

# Annual Report 2016

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Superintendence of Cultural Heritage



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  

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SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# 1. Data Management

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## The National Inventory

The Mission Statement of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is to fulfill the duties of the State to ensure the protection and accessibility of cultural heritage as defined in the Cultural Heritage Act 2002.

Article 7 of the Cultural Heritage Act requires the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to compile a National Inventory of cultural property in the Maltese Islands.

In 2011 the Superintendence started publishing the inventory records on the Government Gazette. Data inputting online of the Cultural Heritage Inventory Management System (CHIMS) also proceeded in parallel. Due to other more pressing commitments, in 2016 the Superintendence was not in a position to publish any new inventory records on the Government Gazette or on CHIMS. At present a total of 2,412 sites and monuments have been published by the Superintendence on the Government Gazette, while 4,087 records have been recorded on CHIMS, as shown on the following tables:

<b>Sites published on Gocernment Gazette by Theme</b>	<b>Number of records</b>
Historical, military and archaeological sites	25
Historical and Archaeological sites	35
Knights Fortifications	389
Scheduled Property	125
Chapels and Niches	1,838
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,412</b>

<b>Records uploaded on CHIMS by Theme</b>	<b>Total</b>
Heritage Sites	2492
Archaeological Interventions	10
Artefacts	1568
Guardianship Deeds	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,087</b>

## 2. Land use and Planning Matters

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### **Consultations regarding land use and development applications**

**Legal Changes in the Planning Process** - The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is a designated statutory external consultee to the Planning Authority regarding land use and development applications. The assessment of such applications and the provision of the statutory consultations required by Planning Authority is currently the single most onerous commitment of the Superintendence.

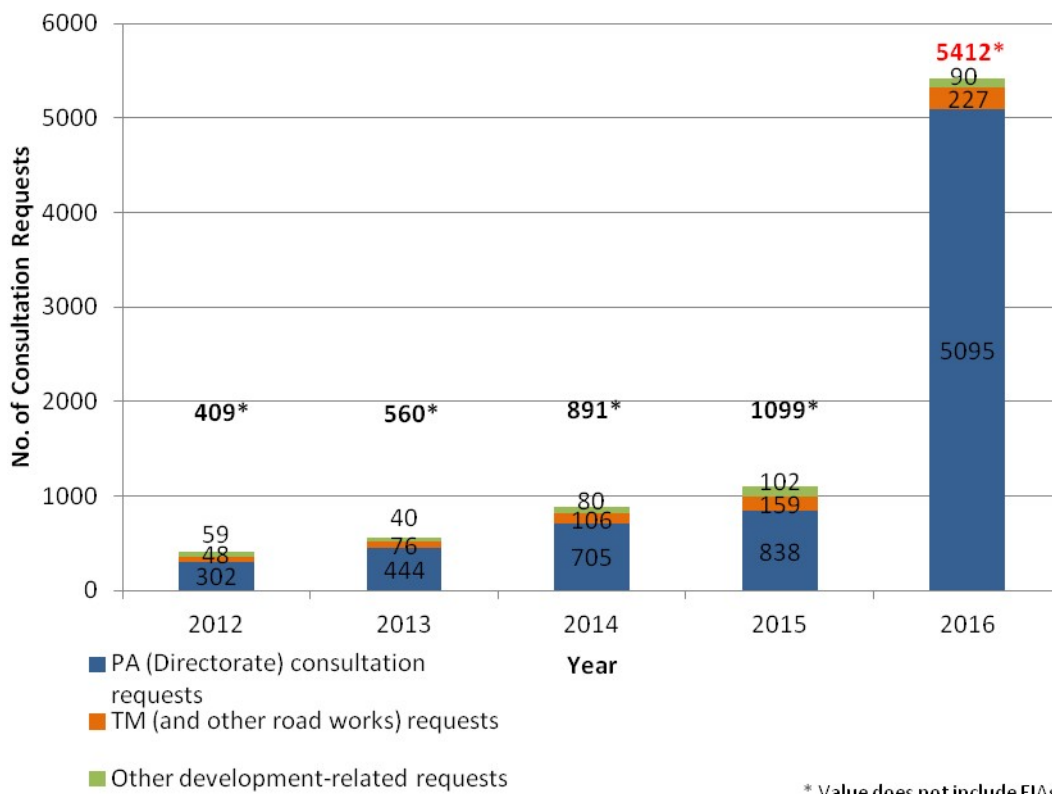
This regulatory and consultative function of the Superintendence on development applications is established in the first instance by Cultural Heritage Act, 2002. This function has however been extensively redefined and expanded as a result of the newly enacted Development Planning Act of 2016, as implemented by Legal Notice 162 of 2016, Development Planning (Procedure for Applications and their Determination) Regulations.

The legal reform of the Planning Authority and of its procedures, has also resulted in an important change to the role and functions of the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (CHAC). Under the former planning legislation the CHAC was an internal body to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and provided its advise on cultural heritage to the Planning Directorate.

Since May of 2016 the CHAC has started being Chaired by the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage, and it has now assumed an advise role directly to the Superintendence. The members of the CHAC were confirmed by the Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government on 2 May 2016 by means of a note published in the Government Gazette of 6 May 2016.

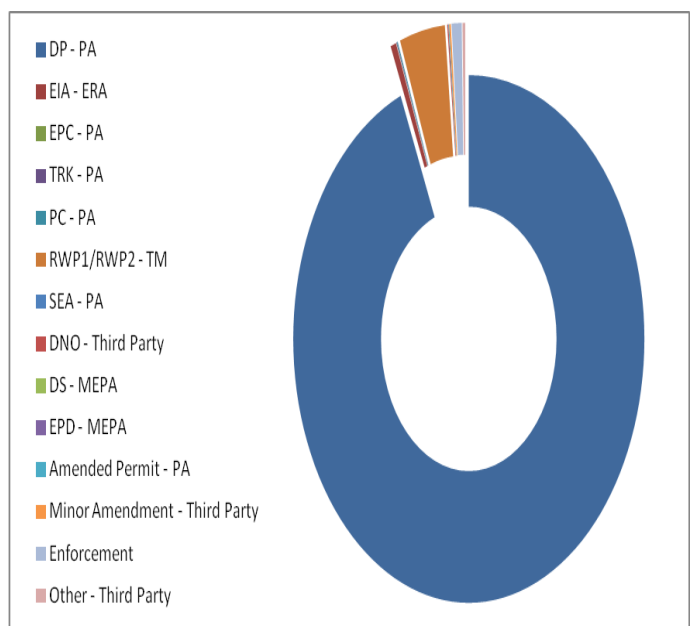
From May to December 2016, the CHAC held 26 meetings and provided recommendations to the Superintendence on 307 development applications.

**Changes to the Planning Procedures** – The legal changes outlined above has resulted in a drastic surge in 2016 in the number of planning applications referred to the Superintendence. The number of development applications received by the Superintendence has increased from the 1,099 cases registered in 2015, to a total of 5,440 in 2016, as shown on the table below. This almost five fold increase was a direct result of the coming into force of the new planning regulations since May 2016.



Over 96% of the development consultation requests received in 2016 originated from the Planning Authority, with the remaining 4% originating from Transport Malta and other third parties as shown in more detail in the Table below.

Type of Consultation Received	2016
DP - PA	5095
EIA - ERA	28
EPC - PA	1
TRK - PA	3
PC - PA	4
RWP1/RWP2 - TM	227
SEA - PA	0
DNO - Third Party	6
DS - PA	0
EPD - PA	0
Amended Permit - PA	4
Minor Amend. - Third Party	8
Enforcement	50
Other - Third Party	14



In 2016 the assessment of the planning and land use applications, and the surveillance and regulation of development works took up over 70% of the human resources of the Superintendence. The major increase in workload was met in part through the recruitment of two new officers with the Superintendence. The total staff complement of the Superintendence by the end of 2016 stood at 14 officers.

Planning applications referred to the Superintendence are analysed for potential physical and visual impacts to both archaeological and architectural monuments. Possible negative impacts on UNESCO World Heritage Sites and monuments are also assessed. Superintendence case officers are legally obliged to fully assess each application and issue the requested response within 30 calendar days of the publication date, or 15 days from the receipt of the PA consultation letter, depending on the type of development application or on the stage reached by a given application in the planning process. Within this timeframe the Superintendence officers must fully assess the submitted technical documents, as well as carry out site inspections, meetings with PA officials, architects and developers.

A substantial amount of the development applications referred to the Superintendence in 2016 deal with large-scale projects. Such cases can involve either major infrastructural initiatives, as well as conservation and restoration projects on cultural monuments of national importance. Major development applications require a more intensive treatment and response by Superintendence. Detailed discussions and site inspections are regularly carried out with the interested national bodies, including with Transport Malta, the Grand Harbour Regeneration Committee, Heritage Malta, Restoration Directorate, Local Councils, Non-Governmental Organizations as well as with Ministries and government departments.

Some of the main development applications, including major infrastructural or restoration projects, tackled by the Superintendence in 2016 are listed in the following table:

Site at	Project Description
Site at, Palazzino, 55, Triq L- Ifran, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01207/15	Change of use from residential to boutique hotel (Class 3A) including wine bar and lounge bar (Class 4C) and restaurant (Class 4D), and internal alterations.
Site at, Maria Addolorata Cemetery, Tal-Horr, Paola, Malta - PA 02552/14	To carry out excavation works and construct two thousand eight hundred and eighty graves and adjacent charnel houses together with the construction of periphery boundary wall, including ashes urns and mild steel entrance gates together with perforation in existing West side wall to create link between existing cemetery and new extension.
Site at, Pjazza tal-Katidral, Ic-Cittadella, Victoria, Gozo - PA 00656/11	Re-location of a fountain in Cathedral Square at the Cittadella Gozo
Site at, Triq il-Marina, Triq Luigi Pisani &, Triq Is-Salvatur, Kalkara, Malta - PA 03956/10	Development of the National Interactive Science Centre which includes educational and commercial uses together with catering and conference facilities. The restoration /conservation and re-use of existing buildings is being proposed along with the embellishment of the surrounding landscape.
Site at, St. Paul's Missionary College, Triq E. Vitale, Triq Il-Fejgel, Triq Sammy Abela, Triq Is-Sigar, Triq Dun Mikiel Callus, Triq Karmena Micallef, Triq J. Bugeja, Triq Sant Agata, Sqaq Sant Agata, Rabat, Malta - PA 00089/16	Demolition of existing garage and toilet areas and construction of sports pavillion for St Paul's Missionary College.
Site at, Palazzo Perellos, St.Christopher Street c/w, Triq Sant' Ursula, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 04327/15	Proposed change of use from class 4A to class 3A boutique hotel, including restoration of existing property, extension through the addition of one floor and alterations.
Site at, St. John's Co-Cathedral Museum, Triq San Gwann c/w Triq il-Merkanti c/w Triq Santa Lucija c/w, Triq Ir- Repubblica, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 00472/15	Extension and refurbishment of St John's Co-Cathedral Museum
Site at, Macina, Triq It- Tarnza, Senglea (Isla), Malta - PA 03729/15	Conversion of Macina into a Guest House (Class 3A) at ground first and second floors. One Restaurant and one Caffetteria at ground floor and one Restaurant on the Public Roof.
Site at, Birgu Regatta Club, Triq Il-Mandragg, Vittoriosa (Birgu), Malta - PA 00114/16	Internal alterations at ground floor level to house the 'Regatta Club', the demolition of the existing roof that is being proposed to be replaced to support a newly added floor that is to house a conference hall
Site at, Pjazza Antoine de Paule, Triq Ninu Cremona, Triq l-Arkata, Triq Hal Safliena, Triq Valletta, Triq il-Foss, Triq Guze d'Amato, Triq il-Knisja, Triq tal- Borg, Triq Haz- Zabbar, Paola, Malta - PA 00175/16	Alterations to PA 1611/11, including altered traffic management, increased pedestrian space interspersed with new trees , hedges and planters, proposed archway at Triq l-Arkata, the demolition of existing public convenience to create pedestrian pathway, the redesign of the parvis, new street furniture and approved fountain
Site at, British Building at Dock 1, Ix-Xatt Ta' Bormla, Cospicua (Bormla), Malta - PA 03387/13	Restoration of external facades of the british building at dock 1, Bormla
Site at, St. Francis Friary, Triq San Frangisk, Triq San Frangisk Sqaq Nru.1, Triq Nikol Saura, Rabat, Malta - PA 03028/15	Installation of a lift within the central courtyard of the friary

Site at, 103, Palazzo Pietro Stiges, Triq Id- Dejqa c/w, Triq San Kristofru, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 03638/15	Proposed minor internal structural alterations and proposed extension at second floor level to existing Class 4A commercial/ office building (as approved in PA04727/08)
PA 02700/10 - Consolidation, Conservation and Adaptive Re-Use of Fort St Angelo (Phase 2)	Minor amendment – Ramp access for D Homedes bastion, Fort St Angelo, Birgu
Site at, Auberge D'Italie, Triq il-Merkanti, Triq Melita, Tia San Zakkarija, Pjazza De Vallette, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01399/15	Development of MUZA - The National Museum of Fine Arts which includes the restoration, reuse and embellishment of an existing building and its immediate surrounds
Site at, Sprachcaffe Village Club, Triq Alamein/, Triq Giorgio Mitrovich, Pembroke, Malta - PA 05532/10	Proposed construction of accommodation block consisting of 8 self catering units within the existing English Language Speaking Complex.
Site at, Restoration of the Floriana Grand Harbour Fortifications, Xatt Lascaris, Telghet il-Kurcifiss, Xatt Pinto, Triq il-Vittmi Furjanizi tal-Gwerra, Xatt ic-Cangatura, Triq Emvin Cremona, Floriana, Xatt Lascaris, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 00349/16	Restoration of the Floriana Grand Harbour Fortifications
Site at, St Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Misrah Indipendenza, Valletta, Malta	Proposed development at St Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Valletta
Site at, It-Torri ta' San Tumas, Dawret it-Torri c/w Triq is-Salini c/w, Triq Wignacourt, Marsascala, Malta - PA 03604/15	Rehabilitation and restoration of St Thomas Tower internal and external fabric, including the creation of a multi- sensory museum, audio-visual rooms, installation of panoramic lift, ditch rehabilitation and roof top viewing platform.
Site at, Triq it-Torri c/w Triq Ghar il-Lembi, and 119 and 120, Triq Il- Kbir, Sliema, Malta - PA 04109/15	Demolish premises no.119 & 120, High street, Sliema and amalgamate this new development consisting of apartments and offices Class 4A, to the currently approved development PA 02789/04 with some minor internal alterations to the approved plans. relocation of garage entrance/exit to the adjoining piazzetta basement garages and change of use of existing garage ramp to a class 4B premises and construction of pool over penthouse level.
Site at, Grand Masters Palace, Misrah San Gorg, Triq it-Teatru, Triq il-Merkanti, Triq L- Arcisqof, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 00552/16	Proposed regeneration of the gm palace, including relocation of armoury to first floor, visitors' facilities and amenities, and improvement of access for all
Site at, Triq Tal- Qacca, Xaghra, Gozo - PA 00689/16	Proposed construction of 7 terraced dwellings
Site at, The Ritirata, San Salvatore Bastion Area, Triq Jo seph Mangion, Floriana, Malta - PA 00803/16	Proposed Galleries to House the Malta International Contemporary Art Space and ancillary spaces including administration offices class 4A and restaurant with kitchen and kiosk class 4D

Site at, Phoenicia Hotel, The Mall (King Edward VII Avenue), Triq L-Assedju Il- Kbir, Floriana, Malta - PA 04613/15	Amendments to PA/05753/09 - the proposed amendments include (i) a change of use to the proposed extension of the Phoenicia Hotel, from an extension of bedrooms (class 3b) to an extension for a health club and spa (class 3b); (ii) internal minor alterations; and (iii) the inclusion of a temporary sub-station which change shall be processed through a Minor Amendment Application. It is to be noted that a renewal application for PA/05753/09 is currently being processed under application number PA/02925/15.
Site at, Pjazza San Gwann, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 00915/16	The construction of a monument in honour of Girolamo Cassar and Francesco Laparelli
Site at, Pjazza Teatru Rjal, Triq ir- Repubblika / Triq Nofs in-Nhar / Triq il-Vittorja / , Triq L- Ordinanza, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01914/15	To propose the installation of the following reversible installations: 01 - 2 in no. 2 step bridges connecting venue to victory street; 02 - 2 in no. glass doors at podium ground floor; 05 - stairs connecting ordinance street passarella to venue ramp; 09 - external seating under stepped stage at venue; 10 - ramp connecting south street with stage; 19 - performers' staircase connecting venue to stage; 21 - freestanding external bins; 22 - free standing letterbox; 27 - ladder connecting South Street Passarella to Venue.
Site at, Villino Chappelle, Triq Il-Mosta, San Pawl il-Bahar, Malta - PA 00927/16	Proposed change in use from class 6 to class 3a (boutique hotel) and class 4d (restaurant) and minor internal/external alterations to villa
Site at, Forti San Lucjan, Triq Il-Qajjenza, Marsaxlokk, Malta - PA 00954/16	Minor alterations including replacement of existing dilapidated reinforced concrete slab to one of the storerooms at forti san lucjan.
Site at, Macina, Triq it-Tarzna / Triq San Guzepp / Misrah Gorg Mitrovich / , Triq 31 Ta' Marzu, Senglea (Isla), Malta - PA 01059/16	Floating restaurant beside the deck of Macina. - Class 4D
Site at, Adelphi Hotel, Triq ir-Rebha c/w, Triq Tas- Sliema, Gzira, Malta - PA 02843/15	To demolish existing Class 3B hotel and redevelop, together with adjacent vacant site, a new class 3B hotel, including facilities on roof, three basement levels for underground car parking and signage on facade and party walls.
Site at, Sunflower, Triq 28 Ta' April 1688, Xaghra, Gozo - PA 04577/15	Construction of a terraced house to cover party wall
Site at, Triq Il-Kastell, Victoria, Gozo - PA 01086/16	To demolish existing building and construct 3 storey parking area including new access road to parking levels and pedestrian walkway to the citadel.
Site at, Zammit Clap Hospital, Triq Reggie Miller c/w, Triq Dun Anton Tabone, San Giljan, Malta - PA 00999/16	Restoration of facades, restoration of chapel and replacement of apertures
Site at, Admiralty House, South Street c/w, Triq Nofs In- Nhar, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01140/16	Restoration of facades on South Street and Old Mint Street, internal alterations and change of use from museum (class 2b) to offices (class 4a)
Site at, Valletta University Campus, Triq San Pawl, Belt Valletta, Malta -	To install an openable metal and glass canopy lightweight roof over courtyard, works relating to the diversion of the existing rain water



PA 02012/15	system and repaving of courtyard
Site at, British Building Dock 1, Ix- Xatt Ta' Bormla, Cospicua (Bormla), Malta - PA 01189/16	Change of use of disused building known as the british building (including the police station approved in PA /03623/14) into educational institution (class 2c) consisting of the reconstruction of missing original volumes, internal alterations and extensions including the addition of an extra floor
Site at, MCAST Main Campus, It-Telgha Ta' Kordin, Paola, Malta - PA 01227/16	Construction of the new IET building. Amendments to the approved Masterplan.
Site at, Xaghra Football Ground, Triq Il- Maqdes, Xaghra, Gozo - PA 02449/15	Proposed extension to the existing sports and recreational facilities
Site at, Teatru Astra, Triq Ir-Repubblika u, Triq Giuseppe G Vella, Victoria, Gozo - PA 01907/15	Proposed installation of photovoltaic panels.
Site at, Outer Argotti Gardens, Triq Vincenzo Bugeja c/w Pjazza San Kalcidon c/w, Triq Sarria, Floriana, Malta - PA 03337/15	Rehabilitation of outer Argotti Gardens, including construction of information centre, relocation of toilets, paving works, repairs to walls and pilasters and other works
Upgrading of Biskuttin garden and adjacent pavement, Floriana i.c.w. DNO	Upgrading of Biskuttin garden and adjacent pavement, Floriana i.c.w. DNO
Site at, Muscat Motors, Triq D'Argens, Gzira, Malta - PA 01638/16	Existing glazing on facade is being proposed as a new client entrance. New cladding and new signage to facade is being proposed.
Site at, Pjazza Tigne, Tigne Point, Pjazza Tigne, Sliema, Malta - PA 01695/16 (Construction of bridge and pathway)	Construction of bridge and pathway
Site at, Farmhouse, 6 & 7, Triq Tal-Hlas, Qormi, Malta - PA 02771/16	Proposed construction of a piano nobile to an existing palazzo. Minor alterations to existing farmhouses. Construction of a pool.
Site at, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97/98, 99A-D, Triq San Kristofru c/w, Triq Id- Dejqa, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 02828/16	Installation of timber shop-fronts and lightweight outdoor theatre stage, theatre boxes and theatre infrastructure
Site at, National Library Building, 34-36, Triq it-Tezorerija c/w Triq it-Teatru c/w, Misrah Ir- Repubblika, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 02991/16	To install passenger lift to National Library and internal alterations at ground floor level for Local Council offices (Class 4A), Local Library (Class 2B) and Clinic (Class 2A) including non-illuminated signs.
Site at, 57, Triq Tigne, Triq Pace, Sliema, Malta - PA 00473/15	Demolition of existing and construction of parking at level -1 and 0, class 4a shop from Tigne Street, maisonette, 11 apartments and penthouse
Site at, Bishop's Palace, 27, Triq Il-Palazz Ta' L- Isqof, Vittoriosa (Birgu), Malta - PA 03994/16	Proposed change of ISE from residential to Boutique Hotel (Class 3A) including alterations
Site at, Marsa Government Garage, Triq Troubridge c/w, Triq Il- Biccierija, Marsa, Malta - PA 03062/16	Excavation to the required levels and construction of the Malta Carnival Experience including interactive workshops, parking area, piazza, substation and a multi-purpose structure consisting of Museum , Audio visual centre, Dance rehearsal studio , Class 4D cafeteria, Administration

	spaces and a class 4B souvenir shop .
Site at, Imperial Hotel, 1, Rudolph Street, Sliema, Malta - TRK 162286	Redevelopment of Imperial hotel - To carry out change of use of Imperial Hotel (Class 3A) to an old people's home (Class 2A). To demolish part of of existing building whilst retaining scheduled property. To excavate site, construct ca parking & amenities at basement levels. To construct amenities & rooms for the elderly at ground floor & above.
Site at, Blackley Buildings, Our Lady of sorrows Str c/w Gwardamangia Hill c/w, Triq Blackley, Pieta, Malta - PA 04993/16	Restoration and rehabilitation of blackley bakery; change of use of bakery ( class 5A) to offices ( class 4A) :retention and restoration of facades of kingston house ( class 1) and workers dwellings in blackley street; demolition of interior of dwellings; and construction of apartments and underlying garages (as per mepa permit PA 06021/95)
Site at, The Cloisters, Triq Imrabat c/w Triq is-Sorrijiet c/w, Triq Bonavita, San Giljan, Malta - PA 05004/16	Outline application for conversion and restoration of existing scheduled building into Boutique Hotel (Class 3A) including restaurant. To establish building envelope on the remaining area.
Site at, The Brewery, Triq Notabile and, Triq San Gwakkina, Birkirkara, Malta - PA 02764/16	Restoration & rehabilitation of the old brew house for re-purposing as a visitors' centre & museum (class 2b) with ancillary offices (class 4a) & various snack bars (class 4c & 4d); including internal alterations and addition of new recessed level.
Site at, Mithna tax-Xarolla, Triq Sant' Andrija / Triq iz-Zurrieq / , Triq It-Tahhan, Zurrieq, Malta - PA 02219/16	Proposed Embellishment of Area surrounding Xarolla Mill. Embellishment includes visitors centre and public toilets.
Site at, Notarial Archives, 24, Triq San Kristorfu c/w, Triq San Pawl, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 05367/16	Proposed internal alterations to accommodate archives and offices and maintenance of facade
Site at, The Garden Battery, Ix- Xatt Ta' Tigne, Sliema, Malta - PA 05592/16	Restoration of 19th century battery
Site at, ( fields), Triq Hal-Qormi c/w, Triq It- Tigieg, Qormi, Malta - PA 05491/16	To excavate site, construct 2 levels of underground parking, construct level of retail and DIY space with ancillary facilities and construct recessed first floor of retail space and offices (class 4a & 4b). The proposal includes road widening works as instructed by Transport Malta as well as demolition of existing farmhouse affected by road widening works, conservation of archaeological remains and relocation of historic building as instructed by SCH.
Site at, St. Paul's Church, Pjazza San Pawl, Zebbug (Gozo), Gozo - PA 06047/16	To restore the original church, to demolish the annexes and to construct appropriate annexes with a parochial and Social Community Centre.
Site at, St Julians Tower, Triq It- Torri, Sliema, Malta - PA 06434/16	To replace approved kiosks (Class 4c) with two complementary kiosks (Class 4C) on either side of the tower, having the same bar area as approved. to add an outer shell to a segment of the external area as per drawings consisting of lightweight materials and timber and having a retractable roof and sides with double glazing vertical sliding panels. Paving to external area to be replaced to facilitate surface water runoff and to complement the tower. Sanctioning of existing mobile structure.
Site at, 33, Triq Il- Kattidral, Sliema, Malta - PA 06610/16	To demolish existing town house and construct semi basement garages, one maisonette at ground floor, nine apartments and two penthouses.
Gozo General Hospital, Triq L-Arcisqof Pietru Pace, Triq Ghajn Qatet, Victoria, Gozo - PA 05493/16	Demolition of existing structures and construction of 3 storeys and 1 recessed floor of medical school. (Class 2B as per LN74/14).
Site at, 134/No. 6, Triq Marsamxett,	Part demolition of existing and proposed works including extension at

Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01829/16	roof level, internal and external alterations to existing apartments.
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### 3. Cultural Heritage Surveillance

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(1) New monitoring cases for 2016: 271  
Compared to 2015 new cases: 223

Sharp increase continued to increase especially since from 2013 to 2014 the difference was only of 6 cases more in 2014.

Cases brought forward from 2015: 192

(2) Registered monitors for 2016:  
Full-time: 16  
Part-time: 12

The Superintendence is responsible for the surveillance and monitoring of ongoing development works. The objective of surveillance is to ensure that construction works do not, either willfully or by accident, result in the damaging of historic structures or of archaeological remains.

The scale of these interventions ranges from the surveillance of large infrastructural projects lasting many months, to small scale domestic interventions requiring only a few days of monitoring.

When managing monitoring cases the Superintendence prepares and issues terms of reference for surveillance and investigation works, directs the surveillance or archaeological investigation on construction sites, approves and supervises the engagement of freelance monitors, reviews and archives the results obtained, and reports back to MEPA as and when required. These cases also often require multiple field inspections and meetings with architects, contractors and developers.

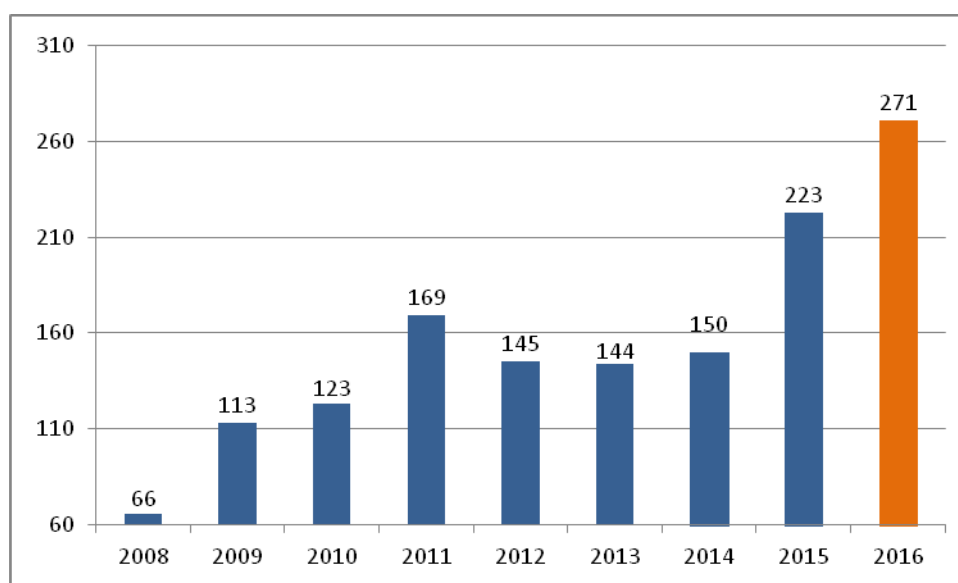
The number of new monitoring cases handled by the Superintendence in 2016 continued to see a sharp increase compared to the previous year: 271 cases received in 2016, against the 223 cases of 2013.

Surveillance and archaeological monitoring is conducted by the Superintendence in partnership with a number of freelance professionals.

Developers can employ a freelance archaeologist directly without having to pay any additional fees to the Superintendence. The archaeologist so engaged will work according to detailed Terms of Reference prepared by the Superintendence. The archaeologist will carry out these Terms of Reference under the direction of the Superintendence. The monitor is also bound to report back any discoveries of potential cultural heritage value.

The reports of the monitors permits the Superintendence to intervene on the construction site to assess the discovery and decide what level of protection is required for the reported discoveries. A decision is also taken on the level of archaeological recording required on a case by case basis.

The Superintendence also publishes and periodically reviews a register of persons who can provide local developers with archaeological monitoring and related services. This register is accessible on the website of the Superintendence, together with a number of guidance documents defining the procedures and standards to be followed in monitoring cases.



In 2016 the number of registered freelance archaeological monitors registered with the Superintendence has decreased slightly: 16 registered full-time monitors in 2016, against the 23 of 2015.

The results of some of the major archaeological monitoring projects undertaken in 2016 are described in Section 6.

## 4. Museums and Sites

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### **Guardianship Deeds**

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage enters into and supervises Guardianship Deeds for the management of state owned cultural heritage properties. According to the Cultural Heritage Act, Guardianship Deeds can be concluded with Non-Governmental Organisations and with Local Councils following necessary authorisation of the Minister and the Committee of Guarantee.

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is the public entity legally entrusted with the management and regulation of this process. Guardianship Deeds are management agreements that are specifically focused on ensuring the well-being and care of cultural heritage property. Deed are examined and considered on the bases of stringent conservation and management requirements. These requirements entail technical conservation and management policy documents which are attached to the guardianship deeds and submitted for ministerial and cabinet approval.

Guardianship Deeds are of mutual benefit both to Government, as the owner of the historical property, as well as for the NGO or Local Council that holds the property in guardianship. However the ultimate beneficiaries of this partnership are: (i) the historical property itself which receives professional care, maintenance and management and (ii) the local and visiting communities that are awarded the opportunity to visit a historical building that would otherwise not be accessible.

A Guardianship Deed also allows the guardian to make medium to long-term plans and investments on the historical building and its management. The forward-planning aspect is in fact crucial since a guardianship deed is only awarded on the submission of a feasibility study and a management plan by the prospective guardian.

No lease costs are imposed on the guardian when taking over a property. This allows for all generated funds from that property to be and donations to be invested into the restoration, maintenance, rehabilitation and management needs of the cultural property in guardianship.

Guardianship Deeds also promote the active participation of the community in cultural heritage through voluntary work.

Six new Deeds were concluded between with Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna in 2016.

The table below shows the status of the Guardianship Deeds to date.

	<b>Name of Cultural Property</b>	<b>Locality</b>	<b>Name of Guardian</b>	<b>Year of Signature</b>
1	Qalet Marku Tower	Naxxar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
2	Għallis Tower	Naxxar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
3	Red Tower (aka Sta Agatha Tower)	Mellieħa	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
4	Wignacourt Tower	San Pawl il-Baħar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
5	Mamo Tower	Marsaskala	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
6	Santa Maria Tower	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
7	Dwejra Tower	San Lawrenz	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
8	Santa Maria Battery	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
9	Msida Bastion Cemetery	Floriana	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
10	Lascaris War Rooms	Valletta	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2009
11	WWII shelter at 25, Britannia Sqr	Tarxien	Tarxien Local Council	2009
12	WWII Shelter at Sta Ubaldesca Str	Paola	Fondazzjoni Wirt Paola	2010
13	Couvre Porte Barracks at Vittoriosa (10 rooms at lower level) and underlying WWII shelter	Vittoriosa	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2011
14	Our Lady of Victory Church	Valletta	Din l-Art Helwa	2011
15	Wied Iz-Żurrieq Tower	Qrendi	Din l-Art Helwa	2013
16	Fort Rinella	Kalkara	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
17	Madliena Tower and adjacent structures, Room off Mediterranean Street and Bridge and Weir	Pembroke	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
18	Tower at Triq il-Wiesgha	Xaghjra	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
19	Three World War II Pill Boxes: Reserve Post R15 (Naxxar),	Naxxar Mellieħa	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016

	AB1 Beach post (Mellieha) and RAO beach post (Kalkara)	Kalkara		
20	Notre Dame Gate	Vittoriosa	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016
21	St.Thomas Tower	Marsaskala	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2016

## Collaboration with Heritage Malta and surveillance of major projects

The Superintendence has a close and constant rapport with Heritage Malta, particularly with respect to the various capital projects being undertaken on the archaeological and historical monuments in their keep. These projects involve large scale restoration and conservation initiatives, as well as the introduction of new infrastructural works to improve the visitors' experience on these sites.

The Superintendence has assisted Heritage Malta officers by providing technical back-up and guidance where required. The Superintendence also carries out regular surveillance of the works carried out on these sites of national importance to ensure that potentially negative impacts are removed or successfully mitigated. In situations which require some form of archaeological investigation or documentation, the Superintendence provides Heritage Malta with the required technical Terms of Reference and directs the investigation jointly with the relevant curatorial officers.

1. **Fort St Angelo** – The restoration works within the precinct of the Fort entailed the monitoring of restoration works and the laying down of new underground utilities. These works uncovered several surviving archaeological remains including part of the medieval fortifications, as well as features and barracks related to structural remains from the Knights and British periods. These works were completed.
2. **Ggantija Temples** – Following the collapse of the terrace rubble wall, the Superintendence together with Heritage Malta proceeded to archaeologically investigate the collapse and understand the construction technique of the early modern wall. Works uncovered parts of a Neolithic structure presumed to be the terracing identified in



the Houel depictions. Following documentation of the site, the remains were resealed and the site made safe for visitors.

3. **Tas-Silg Temples** – In view of a forthcoming project with the aim of creating a Visitors Centre at Tas-Silg, a series of archaeological investigative trenches were carried out in areas identified for the installation of the new foundations. Works uncovered new archaeological deposits which will require further investigation. These investigations have already guided the architects of the project to redesign parts of the original proposal.
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## 5. Movement of Goods

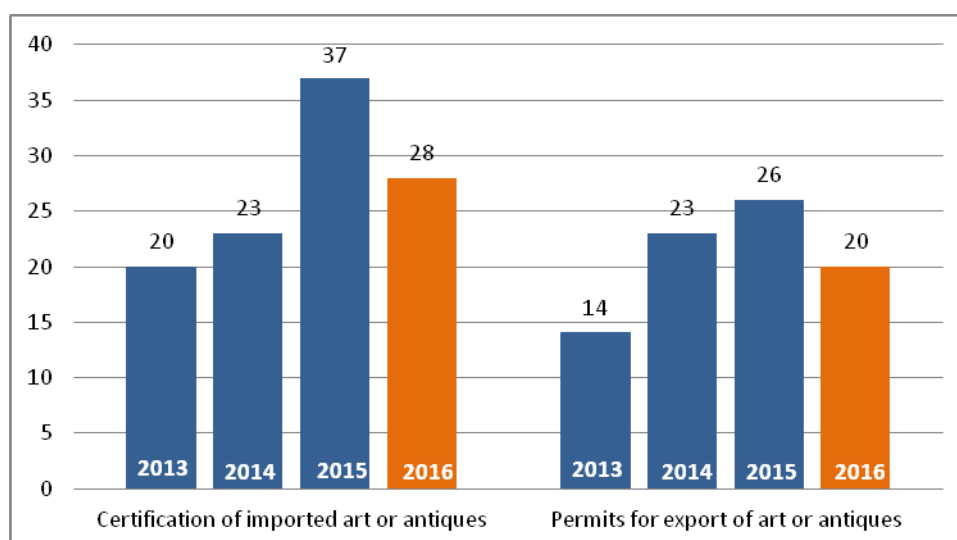
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### Import and Export of Cultural Goods

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage regulates the import and export of cultural goods moving between Malta and EU Member States, as well as from, or to non-EU countries. These cases are referred to the Superintendence by the Customs Department or by Malta Post.

The Superintendence has continued to fulfill its role in monitoring the export or movement of cultural heritage items from Maltese territory, be this export to a country within the European Union or outside of it. In keeping with long-standing practice, the Superintendence reviews the export or movement of “personal items”, to ensure that these items do not include cultural heritage items.

In the course of 2016, the Superintendence reviewed 396 cases of export or movement, in which cases the exporter had declared that no item of cultural heritage was being exported. The number of cases was not exceptional, being 16 cases more than those processed in 2015 (380 cases) and equal to the number of cases processed in 2014.



As stated at law, the export of cultural heritage items from Malta requires permission from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. In the course of 2016, the Superintendence issued permission for export of cultural heritage items in 20 cases. Of these 20 cases, 16 cases were for the export of contemporary or decorative art that did not require inspection of the items. In the remaining 4 cases permission was only granted after the items had been

inspected. Such inspections are carried out in terms of specific legislation and generate revenue amounting to € 11,591.91. This revenue is taken as a fee, equal to 5% of the value of the inspected item. The amount was a marked increase over the amount collected in 2015 (€ 1,422.14) for export inspections, but included an exceptional consignment shipped out of Malta on a super yacht.

The 20 permissions granted in 2016 marked a decrease over permissions as issued in 2015 (26 cases) and over 2014, when a total of 23 permissions was granted.

The Superintendence is also called upon to inspect and certify cultural heritage items that are imported from outside the European Union. This process is initiated by the importer in order to comply with Customs procedures.

In the course of 2016, the Superintendence inspected and certified imported cultural heritage items in 28 cases. These 28 cases are a decrease when compared to the 37 cases inspected in 2015, but are still more than the cases inspected in 2014 (23 cases) and in 2013 (20 cases).

These inspections of imported items generated revenue of € 4,730.54. This was a marked decrease when compared to the € 25,901.54 collected for import inspections in 2015, but is closer to the € 2,564.54 collected in 2014 and the € 8,572.20 in 2013.

The spike in revenue in 2015 is indicative of the exceptional import of prestigious and costly items in the course of that year.

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## 6. Cultural Heritage Research

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One of the key functions of the Superintendence is to regulate and promote cultural heritage and scientific research in Malta. This function is carried out in collaboration with a range of Maltese and international partner organisations and colleagues.

### **FRAGSUS (Fragility and sustainability in island environments: cultural change and collapse in prehistory) – Project funded by the European Research Council**

The fourth of this five-year project has been dedicated to carrying out a variety of data collection and research exercises, both **in the field** and in museum collections. Data collection teams were composed of different specialists and university students drawn from a variety of institutions: the University of Belfast (project coordinator), the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, University of Cambridge, the University of Malta and Heritage Malta.

The scientific objective of the project is to understand the type of environment that existed on the Maltese Islands from the Neolithic period to later times. The project seeks to understand environmental stress in small islands.

In 2016 FRAGSUS research included:

- Archaeological Fieldwork at the Neolithic domestic site of Taç-Ċawla, Victoria, Gozo.
- Archaeological Fieldwork and Geo-Sedimentary Surveys at Ġgantija Temples and in the underlying valley (Xagħra, Gozo).
- Geo-sedimentary Coring in valley beds in both Malta and Gozo to collect paleo-environmental samples. In all nine areas are being investigated by the project as candidate sites for investigation by means of coring. This survey was combined with associated studies of the pollen and snails recovered from the cores and from the archaeological investigations.

- Osteological data collection and studies of the large collection of human skeletal remains from the 1980s excavation at Ċirku tax-Xagħra (Gozo).

The analysis of the osteological data gathered together with publication related in this area of study will be carried out in 2017.

## **Other Major Archaeological Interventions by the Superintendence 2016**

Throughout the year the Superintendence has followed a wide range of archaeological interventions. Most of these interventions were associated with the supervision and monitoring of ongoing land development works, statistics for which are presented above. The following are some of the principal of these archaeological interventions.

### **Triq Ghajn Qajjet, Rabat**

A total of sixteen rock-cut tombs and three catacombs were uncovered in Ghajn Qajjet during trenching works for the laying of service utilities. Some tombs were already disturbed by the laying of previous services. Many of the tombs were archaeologically excavated and a complete record taken. A preliminary assessment of the ceramics found inside these tombs indicates burials date from Punic time to the Roman period. The site forms part of a larger funerary area occupying Ghajn Qajjet. . Most of the tombs identified were protected in situ. In addition other discoveries were made during the course of works including two underground water galleries, one set of cart-ruts and other agricultural features. Development works were completed in 2016

### **Triq Ghajn Qajjet, Rabat/ Triq il-Maltin Internati u Eziljati, Mtarfa**

As part of the planning process for the construction of a hydrology centre within the Mtarfa/Rabat roundabout an archaeological investigation was undertaken to identify any surviving archaeological remains. Works on site uncovered a rock-cut tomb, funerary deposits including two cinerary urns, an extensive tract of an old road probably of Roman date, quarrying and agricultural rock-cut features. These features were preserved and measures taken to remain visible for the enjoyment of the public. They will be integrated into the hydrology centre as cultural attractions.

#### **41, Count Roger Street, Rabat**

In a private house at Triq Konti Ruggieru workers broke into the ceiling of an underlying catacomb. An investigation of the feature was not possible but measures to re-instate the roof were taken. The catacomb was preserved.

#### **Triq Qarawas, Żebbiegħ**

During an archaeological evaluation of an un-built plot proposed for development, a stretch of cart ruts and traces of quarrying activity were uncovered. The site was fully investigated and recorded. The cart ruts were preserved in situ.

#### **Triq Qarawas, Żebbiegħ**

In another site close to the above, during an archaeological evaluation of an un-built plot proposed for development a stretch of cart ruts and several quarries were uncovered. The site was fully investigated and recorded. The cart ruts were preserved in situ.

#### **Triq id-Dejqa, Valletta**

Structural remains were uncovered during the rehabilitation works of Triq id-Dejqa. These remains which were already exposed during previous interventions delineate part of the older building demolished in the late nineteenth-century for the construction of Vincenti Buildings.

#### **Triq Sant'Ursula, Valletta**

During the rehabilitation of a house in Valletta several features were uncovered at basement level. The discovered features are related to the earlier phases of this historic building. These remains include a cesspit connected to an extensive system of drainage channels, stratified deposits of domestic material within the cellar, a quarry and rock-cut stairs. The remains were recorded and preserved in situ.

#### **Safi Aviation Park, Safi**

During construction works of new hangars a silo pit was reported to have found by the developer. Remaining works were undertaken under monitoring during which several other findings were made, including two other silos, a rock-cut tomb, bell-shaped wells, a large quarry pit and extensive system of agricultural trenches. These findings are found close to other similar remains uncovered in these last years in connection to the Medavia project.

#### **Salt Pans, Salina**

Archaeological evaluation along a stretch of the Sukkursu canal revealed parts of the canal's land-side retaining wall. The investigation was part of

works undertaken in relation to the installation of a new bridge at the main entrance to the Salt Pans at Salina. The feature was protected under the new bridge.

#### **9, Triq Santa Luċija, Valletta**

During the rehabilitation of a house in Triq Santa Luċija excavation works within the cellar uncovered the roof of a barrel-vaulted cistern. The feature was preserved in situ.

#### **Triq Bir ir-Riebu, Rabat**

During monitored works a rock-cut tomb and associated agricultural trenches were uncovered. The tomb was preserved in situ.

#### **Triq tal-Pantar, Mosta**

During monitored works two ancient rock-cut tombs of a possible Roman date were uncovered. Several agricultural trenches were also uncovered in the remaining parts of the site. The discovered archaeological remains were fully investigated and documented. Both rock-cut tombs were preserved in situ.

#### **Triq Francesco Ximenes, Salina**

During an archaeological evaluation of an un-built plot proposed for development, a stretch of cart ruts, traces of quarrying activity and structural remains were uncovered. A full investigation and documentation of the site is being done.

#### **SATU, Imtaħleb, l/o Rabat**

During monitored works a rock-cut tomb and associated agricultural trenches were uncovered. The tomb was preserved in situ.

#### **111,112, Triq San Ġwann, Valletta**

During the rehabilitation of an eighteenth century Baroque house in Triq San Ġwann, excavation works of the courtyard revealed an older access to an adjacent underground cellar and a cistern. The features were documented, preserved in situ, and will be made accessible to the visitor.

#### **55, Triq l-Ifran, Valletta**

During the rehabilitation of an eighteenth century Baroque house in Triq l-Ifran, excavation works revealed a concealed underground cellar which roof was supported on a series of arches. These features were documented in situ.

#### **Site at, 'Holma', Triq Kan. G. Gatt Said, Rabat (Malta)**

During an archaeological evaluation tomb shafts were discovered dated to the Roman period. Three shaft were excavated together with their tomb

chambers. These tombs contained osteological data as well as material culture. The excavated tombs were excavated and documented in full. The entire site will be backfilled and covered over to allow preservation in situ and allow the construction of development above the remains.

**Site at, 19, Triq Hal Bajada, Rabat (Malta)**

Archaeological documentation was carried out at the site following the identification of two catacombs and a rock-cut tomb. The funerary features are dated to the Late Roman Period to Early Christian period. Both the funerary structures and the archaeological materials within are being preserved in situ.

**Site at, Triq tac-Caghki, Rabat (Malta)**

During an archaeological investigation at the site a number of shallow traces for catacombs and tomb were identified, along intensive evidence of quarrying. The funerary remains and quarrying are dated to the Roman period. The site was excavated and documented. No material culture was identified. The site is being partially preserved in situ.

**Site at, Tenement 78019, Triq Melita c/w Triq L-Ifran, Belt Valletta**

A series of historical foundation and rock-cut pits were identified and recorded. These date to an earlier building in Valletta. The remains and the materials within them were preserved in situ and covered over to allow development.

**Site at, St Helen's Flats, 61, 62, 63, 64, Triq Melita, Belt Valletta**

A pit with historical material include pottery was discovered during development works. The pit and its surrounding was archaeological excavated and documented.

**Site at, Plot 6A and 6B, Triq John Ayde, Naxxar**

A set of cartruts where uncovered during an archaeological investigation of the site. These were preserved in situ.

**Site at Triq San Pawl, Belt Valletta**

In a private house in Triq San Pawl, works to extend basement uncovered rock cut features forming part of a sixteenth Century basement. The identified remains stand as evidence of the extensive urban regeneration and reworking of buildings taking place in the subsequent centuries. The remains were excavated and documented. The site has been integrated in the proposed development.



#### **Site at Triq San Frangisk corner with Triq San Gabriel, Balzan**

Excavation works uncovered the remains of disused early modern cisterns. The site was documented and the cisterns were preserved.

#### **Tal-Istabal, Triq Hal Qormi, Qormi**

Pre-application investigation of the site revealed a series multi period site with remains ranging from the Classical to the early Modern period. Remains uncovered on site included a truncated classical structure and a looted and partially breached into tomb. In the early modern period, the site was transformed into an agricultural site with various features identified ranging from quarrying with related cart ruts, several cisterns with channels and a mill house were identified. The proposed development is will integrate parts of these remains whilst others will be relocated and preserved for the enjoyment of the general public within the same site.

#### **Two sites at Triq It- Tigrija Marsa, Malta**

Two separate investigations in adjacent properties revealed remains of a Classical structure. The features have been identified to be possibly linked to the quay storage areas historically identified to be located in this area of Marsa. The uncovered remains have been investigated and will be incorporated within the proposed development.

#### **Site at Tal-Gholjiet, Wied ta' Garnaw, Gudja**

Regeneration works of an agricultural field identified a series of five silos possibly dating to the prehistoric period. Similar in shape to Borg in-Nadur period silos, no archaeological remains were identified during investigations. The site has been protected and backfilled for future investigations.

#### **St Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Valletta**

Pre development investigations linked with the relaying of paving and services within the under-croft have revealed earlier foundations of a structure. These remains have been identified as possible remains of the Auberge d'Alemagne. Further to documentation works have been suspended pending discussion on the future of the project.

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## 7. Cultural Heritage Policy Development

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The Superintendence also provides valuable policy guidance to Government and to public entities in the cultural heritage sector. The following major initiatives were undertaken in the course of 2014.

### **Ratification of International Conventions relating to Cultural Heritage**

Malta has not signed or ratified a number of important international conventions related to the field of cultural heritage. The conventions to be ratified refer to a number of sensitive areas in cultural heritage management. Subjects covered by these conventions range from the illegal trafficking of cultural goods, to the safeguarding of maritime cultural heritage and the intangible cultural heritage. Ratification of these legal documents is becoming a high priority.

The Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government has requested the Superintendence to undertake a broad evaluation of these pending conventions and of their impact on Maltese legislation should they be adopted.

In 2014 the Superintendence has acquired the required legal support to carry out this evaluation. In particular the process involves three specific tasks:

- Execute background research on the international conventions still awaiting signature or ratification and their relationship with the Laws of Malta;
- Identification of which spheres of interest would be affected by Malta's signing of these international conventions;
- The preparation of a draft memo to cabinet outlining the benefits, obligations and effect on Maltese legislation related to cultural heritage.

This review is currently ongoing and covers ten separate conventions by different international bodies:

#### **Council of Europe**

- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised), Valletta 1992 (Valletta Convention 1992);

- European Landscape Convention, Florence 2000 (Florence Convention 2000);
- Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, Faro 2005 (Faro Convention 2005);

#### **UNESCO**

- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague 1954 (Hague Convention 1954);
- Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague 1954 (Hague Protocol 1954);
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, Paris 1970;
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris 2003;
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, Paris 2001;
- Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague 1999 (Hague 2nd Protocol 1999);

#### **UNIDROIT**

- Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, Rome 1995.

## **Participation on the Committee of Guarantee**

The Committee of Guarantee is set up by the Cultural Heritage Act with the function of coordinating actions by the cultural heritage bodies operating in Malta and to provide high level advice to the Minister on cultural heritage issues. The new Committee was set up in the course of 2014 and has been convening regularly, with meetings held at least once a month. The Superintendent of Cultural Heritage is an ex-officio member of the Committee.

The Superintendence provides both technical and policy guidance to the Committee on a number of issues. The main areas of collaboration between the Superintendence and the Committee of Guarantee includes:

- The process of revision and reform of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002;
- The review of the Guardianship Deed process;
- The drafting and launch of the new National Strategy for Cultural Heritage document;
- The setting up of the Heritage Fund; and
- The organisation of the National Forum for Cultural Heritage. At the Forum for 2016 the Superintendent made a presentation of the work undertaken by the Superintendence in 2015.

## **Collaboration with the Office to the Permanent Delegation of Malta to UNESCO**

Throughout 2014 the Superintendence has also collaborated closely with the Office of the Permanent Delegation of Malta to UNESCO (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

In particular the Superintendence has provided the Office of the Permanent Delegation with technical and policy guidance and support relating to the Maltese properties listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Monuments – the City of Valletta, the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum and the Megalithic Temples.

The Superintendence has also provided additional support to the Office to the Permanent Delegation by participating in two of its technical working groups:

- Mdina UNESCO World Heritage Nomination Committee
- Ċittadella UNESCO World Heritage Nomination Committee

These committees are tasked with preparing the technical dossier and application by the Maltese Government to UNESCO for the recognition of these two historic cities as World Heritage Monuments.

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