



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00021

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

Property Name	Ta' Ġawhar Tower				
Address	Triq Ta' Ġawhar				
Town Name	Safi	Toponym	Tal-Ġawhar	Local Council	Safi
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Private Owner		
Guardianship Deed	No				

Period	Classical (8th Century BC to 5th Century AD)				
Phase	Roman Republican				
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Archaeological		Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	High	
Property Function	Fortification		Conservation Area	N/A	

Outline Description	Roman round tower				
Property Description	<p>Ta' Gawhar Tower lies in the vicinity of the village of Safi. It is one of several towers visible in the countryside around Malta. Ta' Gawhar is one of three towers which have been investigated including Ta Wilga and Ta Cieda. The Tower was excavated by David Trump back in the 1960 and has a cylindrical shape and has partially survived up to seven courses. It is build up of large ashlar blocks, typical of punic buildings. Cultural materials uncovered during the archaeological dig suggest that the tower might be of Punic origin. What is surely known is its demise dated circa the 3 century AD. Amongst the artefacts excavated during the dig, there was a two sided iron ace, a gold earring, a coin minted in Malta dated to 35 BC with the legend of Arruntanus Balbus and another coin dating to the 3 century AD representing the roman emperor Claudius II Gothicus. The tower also has a rectangular cistern attached to the complex. The use of the tower has still not been understood. Several theories based on studies suggest a defensive use of the tower. Other don't agree to these theories arguing that current distribution patterns doesn't make sense in defensive systems, moreover taking into consideration that there is no evidence of villas or settlements to defend.</p>				

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Class A	G.N. No.	1082	G.N. Date	2009
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Recommended Bibliography	MEPA Scheduled Property Register				
	Bonanno, A. (2005) <i>Malta- Phoenician, Punic and Roman</i> , Malta: Midsea Books Ltd				

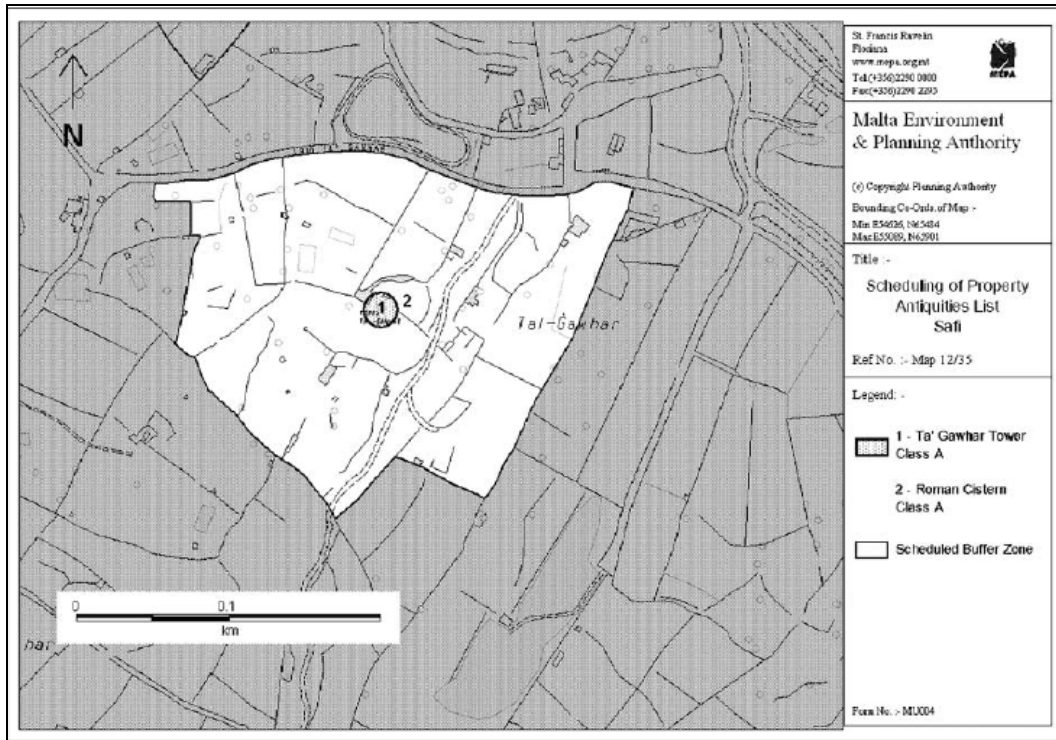
Coordinates : Easting

54849

65707

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images



Photos credit: Mr. Ivo Flores Martin