

## 1. DATA MANAGEMENT

### National Inventory

The National Inventory of Cultural Property in the Maltese Islands (NICPMI) is a statutory function of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (Cultural Heritage Act CAP 445, Art. 7(5)).

Since 2011 the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage has dedicated over 10% of its limited human resources to develop this key function. Work on the inventory is continuously ongoing. Developing the inventory requires extensive data collection and processing from bibliographic, archival and topographic sources. Site inspections of all the inventoried properties are also carried out, during which a photographic record of each property is taken.

New entries in the inventory are published in the Government Gazette at regular three-month intervals. In 2013 the Superintendence published 853 new properties in the Government Gazette (Table 1).

**TABLE 1. Number of Inventory Records Published in the Government Gazette in 2013**

<b>Government Gazette No.</b>	<b>Date of Publication</b>	<b>Theme/Subject</b>	<b>No. of records</b>
No.19,060	26 March 2013	Chapels and Niches	61
No.19,103	28 June 2013	Knights Period Fortifications	389
No.19,144	27 September 2013	Chapels and Niches	192
No.19,188	27 December 2013	Chapels and Niches	210
<b>New properties published 2013</b>			<b>852</b>
<b>Inventory Items Published in the Government Gazette: 2011 to 2013</b>			<b>2017</b>

The National Inventory is also available to the public in PDF format, free of charge. All the data sheets for the individual cultural heritage properties published on the Government Gazette can be accessed freely and downloaded from the Superintendence website ([www.culturalheritage.gov.mt](http://www.culturalheritage.gov.mt)). This service is designed to increase public knowledge and appreciation of Malta's cultural heritage resources. Promoting the National Inventory as a publicly accessible tool will assist local communities to identify cultural heritage assets in their localities more easily.

In 2013 the Superintendence worked on two main inventory-related initiatives – the compilation and publication of the inventory of *Historic Niches and Chapels in Malta and Gozo* and the inventory of *Knights Period Fortifications*. Both categories of cultural monuments have been identified as being highly typical of the Maltese cultural landscape and are also at high risk of being lost through re-development, neglect or vandalism.

In 2013 a total of 463 niches and chapels were recorded within 17 different Local Councils (Table 2). A total of 1,443 niches and chapels have been placed on the National Inventory since the start of the project in 2011. It is expected that by the end of this exercise, in 2014, roughly 500 new records will be added to the National Inventory.

**TABLE 2. Historic Niches and Chapels published in the Government Gazette 2013**

Gudja	30	Marsaxlokk	13	Hal-Għaxaq	28
Hal Kirkop	17	Marsakala	23	Birżebbuġa	18
Haż-Żabbar	48	Imqabba	30	Hal-Luqa	24
Qrendi	48	Żejtun	84	Hal-Tarxien	26
Hal-Safi	12	Żurrieq	58	Birgu	1
Naxxar	1	Sliema	2		
<b>Records Published in 2013: total of 463</b>					

The Inventory of Knights' Period Fortifications was started by the Superintendence in 2012 following the signing of an agreement with the International Institute of Baroque Studies of the

University of Malta. The compilation of the inventory of this class of architectural monuments has been entrusted to the renowned expert on baroque period fortifications, Dr. Stephen C. Spiteri. The project was completed in the course of 2013. A total of 389 new records were created for inclusion in the National Inventory covering all known classes of fortification dating from between the sixteenth to the eighteenth century (Table 3).

**TABLE 3. Knights Period Fortifications Inventory by main categories**

<b>Fortified Urban centres</b>	<b>No. of records</b>		<b>Forts</b>	<b>No. of records</b>
Birgu	19		Fort Chambray	16
Bormla	13		Fort Manuel	30
Cittadella	16		Fort St. Angelo	17
Floriana	38		Fort St. Elmo	16
Kalkara	31		Fort Tigne	16
Mdina	19		Fort Verdala	4
Senglea	11			
Valletta	45		<b>Towers</b>	16
			<b>Batteries</b>	18
<b>Fortification lines</b>			<b>Redoubts</b>	11
Cottonera lines	15		<b>Entrenchments</b>	16
Margherita lines	14		<b>Fougasse</b>	8
<b>Total records 389</b>				

### **Cultural Heritage Inventory Management System (CHIMS)**

CHIMS is an electronic, internet-based inventory built specifically for the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. The Cultural Heritage Inventory Management System combines the

functionalities of heritage documentation with Geographic Information System (GIS). This online database lists items related to Culture and Heritage including Archaeology, Architecture, Moveable items, Artefacts and Intangible Heritage. It allows the public to view records as in their special context on a digital map, whilst also accessing information on a particular site or artefact in PDF document.

Populating CHIMS with new information is an ongoing process, and is carried out in parallel with the development of the National Inventory. In 2013 CHIMS was populated with an additional 765 new entries. These new records included the Chapels and Niches entries compiled for the NICMPI. Table 4 shows the situation with respect to data inputting in CHIMS for the period 2007 till the end of 2013.

**TABLE 4: Records inputted in CHIMS, 2013**

<b>Fields</b>	<b>2007-2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Total</b>
Heritage Sites	923	764	<b>1687</b>
Archaeological Interventions	10	0	<b>10</b>
Artefacts	1568	0	<b>1568</b>
Guardianship Deed	14	1	<b>15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2515</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>3280</b>

## 2. LAND USE AND PLANNING MATTERS

### Consultations regarding Land Use and Development Applications

One of the main functions of the Superintendence stems directly from the Development Planning Act (CAP. 504), more specifically L.N. 514 of 2010. The Superintendence acts as a consultee to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) as part of the development application consultation process by recommending protective mitigation measures, refusals and referrals of applications. This function mainly concerns archaeological and architectural heritage resources influenced by development and construction.

In 2013, this core function alone represented over 60% of the work load of the Superintendence. Planning applications are reviewed by the Superintendence for their potential cultural heritage impact on archaeological or architectural monuments. Possible negative impacts on UNESCO World Heritage Monuments are also assessed. The process requires the case officers of the Superintendence to check different sets of information for each case received, including the relevant planning information and archival information on the cultural heritage assets involved. Meetings with MEPA officials, developers and site inspections are often also required to ensure a fuller assessment of the applications. The Superintendence is required to carry out its assessment and react to each MEPA consultation requests within a maximum of 30 calendar days.

A total of 590 consultation requests were treated by the Superintendence in 2013 (Table 5). Just over 75% of these (444 requests) were forwarded by MEPA's Planning Directorate. The remaining 25% of the workload is dedicated to requests for road works permits received from Transport Malta (13%), Environmental Impact Assessments (5%), consultations by third parties (4%) and pre-application consultations by developers (3%).

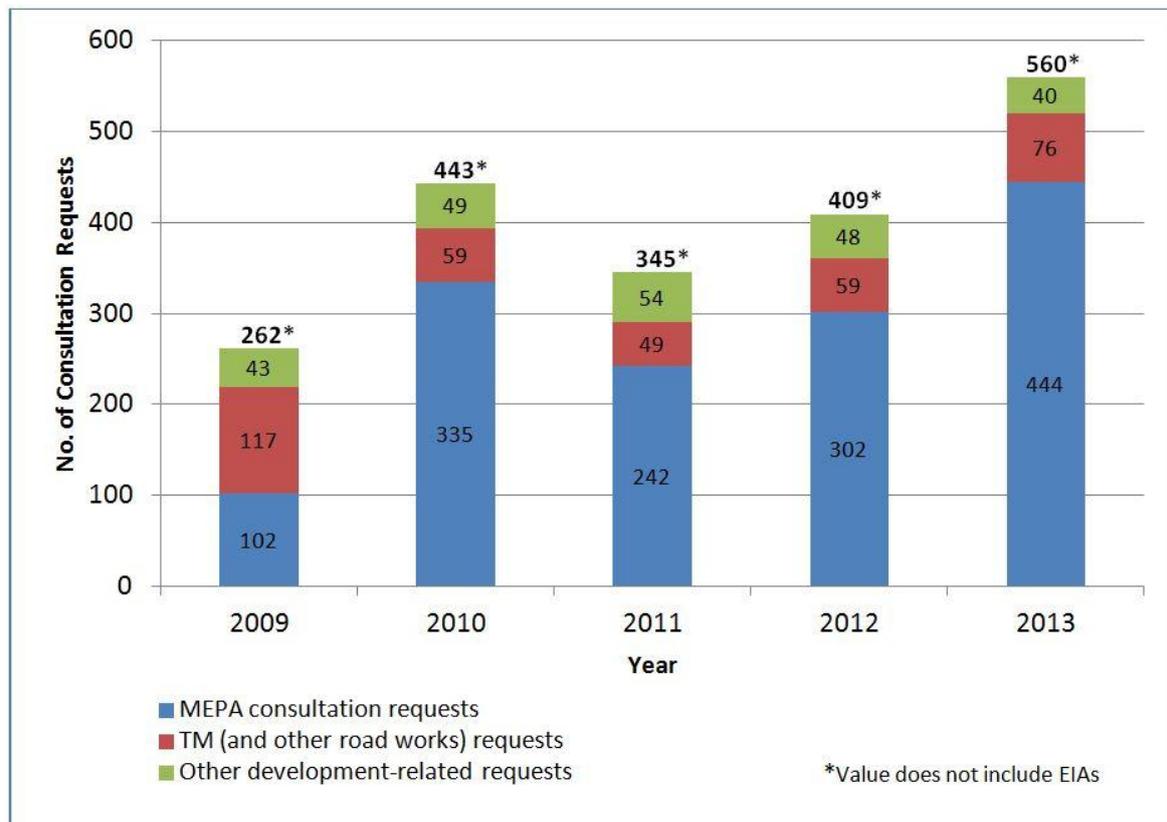
TABLE 5: Land Development Requests referred to the Superintendence in 2013

	444	Consultation Requests received from MEPA (including Tracking Cases)
	30	Consultation Requests regarding Environmental Impact Assessments
	76	Road Work Permits received from Transport Malta
	40	Consultations by Third Parties (such as Planning Appeals Board, Registered Objectors, NGOs, Pre-Application Consultations by developers)
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>	

The number of consultation requests treated by the Superintendence has significantly increased over the past five years, as seen in the chart below. In 2013 the total workload increased by 37% when compared to 2012 values, and 62% over 2011.

Both MEPA and Transport Malta consultation requests have progressively increased over the past three years. On the other hand, development-related requests that are independent of the MEPA and Transport Malta consultation processes have remained relatively constant.

**Figure 1. Consultation Requests received by the Superintendence by type 2009-2013**



The above figures also include large-scale, national projects and other major projects dealing with a mixture of infrastructural, restoration and land redevelopment issues. The review of these cases by the Superintendence often must be extended to include consultations with interested national bodies, such as Transport Malta, the Grand Harbour Regeneration Committee, Works Division, Heritage Malta, Non-Governmental Organisations, as well as with other interested Ministries and Departments. Some of the major, new project proposals assessed by the Superintendence in 2013 are listed below:

- Continuation of City Gate Project – Parliament Building and Opera House Projects
- Salina National Park, San Pawl il-Baħar
- Fortifications Interpretation Centre, Valletta
- Conversion of Il-Macina, Triq it-Tarzna, Senglea
- Landscaping of Birgu Waterfont, beneath Post of Castille
- Palazzo Parisio, Valletta
- The Inquisitor's Palace, Birgu
- Evan's Building, Valletta
- St Augustine Priory, Valletta
- Conservation and restoration at Ta' Mintna Catacombs, Mqabba
- Conservation and restoration of façades of Chapel and annex at San Pawl Milqi, San Pawl il-Baħar
- Restoration of façades of the Auberge de Baviere (now the Lands and Public Registry), Valletta
- Breakwater and Pontoon at Mġarr Yacht Marina, Mġarr
- Private Hospital at Tal-Ħotba, Bulebel l/o Żejtun
- National Flood Relief Project - Storm Water Tunnels and Infrastructural Works ending at Wied Qirda, l/o Haz Zebbug
- Restoration of Rural Area into Leisure Park at Ta' Darrenzi, Mġarr
- Restoration of Sta Margherita Lines, from St. John Almonier Bastion to St. Helen Bastion, Cospicua
- Delimara Gas and Power LCGT and LNG, Receiving, Storage and Re-gasification Facilities, Delimara, Marsaxlokk
- Construction of Block E, MCAST, Paola
- Electrical distribution through underground tunnels - Tunnel 1 project
- Restoration of Manoel Theatre, Valletta
- Old Civil Abattoir, Valletta
- Reorganisation of parking at Valletta Landfront Ditch, St Andrew's Tennaille Ditch, Sally Port Tunnel, Valletta
- Widening & Realignment of Coast Road from Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq, Naxxar-St Paul's Bay

### **Cultural Heritage Surveillance**

The Superintendence is also heavily involved in the surveillance and monitoring of ongoing land development projects. Such cases involve a range of services: the monitoring of ongoing construction works in areas of potential archaeological interest, the surveillance of restoration

projects, the archaeological evaluation of areas affected by development applications, and investigations associated with the Development Limits Rationalisation Process. The scale of these interventions is not uniform, and ranges from the surveillance over many months of large infrastructural projects, to small scale domestic interventions requiring only a few days of monitoring.

The main purpose of the monitoring is to ensure that no cultural heritage sites or features are accidentally discovered and destroyed in the course of development projects. Monitors are also employed to ensure that cultural heritage conservation conditions attached to Development Permits are being followed by developers and contractors. In a number of cases monitors will also be employed to document or archaeologically investigate features of cultural heritage importance that may be discovered in the course of construction works.

When handling monitoring cases the Superintendence compiles terms of reference, directs the surveillance or archaeological investigation, approves and supervises the engagement of monitoring freelancers, 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 2013 decreased slightly compared to the previous year: 144 cases received in 2013, against the 150 cases of 2012.

On the other hand, the number of registered freelance archaeological monitors registered with the Superintendence has increased significantly in 2013: 21 registered full-time monitors in 2013, against the 15 of 2012.

The Superintendence publishes and periodically reviews the register of persons who can provide local developers with monitoring and archaeological services. This list is accessible on the website of the Superintendence following a public call for expressions of interest.

Since 2011 the Superintendence also provides comprehensive guidance and standards for monitoring and data capture. This body of technical and procedural guidance was collected in the *Operating Procedures and Standards for Archaeology Services* (OPSAS) which can be downloaded for free from the Superintendence website. A third edition of OPSAS was published online in 2013 in order to simplify the document's technical guidance section.

### 3. MUSEUMS AND SITES

#### Guardianship Deeds

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage enters into and supervises Guardianship deeds for the management of public 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 documents 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.

One new Guardianship Deed was completed in 2013. The Deed was signed with Din L-Art Helwa, a cultural heritage voluntary organisation, for the conservation and management of the Wied Iz-Zurrieq Tower. The seventeenth century coastal watch tower at Wied iz-Zurrieq has been for years in a poor state of conservation. Din l-Art Helwa has committed itself not only to restore the tower, but also to render it accessible to the public on a regular basis.

In the course of 2013, the Superintendence also renewed nine Guardianship Deeds which had been originally signed in 2003 with Din L-Art Helwa (Table 6). The original Deeds were valid for ten years and were therefore meant to expire in 2013. The Deeds have now been renewed for a further period of ten years.

**TABLE 6: Status of Guardianship Deeds – 2013**

	<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-	Din l-Art Helwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013

		Baħar		
5	Mamo Tower	Maraskala	Din l-Art Ħelwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
6	Santa Maria Tower	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Ħelwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
7	Dwejra Tower	San Lawrenz	Din l-Art Ħelwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
8	Santa Maria Battery	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Ħelwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
9	Msida Bastion Cemetery	Floriana	Din l-Art Ħelwa	2003 \ Renewed 2013
10	Lascaris War Rooms	Valletta	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2009
11	WWII shelter at 25, Britannia Sq	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 Ħelwa	2011
15	Wied Iz-Zurrieq Tower	Qrendi	Din l-Art Ħelwa	2013

### **Collaboration with Heritage Malta on major projects**

As in previous years the Superintendence has worked closely with Heritage Malta on a number of major conservation and infrastructural projects. These projects involve some of Malta's most important and sensitive archaeological monuments. The Superintendence kept an ongoing surveillance of these projects, in some cases conducting archaeological investigations in collaboration with the curatorial staff of Heritage Malta. The main initiatives undertaken with Heritage Malta are the following:

- **Tarxien Temples Protective Shelter and Walkways, Tarxien**  
 Archaeological investigations were carried out in a number of locations across the site to establish whether the proposed foundation points for the new infrastructure would be impacting any archaeological remains. It was in fact confirmed that a number of foundation points would impact prehistoric features or strata. It was therefore possible to redesign these foundation points to remove altogether or mitigate the expected negative impact. This archaeological evaluation and the redesign processes were carried forward into 2014.
- **Ġgantija Temples Archaeological Park and Visitors Centre, Xagħra**  
 At Ġgantija the Superintendence worked with Heritage Malta to archaeologically assess the areas in which it was planned to construct the projected Visitors Centre and the new walkways. All phases of the construction works were also put under constant archaeological monitoring to ensure that no damage would be done to any remains in the course of works. A number of previously unrecorded prehistoric features were identified, documented and protected. Works are expected to be completed in 2014.
- **Fort St. Angelo Restoration Project, Birgu**  
 As part of the planning phase of this project a number of areas within historic fortress were investigated archaeologically to collect information on the situation underlying the modern surfaces. In some areas important archaeological features were identified relating to both the Medieval and the Early Modern phases of fortress of the fortress. The most important results were obtained in the area of the Barbican, and in the area of the eighteenth century Cenotaph. Constant archaeological monitoring was also imposed on all construction and restoration works at St. Angelo.
- **St Paul's Catacombs and Visitors Centre, Rabat**  
 An extensive project of archaeological monitoring and excavation was carried out at St. Paul's Catacombs in relation to the construction of extensive new infrastructure at this key archaeological site. A full scale archaeological investigation was carried out at the site of the proposed new Visitors Centre to document the extent and layout of the ancient remains uncovered in the area. The foundations of the Visitors Centre were emended to minimise impacts on these remains. Meanwhile archaeological monitoring and documentation was also carried out in other areas of the site as part of the construction process related to the introduction of new pathways across the site and into the individual catacombs. These works are expected to be completed in 2014.

- **Santu Wistin Catacombs, Rabat**

Heritage Malta undertook to clean out this small complex of catacombs from large amounts of modern debris in order to render the site accessible to the public. An extensive archaeological documentation exercise was also carried out at this underground complex. Works were carried out in coordination with the Superintendence and under constant archaeological monitoring.

- **Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths, Mġarr**

An extensive archaeological evaluation of this site has been underway as part of a preliminary phase prior to the start of conservation and infrastructural works. These works are still ongoing.

- **Ta` Bistra Catacombs new Covered Walkways and Visitors Centre, Mosta**

Constant archaeological monitoring and documentation have been imposed on these extensive structural works at the Ta' Bistra complex. Modern debris and fills have been removed from within the catacombs as well as in the field in front of the catacomb entrances. The extents of the Early Modern quarrying that covered most of this area, has been exposed and mapped.

#### **4. MOVEMENT OF GOODS**

##### **Export or Movement of Cultural Goods**

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage regulates the export and movement of cultural goods moving between Malta and EU Member States, as well as from, or to non-EU countries. In 2013, the Superintendence examined the following cases referred to by the Customs Department or by Malta Post:

- 325 cases of export of personal items from Malta;
- 20 cases of importation of cultural goods from outside the European Union;
- 14 cases of declared exports of works of art.

##### **Temporary Movement of Cultural Goods**

The Superintendence has also reviewed and regulated a number of applications for the temporary export of cultural goods out of the Maltese territory for purposes of restoration, exhibition or for other cultural purposes. The main cases handled in 2013 are listed below:

- Temporary Export i.c.w. Exhibition - "Kaleidoscope: Contemporary Art from E.U. Member States" - Dublin, Ireland
- Temporary Export i.c.w. Exhibition "Il Cavaliere Calabrese: Mattia Preti - da Caravaggio a Luca Giordano" at La Venaria Reale, Torino, Italy
- Temporary Export i.c.w. Exhibition by Soprintendenza di Roma - Museo di Palazzo Barberini, Italy
- Temporary Export of Tapestries by St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation for restoration in Belgium
- Temporary Export of Items from National Library for Exhibition – "Reasonable Dreams - Valletta from the Renaissance to Renzo Piano" - La Galerie d'Architecture, Paris, France

## 5. CULTURAL HERITAGE RESEARCH

### Archaeological Research Projects

#### **Mġarr ix-Xini Valley: Cultural Landscape Project**

This project has been ongoing since 2005 and is being carried out by the Superintendence in collaboration with the Xewkija and Sannat Local Councils and independent researchers. The objective of this project is to develop a detailed archaeological map of this extensive valley system as a case study on the development of the Maltese rural landscape from prehistory to the present day.

In 2013, work was concentrated on completing the intensive surface survey started the previous year. A detailed data collection exercise was carried out on a field-by-field basis for the entire valley bed and slopes. All artefacts scattered on the field surfaces, as well as all visible rural and archaeological features were recorded. In total 560 fields were recorded in the course of the 2013 fieldwork.

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

In 2012, the Superintendence joined a number of foreign and Maltese partners in a successful funding bid from the Advanced Grants Program of the European Research Council.

The objective of the FRAGSUS Project is to: (1) reconstruct the prehistoric environment, vegetation and landscape of the Maltese Islands; (2) improve the chronological framework for Malta's prehistory through AMS radiocarbon and other dating methods; (3) assess ancient population history through analysis of human remains; and (4) establish settlement, subsistence and landscape history by assessing the environmental evidence.

Queen's University of Belfast is the institution heading this project, in partnership with a number of different entities involved in scientific research, both locally and in the United Kingdom. These include the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Heritage Malta, the University of Malta, and the University of Cambridge.

The Superintendence has been allocated €169,153.20 for this project over a period of 5 years.

The project will officially start in May 2013 and will span five years. During these five years it is planned to undertake a series of fieldwork studies, including coring and analysis of pollens and other samples from archaeological sites, and environmental studies together with dating investigation studies which will include the use of GIS for these same sites. Apart from this, the

human remains excavated from the Xagħra Circle in the late 1980s will be re-organized and studied for specific demographic data. Samples will also be taken to understand diet and other scientific data which will play a part on assessing the prehistoric environment. The project will finally conclude with the publication of the scientific results.

In 2013 most of the fieldwork carried out by the FRAGSUS team related to the extraction of deep soil samples from a range of valley bed sites across the Maltese Islands. These samples are being analysed to provide information on environmental changes in Malta from prehistory and from later periods. Two project meetings were also held in Malta at the premises of the Superintendence in Valletta.

### **Other Major Archaeological Investigations carried out by the Superintendence in 2013**

#### **Discovery of a cluster of Bronze Age silos, Cittadella**

A cluster of Bronze Age silo pits were discovered in the course of consolidation and restoration works on the north-east fortifications of Cittadella. The silos were found at the foot of the wall, cut into the Globigerina Limestone stratum. In the area exposed by these works traces of at least 21 silos were identified and documented. Many of the silos were damaged by later historical period quarrying at the base of the Cittadella bastions. The remains of these silos were at a later stage covered by agricultural terraces. Notwithstanding these later disturbances, some of the silos were found to be still filled with Bronze Age deposits and ceramics. This discovery confirms the prehistoric origins of the urban centre at Cittadella.

#### **Birgu Landfront Ditch, off Triq it-Torri San Gwann, Birgu**

In the course of the restoration of the Birgu Landfront Ditch it was possible to investigate a structure identified under a thick layer of nineteenth and twentieth century debris. The structure was identified as being a seventeenth century caponier. This structure consisted of a covered passage-way which links up different parts of the fortification system in case of attack. The caponier had been dismantled and covered up during the British Period. This is an important discovery to understand the layout of the fortifications of the Birgu land-front in the late baroque period.

#### **Magazine Curtain, Triq l-Imħazen, Mdina**

During consolidation and restoration works of Magazine Curtain at Mdina, remains of the sixteenth century fortification walls were uncovered. These fortifications were covered up in the course of the eighteenth century by the construction of the new, late baroque fortifications of Mdina. These older remains were archaeologically investigated and

documented, and measures were coordinated with the developer to ensure that they are properly protected.

### **Salvatore Bastion, Valletta**

During the construction of a modern garden within the Salvatore Bastion in Valletta, the foundations of a British period polverista were uncovered. These structural remains were investigated, documented and preserved. These investigations were a continuation on the work already carried out in 2012, when stretches of the sixteenth century foundation structures of the bastion were exposed and documented.

### **Site at Triq Francesco Azzopardi, Tal-Virtu, Rabat**

An archaeological investigation of an undeveloped plot located in the area of Tal-Virtu was carried out in 2013. The investigation was done following the submission to MEPA of a development application. The study included soil removal over part of the site to expose the underlying rock surface. In the area investigated so far, at least six ancient rock-cut tombs were identified, together with evidence of quarrying. A preliminary survey of the site was carried out and the site was recommended to MEPA for scheduling.

### **Archaeological Remains at Gheriexem Street, Rabat**

A small stretch of ancient stratification was uncovered during a domestic development at Gheriexem Street, close to the Roman Domus. Although limited in size, this sample of ancient stratification was made up of strata ranging in date from the Bronze Age to the Late Hellenistic period. Ancient rock cut features were also identified on site including two possible rock-cut cisterns. These features are being protected from any further damage that may be caused by the modern construction. The investigation was started late in 2013 and continued in 2014.

### **Site at Sqaq Żbibu and Triq Birkirkara, San Ġwann**

An extensive archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site uncovered the well preserved remains of some pre-historic cart ruts. The rest of the area did not reveal any archaeological remains. The entire area was fully documented. The development plans were changed to ensure that the cart ruts are preserved and features remain visible and publically accessible.

### **Development Rationalisation Zone in Bidnija, Mosta**

The Superintendence carried out a full archaeological evaluation of an area being considered for inclusion within the Development Zone. Some prehistoric cart-ruts had been documented in the immediate vicinity of this area at least since the 1990s. Some additional cart-ruts were uncovered and documented in the area of study. Mitigation measures for the protection of these newly identified cart ruts are being taken.

**Site at, Triq Ta' Qarawas, Mgarr, Żebbiegħ**

Another stretch of cart ruts was discovered in Żebbiegħ during an archaeological evaluation of an area interested by a development application. The proposed development was amended to ensure the physical preservation of these cart ruts.

**Site at Triq A. Cachia, Żejtun**

During construction works at this site traces of ancient quarrying were uncovered, directly under the layer of agricultural soil. No dating material was found associated with this feature. However the quarry marks suggest that the site was used to produce large ashlar, Globigerina Limestone blocks of a type that are normally associated with ancient Punic or Roman remains. A full archaeological record of this feature was taken prior to the continuation of the works.

**Site at 'Life Sciences Project Building', San Gwann**

Another small quarry basin was identified at this site in San Gwann during the demolition of an industrial plant. The quarry was judged to be of probable ancient date and was archaeologically investigated and fully documented. It was agreed with the developer that the feature will be reburied and protected from any destruction.

**Development Zone Rationalisation at Tal-Qares, Mosta**

The archaeological evaluation of this area started in 2012, was continued into 2013. The evaluation was carried out on the request of MEPA as part of the Rationalisation Process for the development of the Mosta Development Limits. Two new fields were opened up to the east of the area already investigated in 2012. No archaeological features of note were identified in the newly opened up areas. By the end of 2013, three out of the four properties interested by the Rationalisation Scheme at Tal-Qares had been extensively investigated.

## 6. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

### European Heritage Days 2013

Malta celebrated European Heritage Days in 2013 with the national theme 'Heritage Built in Stone'. Stone is one of the few natural resources found in the Maltese Islands and has been used for millennia for construction, providing a tangible testimony on the evolution of one aspect of Maltese cultural tradition.

European Heritage Days is an event organised in 50 countries, under the auspices of the Council of Europe and is coordinated in Malta by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. Admission to some historical properties was free of charge or at reduced rates on these days. Some properties that are generally less frequented or which are normally closed were also opened for public enjoyment.

During European Heritage Days 2013, the pentagonal-shaped Rihama coastal battery which was built by the Order of St John in the early eighteenth century was opened to the public. A Medieval Night and Banquet was organised to commemorate the event in aid of the restoration of the Battery. The Rihama Battery was decorated and lit up with candle light and *fjakkoli* offering a unique night view of this historic property.

The Mdina Cathedral Museum, the Haż-Żabbar Sanctuary Museum, St John's Co-Cathedral and Museum, Palazzo Falson in Mdina and Limestone Heritage either opened for free or reduced their admission fees for the event. Properties under the management of the Gozitan-run NGO Wirt Għawdex, and the newly inaugurated Il-Ħaġar Museum were also opened during this special weekend.

The recently inaugurated Fortifications Interpretation Centre opened its doors on Sunday 27 October. A temporary exhibition entitled 'Behind-the-Scenes' was set up, and presented an insight on the Restoration Directorate's work. Visitors were given the opportunity to follow talks on recent projects, view projections/feature films of completed works as well as demos of exciting new technologies used in the field. Interactive children's activities were also organised for the event.

Another European Heritage Day event highlight included guided tours at Casa Rocca Piccola, Valletta.

Din l-Art Ħelwa and Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna welcomed visitors to admire historical properties under their management. Many of these properties have already been painstakingly restored

and maintained, supported by private sponsorships, European Union funding and numerous man hours by dedicated volunteers.

Heritage Malta extended the European Heritage Days celebrations by organising its first ever open day to the prehistoric megalithic temples site of Ġgantija.

Over 3,000 persons of different age groups participated in the activities.

### **International Heritage Photographic Experience 2013 (IHPE)**

The International Heritage Photographic Experience is an annual photographic competition intended for students up to 21 years of age. In 2013 the Superintendence participated in the eighteenth 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 2013 saw an increase in children's participation and eagerness to present their work. Around 120 photographs were submitted.

IHPE 2013 focused on the Artistic and Monumental Heritage of the Maltese Islands. Two winners were selected this year, both aged 13. The first place was awarded to a close-up shot of the Independence monument in Floriana. The second photograph captured the vivid colours of our Maltese traditional boat, the Luzzu. Both photographs are published on the Superintendence website: <http://www.culturalheritage.gov.mt/page.asp?p=21306&l=1>