



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00046

Date of Publication 30 March 2012

Property Name	Tarxien Temple		
Address	Triq it-Tempji Neolitici		
Town Name	Tarxien	Toponym	N/A
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Heritage Malta
Local Council	Tarxien		
Guardianship Deed	Not Applicable		

Period	Prehistory (6th Millenium - 9th Century BC)		
Phase	Temple Period: Tarxien (3150 - 2500 BC)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Archaeological Architectural Historical	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Outstanding
Property Function	Ritual	Conservation Area	Not Available

Outline Description	The Tarxien Temples are an archaeological complex in Tarxien, and form part of the UNESCO World Heritage list.
Property Description	Identified by local farmers whilst ploughing the land in the early 1900's, Tarxien Temples is one of the most splendid examples of prehistoric architecture in the islands. Investigated by Sir Themistocles Zammit by the 1915, parts of the western complex were exposed. During works a Bronze Age cremation cemetery was also identified within the temple. Further excavations between 1918 and 1929 exposed other areas of the prehistoric remains. In 1948, restoration works were carried out. Investigation also followed in 1950 and again between 1957 and 1963. During this period the temple was also heavily restored with concrete giving the complex its' current looks. Dated back to approximately 2800 BC, Tarxien complex consist of three separate, but attached, temple structures. The first temple is dated to approximately 3100 BC and is the most elaborately decorated of the temples of Malta. The middle temple has been dated to about 3000 BC and is unique example having three pairs of apses instead of the usual two. The east temple is dated at around 3100 BC. The remains of another temple, smaller, and older, having been dated to 3250 BC, are visible further towards the east. Tarxien offers a rich and intricate spectrum of stonework, which includes depictions of animals including a relief of a bull and a sow, altars, and megaliths decorated with spiral designs and other patterns. The site was acknowledged as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980.

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Class A	G.N. No.	829	G.N. Date	1998
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Recommended Bibliography	1915-16: 1-8; 1916: 1-8 ; 1917-18-19: 1-11; 1920-1921: 1-2; 1927-28: 4-5; 1929-30: 4-5; 1936-37: 6; 1946-47: 2; 1947-48: 2; 1948-49: 1; 1950/51: 1; 1951/51: 1; 1954/55: 4; 1956/57 <i>Museums Annual Reports</i> (M.A.R) Museums Department 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
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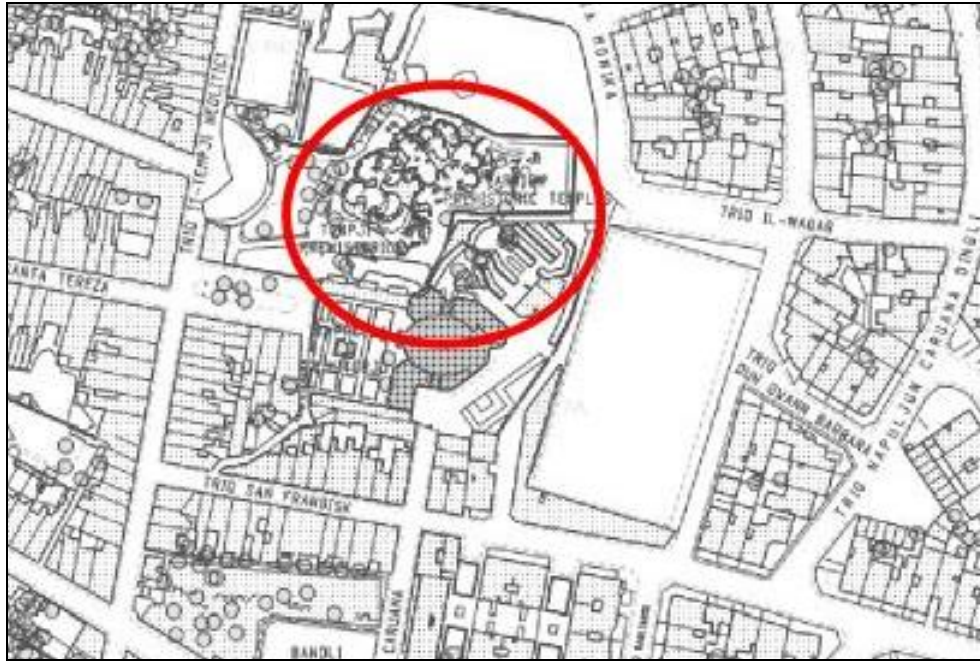
Coordinates : Easting

55999

69750

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

