### National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NICPMI Inv. No.</th>
<th>00024</th>
<th>Date of Publication</th>
<th>16 December 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### 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
- Architectural
- Scenic

#### Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment
- Outstanding

#### Conservation Area
- AAI

#### Property Function
- Ritual

#### Outline Description
- Mnajdra complex is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

#### Property Description
- 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 Ggantija 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 Mnajdra 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.

#### Scheduled by MEPA
- Yes

#### Degree of Protection
- Class A

#### G.N. No.
- 0241

#### G.N. Date
- 1997

#### MEPA Scheduled Property Register

#### Recommended Bibliography