



SCH Circular 1/20 - Guidance for the submission of full archaeological surveillance documentation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dear Archaeologists,

The Covid-19 viral pandemic has had a tremendous impact on most sectors of society and working practices are adapting to this new reality. The practice of archaeological surveillance in Malta is no exception and has to adapt to these circumstances especially since archaeological surveillance is also still being carried out in view that construction and development are still going on.

Please keep safe during the exercise of your duties and take the necessary precautions.

As you are aware, the Superintendence's staff are carrying most of their duties by teleworking as a result of the Government's directives in relation to the Covid-19. In this context, the Superintendence is directing practicing field archaeologists to refrain from submitting hard copies of full documentation and to do this digitally, through the Internet (e.g. WeTransfer). This reduces the chances for physical contact between staff and the field archaeologists.

Currently, when the digital submission is assessed by the Superintendence and found satisfactory, the Superintendence officers are sending an email stating this.

We have received queries regarding whether such cases are considered closed given that there is no signed DOC C from the SCH.

The Superintendence is thus confirming that the moment that you receive the email from the Superintendence stating that 'The digital submission is satisfactory and the Superintendence considers the case closed', the Superintendence is considering the case as closed. The hard copies will be submitted at a later time, when (1) the Government's directives are lifted, (2) the Superintendence's staff can start working back from the SCH premises and (3) when the cultural material is taken at the Superintendence's depository.

This experience is also informing the Superintendence on the possibilities of effecting the entire process of submitting archaeological surveillance documentation online in the near future.

Whilst thanking you for your cooperation,

Keep safe,

Joseph Magro Conti
Superintendent of Cultural Heritage