



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00026

Date of Publication 30 March 2012

Property Name	Xagħra Stone Circle		
Address	Triq ta' Qaċċa		
Town Name	Xagħra	Toponym	N/A
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Heritage Malta
Local Council	Xagħra		
Guardianship Deed	No		

Period	Prehistory (6th Millenium - 9th Century BC)		
Phase	Temple Period (4100 - 2500 BC)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Archaeological	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Outstanding
Property Function	Burial	Conservation Area	SAI

Outline Description	The Xagħra Stone Circle consists of a prehistoric underground funerary complex.
Property Description	Excavations of the Xagħra 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 Xagħra 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
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Recommended Bibliography	1987 <i>Museum Annual Report (M.A.R.)</i> , Museums Department Malone, C. et al. (2009) <i>Mortuary Customs in Prehistoric Malta: Excavations at the Brochtorff Circle at Xagħra (1987-94)</i> , Cambridge: Mc Donald Institute for Archaeological Research Evans, J.D.(1971) <i>The Prehistoric Antiquities of the Maltese Islands: A Survey</i> , London: Althone Press
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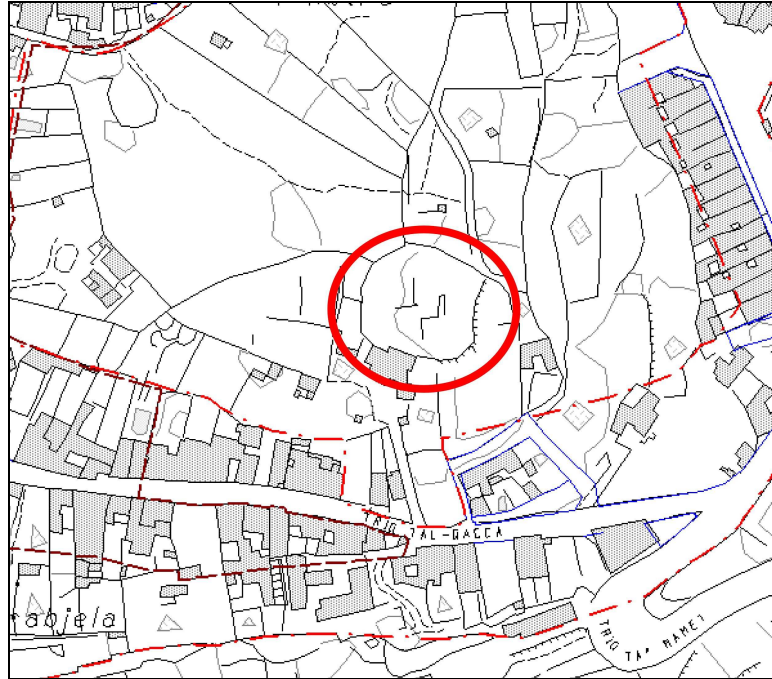
Coordinates : Easting

33837

89544

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

