



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00012

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

<b>Property Name</b>	Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths				
<b>Address</b>	N/A				
<b>Town Name</b>	Għajn Tuffieħa	<b>Toponym</b>	Il-Ħamra	<b>Local Council</b>	Mgarr
<b>Property Owner</b>	Government	<b>Managing Body</b>	Heritage Malta		
<b>Guardianship Deed</b>	No				

<b>Period</b>	Classical (8th Century BC to 5th Century AD)			
<b>Phase</b>	Roman Imperial			
<b>Cultural Heritage Type &amp; Value</b>	Archaeological Architectural	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	High	
<b>Property Function</b>	Domestic	<b>Conservation Area</b>	SAI	

<b>Outline Description</b>	The Roman Baths at Għajn Tuffieħa were discovered in 1929. The site is a typical example of a Roman bath complex dating to the 1st/2nd centuries A.D.
<b>Property Description</b>	The Roman Baths are located at <i>Il-Ħamra</i> off the main road which leads from Mgarr to Għajn Tuffieħa Bay. The site is situated underneath an Upper Coralline escarpment facing Għajn Tuffieħa Bay and Golden Bay at a distance of about 1km. An abundant fresh water spring, an essential element for the selection of the site location is found in the area. The site was found in 1929 and was first excavated in 1929/1930 by Sir Temi Zammit. Other excavations were also undertaken in 1981 and 1982 by the Coluccio Salutati Institute of the University of Pescaia. The baths consist of a central corridor flanked by a number of small living rooms (cubicula), baths, thermae, outdoor pool and a latrinae. A series of water channels and cisterns are also found. The site set up reflects a typical Roman bath complex with a hot steaming room calidarium leading to a moderately warm room tepidarium and to a cold bath frigidarium. Heating inside the rooms is generated through a furnace which rests on rows of low arches and pillars of fired bricks found within one of the rooms. Intricate mosaics of coloured marbles and stones forming geometric patterns, such as cascading cubes decorate the floors of small rooms, pool and bath structures. As evidenced by fragments of painted wall plaster, the walls of most of the rooms seem to have been painted. The Roman baths date to the 1st century/beginning of 2nd century A.D. The presence of a post-Classical limekiln suggests the use of the site during later times.

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Class A	<b>G.N. No.</b>	0829	<b>G.N. Date</b>	1998
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<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	1929/30: VIII-IX, 1930/31: III-IV, 1934/35: X, 1955/56: 8, 1961: 1, 1970: 6-7, 1978/79: 64, 1981: 62, 1982: 65. <i>Museum Annual Report</i> (M.A.R.), Museums Department Bonanno, A. 2005. <i>Malta: Phoenician, Punic and Roman</i> , Midsea Books Ltd., Malta
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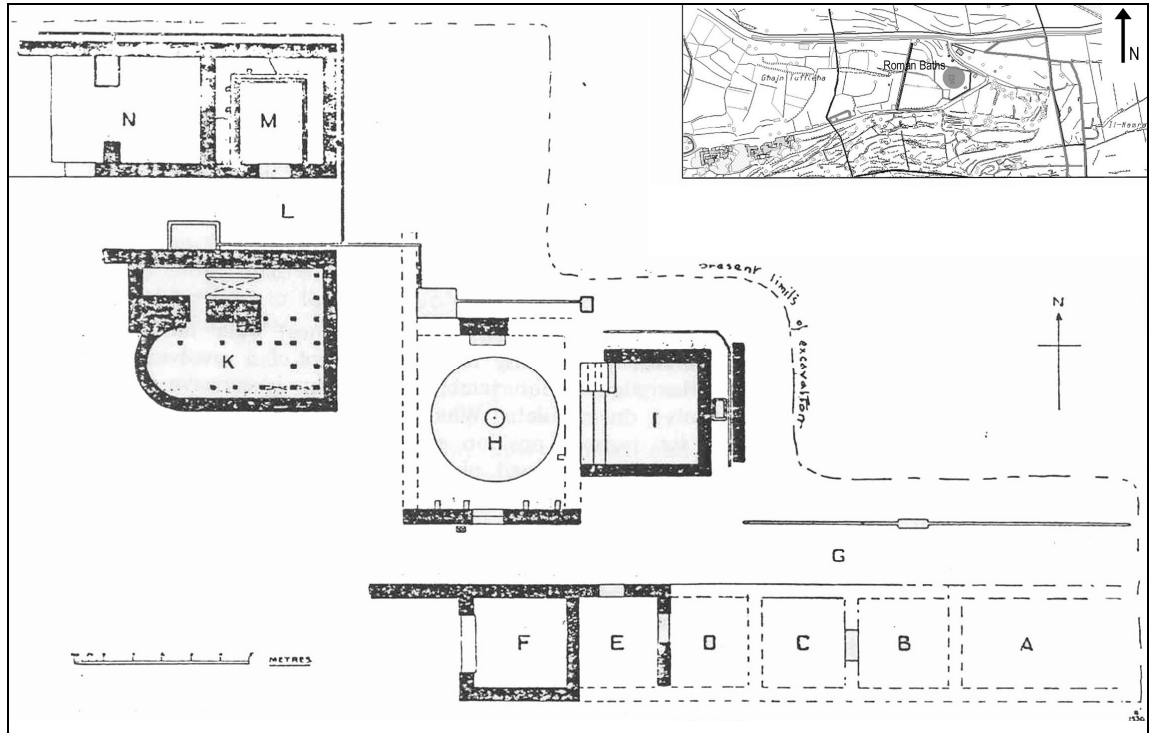
Coordinates : Easting

42059

76228

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### Property Plan



### Property Images

