptable limits for the project. The development may thus be permitted in its whole extent, as the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological resources.

- No further palaeontological heritage studies recommended.
- Chance Finds Procedure is recommended and must be implemented.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMP:

- 38(4)a - The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b - The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) - If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed

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development, SAHRA DAU (Khanyisile Bonile 021 202 8669/ kbonile@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

- 38(4)c(ii) - If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Khanyisile Bonile 021 202 8669/ kbonile@sahra.org.za) must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d - See section 51(1) of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e - The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final BAR must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA application must be submitted to the SAHRIS application for record purposes.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Khanyisile Bonile
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Natasha Higgitt
Manager: Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.org.za/node/381629>