



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00047

Date of Publication 30 March 2012

Property Name	Saflieni Hypogeum		
Address	Triq iċ-Ċimiterju		
Town Name	Paola	Toponym	N/A
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Heritage Malta
Guardianship Deed	Not Applicable		
Local Council	Paola		

Period	Prehistory (6th Millenium - 9th Century BC)		
Phase	Temple Period (4100 - 2500 BC)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Archaeological Architectural	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Outstanding
Property Function	Funerary	Conservation Area	Not Available

Outline Description	The Hypgeum is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Hypogeum consists of halls, chambers and passages hewn out of the living rock and covering some 500m ²
Property Description	Discovered by accident during the construction of a water cistern for overlying houses in 1902 by a stone mason, and inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1980, the Hal-Saflieni hypogeum presents itself as a large communal burial site spread over three interconnecting levels. The construction and use of the site dates back to the Temple Period (3600-2500). The underground burial complex which covers an approximate area of 500m ² was hewn out of the natural rock without the use of metal implements. Where possible, use was made of the natural fissures in the rock to facilitate construction. The site is adorned with remarkable workmanship in a number of chambers (architecture in the negative), some of which closely mirror the above-ground megalithic prehistoric temples contemporary to this period. A few walls still retain original prehistoric art depicted using red ochre. The site is believed to have been the final resting place of around 7000 individuals. The Hal Saflieni hypogeum also gave light to a few important finds, most notably the iconic figurine of the 'Sleeping Lady'.

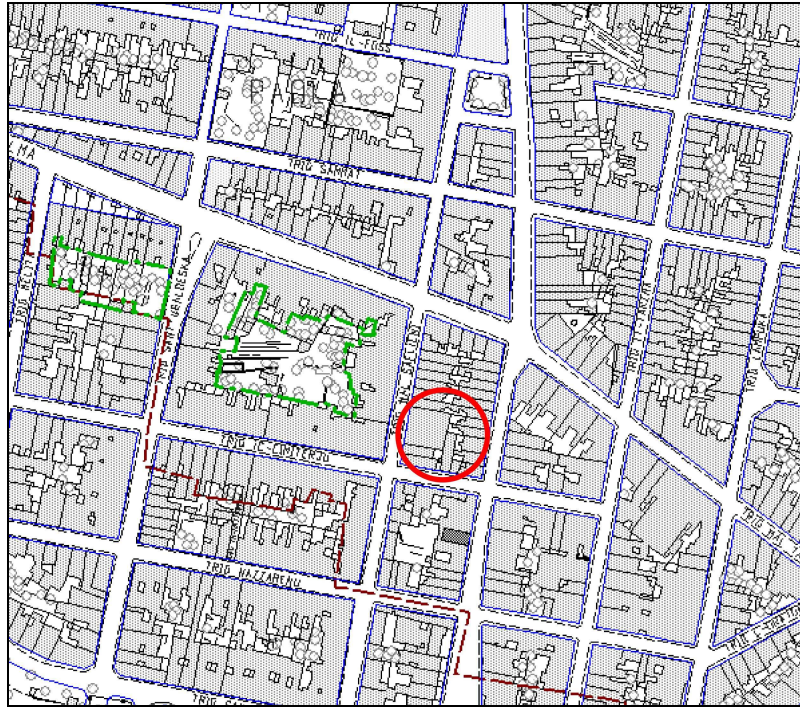
Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Class A	G.N. No.	829	G.N. Date	1998
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Recommended Bibliography	1903-04: p. 3; 1904-05: p. 2; 1905/06: p. 3; 1907/08: p. 9; 1908/09: p. 4; 1909/10: pp. 2-4; 1953/54: p. 2; 1954/55: p. 4; 1955/56: p. 8-9; 1988: p. 79; 1989: p. 81 <i>Museum Annual Report (M.A.R)</i> Musuems 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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Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

