



Degree of Protection

The Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands
December 1990

Cultural Heritage

Architecture/ Engineering

Grade 1: These buildings are of outstanding architectural or historical interest that shall be preserved in their entirety. Demolition or alterations which impair the setting or change the external or internal appearance, including anything contained within the curtilage of the building, will not be allowed. Any interventions allowed must be directed to their scientific restoration and rehabilitation. Internal structural alterations will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances where this is paramount for reasons of keeping the building in active use.

Grade 2: These are buildings of some architectural or historical interest or which contribute to the visual image of an Urban Conservation Area. Permission to demolish such buildings will not normally be given. Alterations to the interior will be allowed if proposed to be carried out sensitively and causing the least detriment to the character and architectural homogeneity of the building.

Grade 3: These are buildings which have no historical importance and are of relatively minor architectural interest. Demolition may be permitted provided the replacement building is in harmony with its surroundings.

Archaeology

Class A: Top priority conservation. No development to be allowed which would adversely affect the natural setting of these monuments or sites. A minimum buffer zone of at least 100m around the periphery of the site will be established in which no development will be allowed.

Class B: Very important to be preserved at all costs. Adequate measures to be taken to preclude any damage from immediate development.

Class C: Every effort must be made for preservation, but may be covered up after proper investigation, documentation and cataloguing. Provision for subsequent access shall be provided.

Class D: Belonging to a type known from numerous other examples. To be properly recorded and catalogued before covering or destroying.

Natural Heritage

Level 1: zones will include important habitat types present only in small areas and/or sites with unique species or features

Level 2: zones will include important habitat types present in relatively large areas and/or sites with rare species or features

Level 3: zones will include areas where control is necessary to preserve habitats/species/features in adjacent sites

Level 4: zones will include habitats and/or features of general interest