Nru. 1375

ORDNI TA' KONSERVAZZJONI

Regolament 17 tar-Regolamenti dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Fawna, il-Flora u l-Ambjenti Naturali, 2006 (L.S.549.44)

Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Ambjent, 2016

L-Awtorità ta' Malta dwar l-Ambjent u r-Riżorsi hija tal-fehma li l-proprjetà li ġejja, jiġifieri:

Għar Dalam l/o Birżebbuġa (u inkluż il-mużew u l-ġonna tal-madwar)

(kif indikat f'**Tabella 1**) hija ta' importanza Ekoloġika u Xjentifika tant li s-sit ġie identifikat bħala Żona Speċjali ta' Konservazzjoni ("SAC") ta' Importanza Internazzjonali (MT0000011) fl-2007 (Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern 112/07) u huwa sit Natura 2000.

L-Awtorità hija tal-opinjoni li s-sit ser jibbenefika minn aktar miżuri ta' konservazzjoni u, bis-saħħa tas-setgħa mogħtija lilha bir-Regolament 17 tar-Regolamenti tal-2006 dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Fawna, il-Flora u l-Ambjenti Naturali (L.S.549.44) (Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Ambjent, 2016), li permezz tiegħu tagħmel, fir-rigward ta' kwalunkwe sit fi ħdan sit protett, Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni biex tikkontribwixxi għall-iżgurar tal-protezzjoni tal-bijodiversità permezz tal-konservazzjoni ta' ambjenti naturali u ta' flora jew fawna selvaġġi u biex jinżammu jew jiġu restawrati ambjenti naturali u speċi ta' flora u fawna selvaġġi jew karatteristiċi ġeoloġiċi, ġeomorfoloġiċi jew fiżjografiċi, l-Awtorità b'dan qiegħda toħroġ Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni fir-rigward tas-sit msemmi hawn fuq.

L-importanza tas-Sit

F'Għar Dalam jeżistu l-ambjenti naturali t'Anness I (Direttiva 92/43/KEE) li ġejjin:

- **8310** Caves not open to the public.

L-ispeċi li ġejjin t'Anness II (Direttiva 92/43/KEE) huma preżenti f'dan is-sit

- ***Armadillidium ghardalamensis***
- ***Rhinolophus hipposideros*** (farfett il-lejl tan-nala żgħir)

Speċi importanti oħra rrappurtati fis-sit jinkludu:

- ***Plecotus austriacus*** (farfett il-lejl ta' widnejh kbar) - elenkat f'Anness IV (Direttiva 92/43/KEE)

No. 1375

CONSERVATION ORDER

Regulation 17 of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (S.L.549.44)

Environment Protection Act, 2016

The Environment & Resources Authority is of the opinion that the following property, namely:

Għar Dalam l/o Birżebbuġa (and including the museum and surrounding gardens)

(as indicated on **Figure 1**) is of Ecological, Scientific, and Cultural importance such that the site has been designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) of International Importance (MT0000011) in 2007 (GN 112/07) and included in the EU's Natura 2000 network.

The Authority is of the opinion that the site will benefit from further conservation measures and, by virtue of its powers under Regulation 17 of the of Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (S.L.549.44) (Environment Protection Act, 2016, through which it may make, in respect of any site within a protected site, a Conservation Order to contribute towards ensuring the protection of biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora or fauna and to maintain and restore natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna or geological, geomorphological or physiographic features, the Authority is hereby issuing a Conservation Order in respect of the above site.

Importance of the Site

Għar Dalam supports the following Annex I Habitats (Directive 92/43/EEC):

8310 Caves not open to the public

The following Annex II species (Directive 92/43/EEC) are present at this site:

- ***Armadillidium ghardalamensis***
- ***Rhinolophus hipposideros*** (Lesser horse-shoe bat)

Other important species known from the site include:

- ***Plecotus austriacus*** (Long-eared Bat) - listed in Annex IV (Directive 92/43/EEC)

L-importanza tal-wirt tas-sit hija aktar enfasizzata permezz ta' ħafna deżinjazzjonijiet protettivi, inkluż l-inklużjoni fil-lista ta' Proprjetajiet Skedati skont l-Artiklu 81 tal-Att dwar l-Ambjent u l-Ippjanar tal-Iżvilupp 2010 bħala Sit ta' Importanza Arkeoloġika ta' Klassi A lokalizzata f'Żona ta' Importanza Arkeoloġika (NG 358 tal-1998).

Il-konservazzjoni f'Għar Dalam ser tintleħaq permezz tal-edukazzjoni u t-tmexxija effettiva tas-sistema tal-għar.

Viżjoni għal dan is-Sit

Il-viżjoni għal Għar Dalam hija sommarju tar-riżultat mixtieq għas-sit wara perjodu ta' tmexxija ta' din iż-żona protetta. Il-viżjoni għas-sit hija:

Għar Dalam huwa sistema karstika naturali ta' għerien ta' valur kulturali, xjentifiku u ekoloġiku immens. Il-karatteristiċi varji tal-wirt tal-għar ser ikunu protetti u ppreservati biex iservu għall-iskopijiet kulturali, xjentifiċi, edukattivi u rikreazzjonali tas-sit. L-ambjent t'Anness I ser jibqa' magħluq għall-pubbliku u miżmum fi stat ta' konservazzjoni tajjeb. Il-popolazzjonijiet tal-ispeċi ta' annimali protetti magħrufa minn dan is-sit ser jinżammu bl-istess mod permezz ta' kontroll tat-theddid u l-pressjonijiet li jaffettwaw l-għar u l-ħlejjaq tiegħu. Is-sit ser ikompli jkun promoss bħala sit arkeoloġiku u palaeontoloġiku u promoss għall-edukazzjoni tal-pubbliku u rikreazzjoni sakemm tali użu jibqa' kompatibbli mal-objettivi ta' konservazzjoni għas-sit.

Objettivi ta' Tmexxija

L-objettivi ta' tmexxija għas-sit huma:

1. Li jiġi żgurat li l-medda, l-istruttura u l-funzjoni tal-ambjent naturali tal-għar 8310 ikunu miżmuma;
2. Li jiġi żgurat li l-firxa ta' *Armadillidium ghardalamensis* f'dan is-sit ikun estiż u l-popolazzjoni tiżdied;
3. Li jiġi żgurat iż-żamma fuq medda twila ta' żmien tal-firxa u d-daqs tal-popolazzjoni ta' *Rhinolophus hipposideros* ġewwa s-sit;
4. Li jkunu miżmuma popolazzjoniijet f'saħħithom ta' speċi ta' fawna t'Anness IV preżenti fis-sit;
5. Li titqajjem kuxjenza tal-viżitaturi dwar l-importanza ekoloġika/xjentifika u kulturali tas-sit u u li jinħoloq valur addizzjonali mill-konservazzjoni u l-immaniġġjar tiegħu u
6. Li titjieb l-esperjenza tal-viżitatur f'Għar Dalam, li testendi għall-mużew, il-ġonna, u ż-żona tal-madwar.

The site's heritage importance is further emphasised by its multiple protective designations, including its inclusion in the list of Scheduled Properties in terms of Section 81 of the Environment Protection, Act 2016 as a Class A Site of Archaeological Importance located within an Area of Archaeological Importance (GN 358 of 1998).

Conservation at Għar Dalam will be mainly achieved through education and effective management of the cave system.

Vision for the Site

The vision for Għar Dalam summarises the desired outcome for the site after a period of management of this protected area. The vision for the site is:

Għar Dalam is a natural karstic cave system of immense cultural, scientific and ecological value. The various heritage features of the cave will be protected and preserved to serve the site's cultural, scientific, educational, and recreational purposes. The Annex I habitat will remain closed to the public and maintained at a good conservation status. The populations of protected animal species known from this site will likewise be maintained through the control of the threats and pressures affecting the cave and its inhabitants. The site will continue to be promoted as an archaeological and palaeontological site and promoted for public education and recreation as long as such uses remain compatible with the conservation objectives for the site.

Management Objectives

The Management Objectives for the site are:

1. To ensure that the area, structure and function of cave habitat 8310 are maintained;
2. To ensure that the range of *Armadillidium ghardalamensis* at this site is extended and its populaton size is increased;
3. To ensure the long-term maintenance of the range and population size of *Rhinolophus hipposideros* within the site;
4. To maintain healthy populations of the Annex IV fauna species present at the site;
5. To raise visitor awareness about the ecological/scientific and cultural importance of the site and to create added value out of its conservation and management; and
6. To enhance the visitor experience at Għar Dalam, which extends to the museum, the gardens, and the surrounding area.

Filwaqt li Għar Dalam huwa kkunsidrat li hu ta' valur konsiderevoli minn perspettiva paleontoloġika, arkeoloġika, ekoloġika u ġeomorfoloġika, kull sena huwa jirċievi sa 55,000 viżitatur u l-impatti tal-viżitatur, b'mod partikolari dwal ġewwa l-għar, jaffettwaw l-istat ta' konservazzjoni tiegħu. It-theddid prinċipali għas-sit idur madwar l-aċċess li tħalla jiżdied fil-passat għall-parti tal-ambjent naturali fejn hemm l-ispeċi ta' prijorità t'Anness II u l-potenzjal għall-espansjoni tal-ambjent naturali limitat minħabba l-importanza soċjali tas-sit. Għall-konservazzjoni tas-sit l-atteġġjament li ġej ser jittieħed:

1. Iż-żona trid tiġi kkonservata u miżmuma permezz ta' programm ta' tmexxija u manutenzzjoni b'konformità mal-livelli varji ta' protezzjoni assenjati lila u skont l-objettivi ta' tmexxija u miżuri determinati permezz tal-proċess ta' pjanar ta' tmexxija għad-deżinjazzjoni Natura 2000 tas-sit.
2. Il-manutenzzjoni u t-tmexxija ta' Għar Dalam hija responsabbiltà tal-Gvern, jiġifieri "Heritage Malta" (minn issa 'il quddiem imsemmija bħala 'Maniġer tas-sit').
3. Il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jikkonsulta mal-ERA rigward kwalunkwe attività jew interventi fil-parti ta' ġewwa tas-sistema tal-għar (l-ambjent naturali ta' *Armadillidium ghardalamensis*) u ebda xogħol ta' kwalunkwe tip ma għandu jsir fis-sit (inkluż fil-ġonna u l-mużew) qabel l-approvazzjoni mill- ERA.

Il-kundizzjonijiet u d-dispożizzjonijiet li ġejjin marbuta, mal-objettivi tat-tmexxija għandhom ikunu applikati fit-tmexxija/fil-konservazzjoni taż-żona:

A. Żamma tal-ambjent naturali tal-għar fi stat tajjeb ta' konservazzjoni.

1. Il-Maniġer tas-sit għandu, f'sentejn mill-ħruġ ta' din l-Ordni, jibda studju biex jiddetermina l-ammont sostenibbli ta' nies li jiflaħ l-għar sabiex ikun determinat numru ta' viżitaturi li s-sistema tal-għar tista' takkomoda f'darba waħda mingħajr ma' jiġi ipperikolat l-istat favorevoli ta' konservazzjoni tal-għar kif ukoll dak ta' *Rhinolophus hipposideros* b'mod partikolari.
2. Il-maniġer tas-sit f'sentejn mill-ħruġ ta' din l-Ordni għandu, jinstalla tagħmir biex jimmonitorja l-kundizzjonijiet ambjentali tal-għar. Il-kejl jinkludi l-intensità tad-dawl, l-umdità relattiva, l-ossiġnu u t-temparatura.
3. Fi tliet snin mill-ħruġ tal-Ordni tal-Konservazzjoni, il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jibda programm ta' monitoraġġ taċ-ċaqliq fl-entrata tal-għar fuq tul estiż ta' żmien li jkopri diversi bidliet ċikliċi tal-

Whereas Għar Dalam is considered to be of considerable value from a palaeontological, archaeological, geomorphological, and ecological perspective, it receives up to 55,000 visitors annually and visitor impacts, in particular lighting inside the cave, affect its state of conservation. The main threats to the site revolve around the increased access to part of the habitat of the priority Annex II species allowed in the past and the limited potential for habitat expansion due to the site's social importance. The following approach to the site's conservation will be taken:

1. The area is to be conserved and maintained by means of a management and maintenance programme in accordance with the various levels of protection assigned to it and according to the management objectives and measures determined through the management planning process for the site's Natura 2000 designation.
2. The maintenance and management of Għar Dalam is the responsibility of the Government, namely Heritage Malta (hereinafter referred to as the "site manager").
3. The site manager shall consult the ERA regarding any activities or interventions on the inner part of the cave system (the habitat of *Armadillidium ghardalamensis*) and no work of any kind shall be undertaken on site (including the gardens and museum) prior to the approval of the ERA.

The following conditions and provisions linked to the Management Objectives are to be applied when managing/conserving the area:

A. Maintaining the cave habitat in a good conservation status

1. The site manager shall, within two years from the issue of this Order, commence a study to determine the sustainable carrying capacity of the cave in order to determine the number of visitors that the cave system can accommodate at any one time without jeopardising the cave's favourable conservation status as well as that of *Rhinolophus hipposideros* in particular.
2. The site manager shall, within two years from the issue of this Order, install equipment to monitor the environmental conditions within the cave. Measurements to include light intensity, relative humidity, oxygen, and temperature.
3. Within three years from the issue of this Conservation Order, the site manager shall commence a monitoring programme of the movements at the cave entrance over an extended period of time covering several

istaġuni. Il-monitoraġġ irid isir f'punti differenti tal-entrata tal-għar u jinkludi monitoraġġ taċ-ċaqliq tal-blata feles fis-saqaf, is-sapport tal-kolonni u arkati tal-ġebel, u l-pjattaforma tal-veduta, kif ukoll monitoraġġ tat-temperatura u preċipitazzjoni barra u ġewwa l-entrata tal-għar.

4. Fl-ewwel għaxar snin mill-ħruġ tal-Ordni tal-Konservazzjoni, il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jwettaq stħarriġ 3D tas-sistema tal-għar kollu u jinvestiga jekk Għar Dalam jinkludix xi konnessjoni ma' għerien/sistemi ta' għerien fiż-żona, b'mod partikolari jekk jeżistux xi fratturi/fissuri li jillinkjaw dan l-għar ma' Għar il-Friefet, li jista' jkun li jindikaw li l-popolazzjoni ta' *A. ghardalamensis*li riċentement rappurtata f'dan l-aħħar għar hija parti minn dik ta' Għar Dalam.
5. Fl-ewwel sena mill-ħruġ tal-Ordni tal-Konservazzjoni, il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jipprepara:
   a. Pjan ta' monitoraġġ għall-ambjent naturali 8310,
   b. Pjan li jimmonitorja l-użu tas-sit minn *Rhinolophus hipposideros* u *Plecotus austriacus*, li jinkludi id-daqs tal-popolazzjoni, l-firxa u l-kompożizzjoni tal-post fejn jgħixu ("roost") dawn iż-żewġ speċi.

Il-pjanijiet ta' monitoraġġ għandhom jiġu sottomessi lil ERA għall-approvazzjoni u sussegwentement għandhom jiġu implimentati għall-perjodu minimu ta' sentejn, wara liema l-frekwenza ta' monitoraġġ fuq tul ta' żmien tkun stabbilità.

B. Estensjoni tal-ambjent naturali ta' ***Armadillidium ghardalamensis*** **u** ***Rhinolophus hipposideros***

1. Il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jnaqqas l-ammont ta' dawl artifiċjali f'Għar Dalam billi:
   a. jiżgura li ma jkun hemm ebda żieda ta' aktar dwal ġol-għar lil 'l hinn mill-lok preżenti (c. 60m mill-entrata tal-għar),
   b. jibdel id-dwal eżistenti ma' oħrajn li huma aktar "environmentally friendly" u ideali għal sistemi tal-għerien (li jinkludu il-prevenzjoni li tikber "lamp flora").
   c. juża dawl b'direzzjoni li jiffoka fuq karrattersitċi speċfiċi aktar milli jillumina ż-żona kollha,
   d. Juża dwal li jistgħu jitbaxxew, u/jew
   e. Juża sensers taċ-ċaqliċ biex jixegħlu biss s-sistema tad-dawl meta n-nies ikunu fl-għar u b'hekk biss l-parti tal-għar fejn jinsabu.

Dawn il-bidliet għandhom iseħħu wara it-tielet sena mill-ħruġ ta' din l-Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni.

2. B'riżultat tal-bidliet fis-sistema tad-dawl spjegata f'B(1) hawn fuq, u b'mod partikulari it-tneħħija tad-dwal mill-parti ta' ġewwa tal-għar (li diġà qed tiġi implimentata), il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jiżgura

seasonal cyclic changes. Monitoring is to take place at different points around the cave entrance and include monitoring of movements of the ceiling rock wedge, the supporting masonry columns and arches, and the viewing platform, as well as monitoring of temperature and precipitation inside and outside the cave entrance.

4. Within the first ten years from the issue of this Conservation Order, the site manager shall carry out a 3D survey of the entire cave system and investigate whether Għar Dalam includes any links with other caves/cave systems in the area, in particular whether any small fractures/fissures exist that link this cave to Għar il-Friefet, which may indicate that the population of *A. ghardalamensis* recently reported at the latter cave is part of that of Għar Dalam.
5. Within the first year from the issue of this Conservation Order, the site manager shall prepare:
   a. a monitoring plan for habitat 8310,
   b. a plan to monitor the use of the site by *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and *Plecotus austriacus*, including population size, range and roost composition of the two species.

The monitoring plans shall be submitted to ERA for approval and they shall subsequently be implemented for a minimum period of two years, following which the frequency of the longer-term monitoring will be determined.

B. Extending the habitat of ***Armadillidium ghardalamensis*** **and** ***Rhinolophus hipposideros***

1. The site manager shall reduce the amount of artificial light in Għar Dalam by:
   a. ensuring that no more lights are added inside the cave beyond the present location (c. 60m from the cave entrance),
   b. replacing the existing lights with ones that are more environmentally friendly and ideal for cave systems (including to prevent the growth of lamp flora)
   c. use directional lighting to focus attention on specific features rather than illuminate a whole area,
   d. use dimmable lights, and/or
   e. use motion sensors to only switch on the lighting system when people are inside the cave and then only in the part of the cave where they are found.

These changes shall take place by the third year following the issue of this Conservation Order.

2. As a result of the changes in the lighting system described in B(1) above, and in particular the removal of lights from the inner part of the cave (already being implemented), the site manager shall

li ż-żona tas-sistema tal-għar li hija miftuħa għall-pubbliku tibqa' ristretta għall-ewwel 60m.

3. Il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jimmonitorja r-rispons ta' *Armadillidium ghardalamensis* u *Rhinolophus hipposideros* għat-tnaqqis ta' dawl/l-estensjoni taż-żona mudlama. Dan l-istudju ta' monitoraġġ għandu jsegwi Metodu Dikjarat, li għandu jkun preparat mill-maniġer tas-sit u sottomess lill-ERA għall-approvazzjoni. Il-monitoroġġ għandu jsir fuq perjodu minimu ta' sena wara l-implimentazzjoni tal-bidliet fis-sistema tad-dawl, wara liema kwalunkwe bidliet fil-miżuri ta' konservazzjoni għas-sit li jkun hemm bżonn biex jindirizzaw is-sejbiet fir-rapport tal-monitoraġġ, jiġu implimentati.

C. It-trawwim ta' kuxjenza tal-viżitaturi dwar l-importanza tas-sistema tal-għar

1. Il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jinstalla sinjalar li jippromovi Għar Dalam bħala parti minn "Network" Natura 2000 tal-Gżejjer Maltin. Dan għandu jsir skont l-istrateġija tal-interpretazzjoni għal Natura 2000 li ser issir man-Nazzjon kollu.
2. F'sena mill-ħruġ ta' din l-Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni, il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jinkludi informazzjoni dwar l-importanza ekoloġika tas-sistema tal-għar fuq is-sit web tas-sit u jippromwoviha bħala sit Natura 2000 (apparti mis-sinifikat tal-wirt kulturali tiegħu).
3. F'seba' snin mill-ħruġ ta' din l-Ordni, il-maniġer tas-sit ser jiżviluppa "application" li tħalli viżitaturi jniżżlu dejta diġitali dwar is-sit u ż-żona tal-madwar u jipprovdi żjara bi gwida tas-sit li tinkludi l-karratteristiċi ekoloġiċi tiegħu.

D. Titijib tal-esperjenza tal-viżitaturi f'Għar Dalam

1. F'seba' snin mill-ħruġ ta' din l-Ordni, il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jikkollabora mas-Sovrintendenza tal-Wirt Kulturali biex jiżviluppa inventarju tal-wirt kulturali ta' Għar Dalam, inkluż immappjar/diġitizzazzjoni tad-depożiti tal-għar u tad-dejta storika.
2. Il-maniġer tas-sit għandu, f'ħames snin mill-ħruġ ta' din l-Ordni, jippromwovi Għar Dalam fil-kuntest tal-pajsaġġ tiegħu u jippromwovi l-link ma' siti oħra ta' wirt kulturali fil-viċinanza.
3. Il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jikkollabora mal-Kunsill Lokali ta' Birżebbuġa, mas-Sovrintendenza tal-Wirt Kulturali, mal-ERA, u l-Awtorità Maltija tat-Turiżmu, biex jesplora l-possibbiltà li jkun żviluppat "heritage park" li jillinkja Borġ in-Nadur, Għar Dalam, Ta' Kaċċatura, u r-Razzett ta' Pultu (Casa Ippolito) skont r-rakkomandazzjonijiet tal-politika tal-ippjanar ta' qabel u l-iskedar ta' partijiet ta' Wied Dalam u Wied Żembaq bħala Żona ta' Importanza

ensure that the area of the cave system that is open to the public will remain restricted to the initial 60m.

3. The site manager shall monitor the response of *Armadillidium ghardalamensis* and *Rhinolophus hipposideros* to the reduction in light/extension of the dark area. This monitoring study shall follow a Method Statement, which shall be prepared by the site manager and submitted to ERA for approval. The monitoring shall take place over a minimum period of one year following the implementation of the changes in the lighting system, following which any changes in the conservation measures at the site that may be required to address the findings of the monitoring report, will be implemented.

C. Raise visitor awareness on the cave system's importance

1. The site manager shall install signage promoting Għar Dalam as part of the Natura 2000 network of the Maltese Islands. This shall be done in accordance with the interpretation strategy for Natura 2000 that will be carried out nationwide.
2. Within one year of the issue of this Conservation Order, the site manager shall include information on the ecological importance of the cave system on the site's website and promote it also as a Natura 2000 site (apart from its cultural heritage significance).
3. Within seven years of the issue of this Order, the site manager will develop an application that will allow visitors to download digital data about the site and the surrounding area and provide a guided tour of the site, including its ecological features.

D. Enhance the visitor experience at Għar Dalam

1. Within seven years from the issue of this Order, the site manager shall liaise with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to develop a cultural heritage inventory of Għar Dalam, including mapping/digitising of the cave deposits and of historical data.
2. The site manager shall, within five years of the issue of this Order, promote Għar Dalam within the context of its landscape and promote a link with other cultural heritage sites in the vicinity.
3. The site manager will collaborate with the Birżebbuġa Local Council, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, ERA, and the Malta Tourism Authority, to explore the possibility of developing a heritage park linking Borġ in-Nadur, Għar Dalam, Ta' Kaċċatura, and ir-Razzett ta' Pultu (Casa Ippolito) in line with previous planning policy recommendations and the scheduling of parts of Wied Dalam and Wied Żembaq as an Area of Archaeological Importance (GN 358

Arkeoloġika (NG 358 tal-1998). *It-twaqqif ta' park bħal dan huwa 'l barra mill-iskop tal-Ordni tal-Konservazzjoni u restrizzjonijiet oħra jridu jiġu kkunsidrati, inkluż il-preżenza tal-installazzjoni fil-qrib ta' Wied Dalam (sit Seveso).*

4. F'ħames snin mill-ħruġ ta' din l-Ordni tal-Konservazzjoni, il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jipprepara pjan biex itejjeb l-mużew u ż-żoni ta' barra tas-sit u jiżviluppa "media" interattiva/teknoloġiji li jinkoraġixxu l-viżitatur biex iqatta' aktar ħin fil-mużew u fiż-żona ta' barra (inkluż il-ġonna) aktar milli fl-għar innifsu.

E. Regolazzjoni tal-attivitajiet

1. Fil-prinċipju, xogħlijiet ta' tħaffir direttament fuq is-sistema tal-għar u fl-10m mill-konfini tiegħu għandhom ikunu projbiti. Fil-każ ta' interventi essenzjali relatati mat-tiswija tas-servizzi tal-utilitajiet eżistenti li jinsabu direttament fuq l-għar, il-maniġer tas-sit għandu jkun kkuntattjat mill-fornitur relevanti tal-utilità, u d-dettalji tax-xogħlijiet għandhom ikunu maqbula mal-maniġer tas-sit, is-Sovrinterdenza tal-Wirt Kulturali, il-Kunsill Lokali ta' Birżebbuġa u l-ERA. L-ebda makkinarju tqil ma għandu jintuża f'interventi bħal dawn lokalizzati fuq is-sistema tal-għar u sa 50m mill-konfini tal-għar (murija f'**Tabella 2**); kwalunkwe intervent essenzjali ser jitwettaq b'tagħmir żgħir tal-idejn biex ikunu mnaqqsin il-vibrazzjoni u l-ħoss.
2. Għandu jkun hemm preżunzjoni kontra xogħlijiet jew attivitatijiet li jistgħu jwasslu għal vibrazzjonijiet sinifikanti fis-sistema tal-għar.
3. Kwalunkwe xogħolijiet jew attivitajiet proposti fil-viċinanza tal-għar (sa 100m mill-konfini tal-għar kif indikat fit-**Tabella 2**) għandha tirrikjedi monitoraġġ tal-ħoss u vibrazzjoni. Installazzjonijiet eżistenti fiż-żona msemmija ntiża biex tilqa' l-impatti, f'sentejn mill-ħruġ ta' din l-Ordni tal-Konservazzjoni, jipprovdu stħarriġ dwar il-ħoss u l-vibrazzjoni tal-attivitajiet tagħhom li jista' jaffettwa l-integrità strutturali tal-għar jew jiddisturbaw l-ispeċi tiegħu u evidenza ta' miżuri effettivi biex itaffu il-ħoss u l-vibrazzjoni applikati fis-siti tagħhom.
4. L-użu ta' dwal qawwija bil-lejl fuq bini jew matul attivitajiet f'distanza ta' 100m mid-daħla tal-għar (ara **Tabella 3**) għandhom ikunu projbiti sakemm ma jipprovdux evidenza ċara li d-dawl ma jirriżultax f'intesità ta' dawl akbar minn 1 "Lux" fl-10m mid-daħla tal-għar (ara **Tabella 3**).
5. Tipjip u tkebbis ta' nar (inklużi barbikjuws) huma projbiti fl-għar u kullimkien f'50m mid-daħla tal-għar (ara **Tabella 3**).

of 1998). *The actual establishment of such a park is outside the scope of the Conservation Order and will need to take other constraints into consideration, including the presence of the adjacent Wied Dalam installation (a Seveso site).*

4. Within five years of the issue of this Conservation Order, the site manager shall prepare a plan to upgrade the museum and outdoor areas of the site and develop interactive media/technologies that encourage the visitor to spend more time in the museum and the outdoor area (including the gardens) rather than in the cave itself.

E. Regulation of activities

1. In principle, excavation works directly above the cave system and within 10m of its boundary shall be prohibited. In the case of essential interventions related to the repair of existing service utilities located directly above the cave, the site manager shall be contacted by the relevant utility provider, and the details of the works shall be agreed with the site manager, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the Birżebbuġa Local Council, and ERA. No heavy machinery shall be used in such interventions located above the cave system and up to 50m from the cave boundary (shown in **Figure 2**); any essential interventions will be undertaken using small hand held equipment to minimise vibrations and noise.
2. There shall be a presumption against works or activities that may lead to significant vibrations within the cave system.
3. Any works or activities proposed within the vicinity of the cave (up to 100m from the cave boundary as indicated in **Figure 2**) shall have to provide noise and vibration monitoring. Existing installations within the said buffer area shall, within two years of the issue of this Conservation Order, provide a noise and vibration survey of their activities that could affect the structural integrity of the cave or disturb its species and evidence of effective noise and vibration mitigation measures applied at their sites.
4. The use of strong lights at night at developments or during activities within a distance of 100m of the cave entrance (see **Figure 3**) shall be prohibited unless they can provide clear evidence that the lighting will not result in a light intensity greater than 1 Lux within 10m of the cave entrance (see **Figure 3**).
5. Smoking and the lighting of fires (including barbecues) is prohibited within the cave and anywhere within 50m of the cave entrance (see **Figure 3**).

6. Attivitajiet fiż-żoni fuq barra u l-ġonna tas-sit li jiġġeneraw ħoss ma għandhomx jitħallew isiru.
7. Id-dwal fil-ġonna u l-passaġġ li jagħti għall-għar għandhom ikunu mill-inqas u lokalizzati f'livell tal-passaġġ pedonali u jkunu jħarsu 'l isfel biex tonqos il-"glare" fid-daħla tal-għar.
8. Fl-interess li jkunu salvagwardjati s-sistema tal-għar u l-ambjenti naturali tiegħu, żjarat minn gruppi ġewwa Għar Dalam għandhom ikunu ristretti għal mhux iktar minn 55 f'darba waħda sakemm ir-riżultati tal-istudju msemmi f'A(1) ikunu disponibbli biex jistabilixxi l-ammont sostenibbli ta' nies li jiflaħ l-għar.
9. L-aċċess għall-parti ta' ġewwa tal-għar (is-sit Natura 2000 mhuwiex miftuħ għall-pubbliku) għandu jkun projbit b'eċċezzjoni għal monitoraġġ xjentifiku li jinkludi dik tal-popolazzjonijiet ta' *A. Ghardalamensis* u *R. Hipposideros* u dan wara l-ħruġ tal-permessi relevanti/liċenzji mill-maniġer tas-sit u l-ERA. Tali żjarat ta' monitoraġġ għandhom ikunu ristretti għal mhux aktar minn tlieta fis-sena (li jridu jsiru fi Frar, April u Settembru ta' kull sena) u d-dejta mill-istudju trid tingħata lill-maniġer tas-sit u l-ERA flimkien ma' rapport tal-monitoraġġ.
10. Kwalunkwe investigazzjoni arkeoloġika jew paleontoloġika li għandha bżonn ssir f'Għar Dalam għandha tibqa' r-responsabbiltà tas-Sovrinterdenza tal-Wirt Kulturali; minkejja dan, kull intervent fil-parti ta' ġewwa tas-sistema tal-għar (lil hinn mill-marka tas-60m) għandhom isiru biss wara konsultazzjoni ma' u approvazzjoni mill-ERA u b'konformità ma' metodu ddikjarat sabiex ikunu salvagwardati l-ambjent naturali tal-għar u l-ħlejjaq tiegħu.
11. Applikazzjonijiet għall-permess għal kwalunkwe attivitajiet jew operazzjonijiet regolati b'dawn id-dispożizzjonijiet għandhom jaslu għand il-ERA mill-inqas 30 ġurnata tax-xogħol qabel l-attività jew operazzjoni inkwistjoni.

Jekk il-propjetà soġġetta ta' din l-Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni b'xi mod tiġrilha ħsara jew tkun mibdula f'kontravenzjoni ma' din l-Ordni jew l-istat tagħha bħala sit ta' Żona Speċjali ta' Konservazzjoni/sit Natura 2000 huwa bi kwalunkwe mod ipperikolat jew irrevokat, jew jekk kwalunkwe persuna twettaq attivitajiet jew azzjonijiet bi ksur tad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' din l-Ordni tal-Konservazzjoni, l-Awtorità għandha teżerċita l-poteri ta' infurzar tagħha kif stabbilit fir-Regolament 49 tal-Avviż Legali tal-2006, kif ikun applikabbli.

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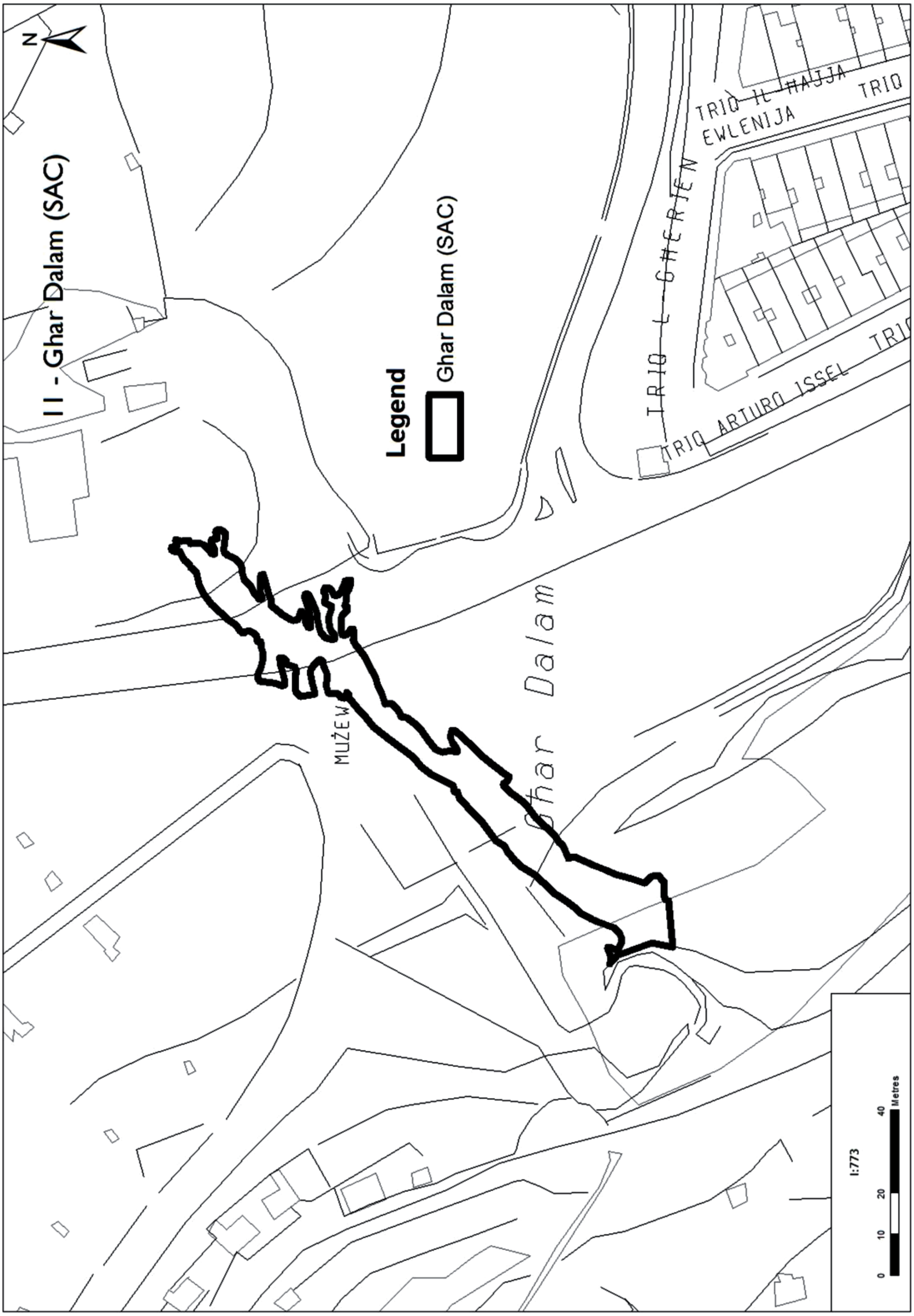
6. Activities in the outdoor areas and gardens of the site that generate noise shall not be allowed.
7. Lighting in the gardens and the path leading to the cave shall be kept to a minimum and located at the level of the footpath and be downward pointing to minimise glare at the cave entrance.
8. In the interest of safeguarding the cave system and its habitats, group visits inside Għar Dalam shall be restricted to not more than 55 at any one time until such time that the results of the study referred to in A(1) above are available to establish a sustainable carrying capacity.
9. Access to the inner part of the cave (the Natura 2000 site not opened to the public) shall be expressly prohibited except for scientific monitoring including that of the populations of *A. ghardalamensis* and *R. hipposideros* and this following the issue of the relevant permits/licences by the site manager and ERA. Such monitoring visits shall be restricted to not more than three visits annually (to be undertaken in February, April and September of each year) and the data from the study is to be deposited with the site manager and ERA together with a report on the monitoring.
10. Any archaeological/palaeontological investigations that may need to be undertaken within Għar Dalam shall remain the responsibility of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage; however, any interventions within the inner cave system (beyond the 60 metre mark) shall only take place following consultation with and approval by ERA and in accordance with an approved method statement in order to safeguard the cave habitat and its inhabitants.
11. Permit applications for any activities or operations regulated by these regulations are to be received by the ERA at least 30 working days prior to the activity or operation in question.

If the property subject of this Conservation Order is in any way damaged or altered in contravention of this Order or its status as a Special Area of Conservation/Natura 2000 site is in any way jeopardised or rescinded, or if any person undertakes activities or actions in breach of the provisions of this Conservation Order, the Authority shall exercise its powers of enforcement as set out in Article 49 of Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (S.L.549.44), as may be applicable.

14th December, 2016

Tabella 1: Il-post fejn qiegħed Għar Dalam



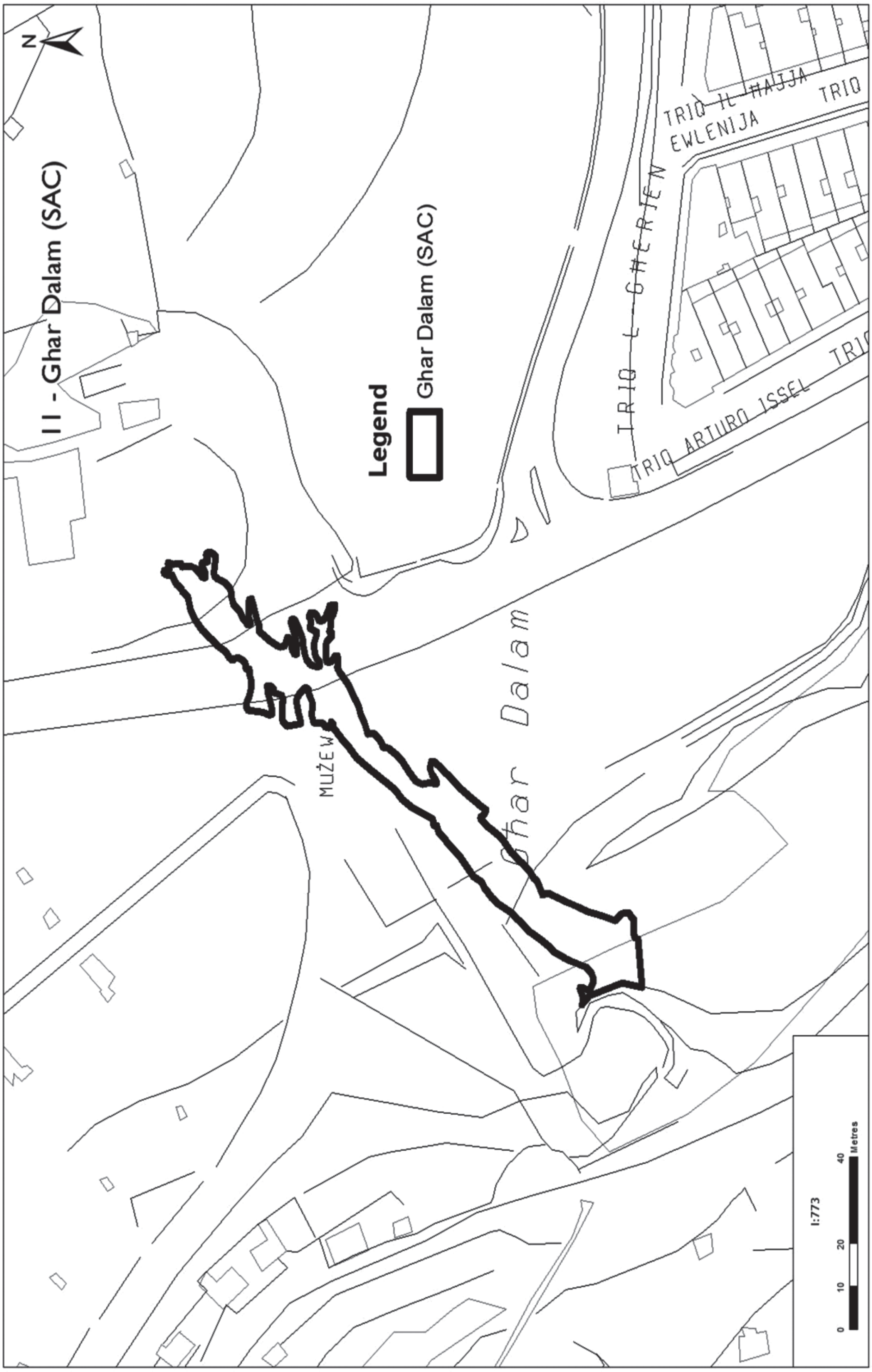


Figure 1: Location of Għar Dalam

Tabella 2: Żoni ta' protezzjoni madwar l-"SAC" ta' Għar Dalam

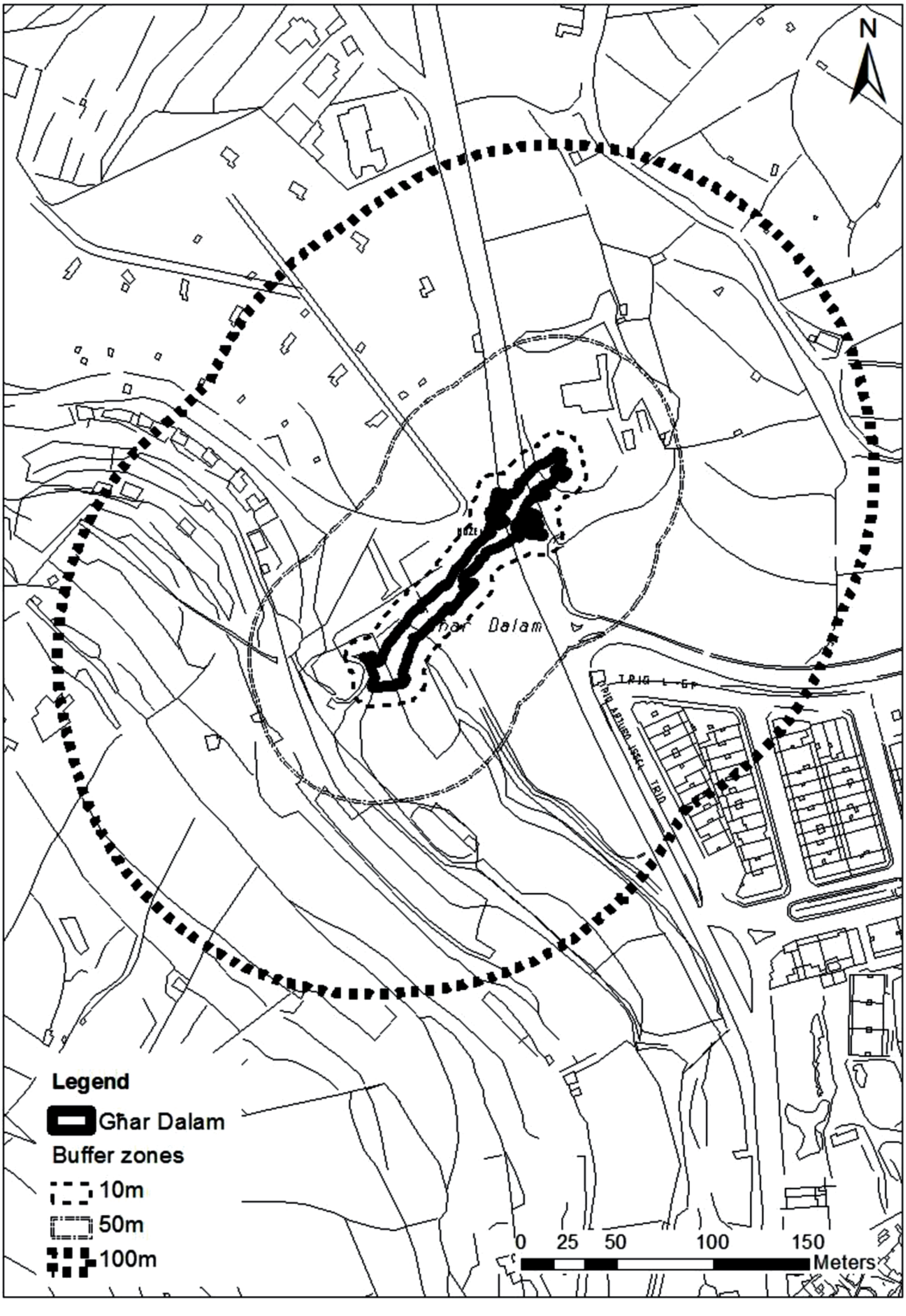


Figure 2: Buffer areas around Għar Dalam SAC

Tabella 3: Żona ta' protezzjoni madwar l-entrata tal-għar

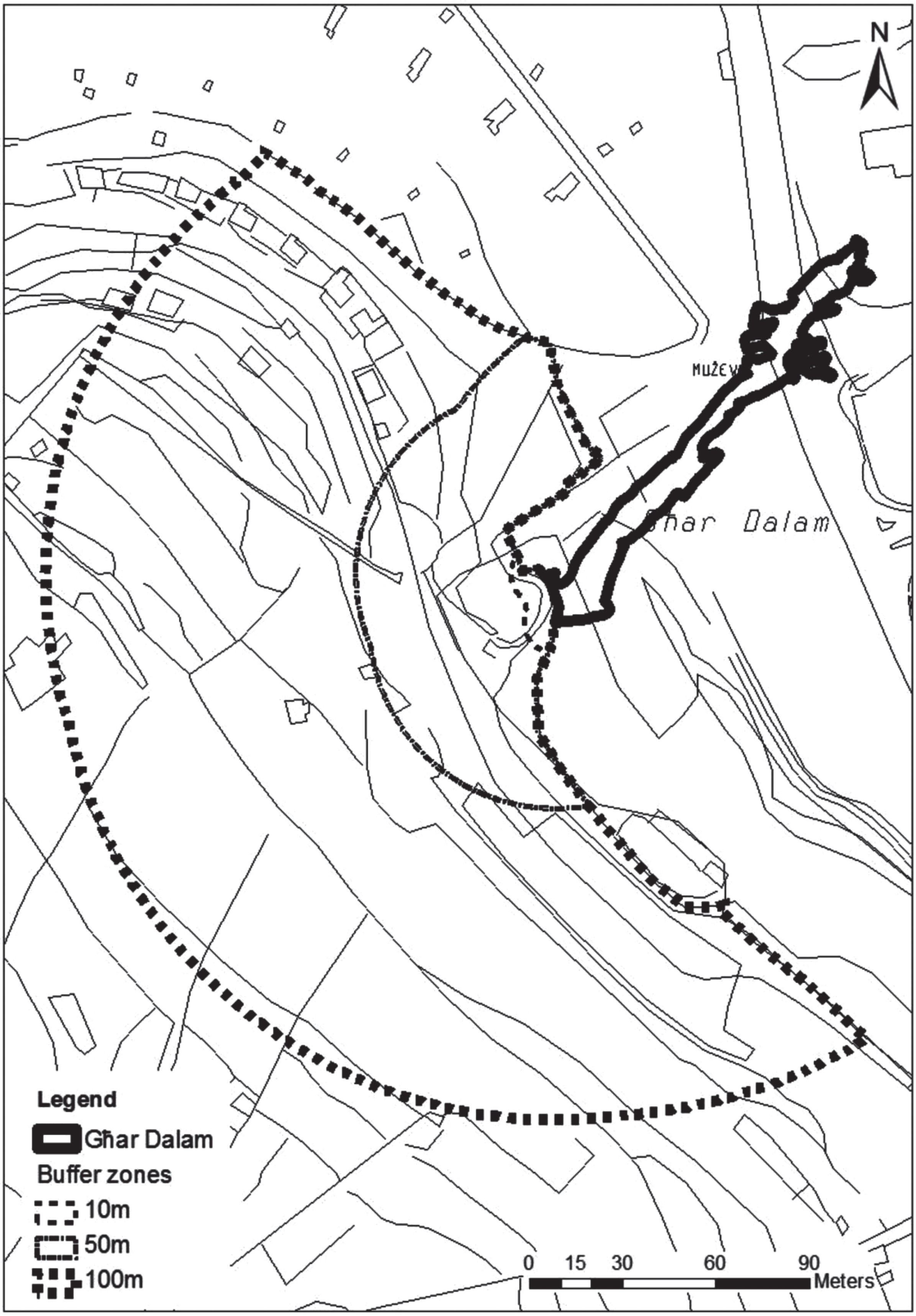
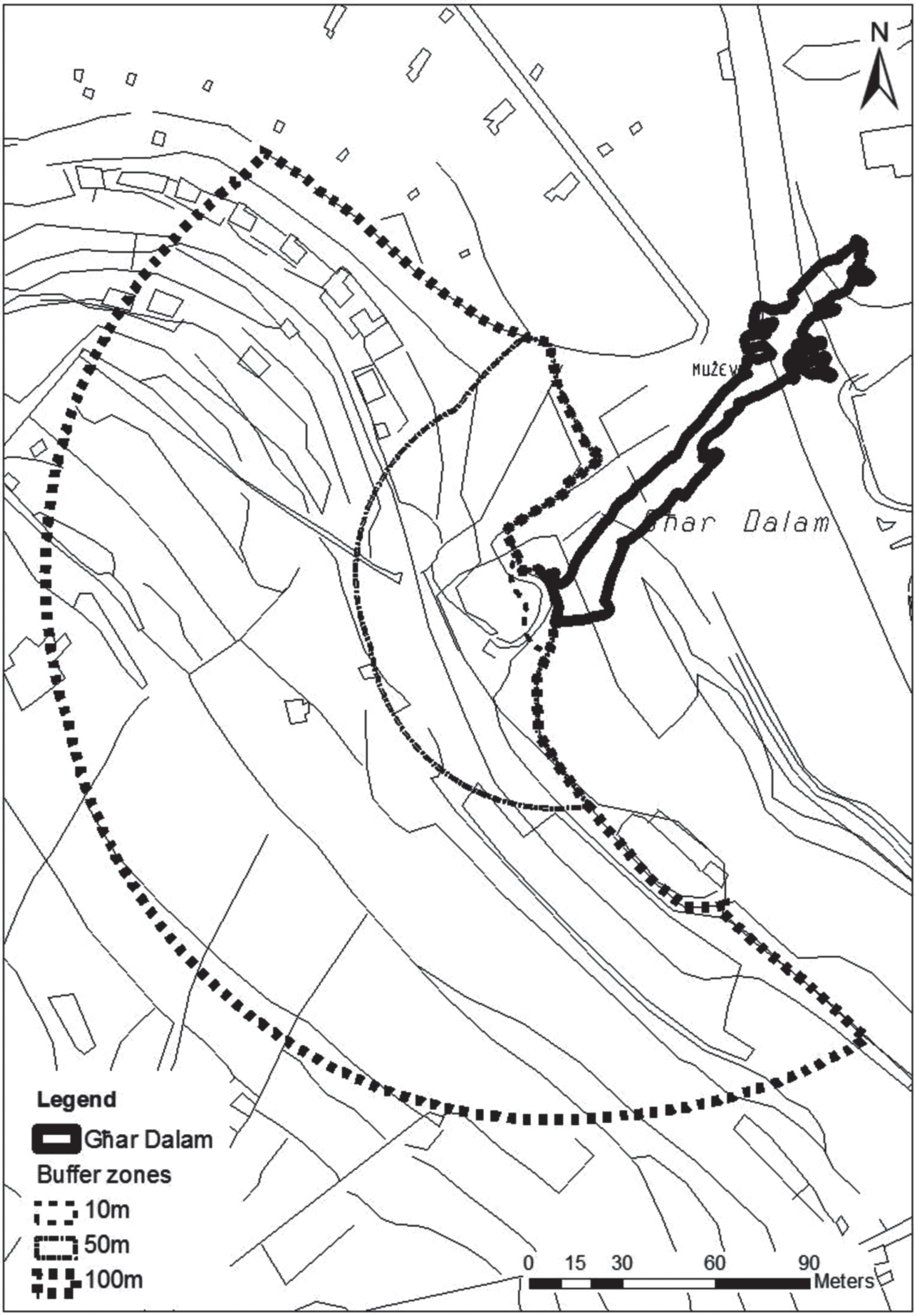



Figure 3: Buffer areas around cave entrance