



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00024

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

Property Name	Mnajdra				
Address	N/A				
Town Name	Qrendi	Toponym	Tal-Imnajdra	Local Council	Qrendi
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Heritage Malta		
Guardianship Deed	No				

Period	Prehistory (6th Millenium - 9th Century BC)				
Phase	Temple Period: Ġgantija (3600 - 3200 BC)				
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Archaeological	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Outstanding		
	Architectural				
	Scenic				
Property Function	Ritual	Conservation Area	AAI		

Outline Description	Mnajdra complex is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Property Description	<p>Mnajdra is located on the southeast of Malta overlooking the sea circa 500m south-east of Haġar Qim. The complex is made up of three temples: the lower, the middle and the upper. The three temples are conjoined but not connected. All three temples are made up of coralline limestone. The upper temple is the oldest structure and is dateable to the to the Ġgantija phase (3600-3200 BC). The temple is a three-apse structure. In this temple remnants of possibly the ceiling remain in part on top of the walls. This temple also has decoration marks consisting of pit marks drilled in horizontal rows. The lower temple has been dated to the early Tarxien phase. It is one of the most impressive megalithic architecture one can find in the Maltese islands. The forecourt of the temples contains stone benches. This temple presents also some decorations including spiral carvings and indentations. Some smaller rooms are interlaced between this temple and the middle one but are only accessible from this complex. Studies are showing that this temple might have also served for astronomical observations. The middle temple is of the later Tarxien phase (3150 – 2500 BC) and is the latest structure on site. As in Haġar Qim, the first archaeological excavations were carried by J.G. Vance in 1840. Several surveys of the temples were carried out at Mnejdra including one by Dr. Albert Mayr in 1901, however it was in 1910 that Dr. Thomas Ashby carried out his investigations. The 1910 excavation uncovered various important artefacts. In 1949, a new excavation revealed further artefacts including two small statues. Between 2007 and 2009, the Government of Malta constructed a protective shelter with the aim to protect the temples from further weathering.</p>

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Class A	G.N. No.	0241	G.N. Date	1997
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Recommended Bibliography	MEPA Scheduled Property Register
	Evans, J.D. (1971) <i>The Prehistoric Antiquities of the Maltese Islands: A Survey</i> , London: Althone Press
	Trump D.H. (2002) <i>Malta – Prehistory and Temples</i> , Malta: Midsea Books Ltd

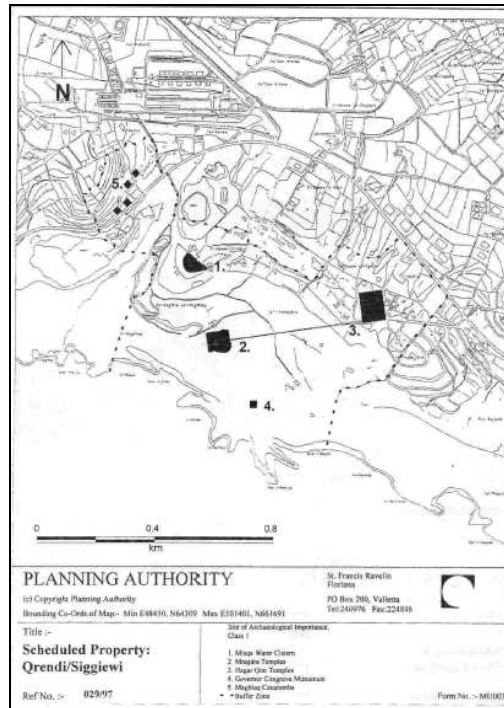
Coordinates : Easting

49135

65081

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

