

Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council Parliamentary Report 2025



Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council Parliamentary Report 2025

Prepared for:

Gibraltar Parliament,

John Mackintosh Square,

Gibraltar &

Chairman of

Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC)

Prepared by:

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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

2025 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 2025 to 31st December 2025.

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

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 five meetings in 2025, 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 and Strategic Progress in 2025

Heritage Projects, Restoration and Conservation

During 2025, the Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC), working closely with the Ministry for Heritage, continued to deliver major conservation, restoration, and protection initiatives across Gibraltar.

Significant progress was achieved in the completion of the Memorials Project, commemorating notable individuals from Gibraltar's history; alongside the completion of a major Interpretation Panels Project, promoting Gibraltar's past. Newly installed panels addressed themes including Colonial Gibraltar, Castilian Gibraltar, Catalan Bay, Devil's Tower, North Front, Rosia Bay, and the Royal Calpe Hunt, among others.

The Gibraltarian Street Names Project was completed, reinforcing linguistic heritage and local historical memory through ceramic street plaques supported by QR-code-linked historical content. Continued collaboration with Multilingual Gibraltar strengthened the promotion and protection of Gibraltar's linguistic identity.

Efforts to extend the UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage to Gibraltar remained ongoing, alongside participation in academic outreach and conferences, including events such as "Along the Frontiers" organised by the University of Cádiz.

Major Site Works and Historic Asset Protection

Substantial restoration and conservation progress was made at key heritage sites, including:

- Completion and opening of the WWII Tunnels
- Ongoing restoration of the Tower of Homage and Moorish Castle Complex
- Ongoing restoration works within the Northern Defences
- Continuation of the City Under Siege Exhibition restoration
- Ongoing Road to the Lines restoration project
- Conservation and consolidation works at St. Andrew's Church
- Support for conservation works at the Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned and the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity
- Restoration planning for the Medieval Round Tower at Line Wall, which was formally listed in 2025
- Protective planning and advocacy efforts led to the successful safeguarding of the Grand Barracks at Casemates through the appeals process.

Policy, Legislation and Strategic Heritage Planning

Work continued on the drafting of a Language Act to further protect Gibraltar's linguistic and intangible cultural heritage. Progress also continued on expanding and strengthening the Register of Historic Buildings, improving public access to heritage information and planning guidance.

Designation processes advanced for the Northern Defences and Europa Foreshore as Archaeological and Conservation Areas, reinforcing statutory protection frameworks.

Further measures are being developed to enhance the safeguarding of key historic structures in private ownership, including the successful listing of architectural features and façades of 27 Hospital Ramp.

Public Engagement, Education and Digital Heritage

The Ministry for Heritage continued expanding its official heritage website, increasing public access to information on listed buildings, sentry guard posts, pillboxes, and historic sites.

A structured history curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2 was developed for schools, supported by lesson plans, worksheets, and educational resources on Moorish Gibraltar, Castilian Gibraltar, the 1540 Pirate Attack, Trafalgar, Victorian and Colonial Gibraltar, the Great Siege, and WWII. Educational school visits and heritage learning initiatives remained a key outreach priority.

Plans were initiated to develop illustrated comic-style narratives of Gibraltar's history, broadening engagement with younger audiences and the wider public.

Licensing

The Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council (HAAC) considered and approved a total of 14 heritage licences for works affecting listed buildings and scheduled sites. Of these, only one licence required an extension, reflecting improved project planning and compliance with agreed methodologies.

In addition, the Council issued 69 metal-detecting licences to three individuals over the course of the year. All licences were issued in accordance with the Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018 and were subject to clearly defined conditions to ensure appropriate supervision, reporting, and the protection of Gibraltar's archaeological resource.

Upcoming and Continuing Works

Looking ahead, the Ministry for Heritage and HAAC will continue advancing a wide range of heritage initiatives, including:

- Finalisation of works relating to the 9.2-inch gun restoration
- Completion of the Convent Main Façade restoration
- Installation of historic timeline displays tracing Gibraltar's history from the Pre-Roman period to the present
- Supervision and protection of heritage assets during Cable Car infrastructure works
- Restoration of the Marshman Murals at the Convent
- Restoration of Prince Edward's Gate
- Casemates Square beautification initiatives
- Expressions of Interest and restoration planning for Rosia Bay
- Ongoing works at Devil's Gap Battery and the Lower Charles V Wall
- Continued improvements to built and natural heritage sites within the Upper Rock Nature Reserve

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.

LICENCE NUMBER	ISSUED TO	DATE	LOCATION
1082	Fortress Attractions	03/03/25	Northern Defences
1083	No 6 Convent Place, HMGoG (Project Manager)	20/05/2025	Lower Charles V Wall
1084	Gibtelecom (Technical Facilities)	20/05/2025	Forbes Battery
1085	Nosa (Structural and Civil Engineers)	05/06/2025	Grand Battery
1086	Invision Design and Construction Limited	11/06/2025	Outer Defensive Wall of Moorish Castle Complex (Road to the Lines Project)
1087	Gibtelecom (Technical Facilities)	10/07/2025	Retrenchment Block
1088	Wright Tech Media	18/07/2025	City Under Siege Exhibition
1089	Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church	24/07/25	Roof Repairs (Cathedral of St. Mary The Crowned)
1090	Project Manager No 6 Convent Place	24/07/25	Conservation and enhancement works at Devil's Gap Battery
1091	Project Manager Technical Services Department	18/08/25	Installation of small-diameter weep holes at the base of the inner retaining wall at Wellington Front
1092	Project Manager FDT Architects	11/09/25	Consolidation of precarious areas of the building fabric currently containing Portland cement, together with associated internal alterations (St. Andrews Church).
1093	Trustees of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity	11/09/25	Installation of an accessible WC within the area between the main Cathedral building and the 1948 extension.
1094	Gibraltar Heritage Trust	17/12/25	Conservation and restoration of the two historic Marshman Murals located within the Cloister Patio of The Convent, Gibraltar.

*1077 (Ext)	Fortress Attractions	17/12/25	The preservation and restoration of key sections of the Moorish Castle, including the Tower of Homage, walls, and battlements. The objective of the works is to safeguard the castle's historical integrity while addressing necessary structural and aesthetic concerns.
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Metal Detecting Licences issued through HAAC.

025	Gian Linares	08/01/25	Channel within Northern Defences
026	Richard Mor	08/01/25	Channel within Northern Defences
027	Gian Linares	15/01/25	Channel within Northern Defences
028	Richard Mor	15/01/25	Channel within Northern Defences
029	Gian Linares	05/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
030	Richard Mor	05/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
031	Richard Reyes	05/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
032	Gian Linares	14/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
033	Richard Mor	14/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
034	Richard Reyes	14/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
035	Gian Linares	19/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
036	Richard Mor	19/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
037	Richard Reyes	19/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
038	Gian Linares	28/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
039	Richard Mor	28/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
040	Richard Reyes	28/02/25	Channel within Northern Defences
041	Gian Linares	14/03/25	Channel within Northern Defences
042	Richard Mor	14/03/25	Channel within Northern Defences
043	Richard Reyes	14/03/25	Channel within Northern Defences
044	Gian Linares	19/03/25	Channel within Northern Defences
045	Richard Mor	19/03/25	Channel within Northern Defences
046	Richard Reyes	19/03/25	Channel within Northern Defences
047	Gian Linares	28/03/25	Channel within Northern Defences
048	Richard Mor	28/03/25	Channel within Northern Defences
049	Richard Reyes	28/03/25	Channel within Northern Defences
050	Gian Linares	02/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
051	Richard Mor	02/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
052	Richard Reyes	02/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
053	Gian Linares	11/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
054	Richard Mor	11/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
055	Richard Reyes	11/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
056	Gian Linares	16/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
057	Richard Mor	16/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
058	Richard Reyes	16/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
059	Gian Linares	25/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
060	Richard Mor	25/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
061	Richard Reyes	25/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
062	Gian Linares	30/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences

063	Richard Mor	30/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
064	Richard Reyes	30/04/25	Channel within Northern Defences
065	Gian Linares	06/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
066	Richard Mor	06/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
067	Richard Reyes	06/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
068	Gian Linares	11/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
069	Richard Mor	11/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
070	Richard Reyes	11/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
071	Gian Linares	20/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
072	Richard Mor	20/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
073	Richard Reyes	20/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
074	Gian Linares	25/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
075	Richard Mor	25/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
076	Richard Reyes	25/06/25	Channel within Northern Defences
077	Gian Linares	12/09/25	Channel within Northern Defences
078	Richard Mor	12/09/25	Channel within Northern Defences
079	Richard Reyes	12/09/25	Channel within Northern Defences
080	Gian Linares	17/09/25	Channel within Northern Defences
081	Richard Mor	17/09/25	Channel within Northern Defences
082	Richard Reyes	17/09/25	Channel within Northern Defences
083	Gian Linares	26/09/25	Channel within Northern Defences
084	Richard Mor	26/09/25	Channel within Northern Defences
085	Richard Reyes	26/09/25	Channel within Northern Defences
086	Gian Linares	05/12/25	Channel within Northern Defences
087	Richard Mor	05/12/25	Channel within Northern Defences
088	Richard Reyes	05/12/25	Channel within Northern Defences
089	Gian Linares	10/12/25	Channel within Northern Defences
090	Richard Mor	10/12/25	Channel within Northern Defences
091	Richard Reyes	10/12/25	Channel within Northern Defences
092	Gian Linares	19/12/25	Channel within Northern Defences
093	Richard Mor	19/12/25	Channel within Northern Defences
094	Richard Reyes	19/12/25	Channel within Northern Defences
095	Gian Linares	18/12/25	The Mount
096	Richard Mor	18/12/25	The Mount
097	Richard Reyes	18/12/25	The Mount

