

# Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council Parliamentary Report 2024



Department of the Environment,  
Sustainability, Climate Change  
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

## Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council Parliamentary Report 2024

*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,

Gibraltar

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## **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**

## **2024 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

The Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC) was formed as part of the Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018 that commenced on 16<sup>th</sup> 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

Gerard Wood - Government Archivist

Dominic Lopez - Government Archaeologist

Albert Codali - Representing the Ministry for Heritage

Stephen Warr - Representing the Department of the Environment

(in his absence Catherine Walsh 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 Naughton-Rumbo - Representing the Town Planning Department

(in his absence Christopher Key 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)

Keith Sheriff - Secretary

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 and Collaboration**

The Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC) held four meetings in 2024, achieving significant milestones in collaboration with the Ministry for Heritage and key stakeholders. Internal meetings with stakeholders, NGOs, and private developers, as well as regular consultations with the Minister for Heritage, ensured a comprehensive approach to heritage preservation.

### **Key Achievements in 2024**

#### **1. Archaeological and Restoration Projects**

- Restoration of lesser-known heritage assets, including:
  - Sikorski Memorial
  - MOT WWII Bunker
  - Sally Port at Landport Tunnel
  - Southport Gates Sentry Guard Post
- Completed restoration of the **American War Memorial** and the **Outer Wall of the Moorish Castle Complex** along Road to the Lines.
- Ongoing restoration efforts at:
  - WWII Tunnels
  - Tower of Homage
  - 19th Century Prison within the Moorish Castle Complex
  - Northern Defences

#### **2. Heritage Promotion and Intangible Assets**

- Promoted Gibraltar's intangible heritage by developing ceramic Gibraltarian street names to celebrate language, legacy, and historical memory.
- Collaborated with **Multilingual Gibraltar** to protect and promote local languages.
- Participated in the **2nd Gibraltar International Conference (GIC2)** at the University of Vigo, focusing on intangible heritage, identity, and language.
- Continued efforts to extend the **UNESCO Convention on Intangible Heritage** to Gibraltar.

### 3. Interpretation and Memorials

- Finalized and designed new interpretation panels for sites such as Europa Point, Landport, Waterport Gate, the Convent, the Cathedral of Saint Mary the Crowned and the Frontier.
- Developed and designed memorials for significant historical figures.
- Collaborated with former members of HMS Calpe to memorialize their contributions to Gibraltar.

### 4. New Initiatives

- Successfully opened the **Gibraltar Natural History Museum** at Parson's Lodge.
- Placed gun carriages at Grand Battery to create a Gun Park showcasing cannons from different eras, complemented by interpretation materials.
- Created a virtual tour of **Nuns' Well**, including accessible and landscaped areas.

### 5. Policy and Legislation

- Worked on creating a **Language Act** to further protect Gibraltar's languages and intangible heritage.
- Continued populating the **Register of Historic Buildings** to enhance information and improve public services.
- Actively working on designating the **Northern Defences** as a **Scheduled Archaeological Area**.
- Developing measures to protect additional historical assets, such as the **Spanish Round Tower** at Line Wall.
- Collaborating on the creation of a new **Development Plan** to integrate heritage protection with urban planning.

### 6. Licensing

- Granted 15 heritage licences for works on listed sites, with only two requiring extensions due to delays.
- Issued 24 metal-detecting licences, marking the first instance of such licensing in Gibraltar.

### **Ongoing and Upcoming Projects**

The Ministry is actively working on several initiatives to further enhance Gibraltar's heritage:

1. Finalizing a location for the **9.2-inch gun barrel, carriage, and pedestal**, dismantled from Levant Battery and left in a scrapyard for over 50 years.
2. Completing the restoration of the **Convent Main Façade**.
3. Commencing the restoration of **Landport Gates and Tunnels**.
4. Recreating the **17th Century Gibraltar Rock Model**, currently held at the Naval Museum in Madrid.
5. Planning additional restoration projects for the next financial year.

### **Collaborative Efforts**

The HAAC continues to work closely with stakeholders, NGOs, and private developers to ensure that heritage preservation aligns with Gibraltar's development needs. Round-robin emails were used effectively for decision-making on heritage licences, streamlining the process.

The Ministry for Heritage and HAAC's steadfast commitment to preserving Gibraltar's tangible and intangible heritage highlights the importance of collaboration, community engagement, and forward-thinking initiatives in shaping Gibraltar's cultural landscape.

Heritage Licences issued through HAAC.

1066	Simon Vaughan	09/01/24	Former TOC-H Site, South Bastion
1067	Ian Reyes	09/01/24	Princess Anne's Battery
1068	Jonas Stahl	07/02/24	Alexandra Battery
1069	John Baldachino	12/03/24	Road to the Lines (Outer Walls of Moorish Castle)
1070	Jose Luis Abad	26/03/24	Landport Beautification Works
1071	Andrew Lord	08/05/24	Lord Airey's Battery
1072	Christian Wright	24/05/24	World War II Tunnels
1073	Matthew Reoch	24/05/24	Willis's Magazine
1074	Jennifer Ballantine Perera	24/05/24	Garrison Library Garage and Side Entrance
1075	Patrick Cabezutto	15/10/24	Northern Defences
1076	Nigel Xerri	15/08/24	North Pavilion Road (Central Hall Boundary Wall)
1077	Peter Cabezutto	13/09/24	Moorish Castle
1078	Dominic Lopez	16/10/24	Gibraltarian Street Names (Various Listed Assets)
1079	Carl Risso	22/10/24	City Hall
1080	Carl Risso	22/10/24	Devil's Gap Battery



Metal Detecting Licences issued through HAAC.

0001	Gian Linares	24/05/24	Main Corridor of the Northern Defences
0002	Richard Mor	24/05/24	Main Corridor of the Northern Defences
0003	Gian Linares	07/06/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0004	Richard Mor	07/06/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0005	Gian Linares	13/06/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0006	Richard Mor	13/06/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0007	Gian Linares	21/06/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0008	Richard Mor	21/06/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0009	Gian Linares	26/06/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0010	Richard Mor	26/06/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0011	Gian Linares	05/07/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0012	Richard Mor	05/07/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0013	Gian Linares	06/08/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0014	Richard Mor	06/08/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0015	Gian Linares	28/08/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0016	Richard Mor	28/08/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0017	Gian Linares	30/09/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0018	Richard Mor	30/09/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0019	Gian Linares	25/10/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0020	Richard Mor	25/10/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0021	Gian Linares	05/11/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0022	Richard Mor	05/11/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0023	Gian Linares	13/12/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences
0024	Richard Mor	13/12/24	Entrance to the Northern Defences





