



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00023

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

<b>Property Name</b>	Tas-Silġ		
<b>Address</b>	N/A		
<b>Town Name</b>	Marsaxlokk	<b>Toponym</b>	N/A
<b>Property Owner</b>	Government	<b>Local Council</b>	Marsaxlokk
<b>Guardianship Deed</b>	No		
	<b>Managing Body</b>	Heritage Malta	

<b>Period</b>	Classical (8th Century BC to 5th Century AD)		
<b>Phase</b>	Phoenician (700 - 500 BC)		
<b>Cultural Heritage Type &amp; Value</b>	Archaeological	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	Very High
<b>Property Function</b>	Cult	<b>Conservation Area</b>	SAI

<b>Outline Description</b>	A multi-period sanctuary site.
<b>Property Description</b>	<p>Tas-Silġ sanctuary exploited the site from as early as the prehistoric times. The first attested structure is of the megalithic type and dates back to the late Neolithic (Tarxien period). Also, stratified remains of the Bronze Age period clearly show continuous usage after the megalithic remains had long been abandoned. As early as the 8th century, Phoenician evidence has been identified on site. The site underwent extensive transformations between the late 7th century and early 6th century BC during which time the megalithic temple was incorporated in the new D-shaped Phoenician temple dedicated to the goddess Astarte, Between the end of the 2nd and beginning of the 1st centuries BC the central part was monumentalised with a peristyle court which enclosed the sacrificial spaces and the temple itself. Sources by Cicero recall the infamously loot carried out by Verres between 73 and 71 BC at the expense of the Sanctuary of Astarte in Malta. In the 4th century AD, the temple site was converted into a Christian place of worship. The peristyle housed a basilica with a nave, two aisles and a central apse whilst the pool in the middle of the megalithic lobe served as a baptistery. The site was later abandoned and served as a quarrying source of construction material for buildings by the locals. This usage continued until it was forgotten and converted into an agricultural field. The first archaeological excavations started in 1963 till 1972 and continued in 1995 by the Missione Archaeologica Italiana a Malta. During this time cultural materials from the 60's excavations were reassessed and new investigations were carried out. These works continued uninterruptedly till they were concluded in 2011. In 1996 and 2005, the University of Malta carried out an excavation camp in the southern part of the site.</p>

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Class A	<b>G.N. No.</b>	0829	<b>G.N. Date</b>	1998
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<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	MEPA Scheduled Property Register
	Bonanno, A. (2005) MALTA - Phoenician, Punic and Roman, Malta: Midsea Books Ltd
	Trump D.H. (2002) MALTA – Prehistory and Temples, Malta: Midsea Books Ltd

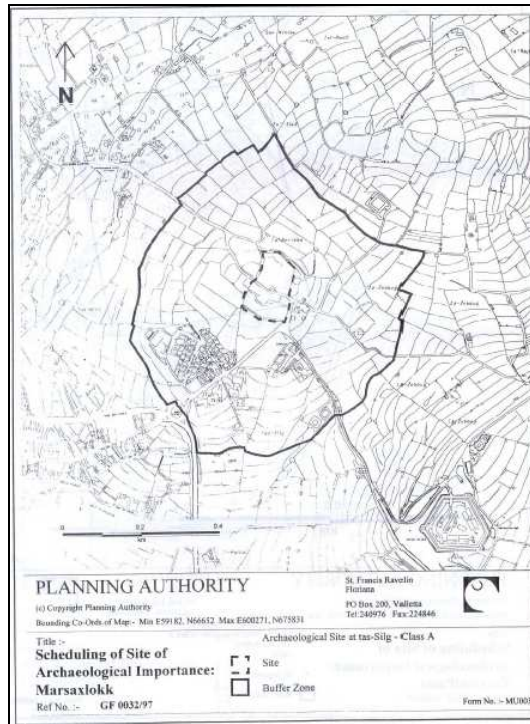
Coordinates : Easting

59596

67169

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### Property Plan



### Property Images

