

# Annual Report 2015

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Superintendence of Cultural Heritage



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  

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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 batch of 25 inventory records. Data inputting online of the Cultural Heritage Inventory Management System (CHIMS) also proceeded in parallel with the publication of the Inventory on the Government Gazette.

In the period between 2011 and 2015 the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage listed and published on the Government Gazette a total of 2,412 sites and monuments on the National Inventory.

The following table indicates the number of inventory records published, by theme.

Theme / Subject	Number of records
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>2412</b>

The number of records uploaded on CHIMS over same period is shown on the table below:

<b>Fields</b>	<b>Total</b>
Heritage Sites	<b>2492</b>
Archaeological Interventions	<b>10</b>
Artefacts	<b>1568</b>
Guardianship Deeds	<b>15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4087</b>

In 2015 no new inventory records were published on the Government Gazette or uploaded on CHIMS. The slow down in this process was due to the reduced resources available within the Superintendecne for the development of the National Inventory. Internal resources within the Superintendence had to be re-directed in the course of 2015 to handle the surge in the workload arising from land-use development applications and cultural heritage surveillance needs.

Development of the National Inventory is expected to be taken up again in the course of 2016 with the completion of the inventory of *Historic Niches and Chapels in Malta and Gozo*.

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## 2. Land use and Planning Matters

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### **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.

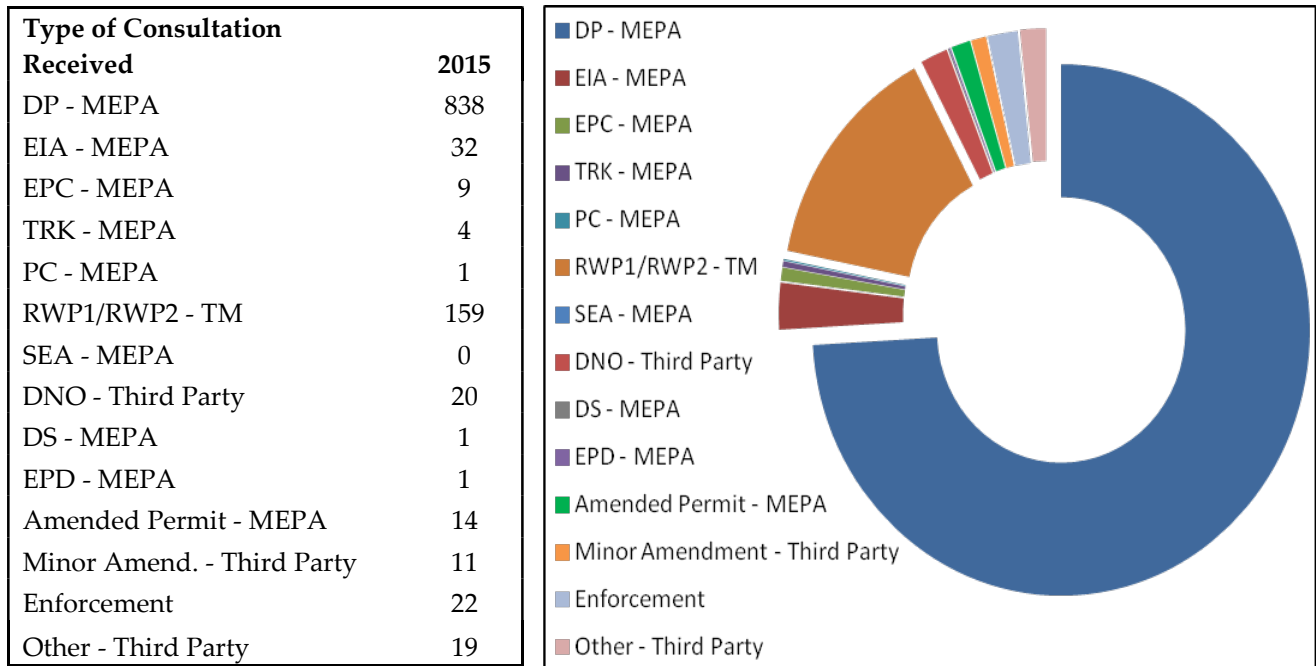
In 2015 this core function absorbed over 70% of the human resources of the Superintendence. Planning applications are analyzed for potential physical and visual impacts to both archaeological and architectural monuments. Possible negative impacts on UNESCO World Heritage Sites and monuments are also 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 2015 saw a considerable increase in the amount of consultation requests received by the Superintendence. A total of 1131 consultation requests were forwarded to the Superintendence. Over 74% of these (838 requests) were sent by MEPA's planning directorate, 14% (159 requests) were Transport Malta consultation for road works permits, and another 9% (102 requests) from a variety of third parties including the Planning Appeals Board, NGO's,

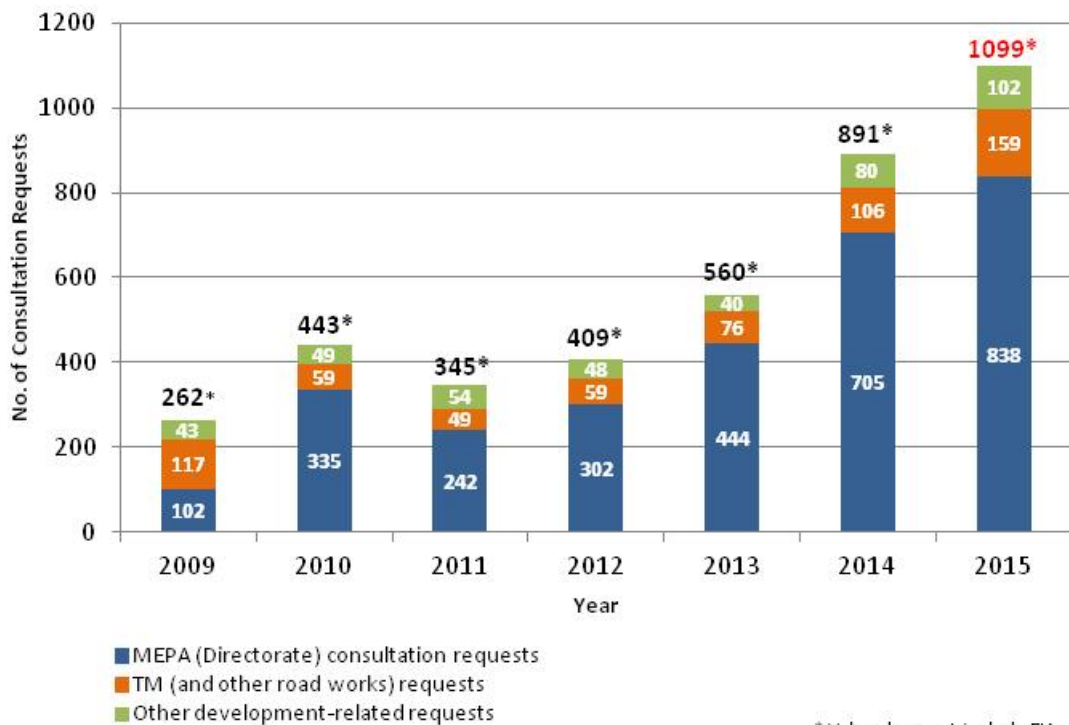




pre-application consultations. EIAs made up 3% (32 requests) of the consultations received by the Superintendence in 2015.



As shown in the table below, the number of consultations treated by the Superintendence since 2009 has more than quadrupled, reaching 1131 consultations in 2015 (1099 consultation cases and 32 EIAs).



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 2015 by the Superintendence are listed in the following table:

Site at	Project Description
Site at, Fortizza Sant Anglu, Vittoriosa (Birgu) - PA 02700/10	Consolidation, conservation and adaptive re-use of Fort St Angelo ( phase 2 )
Site at, Combined Industries Ltd, Fleur De Lys Road /, Triq l-Akwedott, Birkirkara, Malta - PA 01582/15	Demolition of existing dwelling and factory. Works include excavation and extensive rock-cutting in the vicinity of the Wignacourt aqueducts.
Site at, Floriana Fortifications, Bastions forming part of the, Floriana Lines, Floriana, Malta - PA 01614/15	Restoration of bastions forming part of the Floriana Lines. Works proposed in an Area of High Landscape Value of the Harbour Fortifications and within the outerworks of the Valletta fortifications.
Site at, MCP Carpark in, Triq l-Assedju Kbir , Vjal ir-Re Dwardu VII and, Triq Nelson, Floriana, Malta - PA 01977/15	Construction of unbuilt section of carpark include landscaping and the construction of a pedestrian walkway linking the proposed landscaped roof level to the public garden. Works proposed in an Area of High Landscape Value of the Harbour Fortifications.
Site at, Phoenicia Hotel, The Mall, Floriana, Malta - PA 02925/15	Various works associated with the upgrading of the existing hotel, the restoration & rehabilitation of the nearby stables to accommodate bedrooms, as well as the upgrading of St. John's ditch & the nearby hotel grounds.
Site at, Phoenicia Hotel, Triq L-Assedju l-Kbir, Valletta /, Triq Ir-Re Dwardu VII, Floriana, Malta - PA 02976/15	Demolition of the existing pool structures, including the two separate buildings housing pool facilities and the construction of a new pool with new facilities integrated within the landscape. Works proposed in an Area of High Landscape Value of the Harbour Fortifications and within the outerworks of the Valletta fortifications.

Site at, Fort Chambray, Triq Chambray, Ghajnsielem, Gozo - PA 00841/15	Restoration of the fortifications & remedial works to the old buildings
Site at, Adelphi Hotel, Triq ir-Rebha c/w, Triq Tas- Sliema, Gzira, Malta - PA 02843/15	To demolish existing hotel and construct a area into a new hotel. Works include extensive rock-cutting in the vicinity of WWII shelters.
Site at, Multiple, Triq il-Kanun, Santa Venera, Triq Farsons, Triq San Gejtanu, Triq Joseph Abela Scolaro, Hamrun, Malta - PA 03365/14	Large-scale residential and commercial construction including extensive rock-cutting for parking facilities in an archaeologically sensitive area. Works include restoration of the facades of the Quarters Building and of buildings along Farsons Street.
Site at, Macina, Triq It- Tarzna, Senglea (Isla), Malta - PA 03729/15	Conversion of Macina into a Guest House and catering facilities. Works proposed in a historical building in an Area of High Landscape Value of the Harbour Fortifications.
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. Proposal includes the restoration /conservation and re-use of the existing buildings along with the embellishment of the surrounding landscape.
Site at, Windmill Cottage, Triq Annibale Preca, Lija, Malta - PA 02011/13	Construction of villas in an extensive tract of land in the vicinity of a Grade 1 windmill. Proposal includes the integration of a n existing historical building.
Site at, Ruzar Briffa Complex, San Vincent De Paule, Triq L- Imgieret, Luqa, Malta - PA 02009/15	Refurbishment, alterations & extensions of Ruzar Briffa Complex ( a scheduled building) to upgrade the existing health care facilities
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 annexed roof top cafeteria.
Delimara Power Station, Triq il-Power Station, Marsaxlokk - PA 00021/14 - Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Gas Storage & ReGassification Facilities	Combined cycle gas turbine and liquified natural gas receiving storage, and re-gassification facilities.
Site at, Delimara Power Station, Triq il-Power Station, Marsaxlokk, Malta - PA 00022/14	Construction of jetty and ancillary facilities.
Site at, Pama Shopping Village, Triq Valletta c/w, Triq Tal- Pantar, Mosta, Malta - PA 02560/15	Large-scale commercial development in an archaeologically sensitive area. Extensive excavation and rock-cutting works form part of the proposed development.
Site at, Triq Id- Difisa Civili, Mosta, Malta - PA 03433/15	To demolish existing buildings and construct a supermarket and ancillary facilities in an archaeologically sensitive area.
Site at, University Campus, Tal-Qroqq, Msida, Malta - PA 00919/15	Large-scale excavation in an archaeologically sensitive area, and construction of multi-level engineering laboratories, including landscaped soil area at roof level

Site at, Triq Ghajn Kajjet, Rabat, Triq Ghajn Qajjet, Mtarfa, Malta - PA 00379/15	Malta water conservation awareness centre (EU funded). Project taking place in an area of archaeological importance.
Site at, Tal-Wej, Naxxar, Malta - PA 02656/14	Laying of water main services in an area of high archaeological sensitivity and in the vicinity of documented cultural heritage remains.
PA 03758/09 - Widening & Realignment of Coast Road from Bahar ic-Caghaq, Naxxar to St Paul's Bay	Widening and realignment of Coast Road from Bahar Ic-Caghaq, Naxxar to St.Paul's Bay. Classical and Knight's Period cultural heritage remains are recorded along the proposed route.
Site at, The Coastline Hotel, Tas-Salini, Naxxar, Malta - PA 02136/14	Construction of swimming pool, pump room & reservoirs. works to include reconfiguration of car park in an archaeologically sensitive area.
Site at, Coastline Hotel, Il-Bajja Tas-Salina, Salina, Naxxar, Malta - PA 03115/15	Extension of existing coastline hotel and construction of conference hall with underlying three levels car park in an archaeologically sensitive area.
Site at Triq il-Katakombi, Salina, Naxxar - Tracking No. 150570 - Upgrading of Triq il-Katakombi and New Road in Triq il-Katakombi	Upgrading of Triq il-Katakombi and New Road in Triq il-Katakombi. Development to be carried out in the vicinity of recorded catacombs and cart-ruts.
Site at, Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, Triq ic-Cimiterju, Triq Hal- Saflieni, Paola, Malta - PA 03869/14	Application for refurbishment of the UNESCO World Heritage Site - Hal Saflieni Hypogeum Visitors Centre.
Site at, Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology, It- Telgha Ta' Kordin, Triq Il- Bacir, Paola, Malta - PA 02371/15	Excavation of IBCE footprint and surrounding archaeologically sensitive area.
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 scheduled nineteenth century cemetery and new extension.
Site at, Saura Home, Triq Nikol Saura, Rabat, Malta - PA 00032/15	Internal alterations to upgrade bedrooms and addition of stretcher lift (replacing existing 5 person lift). Change of use from unused hall to bedrooms and from room with cubicles to kitchen. Development is proposed in an area of high archaeological sensitivity with a scheduled building.
Site at, Kan Pullicino School, Triq Kola Xara/Triq Ferris/Triq il-Kullegg/, Triq Kanonku G Gatt Said, Rabat, Malta - PA 00848/15	Internal alterations, additional works at first and second floor, demolition of building and the extension of the sports facilities. Existing building is constructed over recorded tombs uncovered in the early twentieth century.

Site at, Swatar Training Centre off, Triq Had- Dingli, Rabat, Malta - PA 00331/15	Demolition of existing building and the construction of a new school in an archaeologically sensitive area.
Site at, 475, Carmel House, Swan Laundry, Triq il-Kbira San Guzepp c/w, Triq Il-Kanun, Santa Venera, Malta - PA 02077/14	Demolition of existing buildings (retaining facade of house) and construction of offices and 2 underlying basement levels and the formation of an underground tunnel link with the main building on the opposite side of the street. Development is proposed in the immediate vicinity of the Wignacourt Aqueducts, also an area of archaeological sensitivity.
Site at, Old Union Club, (between) Tower Road, Hughes Hallet Street, Tigne Street, Qui Si Sana Lane, Ix-Xatt Ta' Qui-Si-Sana, Sliema, - PA 01191/05	Excavation of the site and construction of underground parking and service facilities. Construction of low rise buildings including a 38 storey tower, in a pedestrianized mixed development of retail and office outlets, food and beverage outlets, and residential units. Change of use of Villa Drago (a scheduled Grade 1 building) to cater for retail and food and beverage establishments.
Site at, The Palace of the Grandmaster, Triq ir- Repubblika/Triq it-Teatru/Triq il-Merkanti/, Triq L- Arcisqof, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 00366/15	To carry out works for the rehabilitation of the Grandmaster's Palace (a scheduled Grade 1 building). (Removal of: dangerous structures, accretions and structures of no historical value, temporary structures, fittings and services which have been decommissioned)
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- Repubblika, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 00472/15	Extension and refurbishment of St John's Co-Cathedral Museum (a scheduled Grade 1 building).
Site at, St Helen's Flats, 61, 62, 63, 64, Triq Melita, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 03476/14	Proposed change of use from mixed use building to hotel. Proposal also includes alterations and extensions in a historical building within a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Site at, 102 & 103A, Triq L-Ifran, Triq L- Ajkla, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01489/15	Proposed internal alterations & boutique hotel in a historical building within a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Site at, St. John's Co-Cathedral, Triq San Gwann, Triq ir- Repubblika, Triq il-Merkanti, Triq Santa Lucija, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01955/15	Installation of an environmental control system for the conservation of the Grandmasters' crypt under the cathedral (a scheduled Grade 1 building).
Site at, Valletta University Campus, Triq San Pawl, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 02012/15	To install an openable metal and glass lightweight roof over courtyard and repave courtyard with a scheduled Grade 1 building.
Site at, Palazzo Bonici, Triq it-Teatru c/w, Triq L- Ifran, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 02603/15	To effect restoration works to façades on Old Bakery Street and Old Theatre Street, effect internal alterations and addition of roof structure in a historical building within a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Site at, Valletta Palazzo, Triq Ir-Repubblika c/w, Triq Nofs In-Nhar, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01107/15	Change of use from retail to Hotel 3B in a historical building within a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Site at, Is-Suq tal-Belt, Triq Merkanti, Triq Felic, Triq it-Teatru, Triq San Pawl, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 02370/15	Proposed demolition of internal structures and restoration of external facade, roof and steel structure with a scheduled Grade 1 building.
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 with a scheduled Grade 1 building.
Site at, Palazzino, 55, Triq L- Ifran, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01207/15	Change of use from residential to boutique hotel and restaurant and internal alterations in a historical building within a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Site at, Mediterranean Conference Centre, Triq il-Mediterran, Triq It-Tramuntana, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 04623/15	Proposed alterations at First Floor Level, Mediterranean Conference Centre. Works shall include the demolition of internal partition walls, the removal of roof stone slabs and wooden beams and their reinstatement, and proposed change of use from staff room to Class 2C dance studio with a scheduled Grade 1 building..
Site at, Pjazza Teatru Rjal, Triq ir-Repubblika / Triq Nofs in-Nhar / Triq il-Vittorja /, Triq L- Ordinanza, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 01914/15	Additions within the Royal Opera house - a scheduled Grade 2 building.
Site at, 100, 101, 102, Triq L-Ifran / 2, 3, 4, 5, Triq L- Ajkla, Belt Valletta, Malta - PA 04821/15	Proposed change of use from existing residential buildings to a Hotel. Proposal also includes alterations and extensions in a historical building within a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Site at, Bus Terminus Extension Project, St James Ditch, St. James Bastion, Valletta - TRK 163284	Shading and weather protection canopies to be erected for the new bus bays of the Bus Terminus Extension Project, St James Ditch, St. James Bastion, part of the Knights' Period Valletta fortifications
Site at, 'Piazza San Frangisk', Victoria, Gozo - DN 01489/14	Embellishment of square in the immediate vicinity of recorded archaeological remains
Site at, Pjazza tal-Katidral, Ic-Citadella, Victoria, Gozo - PA 00656/11	Improvement of level of piazza and approach road, including ramped access to Fosse Street and a glass door to enclose the modern gate. Works proposed within an area proposed for inclusion as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and in an area of high archaeological sensitivity.
Site at, Teatru Astra, Triq Ir-Repubblika u, Triq Giuseppe G Vella, Victoria, Gozo - PA 01907/15	Proposed installation of photovoltaic panels within the Area of High Landscape Value of Ic-Cittadella – an area proposed for inclusion as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Site at, Reservior Citadella, It-Telgha Tal-Belt, Victoria, Gozo - PA 05401/10	Proposed visitors' centre. Works proposed within an area proposed for inclusion as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and in an area of high archaeological sensitivity.
Site at, Victoria Regina, 28, 29, 30,	Restoration, rehabilitation and part demolishing of existing

31, Pjazza Savina, Victoria, Gozo- PA 01362/15	dwelling, construction of additional floors and alterations, conversion to class 3a establishment with ancillary facilities and signage. Works are proposed within a building of historical value and in an area of high archaeological sensitivity.
Site at, Rikardu's Wine & Cheese Tasting Tavern, Triq il-Fossos ka/m, Triq Melite Bernardo, Victoria, Gozo - PA 00084/15	Rebuilding of facade at street level fronting basement wine cellar approved in PA 677/10 and construction of staircase hood over stairs leading to same basement wine cellar. Site lies within an area proposed for inclusion as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and in an area of high archaeological sensitivity. Site footprint is also scheduled at Grade 1.
Site at, Law Courts, Pjazza Katidral, Victoria, Gozo - PA 04712/15	Excavation below one of the rooms at ground floor level, and below part of the passage in front of the law courts to house a passenger lift for better accessibility at Cittadella. Works proposed within a historical building, an area proposed for inclusion as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and in an area of high archaeological sensitivity.
Proposal for uprooting of trees at Pjazza Indipendenza, Victoria, Gozo - NP 00050/14 and AP 00175/14	Uprooting of trees in Pjazza Indipendenza. Works are proposed in an area where archaeological remains have been recorded.
Site at, Pjazza San Frangisk, Triq Salvatore Psaila, Victoria, Gozo - PA 02190/15	Proposed extension of Piazza, the erection of a staircase which shall connect Piazza San Frangisk with Triq Giorgio Borg Olivier. Works are proposed in the vicinity of recorded archaeological remains.
Site off, Triq Tal- Hotba, Bulebel, l/o Zejtun - PA 08157/06	Construction of private hospital which shall replace existing St. James Hospital at Zabbar. Works are proposed in an area of high archaeological sensitivity.
Site at, Mithna tax-Xarolla, Triq Sant' Andrija / Triq iz-Zurrieq /, Triq It- Tahhan, Zurrieq, Malta - PA 02219/14	Proposed Embellishment of Area surrounding Xarolla Mill. Embellishment includes visitors centre and public toilets in the immediate vicinity of recorded archaeological remains and a windmill scheduled at Grade 1.

### 3. Cultural Heritage Surveillance

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Please find statistical data for the Cultural Heritage Surveillance section of the 2015 Annual Report:

(1) New monitoring cases for 2015: 223  
Compared to 2014 new cases: 150  
Sharp increase especially since from 2013 to 2014 the difference was only of 6 cases more in 2014.

Cases brought forward from 2014: 103

(2) Registered monitors for 2015:

Full-time: 23

Part-time: 13

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





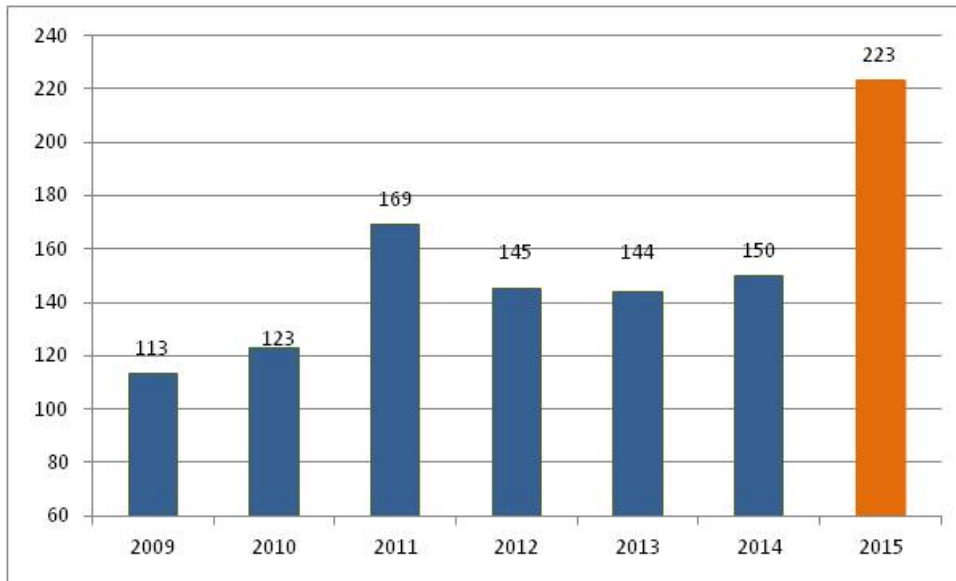
cases also often require multiple field inspections and meetings with architects, contractors and developers.

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

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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.

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.

	<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	Ghallis 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.

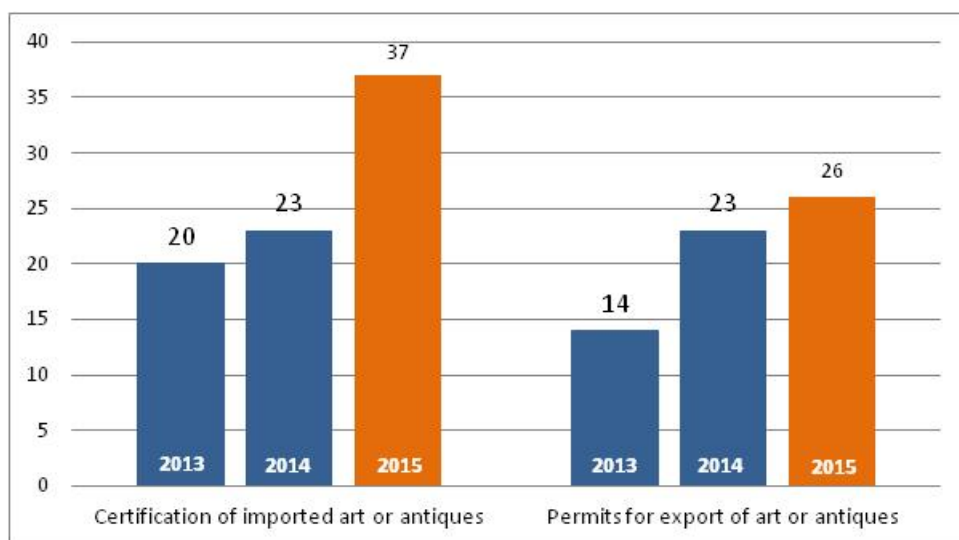
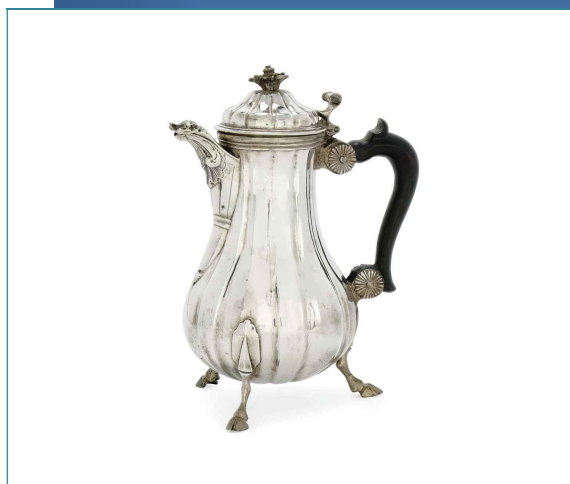
3. **Fort St Angelo** – The ongoing restoration works within the precinct of the Fort entailed the monitoring of restoration works and the laying down of new underground utilities. These works uncovered several surviving archaeological remains including part of the medieval fortifications, as well as 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.
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## 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.



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 2015, the Superintendence reviewed 380 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 less than those processed in 2014 (396 cases) and 54 cases more than those processed in 2013.

As stated at law, the export of cultural heritage items from Malta requires permission from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. In the course of 2015, the Superintendence issued permission for export of cultural heritage items in 26 cases. Of these 26 cases, 19 cases were for the export of contemporary or decorative art that did not require inspection of the items. In the remaining 7 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 1422.14 Euro. This revenue is taken as a fee, equal to 5% of the value of the inspected item.

The 26 permissions granted in 2015 marked a small increase over permissions as issued in 2014 (23 cases) and a more marked increase over 2013, when a total of 14 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 2015, the Superintendence inspected and certified imported cultural heritage items in 37 cases. These inspections of imported items generated revenue of 25901.54 Euro.

These 37 cases were a significant increase over the imports inspected in 2014 (23 cases) and over the imports in 2013 (20 cases). This increase in cases resulted in the marked increase in revenue, which had amounted to 2564.54 Euro in 2014 and 8572.20 Euro in 2013.

This increase in revenue reflects the increase in importation cases, which at 37 cases are almost double those in 2013. Nevertheless, the increase in revenue also reflects the greater value of items imported in 2015, when compared to the previous two years.

It is indicative that 6 cases in 2015 involved items worth more than 20000 Euro, as opposed to 2014 when no such cases were processed and 2013, when one case exceeded this amount.





## 5. 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 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 Taċ-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 2015**

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 eight rock-cut tombs 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. All tombs were archaeologically excavated and a complete record taken. A preliminary assessment of the ceramics found inside these tombs indicates burials date to the Roman period. The site forms part of a larger funerary area occupying Ghajn Qajjet. It is expected that more tombs will be uncovered during the remaining works. The tombs identified so far were protected in situ.

### **Triq Gheriexem, Rabat**

During trenching works for the laying of service utilities a stretch of an old water gallery was uncovered. The gallery cut into the rock cuts across Triq Gheriexem and leads into the valley. The feature was protected in situ. Another feature was found further up the same road towards Triq Santa Rita. A pit cut into the natural clay was found full of ceramics. The feature was

archaeologically excavated and recorded. Before further works measures were taken to preserve the feature in situ.

#### **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.

#### **60, Gheriexem Street c/w Triq it-Torri l-Ahmar, Rabat**

During an extension of a house into the back garden area a small stretch of cart ruts were uncovered. These remains were recorded and measures taken to preserve them in situ.

#### **Triq Qarawas, Żebbiegh**

During an archaeological evaluation of an un-built plot proposed for development, a stretch of cart ruts were uncovered. The site also revealed later traces of quarrying activity which cut the identified cart ruts to create a lower field terrace. The cart ruts were preserved in situ.

#### **Triq Sir Temi Zammit, Żebbiegh**

Another plot proposed for development close to the previous site at Triq Qarawas included the remains of three stretches of cart ruts and a quarry. The site was fully investigated and recorded. The cart ruts were preserved in situ.

#### **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.

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

During works for the construction of new hangars for the MRO Facility several archaeological remains were uncovered. These included the discovery of ten silo pits dating to the Bronze Age and an extensive system of agricultural rock-cut trenches along with traces of quarrying. Following discussions with the developer the project was shifted to another location to ensure protection of these features.

### **Blk 1, Flat 1, Triq Għeriexem, Rabat**

During monitored works within a private house traces of quarrying and stratified deposits of a series of ancient floors were uncovered. A preliminary analysis of the ceramics retrieved from these layers it indicates that these remains belong to Punic and Roman periods. Some sherds of a Bronze Age date were also identified. The site was archaeologically excavated and a complete record of the findings collected.

### **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.

### **56, Triq Bir Riebu, Rabat**

During monitored works of the demolition of a house in Triq Bir Riebu several traces of cart ruts were uncovered. The investigation of these features is still ongoing.

### **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.

### **3, Triq San Bartilmew, Zurrieq**

Works in a private house at Triq San Bartilmew uncovered the entrance to a wartime shelter. The feature was preserved in situ.

### **Marsa Power Station, Marsa**

During monitored works for the construction of a distribution centre at the Marsa power station a natural fissure filled with quaternary deposit was discovered. The feature was recorded and protected. Also measures were implemented to allow access to the feature.

### **Coast Road, Salina**

During the monitoring of road construction works along the Salina part of the Coast Road, numerous archaeological remains were uncovered. These remains included part of the foundations of the Ximenes redoubt, structural remains of a late Roman date, traces of quarrying close to the Annunciation Chapel and structural remains related to the Sukkursu canal. Preservation of the features in situ where possible.

### **25/27, Triq Hal Bajjada, Rabat**

During development works in a private house the existing flooring was removed and three rock-cut tombs. An investigation of the features was not possible. The remains were preserved in situ.

### **16, Triq San Ġwann Gharghar, San Ġwann**

Works in a private house at Triq San Ġwann uncovered a wartime shelter underlying the present building. The feature was preserved in situ.

### **7, Ċentru Frangiskan, Triq l-Arcisqof Pietru Pace, Victoria**

During monitored works a rock-cut tomb was uncovered. The feature was documented and preserved in situ.

### **Trejqa tal-Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera**

During trenching works for the laying of service utilities the entrance to a wartime shelter was uncovered at Trejqa tal-Fleur-de-Lys. Measures were taken to re-route services and preserve the shelter.

### **Cittadella Rehabilitaion Project, Victoria Gozo**

Archaeological monitoring and investigations at the Cittadella started in 2012, and have been carried out for all the phases of this extensive rehabilitation project.

In 2015 continuation of the works for the Cittadella project uncovered, the remains of the ancient city's fortifications walls and several other Bronze Age

silos pits together with the discovery of structures forming part of the Knights period land front alterations. Works for the restoration of the ruins also revealed yet other new insights on the old city's living quarters. All the exposed features have been investigated and documented. The remains have been preserved in situ and are being incorporated in the proposed development for the enjoyment of the general public.

#### **Triq Belt Valletta, Paola**

Works for the building of a retirement home uncovered the remains of a private wartime shelter. The feature was preserved in situ./ change of plans.

#### **Tal-Virtu Road, Rabat**

Monitored excavation works for the installation of a swimming pool uncovered the remains of a rectangular rock-cut tomb shaft beneath the boundary wall of two properties. The tomb was not accessible and was therefore not excavated. The feature was documented and preserved in situ.

#### **Triq id-Difiza Civili, Mosta**

During an archaeological evaluation of a previously built up plot proposed for industrial development, extensive remains of ancient quarrying were uncovered. The feature was documented and preserved in situ.

#### **Triq Hal Safi, Triq San Gwann, Triq Il-Fdal Paleokristjani, Kirkop**

Monitored works for the building of a new school uncovered the remains of several agricultural features, extensive quarrying, a catacomb and eleven rock-cut tombs and a 'matla' wall. All the remains were investigated, documented and preserved in situ. Also measures were implemented to allow access to the features and integrate in the design of the new building.

#### **Castille Square, Valletta**

Monitored works undertaken for the re-organisation of Castille Square uncovered several archaeological remains from the Knights' period. These remains included part of St Paul's street original paving, fifteen grain silo pits and original deposit remains with ceramics and numismatic evidence. Access to the grain silos were reinstated.

#### **Triq San Gabrijel, Balzan**

During an archaeological evaluation of an undeveloped plot, remains of a possibly ancient structure were uncovered. The site revealed remains of block structures and flooring layers with traces of classical pottery. The investigation of these features is still ongoing and measures are being taken to preserve in situ. Balzan 2008

#### **4-9, Triq San Pawl, Valletta**

During the rehabilitation of an eighteenth century Baroque house in Triq San Pawl, excavation works within the ground floor uncovered the remains of a basement and a cistern dating to the early phases of Valletta. The features were documented and preserved in situ, and have been integrate in the new development.

#### **Hotel Phoenician, Floriana**

Archaeological evaluation revealed the remains of Knights' period defensive structures, part of the Valletta land front fortification system. The fortified structures uncovered in the course of these works consisted of the remains of a *coverth way* within the Valletta glacis. The investigation of these features is still ongoing and measures are being taken to preserve in situ.

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## 6. 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 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 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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