



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00001

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

Property Name	Ġgantija Temples		
Address	Triq l-Imqades		
Town Name	Xagħra	Toponym	N/A
		Local Council	Xagħra
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Heritage Malta
Guardianship Deed	No		

Period	Prehistory (6th Millenium - 9th Century BC)		
Phase	Neolithic: Għar Dalam (5000 - 4300 BC)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Archaeological Architectural	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Outstanding
Property Function	Ritual	Conservation Area	AAI

Outline Description	The Ġgantija Temples are a World Heritage Site.
Property Description	Excavation on this site started in 1827 under Col. Otto Beyer. Archaeological excavation revealed two temples. The two temples are built side by side, enclosed within a single massive boundary wall and opening onto a common forecourt. Both Temples have a neat, uncluttered plan. The Southern temple is made up of 5 apses connected by a central corridor. It seems that it has been the most important because it is larger, has richer furnishings and is older as sherds from its wall-fillings showed. The other temple is smaller and plainer in appearance. Its plan consists of 4 apses and a niche. These temples were used for ritual purposes as some features shows. Of particular significance are the prehistoric artefacts found on site, including; two stones heads, a snake relief and a phallic symbol. These are preserved at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology. The Ġgantija Temples remained in use for about a thousand years after which where later used as cremation site by the Bronze Age inhabitants.

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Class A	G.N. No.	0588	G.N. Date	1994
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Recommended Bibliography	1905-1906:1, 1912-1913:5, 1933-1934: 6, 1936-1937: 6-10, 1937-1938:2, 1953-1954: 2, 1954-1955: 6, 1955-1956: 3-5, 1956-1957: 3, 1958-1959: 4, 1988: 80 <i>Museum Annual Report (M.A.R.)</i> , Museums Department
	MEPA Scheduled Property Register
	Evans, J.D.(1971) <i>The Prehistoric Antiquities of the Maltese Islands: A Survey</i> , London: Althone Press

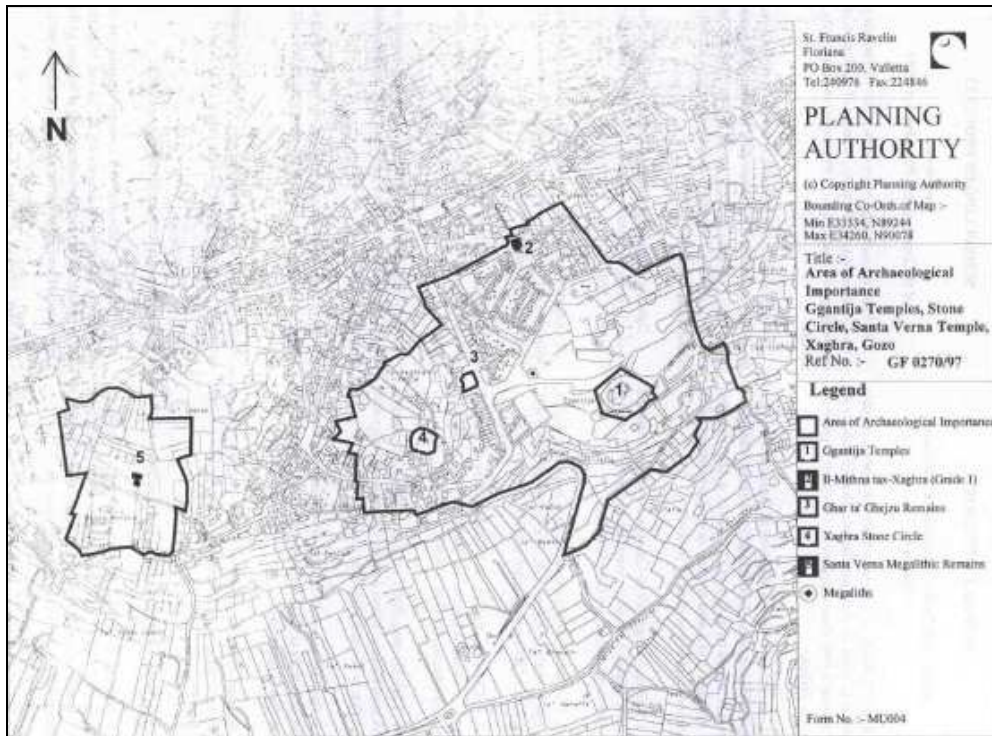
Coordinates : Easting

34213

89634

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

