



## Environmental Permit

Environment Protection Act (CAP. 549)

Permit number:  
**NP0041/20**

Approved documents  
**NP0041/20/1B**

The Environment and Resources Authority (hereinafter the Authority; the Competent Authority or ERA) in exercise of its powers under the Environment Protection Act (CAP. 549), hereby authorises:

Mr Herman Galea obo Ambjent Malta (hereinafter "the Permit Holder"), Of / Whose Registered Office (or principal place of business) is at

**Ambjent Malta Head Office  
Ta' Qali National Park  
Ta' Qali ATD4000**

to carry out restoration of rubble walls at

**Wied Dalam**

The validity of this permit is **for a year from the granted date of this permit**. An application for renewal of this permit is to be submitted at least **one (1) month** prior to expiry of this permit.

Signed	Date
<p>Anthony Aquilina Unit Manager (Permitting) F/ Director Environment and Resources</p>	<p>Permit Granted: 20/02/ 2020</p>

**Authorised to sign on behalf of the Competent Authority**

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## Conditions

### Introductory Note

The permit is granted in accordance with the provisions of the Environment Protection Act and Regulation 18(2) of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (S.L. 549.44), hereinafter referred to as the Regulations, for the purpose of the activities that shall be carried out within the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Għar Dalam (MT0000011).

The activity shall, subject to the conditions of this Permit, be managed, controlled and carried out as described in the NP Application, approved documents, and/or as otherwise previously agreed in writing by the Authority.

### Status Log

Detail	Date
<i>Application NP0057/20</i>	24/01/2020
<i>Permit Issued</i>	20/02/2020

### Pre-Commencement of activities/ work

1. The permit holder shall advise of the dates of works at least two (2) days prior to the commencement on [ced.nature@era.org.mt](mailto:ced.nature@era.org.mt). In the case of change of date, the permit holder is to inform ERA of such a change at least two (2) days in advance. In the case of short-term cancellation of the activity (especially outside office hours), the Authority should be contacted on 9921 0404.

### Permitted Activities

2. The Permit Holder is authorised to carry out the activities and the associated activities specified in Table 1

**Table 1.**

Activity	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
Restoration of rubble walls	Restore rubble walls according to the approved method statement NP0041/20/1B	(i) Restoration of the rubble walls located at Wied Dalam, Birżebbuġa.

### Site

3. The activities authorised under condition 2 shall be affected in the locations as marked on the approved site plan NP0041/20/1B.

### Conditions of Activity/Work

4. Activities are to be held according to the approved Method Statement NP0041/20/1B.
5. Rubble walls repairs shall be limited to those shown in approved site plan NP0041/20/1B.
6. Reinstated rubble walls shall be built in traditional random rubble, shall keep to the current existing height and shall not extend beyond their current footprint.

7. No new access points are to be created on site.
8. The permit holder shall ensure that disturbance of any specimen of protected species or to protected habitats is kept to a minimum. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that no harm is caused to the environment either intentionally or accidentally. Attention must also be afforded to the whole environment of the SAC in view of the protection status of the area.
9. Access and parking of any vehicles used for works shall be kept to existing surfaced roads. Access on natural areas including rocky ground and agricultural land is not allowed. Off-road driving and creation of temporary or permanent access routes, irrespective whether intentional or accidental is prohibited.
10. Applicant is to make provisions in order for dust not to contaminate the surrounding areas. Mitigation measures such as hoarding and appropriate dust containment shall be in place at all times throughout the activity to ensure that the works do not pose any adverse effect and do not overspill on the surrounding areas.
11. No heavy machinery shall be made use of and works shall be carried out manually insofar as possible.
12. Any construction-related material removed shall be immediately carted away in waste carriers registered and disposed of accordingly in accordance with the Waste Management (Activity Registration) Regulations 2007 (S.L. 549.45) and the Waste Regulations, 2011, (S.L. 549.63), including where necessary through the Consignment Permit procedure.
13. The applicant is to remove any rubble/deposited materials accumulated on site during the works covered by this permit and re-instate the areas to their natural state, before the commencement of the wet season.
14. All works shall be carried out between sunrise and sunset.

### **General Conditions**

15. The 'Permit Holder', is responsible to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken so that the activity conforms to the conditions in this Permit and the procedures outlined within the Permit application.
16. The activities covered by this permit are restricted to the permit holder, employees and/or volunteers and contracted parties commissioned for such activities/works under his supervision and direction, who shall all be made aware of this permit and the contents within.
17. The Permit holder is not exempt from any other legislation or regulations, codes of practice, conditions or requirements imposed by any other competent authorities, including the obtaining of permits, licenses, or clearances to undertake works authorised by this permit, including from site owners.
18. The following activities are strictly prohibited:
  - a. the deliberate picking, collection, taking, cutting, uprooting, harming, destroying or damaging deliberately destroying, keeping, transporting,

- selling, buying exchanging, offering for sale or for exchange, importing or exporting in any way of any specimen of wild flora;
- b. the deliberate hunting, killing, capturing, taking, harming, disturbance particularly during periods of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration, destruction and deterioration of breeding sites or resting places, pursuing, taking or attempting to take, deliberately killing or attempting to kill, deliberately destroying, keeping, transporting, selling, buying exchanging, offering for sale or for exchange, importing or exporting any specimen of any specimen of wild fauna;
  - c. cutting or damaging of reeds, tree branches etc;
  - d. planting of vegetation, shrubs and/or trees or the introduction of any flora or fauna into the site or its environs;
  - e. introduction, removal, significant movement and re-engineering, and/or collection of sand, shingle, stone, soil and/or sediment;
  - f. excavation works and any physical modification of the vegetation cover, the ground and landform of the site and its surroundings;
  - g. generation of excessive noise, including extremely loud music or the use of noisy generators, or light pollution through the use of floodlights;
  - h. disposal, discharge or spillage of oil, fuel, paint or other pollutants, or of solid waste, ash or combustibles;
  - i. lighting of fires.
19. ERA may request updates and/or further information on the activity in question as deemed necessary
20. The conditions imposed shall be adhered to throughout all the activities. Failure to do so may result in enforcement action and cessation of any related works or activities.
21. The Authority may add, amend, suspend or revoke this permit or part of this permit in cases of fraud, where public safety or significant environmental damage or risk is concerned, where there is an error on the face of the record or where there is a breach of one or more permit conditions after a written warning is given by the Authority or in any eventuality that gives the Authority enough reason to suspend or revoke this permit.
22. The Permit Holder may apply for a variation of the permit and shall seek the Authority's written agreement prior to any operational changes, by sending to the Authority:
- a. Written notice of the details of the proposed change, including an assessment of its possible effects or risks to the environment from the approved activity;
  - b. Any relevant supporting information;
  - c. Any relevant supporting assessments and drawings, and;
  - d. The proposed implementation date.
- Any such change shall only be implemented following the issue of a variation of the permit by the Authority.
23. In accordance with Regulation 46(4) of S.L. 549.44, a brief report with photos of the activities held, including any publications as a result of the activity, is to be provided to ERA by the Permit Holder within one month of the expiry of the permit, and is to be submitted to [nature.permitting@era.org.mt](mailto:nature.permitting@era.org.mt). Information that should be treated as confidential as outlined in Regulation 48(4) of S.L. 549.44 shall be specified.

A template for the report is available at <http://era.org.mt/en/Documents/Activity%20Report%20template.doc>.

24. Any accidental handling, capture or collective of specimens or part thereof, whether dead or alive, of species listed within Schedule V and VI, and endemic species not listed in Schedule X of the Regulations shall be reported on nature.permitting@era.org.mt within seven (7) days of sampling/ identification of the specimen. Additional information on authorisations, keeping of such specimens or samples may be requested from the permit holder.
25. The Authority may add, amend, delete or substitute any of the conditions of this permit after notifying the Permit Holder of its intention and after describing the changes to the Permit Holder. This is without prejudice to any prevailing circumstances that would preclude the Authority from following such a procedure.
26. The Authority may suspend or revoke this environmental permit in line with the provisions of CAP 549.
27. The Permit Holder shall notify the following matters to the Authority in writing at least 10 working days prior to their occurrence:
  - a. Any change in the Permit Holder's trading name, registered name or registered office address;
  - b. Any change to particulars of the Permit Holder's corporate identity.
28. Upon the joint application of a Permit Holder and a proposed transferee, the Authority may transfer the nature permit to the proposed transferee. The transfer of the permit will not relieve any of the Permit Holders from their environmental obligations and liabilities.
29. In accordance with Regulation 47 of S.L. 549.44, details of the Permit Holder together with the details of conditions imposed in this Permit shall be maintained by the Authority in a register available for public inspection or maintained in electronic form.
30. ERA may inspect and monitor the activity at the expense of the Permit holder at rate and arrangement communicated by ERA's Compliance and Enforcement Directorate to ensure the safeguarding of the natural assets. ERA may also appoint other on-site monitors at the expense of the Permit Holder to act as an on-site liaison between the Permit Holder and ERA if the case arises.
31. The Authority's representatives may inspect and photograph any part of the site/ activity and ask for any closed or locked areas to be opened and may demand to be provided with any proof, documentation, plans, receipts or any other records.
32. This Permit including any Variation Notices or amendments to it shall be made available for any inspection by ERA officials at all times, or any legally recognised compliance and enforcement officials, when requested.
33. Whenever there is a conflict between the conditions of this permit and approved documents, the conditions of the permit shall prevail.
34. ERA shall not be held liable for any accidents or injuries which may occur during the activities being permitted through this Permit. It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure that all safety measures are taken.
35. This permit is without prejudice to any liability of the permit holder under the Act and to any punitive measures the Authority may wish to take with respect to works already carried out without permit.
36. The validity of this permit is **valid for one (1) year** from the granted date of this permit. The Permit Holder may apply for a renewal to this permit expressing his/her intention at least four (4) weeks prior to the expiry of this permit. Request for renewals shall

only be considered upon confirmation of compliance with permit conditions and fulfilment of documentation as requested by this permit.

37. Any aggrieved person may appeal from this decision before the Environment and Review Tribunal within 30 days in terms of Article 63 of the Environment Protection Act.



# Restoration of Wied Dalam Rubble Walls

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20/01/2020

**Alexander Borg Galea  
Principal Scientific Officer  
Office of the Director General  
Valley Management  
Ambjent Malta**



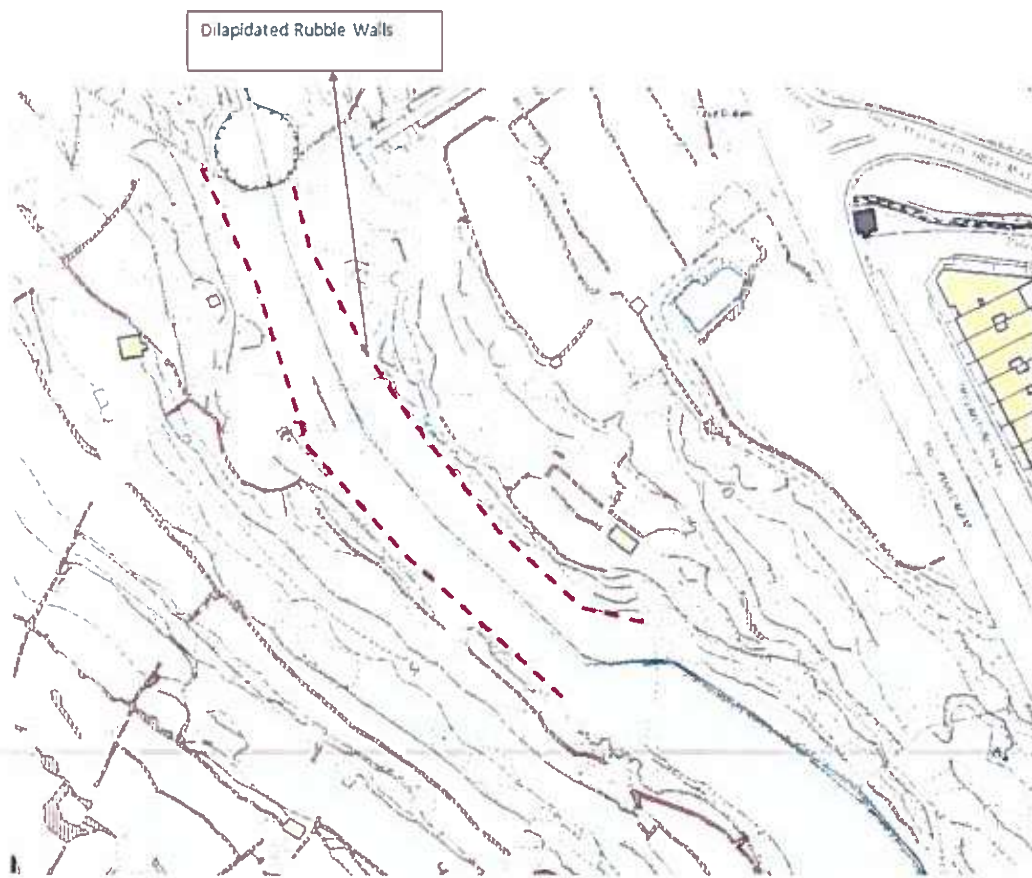
## 1. Objective

This plan is being put forward by the Valley Management (Ambjent Malta). This proposal aims to implement interventions at Wied Dalam, limits of Birżebbuġa in connection with Nature Permit 0300/19 and involve the restoration of dilapidated rubble walls.

## 2. Area of intervention

Figure 1: Wied Dalam Project Area





### 3. Background

The area of works (AoW) is managed by Heritage Malta and forms part of Wied Dalam rainwater catchment that flows into Saint George's Bay in Birżebbuġa. Valley rehabilitation interventions, namely the removal of *Arundo donax* is currently being carried out by Ambjent Malta as part of NP 0300/19. The removal of dense reeds stands exposed damaged rubble walls that line the valley bed on both sides.

Part of the AoW falls within the buffer area of Għar Dalam SAC N2000 Site. Għar Dalam cave is a highly important site for its palaeontological, archaeological and ecological value. It forms part of the N2000 Network and is scheduled as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as it serves as a habitat for a small population of endemic cave woodlouse (*Armadillidium ghardalamensis*) and a roosting site for the Lesser Horse—shoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*). The valley is scheduled as an Area of Ecological Importance (AEI) and is mostly dominated by dense stands of *Arundo donax*. Patches of Arborescent Matorral habitats dominated by *Ceratonia siliqua* trees are also found. The valley bed has been altered with a concrete channel that houses Enemed fuel pipes that extend from the Wied Dalam down to Birżebbuġa. Other land uses in the area include a Heritage Malta Museum for Għar Dalam Cave; agricultural land and small apiculture activities. Most agricultural land has long been abandoned, replaced with wild species representative of the past use of the valley. There have been reports of grazing occurring within the valley, and representative weed communities of unpalatable

species confirm this. There is also some evidence of hunting in scattered locations across the valley, however the extent is relatively low. Very little evidence of littering was observed; this can be an attribute of the relative inaccessible nature of the site.

Recent management interventions were carried out by Heritage Malta and Ambjent Malta that involve the manual removal of extensive *Opuntia ficus-indica* and *Arundo donax* specimen to clear the path to allow educational walks across the valley and to extend archaeological surveys of the area outside the cave.

#### **4. Area specific Methodology**

The restoration of rubble walls at Wied Dalam will be carried out before the planting of indigenous trees and shrubs as listed in NP 0300/19. This will reduce soil erosion and potential trampling of new plantings.

The rubble wall shall be as much as possible built on the same structure of the existing walls. The walls will be with stones found in the valley bed and a traditional method will be adopted where:

- The largest stones will be placed at the bottom apart from franka stones (ktajjen) which will be strategically placed in the structure to strengthen and consolidate the wall
- The inside spaces between the outer layers of the wall will be filled with smaller stones (mazkan) <sup>مذكان</sup>
- The rubble wall will be tilted inwards from bottom to top <sup>مائل</sup>
- No cement or any other material will be used to consolidate the stones.
- The width and height of the rubble walls will be as original walls found on site.
- No further excavations will be required as the same foundations of the original walls will be used.

#### **After-Project Maintenance**

Heritage Malta will carry out other maintenance as needed and will contact Ambjent Malta for assistance when required.

#### **Access**

The AoW can only be accessed from two points (i) by foot from Għar Dalam Cave Museum and (ii) by foot and potential vehicular access from Enemed premises. Access (ii) will be used for the works.

*Fig. 1: Arundo donax removed as per NP 0300/19 and exposed dilapidated rubble walls*



*Fig. 2: Rubble stone collected from valley bed for re-use for rubble wall re-building*

