

Annual Report 2014

Superintendence of Cultural Heritage



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI

SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

1. Data Management

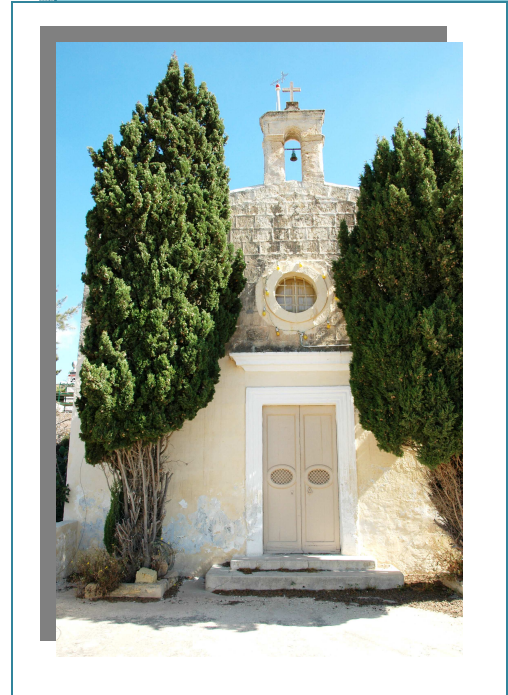
The National Inventory

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 December 2011, the Superintendence embarked on the publication on the Government Gazette of the first 25 inventory records. By the end of 2012, the number of inventory records increased to a total of 1165. In 2013, 853 new records were published, of which the complete inventory of the Knights Period Fortifications.

In 2014, the total number of records published was 395. The decrease in number of published records was due to the reduced resources available for the development of the inventory.



The table below shows the number of records collected and published from 2011-2014.

Date of Publication	Theme / Subject	Number of records
16 December 2011	Historical, military and archaeological sites	25
30 March 2012	Historical and archaeological sites	35
26 June 2012	Chapels and Niches	55
27 August 2012	Chapels and Niches	925
28 December 2012	Scheduled Property	125
26 March 2013	Chapels and Niches	61
28 June 2013	Knights Fortifications	389
27 September 2013	Chapels and Niches	192
27 December 2013	Chapels and Niches	210
10 March 2014	Chapels and Niches	208
27 June 2014	Chapels and Niches	135
3 October 2014	Chapels and Niches	52
		Total - 2412

The procedure adopted for the development of the National Inventory is a labour intensive processes, involving the following technical steps:

- Preliminary data collection from primary and secondary sources;
- Site visits to each monument to complete data collection, including the taking of a photographic record and the recording of its geographic coordinates;
- The collection and archiving of the documentation and data collected.
- Publication of the record on the Government Gazette;
- Uploading of the record in PDF format on the Superintendence website.
- Uploading of the collected data on CHIMS.

The development of an inventory of the *Historic Niches and Chapels in Malta and Gozo* is currently being given priority. The class of monuments is typical of the Maltese cultural landscape and is at high risk of being lost through re-development, neglect and vandalism. This project is scheduled for completion within the year 2015. Approximately 182 records still need to be collected in order to complete the inventory of this monument class.

CULTURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CHIMS)

Data inputting on CHIMS works proceeds in parallel with the publication of the Inventory on the Government Gazette.

The number of records uploaded on CHIMS over the last four years is illustrated in the table below:

Fields	2007-2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Heritage Sites	81	842	764	807	2492
Archaeological Interventions	10	0	0	0	10
Artefacts	1568	0	0	0	1568
Guardianship Deeds	9	5	1	0	15
Total	1691	847	765	807	4087

2. Land use and Planning Matters

Consultations regarding land use and development applications

One of the core functions of the Superintendence is defined both by the Cultural Heritage Act and by the Development Planning Act, L.N. 514 of 2010. The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) designated the Superintendence as one of the statutory external consultees.

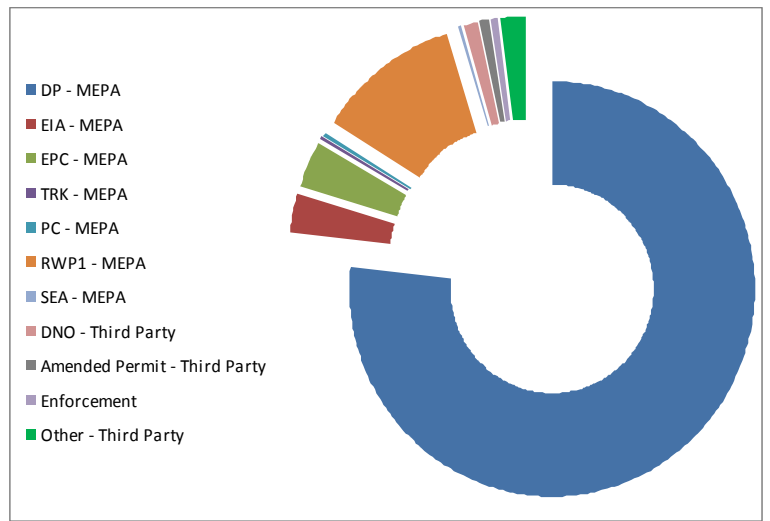


As part of the development consultation process the Superintendence can propose mitigation measures, issue recommendations, refusals and referrals to proposed developments. This duty not only concerns the safeguarding of the archaeological and architectural heritage, but also of the Maltese cultural landscape.

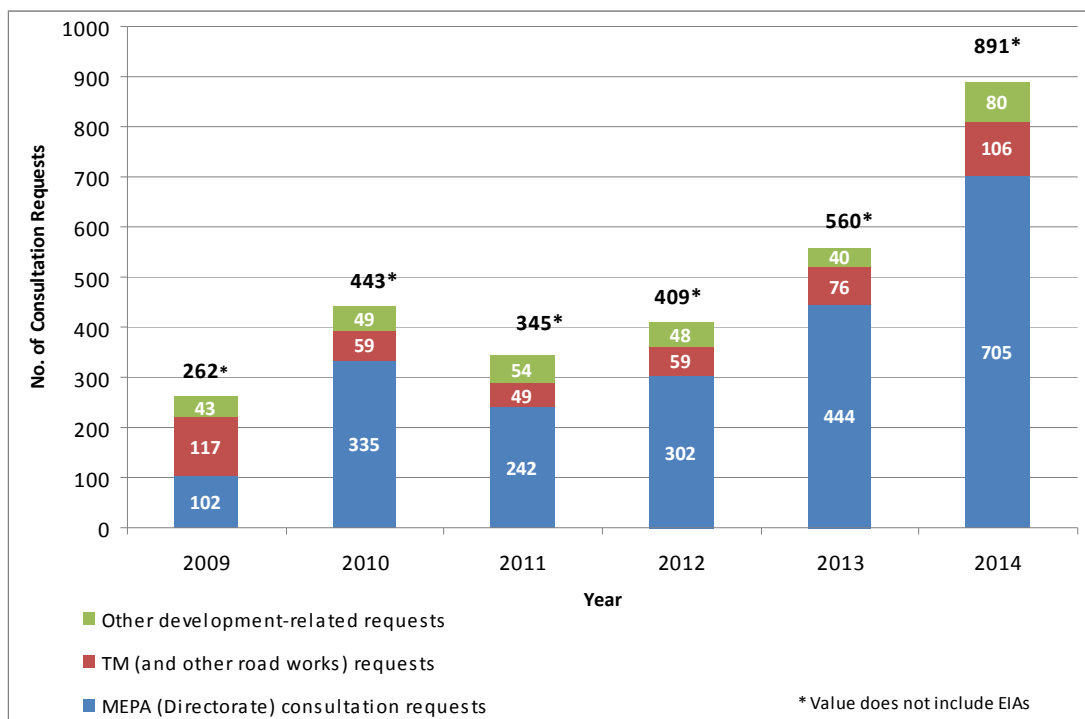
In 2014 this core function absorbed over 70% of the human resources of the Superintendence. Planning applications are analyzed for potential physical and visual impacts to both archaeological and architectural monuments. Possible negative impacts on UNESCO World Heritage Sites and monuments are also assessed. Superintendence case officers are legally obliged to fully assess each application and issue the requested response within 30 days of receipt of the MEPA consultation letter. Within this timeframe the Superintendence officer must fully assess the submitted technical documents, as well as carry out site inspections, meetings with MEPA officials, architects and developers.

Year 2014 saw a considerable increase in the amount of consultation requests received by the Superintendence. A total of 891 consultation requests were forwarded to the Superintendence. About 79% of these (705 requests) were sent by MEPA's planning directorate, 12% (106 requests) were Transport Malta consultation for road works permits, the remaining 9% (80 requests) from a variety of third parties including the Planning Appeals Board, NGO's, pre-application consultations.

Type of Consultation Received	2014
DP – MEPA	705
EIA – MEPA	30
EPC – MEPA	33
TRK – MEPA	3
PC – MEPA	1
RWP1 – MEPA	106
SEA – MEPA	2
DNO - Third Party	10
Amended Permit - Third Party	9
Enforcement	3
Other - Third Party	19



As shown in the table below, the number of consultations treated by the Superintendence since 2009 has more than trebled.



A substantial amount of the development applications referred to the Superintendence 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 major infrastructural and restoration projects tackled in 2014 by the Superintendence are listed in the following table:

Site at	Project Description
Site at Triq il-Miratur, Post of Castille, Triq Il-Mandraġġ, Vittoriosa (Birgu)	Trenching works for the repaving and the laying of new, underground services throughout Birgu's historic centre – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture and potential archaeological remains.
Site at Fortizza Sant Anglu, Vittoriosa	Restoration of the facades of various historic fortifications and other structures in the Upper Level of Fort St. Angelo – assessment of possible impact on a major national monument.
Site at Oncology Centre Car Park, B'Kara Bypass, Msida, B'Kara Bypass, Birkirkara	Proposed parking provision of 65 cars for the New Oncology Hospital – assessment of archaeological risk.
Site at Erin Serracino Inglott, Girls Secondary School, Triq Alessandra, Cospicua (Bormla)	Extension and upgrading of existing school facilities – assessment of impact on Cottonera Fortifications.
Site at British Building at Dock 1, Ix-Xatt Ta' Bormla, Cospicua (Bormla)	Restoration of external facades of the historic British building at Dock 1, Bormla
Site at Dock Gate House, Misraħ Gavino Gulia c/w, Triq Ix- Xatt Ta' Bormla, Cospicua (Bormla)	Change of use of existing stores to a police station, including minor internal and external alterations – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture.
European Borders Fund (EBF) 2013 - Construction of a Rapid Launching and Ancillary Facilities for AFM Maritime Squadron, Hay Wharf	Construction of a Rapid Launching and Ancillary Facilities for AFM Maritime Squadron, Hay Wharf – assessment of impact on Floriana Fortifications.
Site at Il-Fortizza Ta' Ricasoli, Kalkara	Restoration of Fort Ricasoli including the historical bastion walls, parapet walls and superior slopes, gun emplacements, ditches, ravelins, caponiers, counterscarps, glacis and outer works, salley ports, chapel, barrack blocks, polveristas and underground structures – assessment of possible impact on major national monument.

Ricasoli Port Facilities, Triq Ir-Rinella, Kalkara,	Upgrading of existing Ricasoli Port Facility consisting of the construction of a new boiler house and the dismantling of the existing boiler house and upgrading of oil and water treatment facilities, construction of ancillary stores, workshops and offices – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture.
Site at Triq Ħal Safi, Triq San Ġwann, Triq Il-Fdal Paleokristjani, Kirkop	Demolish existing building and construction of a new Girls' Secondary School – assessment of possible impact on archaeological remains and rural heritage.
Villa Francia, Triq Preziosi, Triq Preziosi Sqaq Nru. 2, Lija	Change of use of part of Villa Francia estate to visitor's centre - class 2b, restoration of internal and external walls in area to be effected by the change of use, restoration of the front boundary wall and paving of part of lane in front of side entrance with natural paving material – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture.
Site at St.Vincent De Paul Residence, St.Francis Wards, 3 & 4, Triq L-Ingiered, Luqa	Alterations and refurbishment of St. Francis Wards 3 & 4 – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture.
Site at Kitchen Block, St. Vincent de Paule, Triq L- Imgieret, Luqa	Demolition and construction of kitchen at ground floor, dismantling, relocating and reinstating of chimney & dismantling and re-instatement of 2 bridges – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture.
Rużar Briffa Complex, Sptar San Vincent de Paule, Triq l-Imgieret, Luqa	Refurbishment, alterations and extensions of health care facilities at Rużar Briffa Complex – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture.
Site at Enemalta Tunnel, Site from Ħal-Far Ind Estate To Ħal Kirkop DC & site near Ħal Kirkop off to existing shaft in new street off, Vjal L-Avjazzjoni, Luqa	Excavation of underground tunnel for the provision of electricity cables – assessment of possible impact on possible archaeological remains.
Site at Marsa/Paola Junction, Vjal Santa Luċija, Vjal Sir Paul Boffa, Triq Garibaldi, Triq Aldo Moro, Triq il-Labour, Triq Ħal Qormi, Industrial Estate, Marsa	Upgrading of ten-t junction including the shifting of existing carriageway, demolition of buildings and upgrading of existing road infrastructure together with the provision of car parking and landscaping – assessment of possible impact on potential archaeological remains.
Site at Marsa Power Station, Triq Belt il-Hażna / Il-Moll Tal- Pont / Moll Tal- Knisja, Sqaq Sannat, Marsa	To decommission, dismantle and demolish Marsa power station – assessment of possible impact on archaeological remains.

Site at Delimara Power Station, Triq il-Power Station, Marsaxlokk	Construction of jetty and ancillary facilities – assessment of possible impact on maritime archaeological impact.
Site at Ta' Bistra Catacombs, Areas B & C, Triq il-Missjunarji Maltin, Triq Francesco Napuljun Tagliaferro, Mosta	Construction of an enclosed walkway for the viewing of the catacombs in area B (field) and a shelter with reception facilities in area C (quarry)
Site at Francesco Fenech, Triq Valletta, Mosta	To carry out change of use from existing factories to supermarket involving demolition of existing structures – assessment of possible impact on potential archaeological remains.
Site at Maria Addolorata Cemetery, Tal-Ħorr, Paola	To carry out excavation works and construct 2,880 graves and adjacent charnel houses together with the construction of periphery boundary wall, new steel entrance gates and creation of links between existing cemetery and new extension – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture.
Site at Sir Luigi Preziosi School, Triq Falaise c/w Jum Pembroke, Triq Sant Andrija, St. Andrews, Pembroke	Demolition of classrooms and construction of new facilities to incorporate a sports school – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture.
Site at, Kan Pullicino Girls Secondary School, Triq Kola Xara / Triq Ferris /, College Street, Rabat	Construction of a new hall, classrooms and laboratories and related facilities, demolition of buildings and internal alterations – assessment of possible impact on archaeological remains.
Site at St. Paul's Catacombs Triq Sant Agatha / Triq il-Katacombi /, Riebu Well Street Alley No. 3, Rabat	Proposed new visitors experience at the St. Paul's Catacombs including an interpretation centre. Exit building, children's pavilion, information pods and general landscaping works – assessment of impacts on major archaeological monument.
Roadworks in Misraħ il-Parroċċa and various streets, Rabat	Extension of repaving and trenching works in Triq Santa Rita and area around Kappella ta' San Katald – assessment of possible impact on archaeological remains.
Site at St. George's Bay Hotel, Ix-Xatt ta' San Ġorġ, San Ġiljan, Malta and adjacent properties	Demolition of existing structures and construction major hotel and commercial complexes, including multi-accommodation, commercial area, offices, a language school, villas and parking – assessment of Environmental Impact Assessment in view of possible architecture and archaeological impacts.
Site at (Tunnel 1) Triq L-Ortolan San Ġwann to Triq Emmanuele Decelis, Pembroke	To amend route of tunnel – assessment of possible impact on potential archaeological remains.

Site at 475, Carmel House, Swan Laundry, Triq il-Kbira San Ġużepp c/w, Triq Il-Kanun, Santa Venera	Demolition of existing buildings (retaining facade of house) and construction of office premises on 3 floors, a penthouse floor, 2 underlying basement levels and the formation of an underground tunnel link with the BOV Centre – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture and potential archaeological remains.
Site at Palazzo Parisio, Merchants Street c/w, Triq Melita, Valletta	Replacement of dangerous concrete roofs at 2nd floor level, increase in height of 2nd floor level by 1.3m and introduction of an intermediate level at 2nd floor level
Site at Mediterrean Conference Centre, Triq it-Tramuntana c/w, Triq Il-Mediterran, Belt Valletta	To restore the timber ceiling in the main hall of the Sacra Infermeria – assessment of restoration proposal on major national monument.
Site at Gozo General Hospital, Triq Ghajn Qatet, Victoria	To extend part of existing structure for use as orthopaedic ward – assessment of possible impact on potential archaeological remains.
Site at, Reservior Ċittadella, It-Telgħa Tal-Belt, Victoria	Proposed new visitors' centre for Cittadella – assessment of possible impact on historic architecture and on potential archaeological remains.
Site at 'Pjazza San Frangisk', Victoria	Embellishment and repaving of Pjazza San Frangisk – assessment of possible impact on archaeological remains.

Cultural Heritage Surveillance

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 2014 increased slightly compared to the previous year: 150 cases received in 2014, against the 144 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 2014 the number of registered freelance archaeological monitors registered with the Superintendence has increased slightly: 24 registered full-time monitors in 2014, against the 21 of 2013. This increase in the number of persons registered with the Superintendence reflects the increase in new monitoring cases reported above for 2014.

The results of some of the major archaeological monitoring projects undertaken in 2014 are described in Section 5.

3. Museums and Sites

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.

A number of new Deeds are being evaluated and are currently being discussed with the Committee of Guarantee. The table below shows the status of the Guardianship Deeds to date.

	Name of Cultural Property	Locality	Name of Guardian	Year of Signature
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 Iż-Żurrieq Tower	Qrendi	Din l-Art Helwa	2013

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. **Tarxien Temples** - The Project at this site aims at constructing a protective shelter over the entire archaeological area, and at improving the visitor experience through the introduction of walkways and site interpretation aids. The Superintendence has worked closely with Heritage Malta to identify the best means of designing and constructing the supports for the protective shelter to ensure that the resulting physical impact is kept to a minimum. Various candidate areas for the construction of the foundations were preventively archaeologically investigated. These investigations have resulted in the collection of new information on the the extent of surviving prehistoric strata and structures in the immediate environs of the temple complex. With this information in hand, the support foundations could be were necessary re-located and re-designed to minimise their expected physical impact on the surroundings of the monument.
2. **Bistra Catacombs** – The intervention on this site entailed the cleaning of the Christian catacombs located along the ridge of Ta' Bistra. Almost all the material found within the catacombs consisted of modern dumping and debris. However the cleaning permitted the development of a much more detailed plan of the catacombs.

Previously undocumented catacomb chambers were also located as a result of this cleaning.

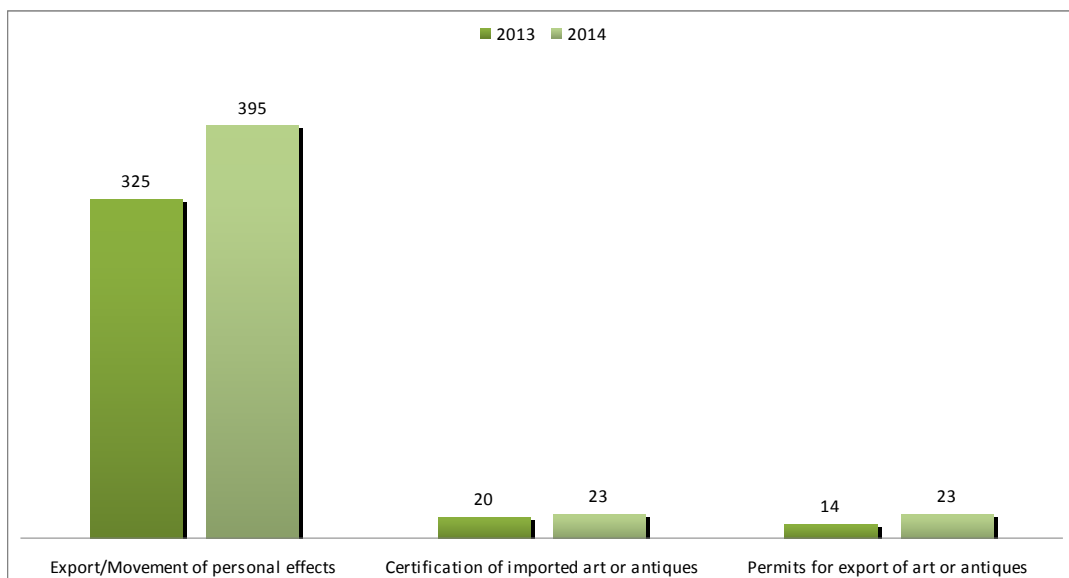
3. **Fort St Angelo** – The ongoing restoration works within the precinct of the Fort entailed the monitoring of restoration works and the laying down of new underground utilities. These works uncovered several surviving archaeological remains including part of the medieval fortifications, as well as features and barracks related to structural remains from the Knights and British periods. These works are still ongoing.
4. **Roman Baths Ghajn Tuffieħa** - The archaeological interventions on this site is aimed primarily at an improved mapping of this archaeological monument. The new information will allow the design of a new project to improve the site's presentation and conservation. The intervention revealed that the site was relatively larger than previously documented and clarified a number of points relating to the plans of the villa's various structures.
5. **St Paul's Catacombs, Rabat** – Archaeological interventions on this site required the archaeological investigation of the footprint of the new visitors' centre. Important archaeological remains were uncovered in this area which led to the redesign of the Visitors Centre. The new design removes any physical impact on the archaeological remains, and allows for the integration of some of the newly exposed features into the new visitors' trail. Additionally, works have also been carried out to remove any modern debris from within a number of the catacombs at this site, in preparation of the introduction of walkways and other visitor related infrastructure.

4. Movement of Goods

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.

In 2014, there was a slight increase in the cases reviewed by the Superintendence when compared to 2013, as shown in the graph below.



5. Cultural Heritage Research

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 second 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 2014 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.

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

These excavations and core sampling exercises, and other subsidiary areas of investigation, will be continued throughout 2015, following which most of the project's resources will be dedicated to the analysis and publication of the results obtained.

Other Major Archaeological Interventions by the Superintendence 2014

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.

Property at 82, 84, Triq Santa Rita, Rabat

Monitoring of construction works within a private dwelling at Triq Santa Rita uncovered the remains of a Roman catacomb and of a rock-cut cistern. The accesses to both features were uncovered after the removal of the modern floors of the demolished property. The catacomb was found to be in a fair state of conservation, and was surveyed in full. However no ancient stratified deposits were discovered in this feature. The catacomb was clearly still accessible till relatively recent times, when it was being used as a holding pan for animals.

Triq Santa Rita, Rabat

Road works and landscaping works in Triq Santa Rita led to the documentation of a number of archaeological and historical features. The foundations of an old structure, and the remains of an arched cistern (possibly nineteenth-century) was uncovered at the junction with Triq Doni. At a second location in Triq Santa Rita, the remains of an older, possibly ancient, structure was uncovered. These remains were constructed of large stone

blocks and are laid out directly on bedrock. Both features have been protected.

Site at, Kan. Pullicino, Girls Secondary School, Triq Kola Xara, Triq Ferris, Triq il-Kulleġġ, Rabat

Extensive classical remains were discovered following the demolition of the old Kan. Pullicino Secondary School in Rabat. The remains consisted of at least 90 rock-cut tombs, a Christian catacomb and an extensive spread of funerary deposits. The remains belong to a larger necropolis occupying the Tac-Cagħqi area of Rabat which had been first investigated in the early part of the twentieth-century. An archaeological investigation of a small sample of these tombs revealed that some were disturbed by the laying of the 1950s school foundations. Other tombs however still contained human articulations, cremations and grave goods. A preliminary assessment of the ceramics recovered from this site indicates burials dating to the Punic and Roman periods.

Coast Road, Għallis Tower, Salina

During the monitoring of road construction works along the Coast Road, numerous archaeological findings were made within the stretch from Pembroke to Salina. These remains included a Punico/Roman tomb in the Pembroke area, numerous examples of vine trenches, an eighteenth-century fougasse and the remains of a late Roman structures (the last two features in the Salina area). The intervention at the Coast Road is still ongoing.

50, Triq Palma, Victoria

Monitored works in a private house at Triq Palma, Victoria Gozo uncovered a small stretch of structural remains. These remains include two large ashlar blocks and associated fills containing possible Punic ceramics. These remains were preserved *in situ*.

Triq Ghajn Qajjet, Mtarfa

During monitored works for the construction of a reservoir in a field in Ghajn Qajjet the openings of several rock-cut tombs were found. These tombs seems to belong to an early type, probably Phoenician/Punic. Alongside these remains, the site shows evidence of extensive quarrying. The tombs will be preserved in situ.

Triq Valletta c/w Triq Pantar, Mosta

Monitored works of the demolition of an old factory site in Mosta revealed a number of traces of ancient settlement. Extensive traces of ancient field systems were uncovered and recorded. Furthermore an ancient wall

foundation made of large ashlar blocks and two rock-cut cisterns were also uncovered and documented. These last features are being preserved in situ.

57, Triq Robert Sammut c/w Triq Francesco Azzopardi, Rabat

During an archaeological investigation of an undeveloped plot in Tal-Virtu' area several rock-cut tombs were found. These tombs probably date to the Punic and Roman period. These remains have not yet been archaeologically investigated.

Site at Portomaso, Triq il-Knisja, Paceville

Slight traces of the eighteenth-century ditch forming part of San Gwann Entrenchment were discovered and documented. The ditch had been almost entirely removed by modern development.

Various roads in Birgu Centre

Construction works for the laying of service utilities and for the repaving of the streets in Birgu town centre uncovered a number of features dating to the period of the Knights and to the British Colonia period. Remains uncovered and documented by these works include water channeling systems and road surfaces from the Knights period. Remains related to the old fortification walls dating to the Early Knights period (1530-1565) were also identified. These features were documented and backfilled for their protection.

Bighi Old Naval Hospital

Construction works for the MCST project uncovered surviving remains forming part of the historic terracing of the eighteenth-century Villa Bighi. These remains provide a more accurate perimeter of the Knights period villa built on the design of Lorenzo Gafa. A number of structural remains with a possible military function have also been uncovered.

St. Paul's Catacombs, Rabat

The conservation and cleaning of a number of catacombs in the St. Paul complex, has uncovered a number of previously undocumented features and ancient stratifications. These features were documented and investigated in a joint collaboration between the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and Heritage Malta.

Ċittadella Ruins Rehabilitation

The extensive restoration and rehabilitation of the Ċittadella area resulted in the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical discoveries. The main areas in which the Superintendence has intervened included amongst others:

- Area of the Ċittadella Main Gate with the uncovering of part of the old bridge and access road;
- The investigation of part of the early modern ruins to the north of the Ċittadella;
- The archaeological investigation of two small areas with medieval stratification in Triq San Martin and Triq Zenqa; and
- The investigation and documentation of several rock-cut pits or silos.

Fort St. Angelo, Birgu

The rehabilitation and relaying of services in Fort St. Angelo resulted in the discovery of various archaeological remains dating from the medieval period and to later Knights and British periods. The discoveries are related to the long use of the fort for military and defense purposes. The remains identified to date include stretches of medieval defensive walls and round tower, as well as several archaeological deposits from the Early Modern period. Works also revealed previously unknown architectural features and elements which are currently under study in collaboration with Heritage Malta.

Pjazza it-Tokk and Pjazza Savina, Victoria

Extensive repaving and infrastructural works in this area uncovered a number of archaeological, structural remains. The remains consist of large walls built with large ashlar block. The date of these structures could not be established due to the limited nature of the current investigation. All remains were uncovered at a depth of over 1.5 meters from the modern street level. The archaeological remains were protected from the current ongoing works.

6. Cultural Heritage Policy Development

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 2014 the Superintendent made a presentation of the work undertaken by the Superintendence in 2013 and 2014.

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 Hal 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.

7. Communication and Outreach

International Heritage Photographic Experience 2014 (IHPE)

The International Heritage Photographic Experience is an annual photographic competition intended for students up to 21 years of age. In 2014 the Superintendence participated in the nineteenth IHPE organized by the Generalitat de Catalunya's Department of Culture, on behalf of the Council of Europe. Every year the Superintendence invites all schools in Malta and Gozo to participate. Year 2014 saw an increase in children's participation and eagerness to present their work. Around 120 photographs were submitted.

IHPE 2014 emphasized on capturing the magnificent landscapes of the Maltese islands. The first and second winners are both boys of 13 and 14 years of age respectively.

The first entry presented the belvedere in Ħaż-Żebbuġ. With the sun setting in the background the young boy captured the tranquil landscape. The runner up of this competition, with a landscape view of the old guard in Marsaskala.

