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

**NICPMI Inv. No.** 00026  
**Date of Publication** 30 March 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Xaghra Stone Circle</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Triq ta' Qaċċa</th>
<th>Town Name</th>
<th>Local Council</th>
<th>Toponym</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Owner</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Managing Body</td>
<td>Heritage Malta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardianship Deed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Period
- **Prehistory (6th Millenium - 9th Century BC)**

### Phase
- **Temple Period (4100 - 2500 BC)**

### Cultural Heritage
- **Type & Value**: Archaeological
- **Property Value Assessment**: Outstanding

### Property Function
- **Burial**

### Outline Description
The Xaghra Stone Circle consists of a prehistoric underground funerary complex.

### Property Description
Excavations of the Xaghra Stone Circle were first carried out in 1826 by Otto Bayer. During this time Charles Brocktorff composed a series of paintings of the site showing this early excavation. The paintings depict the complex as having been surrounded by megaliths forming a circle round the entrance to the complex. Jean Houel also recorded the site in the eighteenth century. Soon after these interventions the site was backfilled and forgotten. In the 1960s the Xaghra Stone Circle was rediscovered and archaeological excavations followed between 1987 and 1994. These last excavations revealed an entire funerary complex dating to the Temple Period consisting of a series of underground caves and spaces for burial and ritual. The excavation revealed a number of archaeological finds included figurines and large quantities of human remains. During excavations archaeologists also discovered a tomb dated to the Zebbug Phase, consisting of two oval burial chambers with a shaft. Non-funerary evidence of the Tarxien Cemetery and Borg in-Nadur phases were also gathered from the site.

### Scheduled by MEPA
- **Yes**

### Degree of Protection
- **Class A**
- **G.N. No.** 357
- **G.N. Date** 1998

### Recommended Bibliography
- **1987 Museum Annual Report (M.A.R.), Museums Department**