

Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council Parliamentary Report 2022



Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council Parliamentary Report 2022

Prepared for:

HM Government of Gibraltar Parliament,

John Mackintosh Square,

Gibraltar &

Chairman of

Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC)

Prepared by:

Ministry for Environment,

Sustainability,

Climate Change,

Heritage and Culture,

Gibraltar

Document Status

Document Type	Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council Parliamentary Report 2022
Document Prepared by	Dominic Lopez (Government Archaeologist: Ministry for Heritage)
Document Approved by	Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC)
Date Approved	31/1/23
Version Number/Date	HAACPR/1/22

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC) as required under Section 10 of the Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018.

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Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018

2022 Annual report

This report has been prepared by the Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC), as required under Section 10 of the Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018.

The Minister for Heritage will lay a copy of this report before Parliament as specified in Subsection 10 (2).

This report covers the period from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022.

The Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC) was formed as part of the Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018 that commenced on 16th August 2018.

The members of the Council are-

Chairperson

The Hon Prof J Cortes - Minister for Heritage

Members

Prof Clive Finlayson - Curator of the Gibraltar National Museum

Anthony Pitaluga - Government Archivist

Dominic Lopez - Government Archaeologist

Albert Codali - Representing the Ministry for Heritage

Dr. Liesl Mesilio - Representing the Department of the Environment.

(in her absence Stephen Warr shall be an alternate member)

Claire Montado - Representing the Board of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust.

(in her absence Ian Balestrino shall be an alternate member)

Paul Origo - Representing the Town Planning Department

(in his absence Paul Naughton-Rumbo shall be an alternate member)

Dr Keith Bensusan - Representing the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society

(in his absence Charles Perez shall be an alternate member)

The functions of the Council are—

- (a) to make its views known to the Minister on how to promote and secure the conservation, protection and enhancement of Gibraltar's heritage, antiquities or objects of interest, monuments or buildings, and historical conservation and archaeological areas;
- (b) to foster understanding and facilitate the enjoyment of Gibraltar's heritage, antiquities or objects of interest, monuments or buildings, and historical conservation and archaeological areas;
- (c) to advise on anything which is to be done in relation to antiquities or objects of interest, monuments or buildings or historical conservation and archaeological areas, including advice that such activity always be carried out in a sustainable manner by a suitably qualified person; and
- (d) to identify present and future issues which require or may require addressing in relation to heritage, antiquities or objects of interest, monuments or buildings and historical conservation and archaeological areas.

(2) The Council shall advise the Minister on matters relating to heritage, antiquities or objects of interest, monuments or buildings, historical conservation and archaeological areas it wishes to or which the Minister may refer to the Council.

Council to take account of certain matters.

8. It shall be the duty of the Council, in carrying out its functions under section 7(1) and (2), to take account, as may be appropriate, of—

- (a) actual or possible ecological and other environmental changes affecting heritage, antiquities or objects of interest, monuments or buildings and historical conservation and archaeological areas;
- (b) the need for social, cultural and economic changes in Gibraltar;
- (c) the interests of the community in general.

HAAC MEETINGS

The Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council held six meetings in 2022.

The Ministry for Heritage together with all relevant heritage stakeholders enjoyed a very successful year.

Archaeological monitoring, restoration, heritage assessments and technical advice through the planning system continued and enhanced further still.

Examples of heritage projects include:

1. The transfer and restoration of the last 25-pounder QF Field Guns in Gibraltar, now on display at the 100 Ton Gun Visitor Centre together with information panels.
2. The recovery of the 9.2. Inch gun barrel, carriage and pedestal which was dismantled from Levant Battery and left at the scrapyards for over 50 years.
3. Restoration of Lord Airey's Battery.
4. The restoration of the City Under Siege Exhibition and the installation of 11 new interpretation panels.
5. The restoration and removal of vegetation at the Tower of Homage.
6. The placement of interpretation panels within the old town highlighting our medieval history.
7. The restoration of the last whipping post in Gibraltar, located outside the Shrine of our Lady of Europe.
8. The protection of Graves of Historical Interest.
9. The publishing of Cultural Heritage Town Planning Guidance Notes for all matters relating to assessments, permits and archaeology.
10. The continuous addition of maps, surveys and historical research pertaining to our Historic Environment Record on the Ministry for Heritage Website.

The discussion on improvements to physical assets as well as to policy and legislation does not cease.

We are currently working on other projects and improvements such as:

11. Amendments to the Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018 in order to afford greater control over the use of metal detectors, excavations as well as the imports/exports of antiquities.
12. The creation of a register of Historic Buildings.
13. The restoration of the Convent Main Façade.
14. The restoration of Southport Gates.
15. The restoration of the main façade of the new St. Mary's School.
16. The fabrication of Gun Carriages.
17. 10 new interpretation panels to be placed at Southport Gates as well as at Camp Bay.
18. The restoration of O'Hara's Battery.
19. Works on the Medieval Gatehouse.
20. The establishment of a working relationship with the American Battle Monuments Commission in order to discuss improvements to the American War Memorial.

The council's work in partnership with all stakeholders, NGO's and private developers continues to evolve and goes from strength to strength.

Internal meetings amongst stakeholders as well as with the Minister for Heritage takes place regularly either in person or remotely via zoom or other platforms.

The provision of heritage licences continued to be successfully discussed via round robin email, with 12 licences given for works on listed sites.

Heritage Licences issued through HAAC.

1046	Stephen Martinez	25/01/22	Arc Designs, Unit 23B, Casemates Square
1047	Marco Gonçalves	18/02/22	North Gorge, Judge's Cave
1048	Ian Mañasco	10/03/22	Convent Main Façade and Gable End
1049	Claire Montado	11/04/22	Falklands Plaque, Ragged Staff
1050	Stefan Alman	29/09/22	Unit 20, Wellington Front
1052	Simon Vaughan	20/10/22	Former TOC-H Site: South Bastion
1053	Geraldine Finlayson	22/06/22	Installation of air-conditioning units at Parsons Lodge
1054	Philippe Harding	18/08/22	GBC Fibre Route Cabling at Casemates Entrance
1055	Simon Vaughan	20/10/22	Southport Gates
1056	Simon Kirkpatrick	20/10/22	Tower of Homage
1057	The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church	04/11/22	Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned
1058	Mark Rodriguez	04/11/22	Installation of Foul Downpipe at South Bastion

