

**Nru. 797****No. 797****ATT DWAR IL-PROTEZZJONI TAL-AMBJENT  
(KAP. 549)****ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT  
(CAP. 549)****Regolament 17 tar-Regolamenti dwar il-Protezzjoni  
tal-Flora, Fawna u Ambjenti Naturali (L.S. 549.44)****Regulation 17 of the Flora, Fauna and Natural  
Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44)***Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni**Conservation Order*

L-AWTORITÀ għall-Ambjent u r-Riżorsi (l-ERA) hija tal-fehma li s-sit li ġej, jiġifieri:

THE Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) is of the opinion that the following site, meaning:

**Iċ-Ċittadella****Iċ-Ċittadella**

(kif indikat f'Tabella 1 f'paġna 21,858) huwa ta' importanza ekoloġika u xjentifika tant li s-sit kien ġie nominat bħala Zona Speċjali ta' Konservazzjoni ("SAC") ta' Importanza Internazzjonali (MT0000013) fl-2003 (Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern 877/03) u ġie inkluż fin-"Network" Natura 2000 tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

(as indicated in Figure 1 on page 21,858) is of ecological and scientific importance, so much so, that the site has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation ("SAC") of International Importance (MT0000013) in 2003 (Government Notice No. 877/03) and was included in the Natura 2000 "Network" of the European Union.

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-Flora, Fawna u Ambjenti Naturali (L.S.549.44), li permezz tiegħu tagħmel, fir-rigward ta' kwalunkwe sit fi hdan sit protett, Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni biex tikkontribwixxi lejn is-salvagwardja 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 fiżjografici, l-Awtorità b'dan qiegħda tohroġ Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni fir-rigward tas-sit msemmi hawn fuq.

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

**A. Importanza tas-Sit****A. Importance of the Site**

Iċ-Ċittadella hija monument nazzjonali li tiddomina l-pajsaġġ kulturali Għawdexi. Hija belt fortifikata, li tinsab fuq promontorju lejn iċ-ċentru ta' Għawdex. Il-ħitan tas-sur huma mibnija mill-ġebbla tal-franka lokali u għandhom influwenza marittima, li joffru ambjent simili bħal dak tas-sisien u l-irdumijiet. Iċ-Ċittadella tħaddan fiha ambjenti naturali importanti u speċi protetti li jinkludu:

Iċ-Ċittadella is a national monument that dominates the Gozitan cultural landscape. It is a fortified city, located towards the center of Gozo on a promontory. The bastion walls are constructed from local limestone and have a maritime influence, providing a rupestral habitat. Iċ-Ċittadella embraces important natural habitats and protected species including:

1. Il-kamumilla n-nana, *Chamomilla aurea* (= *Matricaria aurea*) (Ingliz: Rayless Mayweed)

1. Rayless Mayweed, *Chamomilla aurea* (= *Matricaria aurea*) (Maltese: Il-kamumilla n-nana)

2. Il-papoċċi ta' Malta, *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* (Ingliz: Maltese Toadflax)

2. Maltese Toadflax, *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* (Maltese: Il-papoċċi ta' Malta)

3. Il-gremxula ta' Malta, *Podarcis filfolensis* (Ingliz: Maltese Wall Lizard)

3. Maltese Wall Lizard, *Podarcis filfolensis* (Maltese: Il-gremxula ta' Malta)

4. Il-farfett il-lejl tan-nagħla ż-zgħira, *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Ingliz: Lesser Horseshoe Bat)

5. Il-farfett il-lejl widnet il-ġurdien, *Myotis punicus* (Ingliz: Maghrebian Mouse-Eared Bat)

6. Il-farfett il-lejl widnejh kbar, *Plecotus gaisleri* (Ingliz: Long-eared bat)

7. Il-farfett il-lejl tad-denb twil, *Tadarida teniotis* (Ingliz: European Free-Tailed Bat)

8. Il-pipistrell ta' Kuhl, *Pipistrellus kuhli* (Ingliz: Kuhl's Pipistrelle)

9. Il-pipistrell, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (Ingliz: Soprano Pipistrelle)

## B. L-Għanijiet tat-Tmexxija

1. L-għanijiet tat-tmexxija għas-sit huma:

a) Li jiġi żgurat li xogħol ta' kostruzzjoni u manutenzjoni jsiru f'armonija mal-bżonnijiet ta' konservazzjoni tan-natura tas-sit;

b) Li jiġi żgurat li t-turiżmu u avvenimenti kulturali jsiru f'armonija mal-bżonnijiet ta' konservazzjoni tas-sit;

c) Li jiġi żgurat li l-istruttura u l-funzjoni tal-ambjenti għal *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* jkunu miżmuma;

d) Li jiżdied in-numru ta' siti stabbiliti fejn jgħixu l-friefet il-lejl ("roosting sites") u li jiġi kkonservat l-ambjent li fih jgħix ("roosting habitat") *Rhinolophus hipposideros*;

e) Li fi hdan is-sit jittegħeġ biex jiġu stabbiliti postijiet fejn fihom jgħix ("roosts") *Myotis punicus* u li jiġi kkonservat il-potenzjal tal-ambjent li fih jgħix ("roosting habitat");

f) Li jiġi żgurat li jinżammu l-postijiet li fihom ifittxu l-ikel *Rhinolophus hipposideros* u *Myotis punicus*;

g) Li popolazzjonijiet tal-ispeċi ta' flora u fauna protetti preżenti fis-sit jinżammu b'saħħithom;

h) Li jiġi żgurat li l-attivitajiet fis-sit ikunu regolati.

2. Is-sit irid ikompli jitmexxa, bl-iskop li iċ-Ċittadella tiġi restawrata u miżmuma għall-importanza tal-wirt kulturali u tal-pajsaġġ tagħha.

3. Il-manutenzjoni u t-tmexxija taċ-Ċittadella jibqgħu responsabbiltà tal-Gvern, jiġifieri tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex

4. Lesser Horseshoe Bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Maltese: Il-farfett il-lejl tan-nagħla ż-zgħira)

5. Maghrebian Mouse-Eared Bat, *Myotis punicus* (Maltese: Il-farfett il-lejl widnet il-ġurdien)

6. Long-eared bat, *Plecotus gaisleri* (Maltese: Il-farfett il-lejl widnejh kbar)

7. European Free-Tailed Bat, *Tadarida teniotis* (Maltese: Il-farfett il-lejl tad-denb twil)

8. Kuhl's Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus kuhli* (Maltese: Il-pipistrell ta' Kuhl)

9. Soprano Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (Maltese: Il-pipistrell)

## B. Management Objectives

1. The management objectives for the site are the following:

a) To ensure that construction and maintenance work is carried out in harmony with the site's nature conservation needs;

b) To ensure that tourism and cultural events take place in harmony with the site's conservation needs;

c) To ensure that the structures and functions of the environments for *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* are maintained;

d) To increase the number of established roosting sites and to conserve the roosting habitat for *Rhinolophus hipposideros*;

e) To encourage the establishment of *Myotis punicus* roosts within the site and to conserve the potential for roosting habitat;

f) To ensure that foraging grounds for *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and *Myotis punicus* are maintained;

g) To maintain healthy populations of protected species of flora and fauna that are present in the site;

h) To ensure that the activities on site are regulated.

2. This site must continue to be managed, with the aim that iċ-Ċittadella is restored and maintained for the importance of its cultural heritage and landscape.

3. The maintenance and management of iċ-Ċittadella remain the responsibility of the Government, namely the

u l-Ippjanar (minn hawn 'il quddiem imsemmi bhala l-“maniger tas-sit”).

4. Il-maniger tas-sit għandu jikkonsulta mal-ERA rigward kwalunkwe attività jew intervent f'partijiet tal-fortifikazzjonijiet li fuqhom jiddependu popolazzjonijiet ta' speċi protetti permezz tar-Regolamenti dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Flora, Fawna u Ambjenti Naturali (L.S. 549.44), inklużi *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* kif ukoll ambjenti li fihom jgħixu l-friefet il-lejl (“roosting sites”) (ezistenti u potenzjali) u ma jsir l-ebda tip ta' xogħol fuq dawn il-partijiet taċ-Ċittadella qabel l-approvazzjoni tal-ERA.

Il-kundizzjonijiet u d-dispożizzjonijiet li ġejjin marbuta mal-Għanijiet tat-Tmexxija għandhom jiġu applikati fit-tmexxija u l-konservazzjoni taż-żona:

### C. Kunsiderazzjonijiet ekoloġiċi fil-manutenzjoni u r-restawr ta' elementi ta' wirt kulturali

1. Il-maniger tas-sit għandu jiżgura li kwalunkwe xogħlijiet ta' manutenzjoni, kostruzzjoni jew restawr tal-wirt kulturali li jsiru fiż-żoni fiċ-Ċittadella li fihom jgħixu speċi protetti għandhom jiġu segwiti u mmonitorjati minn ekoloġista.

2. Il-maniger tas-sit għandu jiżgura li l-ebda erbiċidi jew kimiċi oħra ma jintużaw waqt it-tneħħija ta' ħaxix ħażin (“weeds”) jew xogħlijiet ta' restawr fiċ-Ċittadella u b'mod partikolari fuq in-naħa ta' barra tas-swar u f'żoni li fihom jgħixu speċi protetti.

3. Il-kompożizzjoni u l-istruttura tal-paviment li fuqu tgħix *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* (ara Tabella 2 f'paġna 21,859) għandhom jiġu kkonservati għaż-żamma fit-tul (“long term”) tal-ispeċi.

4. Il-maniger tas-sit għandu jiżgura li kull sentejn isir stħarriġ dwar il-veġetazzjoni li tikber fuq is-swar. Kwalunkwe xogħlijiet immirati biex titneħħa veġetazzjoni li tikber fuq is-swar, li jistgħu jkunu meħtieġa fl-interess tal-konservazzjoni tal-wirt kulturali, għandhom isiru biss wara permess minghand l-ERA.

### D. Regolazzjoni tal-attivitajiet

1. Il-maniger tas-sit għandu jispezzjona s-sit fuq bażi regolari.

2. F'konformità mar-regolament C(2) t'hawn fuq, ma għandhom jintużaw ebda kimiċi fit-tneħħija ta' ħaxix ħażin (“weeds”) go l-“SAC” taċ-Ċittadella. Il-ħaxix ħażin fiż-żona li fiha tgħix *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* (ara Tabella 2 f'paġna 21,859) għandu jinqata' u jitneħħa bl-idejn fuq bażi regolari li tiżgura li l-popolazzjoni ta' *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* tibqa' teżisti.

Ministry for Gozo and Planning (hereinafter referred to as the “site manager”).

4. The site manager shall consult ERA regarding any activity or intervention in parts of the fortifications that support populations of protected species by virtue of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44), including *Linaria pseudolaxiflora*, as well as on the bat roosting sites (existing and potential) and no work of any kind shall be undertaken on these parts of iċ-Ċittadella prior to the approval of ERA.

The following conditions and provisions linked to Management Objectives are to be applied in the management and conservation of the area:

### C. Ecological considerations on maintenance and restoration of elements of cultural heritage

1. The site manager shall ensure that any maintenance, construction or restoration works of cultural heritage, that are carried out in the areas of iċ-Ċittadella supporting protected species, are followed and monitored by an ecologist.

2. The site manager shall ensure that no herbicides or other chemicals are used during the removal of weeds or restoration works within iċ-Ċittadella and in particular on the outer ramparts and in areas housing protected species.

3. The composition and structure of the pavement supporting *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* (see Figure 2 on page 21,859) shall be conserved for the long-term maintenance of the species.

4. The site manager shall ensure that a survey of the vegetation growing on the ramparts is carried out every two years. Any works aimed at the removal of such rupestral vegetation, which may be required in the interests of the conservation of the cultural heritage, shall only be carried out following permission from the ERA.

### D. Regulation of activities

1. The site manager shall inspect the site on a regular basis.

2. In accordance with the above regulation C(2), no chemicals shall be used in the removal of weeds in the “SAC” of iċ-Ċittadella. Weeds in the area housing *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* (see Figure 2 on page 21,859) shall be cut down and removed manually on a regular basis ensuring that the population of *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* is sustained.

3. Il-manijer tas-sit għandu jiżgura li jittiehdu kwalunkwe passi meħtieġa għall-ħarsien ta' *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* fiż-żona fiċ-Ċittadella li fiha tgħix (ara Tabella 2 f'paġna 21,859). Dan jinkludi l-bżonn li bejn il-ħmistax ta' Jannar u l-ħmistax ta' Mejju ta' kull sena, iż-żona tingħalaq, inparti jew kollha kemm hi, b'kurdun u jitpoġġew sinjali li jispegaw l-importanza tas-sit waqt avvenimenti jew attivitajiet nazzjonali li jiġbdu numru sinifikanti ta' nies lejn is-sit.

4. Għandu jkun hemm preżunzjoni kontra xogħlijiet li jistgħu jwasslu għal vibrazzjonijiet sinifikanti fiċ-Ċittadella u b'mod partikolari f'żoni li jintużaw mill-friefet il-lejl biex jgħixu fihom ("roosting sites").

5. L-użu ta' dwal qawwija direttament fuq l-entraturi tal-mini/xelters u passaġġi oħra taht l-art magħrufa jew li għandhom il-potenzjal li jintużaw mill-friefet il-lejl bħala postijiet fejn jgħixu ("roosting sites") (kif indikat f'Tabella 3 f'paġna 21,860) għandu jkun projbit. Il-provizzjoni ta' dawl permanenti f'dawn iż-żoni għandha tkun soġġetta għall-approvazzjoni mill-ERA. Id-dawl f'dawn iż-żoni ser ikun permess biss mill-ERA jekk ma jkunx mitfuh direttament fuq l-entraturi tal-postijiet fejn jgħixu l-friefet il-lejl ("roosting sites") u bi preżentazzjoni ta' evidenza ċara li kwalunkwe dawl ġdid ma jkunx ser jirriżulta f'qawwa ta' dawl akbar minn 1 Lux sa 10m bogħod mill-entratura tal-postijiet fejn jgħixu l-friefet il-lejl ("roosting sites").

6. Kwalunkwe attività li tinkludi l-użu ta' apparat jew speakers għall-mużika amplifikata fiż-żoni indikati f'Tabella 4 għandha tkun akkumpanjata minn monitoraġġ tal-ħoss u l-vibrazzjoni.

7. It-tkebbis ta' nirien huwa strettament ipprojbit fiż-żoni indikati f'Tabella 4 f'paġna 21,861).

8. Il-manijer tas-sit għandu jinstalla sinjali u tabelli ta' informazzjoni/interpretazzjoni li jippromwovu ċ-Ċittadella bħala parti min-"network" Natura 2000 tal-Gżejjer Maltin.

Jekk is-sit soġġett għal din l-Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni b'xi mod issirli l-ħsara jew jinbidel b'kontravvenzjoni ta' din l-Ordni jew l-istatus tiegħu bħala Zona Speċjali ta' Konservazzjoni/sit Natura 2000 jiġi b'xi mod ipperikolat, jew jekk kwalunkwe persuna twettaq attivitajiet jew azzjonijiet bi ksur tad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' din l-Ordni ta' Konservazzjoni, l-Awtorità għanda teżercita l-poteri ta' infurzar tagħha kif mogħti lilha fl-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Ambjent (Kap. 549).

In-Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern Nru. 1376 tal-2016 hija imħassra b'dan l-Ordni.

3. The site manager shall take all necessary steps for the protection of *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* in the area within iċ-Ċittadella where it is hosted (see Figure 2 on page 21,859). This includes the requirement that between the fifteenth of January and the fifteenth of May each year, the area is cordoned off, in part or in its entirety, and signage explaining the importance of the site is erected during national events or activities that attract a significant number of people to the site.

4. There shall be a presumption against works that may lead to significant vibrations within iċ-Ċittadella, and in particular, in areas used as bat roosting sites.

5. The use of bright lights shone directly on the entrances of tunnels/shelters and other underground passages known or that have the potential to be used by bats as roosting sites (as indicated in Figure 3 on page 21,860) shall be prohibited. The provision of permanent lighting in these areas shall be subject to approval by ERA. Light in these areas will only be allowed by ERA if it is not lit directly on the entrances of the bat roosting sites and with the presentation of clear evidence that any new light will not result in a power of light greater than 1 Lux up to 10m away from the entrance of the bat roosting sites.

6. Any activity which includes the use of devices or speakers for amplified music in the area indicated in Figure 4 shall be accompanied by noise and vibration monitoring.

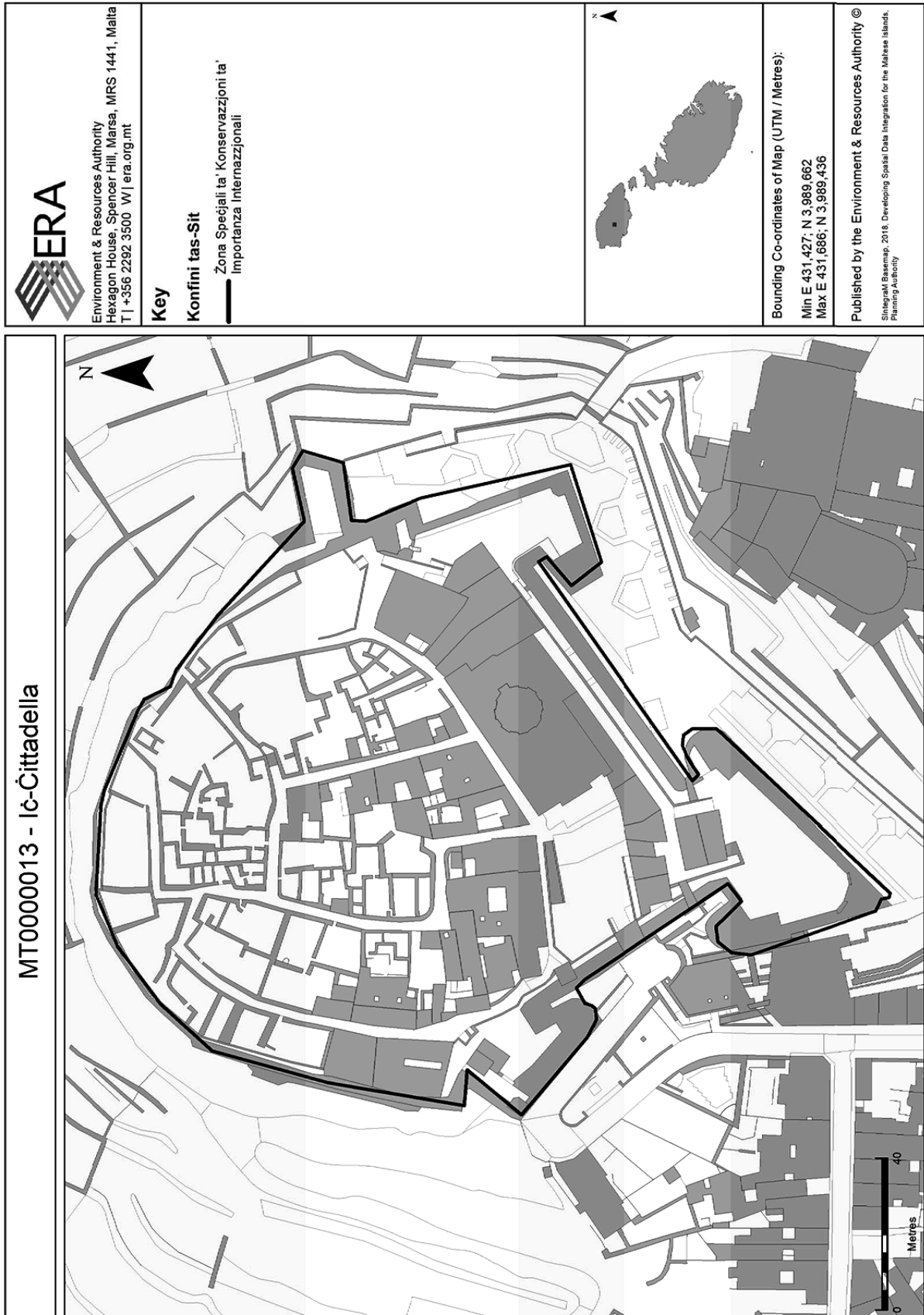
7. The lighting of fires is strictly prohibited in the areas indicated in Figure 4 on page 21,861).

8. The site manager shall install signs and information/interpretation boards that promote iċ-Ċittadella as part of the Natura 2000 network of the Maltese Islands.

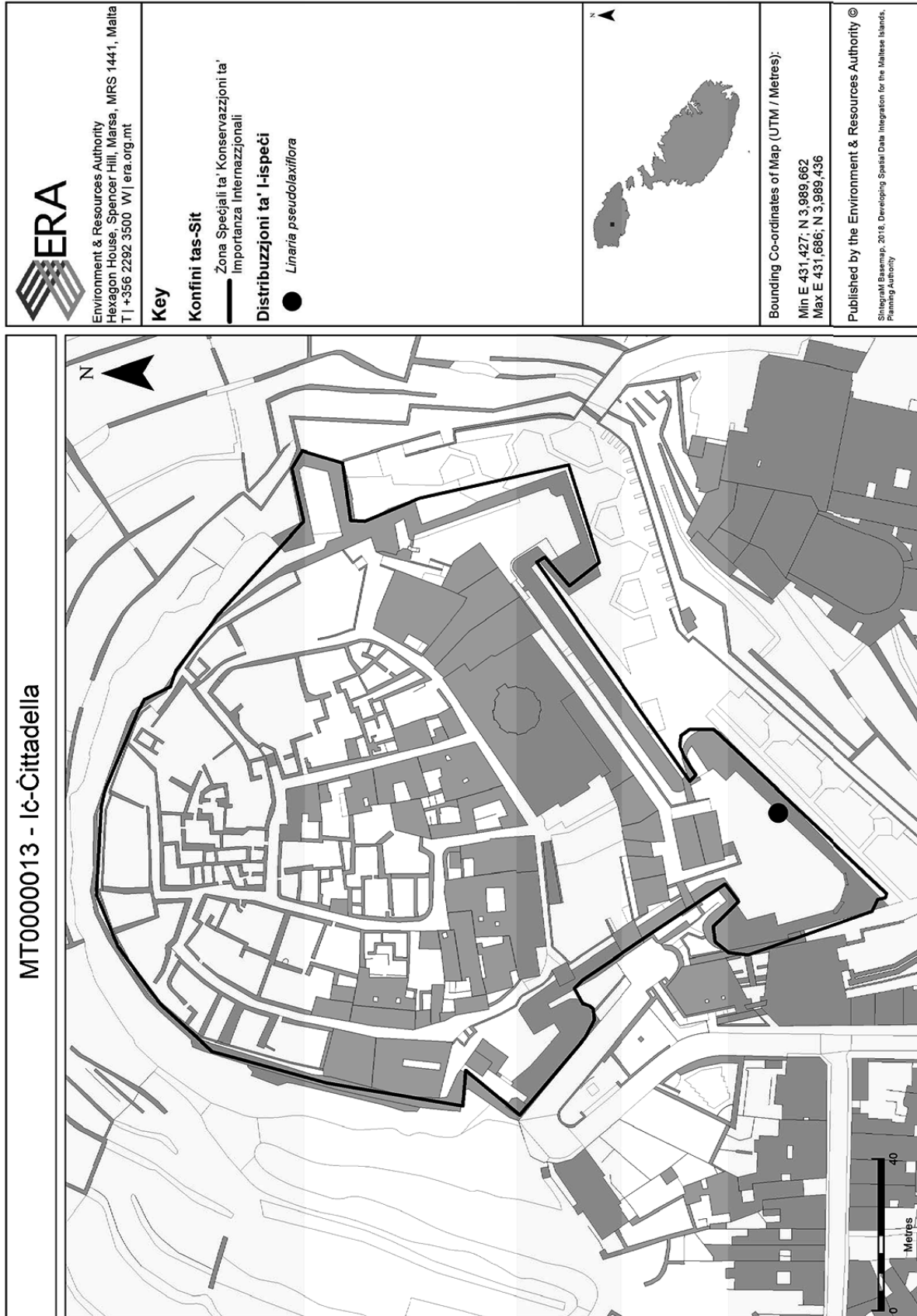
If the site subject to this Conservation Order is in any way damaged or altered in contravention of this Order or its status as a Special Area of Conservation/Natura 2000 site is in any way jeopardised, or if any person carries out activities or actions in breach of the provisions of this Conservation Order, the Authority shall exercise its enforcement powers as specified in the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549).

Government Notice No. 1376 of 2016 is being repealed by virtue of this Order.

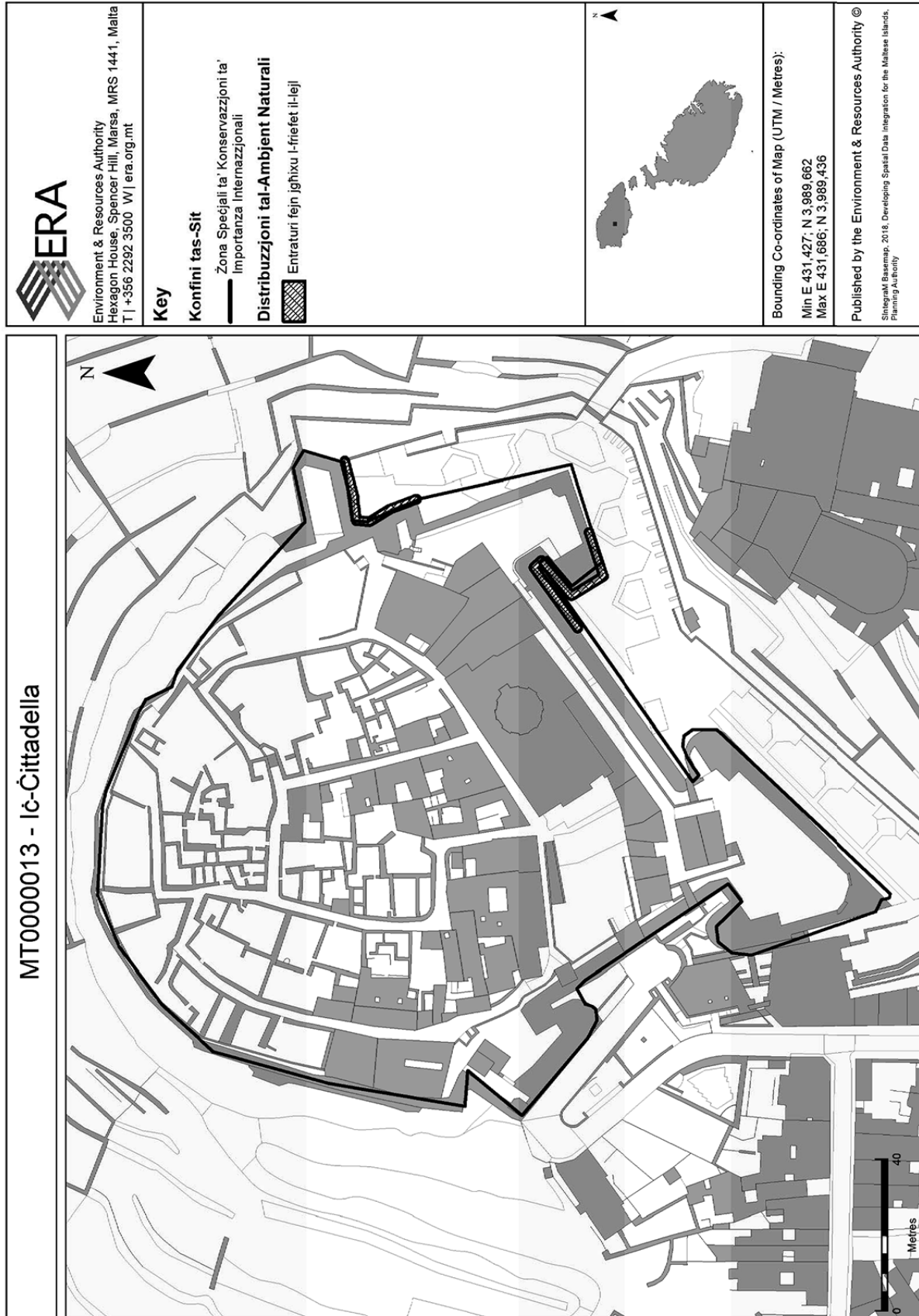
**Tabella 1: Post fejn tinsab Iċ-Ċittadella**  
**Figure 1: Site where iċ-Ċittadella is found**



**Tabella 2: Sit fejn tinsab il-popolazzjoni tal-*Linaria pseudolaxiflora* fiċ-Ċittadella**  
**Figure 2: Site where the population of *Linaria pseudolaxiflora* within iċ-Ċittadella is found**



**Tabella 3: Siti fejn jinsabu l-entraturi fejn jghixu l-friefet il-lejl (“roosting sites”)**  
**Figure 3: Site of the entrances of where the bats live (“roosting sites”)**



**Tabella 4: Żoni b'restrizzjonijiet skont ir-regolamenti 6 u 7 fit-Taqsima D**  
**Figure 4: Areas with restrictions as per regulations 6 and 7 in Section D**

