



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00021

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|------|
| Property Name | Ta' Ġawhar Tower | | | | |
| Address | Triq Ta' Ġawhar | | | | |
| Town Name | Safi | Toponym | Tal-Ġawhar | Local Council | Safi |
| Property Owner | Government | Managing Body | Private Owner | | |
| Guardianship Deed | No | | | | |

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|---|--|--|------|--|--|
| Period | Classical (8th Century BC to 5th Century AD) | | | | |
| Phase | Roman Republican | | | | |
| Cultural Heritage Type & Value | Archaeological | Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment | High | | |
| Property Function | Fortification | Conservation Area | N/A | | |

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|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Outline Description | Roman round tower | | | | |
| Property Description | <p>Ta' Gawhar Tower lies in the vicinity of the village of Safi. It is one of several towers visible in the countryside around Malta. Ta' Gawhar is one of three towers which have been investigated including Ta Wilga and Ta Cieda. The Tower was excavated by David Trump back in the 1960 and has a cylindrical shape and has partially survived up to seven courses. It is build up of large ashlar blocks, typical of punic buildings. Cultural materials uncovered during the archaeological dig suggest that the tower might be of Punic origin. What is surely known is its demise dated circa the 3 century AD. Amongst the artefacts excavated during the dig, there was a two sided iron ace, a gold earring, a coin minted in Malta dated to 35 BC with the legend of Arruntanus Balbus and another coin dating to the 3 century AD representing the roman emperor Claudius II Gothicus. The tower also has a rectangular cistern attached to the complex. The use of the tower has still not been understood. Several theories based on studies suggest a defensive use of the tower. Other don't agree to these theories arguing that current distribution patterns doesn't make sense in defensive systems, moreover taking into consideration that there is no evidence of villas or settlements to defend.</p> | | | | |

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| Scheduled by MEPA | Yes | Degree of Protection | Class A | G.N. No. | 1082 | G.N. Date | 2009 |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|

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|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Recommended Bibliography | MEPA Scheduled Property Register | | | | |
| | Bonanno, A. (2005) <i>Malta- Phoenician, Punic and Roman</i> , Malta: Midsea Books Ltd | | | | |

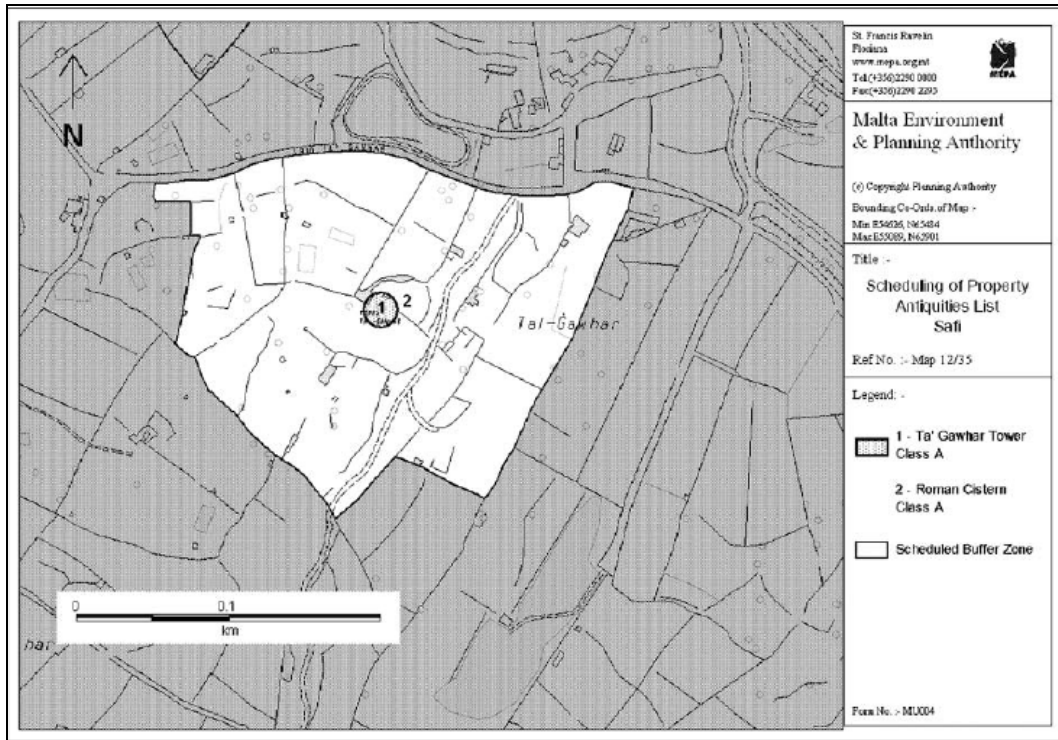
Coordinates : Easting

54849

65707

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

