

**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

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Khanyisile Bonile  
Tel: 021 202 8669  
Email: [kbonile@sahra.org.za](mailto:kbonile@sahra.org.za)  
Case ID: 25262

Date: Wednesday, 2 July, 2025

### **Interim Comment**

#### **In terms of Section 38(3) 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

South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited has applied 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 m<sup>3</sup> of G6–G8 materials from five sources, 500,000 m<sup>3</sup> of G5 materials from three sources, and 600,000 m<sup>3</sup> of G1 materials from three sources.

#### **Interim Comment**

The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) is making the following comments in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act as contemplated by the EIA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA:

**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

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Khanyisile Bonile  
Tel: 021 202 8669  
Email: [kbonile@sahra.org.za](mailto:kbonile@sahra.org.za)  
Case ID: 25262

Date: Wednesday, 2 July, 2025

- The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) requests that an assessment of the impact to heritage resources that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) must be conducted as part of the EA process. The HIA must include an archaeological and palaeontological component.
- The field-based archaeological component of the HIA must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see [www.asapa.co.za](http://www.asapa.co.za) or [www.aphp.org.za](http://www.aphp.org.za) for a list of qualified archaeologists). The HIA must consider any impacts to coastal and underwater heritage that may occur due to the seawater intake pipelines.
- The proposed development is located within an area of unknown to very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.
- Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.
- Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and draft EIAR inclusive of appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

**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

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Khanyisile Bonile  
Tel: 021 202 8669  
Email: [kbonile@sahra.org.za](mailto:kbonile@sahra.org.za)  
Case ID: 25262

Date: Wednesday, 2 July, 2025

Khanyisile Bonile  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

**ADMIN:**

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