Safeguarding our Past, Enriching our Future

A New Vision for Gibraltar's Heritage

Heritage is the cultural legacy which we receive from the past, which we live in the present and which we will pass on to future generations

UNESCO 2022

HM Government of Gibraltar
Ministry for Heritage

Gorham's Cave Complex – Gibraltar's UNESCO World Heritage Site - inscribed in 2016 as a unique testimony to the Neanderthals.

Foreword

Gibraltar has a rich and unique heritage. It is of international significance, as recognition by UNESCO of our World Heritage Site shows. Gibraltar's heritage is vital in defining our identity. It is a reference point in times of change; it helps us understand where we have come from, where we are going, and why we do things in the way that we do. Heritage touches all our lives.

Our world is dynamic and changing all the time. Where we live is the result of the interaction between us and the natural environment through time; it is the product of change. We should not stifle change. It is how we manage it which is crucial.

This document will set out the Government's Vision for the protection of Gibraltar's heritage. It aims to refresh the approach to looking after our cultural and natural heritage, for the benefit and wellbeing of all. It sets out a philosophy for integrated heritage conservation management as mainstream policy; a policy based on understanding and public participation.

People are at the heart of the vision. It is about ourselves and how we see the future, one in which heritage plays a key role in promoting and safeguarding our identity.

The Honourable Professor John Cortes MBE MP

Minister for the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change, Education, Heritage and Culture

18th April 2023

World Heritage Day

Our Vision

Gibraltar, Gibraltarian culture and heritage are very special, in a number of cases, unique in the world. We, the Gibraltarians, are all guardians of this legacy.

Our Vision is that the heritage of Gibraltar should be fully protected, understood and valued, and should enhance the quality of life of individuals and of the community as a whole.

Our heritage should not be seen as a barrier or a burden. It is, instead, essential to our quality of life. It is our intention that heritage will be a key driver of sustainable change, economic diversification and public benefit. The most valuable artefacts, buildings, traditions, and places which have meaning to our society, and which reflect our distinctive history and identity, will be cherished and protected.

We recognise the importance of knowing what our heritage assets are, and of making that knowledge accessible to the whole community and the wider world. Understanding and sensitive transparent conservation management will enable desirable change without risking the loss of the heritage which we value. It will help create an environment that is beneficial to all.

We believe that it is essential to place people at the centre of heritage conservation in Gibraltar. Good conservation management and the protection of our heritage will bring the Gibraltar community together under a common aim, reinforcing cultural distinctiveness, identity, social inclusion, and wellbeing, and supporting sustainable development.

What is Heritage? Why does it matter?

Heritage is multi-dimensional and is not only reflected in our relationship with physical remains, but also in our emotional and aesthetic responses and on the power of memory and place, as well as the wider history and its associations.

Culture is the embodiment of customs, beliefs and ways of doing things that define human societies and cultural heritage is our inheritance. It is the tangible and intangible evidence of past communities that we value for reasons beyond mere utility. Culture makes, and is made by, people. Culture and heritage are what make life meaningful.

Heritage includes tangible material culture (buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, maps, illustrations, documents and records, works of art, and artefacts), intangible culture (folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge), and 'natural' heritage, (including culturally-significant landscapes and biodiversity).

In combination, heritage includes places and habitats, sites, natural features and buildings, objects, written records, works of art, social and cultural traditions. It is everything, physical and imaginative, about the place in which we live.

Gibraltar is steeped in layers of history that reflect the peoples who have passed and settled on the Rock. Gibraltar's heritage starts with the geology of the Rock itself, and the animals and plants that have lived here including the Neanderthals who sought shelter in the caves and hunted for their food around the Rock. There is no end point to heritage; yesterday's activities and actions will form the heritage of future generations.

Heritage provides us with a unique source of information – and inspiration – about our history and identity. It offers a unique way of understanding who we are and where we came from. It also offers a solid platform for the future directions that we will map for ourselves and our families.

Each past generation has left its mark, making decisions about the future in the context of what had been inherited. Once lost, that context cannot be replaced. Without the perspective of our heritage our lives lose meaning and richness. We, the current generation of Gibraltarians, are the trustees of this heritage. It is the wealth that we share and hand on to our children and grandchildren.

Achieving our Vision

Achieving our Vision will require a focused approach, a clarity of purpose and determination. Gibraltar is a small place with limited human and financial resources. We need to maximise both in integrated management - joined-up thinking and joined-up actions for the benefit of all.

The sustainable management of heritage could – and should – provide opportunities for economic benefits. But in addition, it should also help to create an environment that can holistically support both social cohesion and individuals' physical, mental, emotional, social, cultural, spiritual and economic needs, so that they can achieve their potential.

Promoting sustainable development and wellbeing, with people at the heart of policy, and heritage management as mainstream policy, will bring benefits beyond simple financial reward.

We aim to:

A. Provide effective and firm leadership, and champion Gibraltar's unique historic environment and heritage locally and beyond our borders.
B. Identify and protect Gibraltar's distinctive tangible and intangible cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations through effective community stewardship.
C. Promote knowledge, understanding and access to our heritage for the whole community to ensure that Gibraltar's history and heritage is understood, valued and enjoyed.
D. Exploit our unique heritage to ensure individual wellbeing and promote community identity and cohesion.
E. Use heritage as a key driver for sustainable change, and develop policy and practice based on sound understanding of the power and significance of our heritage.
F. Harness the potential of our unique legacy sensitively and sympathetically as an economic asset for the benefit of the whole community.

We will set down in detail how we propose to carry out our stewardship role in a clear, realistic, achievable and measurable five-year plan, which will be subject to public consultation before we implement it.

The next sections outline our philosophy and approach to key elements of successfully managing change, and set some specific outcomes that Government wishes to see. These will guide the formulation of the five-year Management Plan for Gibraltar's Heritage – safeguarding our past to enrich our future.

A Effective leadership for championing our heritage

Government recognises the public interest in heritage and in our historic environment – the quality of where we live is important to all residents. Government also recognises the importance of consistent and committed management of the heritage and environment across all policy areas - joined-up thinking and solid partnerships, based on a clear vision for Gibraltar's future.

Heritage is not a barrier or a burden. It is essential to our quality of life. There is a direct link between global environmental protection, energy conservation and the type of measures which are appropriate to use in enhancing and maintaining the built historic environment. Heritage provides opportunities for Gibraltar and the Gibraltarians, but in order to take these Government will provide a sound conservation and management framework and a consistent, integrated, approach.

1. The Ministry for Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change, Heritage and Culture (The Ministry) will be the lead ministry and will be responsible for ensuring the consistent and integrated approach across all relevant policy areas including economic development, tourism, education, housing, planning and development and environment. Sustainable heritage management will be mainstream policy.
2. The role and function of The Ministry will be clearly defined and will be regularly reviewed and assessed in order to ensure fitness-for-purpose with regard to all heritage matters.
3. The Ministry will set out its long-term ambitions and medium-term approaches in a transparent, publicly-available, consolidated Heritage Management Plan, which will be a dynamic 'living' document, reviewed formally every five years. The Plan will be people-centred, and inclusive in approach. It will promote sustainability and will be adopted as practice by all relevant department and organisations.
4. The Government is conscious of the added benefits of co-operative ventures to enable the sharing and optimal use of resources, whether human, material, informational or financial, particularly within the heritage sector, but also between the heritage sector and other sectors such as tourism. The Ministry will therefore develop and implement a medium-term strategy to ensure effective working relationships and partnerships on heritage matters:
    a. within and between Government Departments;
    b. within and between Governmental and non-Governmental organisations in the heritage sector;
    c. between the heritage sector and all related sectors; and
    d. between the whole heritage sector and the people of Gibraltar.
5. The strategy will include the provision of training and information to all relevant departments or organisations, and access to its Historic Environment Record. The Historic Environment Record will, for example, be used as a crucial tool in the planning process and in education at all levels. The strategy may also consider regular routine meetings, digital updates or other communication media.

The entrance to No 6 is the 18th-century guard house for the former Convent of St Francis which became the official residence for the Governor of Gibraltar in 1728.

6. Government will continue to core fund the key heritage departments and organisations: the heritage section of The Ministry, the Gibraltar National Museum and World Heritage Office, the Gibraltar National Archives, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and the Garrison Library. Active co-operation, the best use of resources, and consistent policy and process implementation will be promoted.
7. Government recognises the need to maintain a core of properly qualified and experienced heritage staff. Government will ensure its professional staff have access to appropriate training and professional development wherever required.
8. Government will also seek to increase local expertise and capacity through initiatives such as apprenticeships or internships, and by working with the Gibraltar College and University of Gibraltar to provide appropriate conservation management or similar courses in partnership with other institutions.
9. Government will lead by example in managing its own heritage assets to the highest practicable level in line with current conservation practice. Government will also work with The Ministry of Defence to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach.

During the construction of the new Sports Stadium at Europa Point, Government commissioned the Gibraltar National Museum to carry out an archaeological watching brief in order to ensure all heritage features were either preserved or fully recorded. A planning condition made sure that a WWII Pillbox (centre) was preserved *in situ*, and it is now located in its own room next to the main Sports Hall. Along the scheduled defensive wall – now a public walkway round the south side of the Stadium - the archaeological work revealed the 18th-, 19th- and early 20th-century gun positions from the 1st Europa Battery (below), and recorded the WWII bunker built into the defensive wall.

B Stewardship: identifying and protecting our heritage

Stewardship is about caring for those things that we regard as being of value and worthy of our efforts to preserve them for future generations. We are all collectively responsible for the stewardship of our heritage and we should all be champions in its protection, but Government carries the responsibility for ensuring a sound framework and leading by example.

To make sensible, objective and justifiable decisions about our heritage, we need to understand what it is, where it is, how significant it is and what issues and vulnerabilities may affect it. Understanding is the key to the effective, sustainable management. Good conservation management is about managing change well.

10. Stewardship of our heritage will form part of mainstream Government policy. Heritage champions will be appointed in every relevant department who will be supported by the Ministry for Heritage.

11. The Ministry will produce state-of-the-heritage reports to encompass the whole of Gibraltar on behalf of Government every five years. Indicators of threat, condition and cultural, economic and social value will be developed, based on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and used to measure impact and progress.

12. Sound policy-making depends on sound evidence, hence Government will continue to provide resources for maintaining and developing its Heritage Environment Record database (HER). The record will include changes to any heritage asset.

13. Government will also encourage, and provide funds as far as practicable, for applied research into aspects of Gibraltar's heritage and the management of that heritage. The Government will actively promote a co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to heritage research within its own institutions and across the sector to ensure the identification of needs, the establishment of priorities and the avoidance of duplication.

14. Significance is at the heart of all heritage considerations. 'Significance' embraces the sum of all the heritage values attached to a place, whether an artefact, a building, an archaeological site, a tunnel or a cave. It can include evidential, historic, scientific, social, spiritual, cultural and aesthetic values. The significance of any heritage element may change with time or as a result of new information, and it will have different meanings to different people. The Ministry will identify a set of heritage conservation principles appropriate to Gibraltar which articulate significance clearly and pragmatically. The Government will therefore promote and encourage research that clarifies the significance of Gibraltar's heritage taking into account the different values and meanings that heritage has for individuals and groups in our diverse population. Public participation will need to be at the heart of such research.

15. In order to retain significance, the approach to change advocated in this document must be cautious. Change that reduces significance should be avoided and reversibility alone is not a sound argument. Conservation based on understanding the heritage is the key to

maintaining significance. The Gibraltar-specific conservation principles and standards developed by the Ministry will therefore be applied to protect the significant heritage of Gibraltar.

The restored later 19th-century lime kiln in Willis's Road. It is one of two such kilns located on either side of Gibraltar's Western and Eastern slopes producing quicklime used in the construction of Gibraltar's underground reservoirs and water catchments carried out during the late 19th Century and early 20th Century.

16. Culture and traditions are the basis of a people's identity. The loss of traditions, including skills, crafts, ideas and language, in the modern world is a source of concern. The Government will support projects that ensure that knowledge and understanding of traditions, customs or skills are not lost but are passed on to future generations.

17. The Government implemented new legislation in 2018 that aims to meet the highest international standards of heritage protection. The protection of heritage assets will be extended to include a wider range of Gibraltar's heritage, such as good representative examples of vernacular or colonial or historical architecture or conservation areas. The legislation will be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure that it is effective and appropriate, that it is kept up-to-date with developments in the field of heritage conservation and that relevant international obligations are fully met.

18. The Government undertakes to fund projects, as practically possible, that conserve and enhance Gibraltar's heritage for the benefit of the public. It will also aim to provide financial support and incentives that will assist in the implementation of new statutory duties for the care of heritage assets outside of Government's stewardship.

19. The Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018 sets down heritage and archaeological assets (assets both listed in the Schedules of the Act and not listed) as material considerations in the Planning Process. The Planning Process is crucial in good heritage management. The

Ministry and other heritage institutions will work in partnership with the Planning Department to ensure that all developers, individuals or organisations, understand the importance of early consultation with its professionals at the planning or due diligence stage of projects. In this way significant heritage assets may be better protected, but opportunities may also arise to enhance or utilise the heritage assets, balancing the needs of the present with conserving the unique qualities of our heritage. The Ministry will also assist in ensuring the new Gibraltar Development Plan reflects the mainstream policy of heritage conservation.

20. Government will encourage the development of practical, fit-for-purpose management statements and plans for public and private heritage assets, and will provide assistance to the public and private organisations or individuals to develop such plans.

Nun's Well, Europa Flats, now open to the public. An underground reservoir thought to date to the medieval, Moorish period, though it may be earlier; it is the earliest structure linked to water supply in Gibraltar. Its interior is whitewashed with lime.

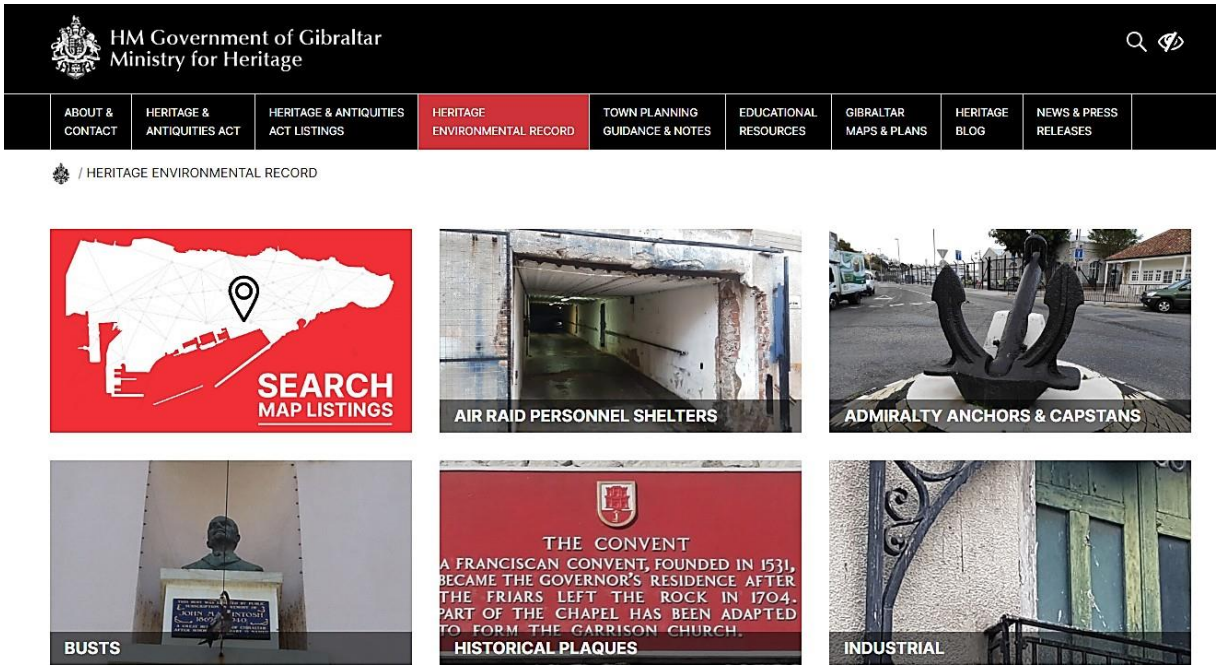
C Knowledge, understanding and access – community engagement

Understanding relies on formal and informal 'education' at all levels. Knowing about local heritage and history (as well as international issues), traditions and culture is crucial to identity and to stewardship. Knowledge encourages pride of place, and empowers individuals and the community to enjoy and protect what is important.

21. Formal and informal lifelong learning about Gibraltar's heritage will be encouraged and supported.
22. The Government is committed to promoting the maximum heritage education within the school curriculum and to providing the necessary resources for this purpose. Whilst the wider international context is important, Government will facilitate the development of courses about local heritage and distinctiveness including language at all levels.
23. Government will encourage the necessary conditions to enable everyone to recognise and identify with the value of their heritage, to feel responsible for its conservation and to learn ways of participating in its protection and promotion.
24. Education in traditional practical skills, as well as innovative approaches, will be encouraged. Archaeology, for example, can be used as a useful tool to teach science, numeracy, literacy, history and art. Collaborative initiatives between the heritage sector and educational institutions will be supported.
25. Vocational and voluntary sector training for projects related to heritage will be given a high priority; public sector involvement and private sector investment will be encouraged. The development of information technology skills related to heritage will be given high priority.

Perspective of Gibraltar in 1608 by the Spanish Engineer, Cristobal Rojas. There is an incredible wealth of documentary and cartographic information about Gibraltar's heritage.

26. The Ministry's HER database will be publicly-accessible as a key educational resource and kept up to date. Government will continue to make available the resources of the Gibraltar National Archives and the Gibraltar National Museum to all sectors for individual research and education.
27. The Gibraltar National Museum will continue to be developed as the interpretation centre of Gibraltar's heritage for the benefit of local residents and visitors. The development of access strategies will be a major element of museum policy.
28. Government will encourage the facilitation of physical access to suitable heritage facilities provided such access does not cause damage and will seek to ensure that sound information is provided. Government will also promote improved access to heritage information, in particular through the use of the electronic media.
29. Government will provide support for digital and traditional publications on heritage, including planning-related archaeological discoveries, social and cultural heritage research. The promotion of Gibraltar's heritage, locally and abroad, through the media and the internet will be a prime task.



The Heritage Environmental Record contains a wealth of information about Gibraltar's cultural legacy and new resources are added all the time (Ministry for Heritage, https://www.ministryforheritage.gi/). It is one of the network of heritage websites, alongside those of the Garrison Library, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, the Gibraltar National Archives and the Gibraltar National Museum

D Community identity and wellbeing

The people of Gibraltar are at the heart of this Vision. 'Wellbeing' is about individuals and the creation of an enabling environment that can holistically support their physical, mental, emotional, social, cultural, spiritual and economic needs, so that they can achieve their potential. A focus on wellbeing demands a grassroots approach – which Government will adopt – taking people's opinions into account. The preservation of identity is a paramount consideration. Heritage provides a framework for this identity and facilitates social cohesion.

The physical environment is also crucial in the health and wellbeing of the community. Awareness, involvement, access and quality of life are of vital importance in promoting a sense of belonging. Quality urban renewal and environmental enhancement are important factors.

30. The quality of life of the citizen is a paramount concern and the Government recognises that every citizen should have the opportunity to participate in the heritage of Gibraltar. Social, cultural and spiritual tolerance characterise the Gibraltarians and Gibraltar's heritage includes the heritage of minority groups. Sharing cultural assets can also help strengthen identity, of the whole community or minority or disadvantaged groups, by developing new connections and new interests and experiences. Government will promote a policy of equal opportunity that will encourage participation at all levels.

31. Heritage is often perceived to be a brake on development and prosperity, being anti-development and preventing segments of the world from being a part of modern society. The positive role of heritage in the social and economic life of the community will be promoted through developments and actions that produce tangible results.

32. Active participation brings physical and mental benefits, and the Government will encourage the use of cultural heritage assets by the sector and others – places, objects, traditions, memories – to bring people together for therapeutic, learning or social purposes. Projects, for example archaeological exploration, which aim to help with rehabilitation or the development of new physical or practical skills will be encouraged.

33. Volunteering can be a positive process that helps individual and community wellbeing extensively. But heritage can be perceived as elitist. The development of volunteering schemes on heritage which break this mould and use innovative forms of interpretation and participation will be actively welcomed.

34. Participatory projects which help in recording and managing the distinctive Gibraltarian identity and history will be especially supported. Examples could include projects which seek to record the buildings of Gibraltar and publish the discoveries, or partnership projects to repair and make heritage structures accessible, or virtual museums of Gibraltarian objects and culture which can be curated by the community. Innovative schemes such as the Heritage Trust's Painting competition will be encouraged.

Witham's Cemetery, restored by volunteers from the Gibraltar Heritage Trust

35. Access to information in the Garrison Library, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, the Gibraltar National Archives and the Gibraltar National Museum as well as the Ministry for Heritage's databases will continue to be made available, where possible, to all sectors of the community. The development of easy-access strategies will be a major element of all heritage organisations' policies.

36. Urban renewal is at the heart of the improvement of the quality of life of the citizens living in the historic quarter. The Government will encourage and provide incentives for the repair and re-use of abandoned and neglected buildings. Sustainable, environmentally-sensitive development projects involving heritage that make a substantial contribution to the quality of life of the citizen, will be encouraged.

E The key driver for sustainable change

Good heritage conservation management is about the appropriate and sustainable management of change. Conservation management is not a barrier to change but a tool to achieve outcomes which are good for today and good for tomorrow. Heritage conservation is part of a strategy for using and re-using existing resources and contributing to 'zero waste' and circular economy policies. Sustainability is imperative for future generations and for the planet.

The protection, conservation, and management of heritage will be a priority component of town planning and urban renewal and development plans. Heritage is a valuable resource and should be used as a vehicle to rethink and drive sustainable development – not least to retain and promote the distinctive local culture. Urban renewal is at the heart of the improvement of the quality of life of the citizens living in the historic quarter.

37. The Government aims to promote and facilitate the re-use, rehabilitation, restoration, and regeneration of existing buildings, and protect green and public spaces, and neighbourhoods.

38. The adaptive reuse, continued use and maintenance of older buildings will be an essential policy in the construction sector. Total demolition of historical buildings or structures, whether listed in the Heritage and Antiquities Act 2018 or not, will not normally be permitted. This is a means of avoiding or reducing consumption of new building materials, and of conserving and recycling the embodied energy of existing buildings, while respecting the structural integrity of buildings that were not designed to be dismantled or extended. Therefore, the argument that demolition of a historic building is justified because redevelopment is more economically rewarding than repair is not considered valid. Demolition of significant heritage will be considered unacceptable.

39. Maintenance is crucial for conservation. It is the supreme principle of preservation and includes all measures that prevent further decay. Traditional skills and proven and tested methods are always to be used. Falsifying character is always to be avoided and the value of time recognised. Repair and maintenance also generate more employment than new build. Maintenance programmes will be carried out for heritage in the public domain and will be encouraged for heritage under private ownership.

40. Traditional methods and materials will be preferred in the conservation of the heritage. Modern technology will only be used when traditional repairs cannot remedy the cause of damage or when it guarantees greater success in the preservation of the historic fabric. All available knowledge and skills will be brought to bear in the conservation process. Government will expect the construction sector to cooperate proactively in the reclamation and recycling of building materials and with the renewable energy industry in designing solutions and deploying energy infrastructures that do not negatively impact heritage places. Government will seek to set an example in the re-use of materials and

maintenance of its own buildings and spaces and will encourage private owners to ensure appropriate maintenance programmes are implemented.

41. To support this approach, Government will adopt the ICOMOS 2011 Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Villages, in order to then develop its own Gibraltar-relevant conservation principles. High quality design will be integral to this policy.

Demolition of the late 19th-century blast wall erected originally to protect the two huge historic water tanks on Europa Road in August 2021. The demolition was monitored by archaeologists from the Gibraltar National Museum, funded by the developer. The tanks themselves are to be preserved within The Reserve residential development and the demolition revealed the original limestone façade. The development will also re-use material from the catch pits in an iconic entrance and include information on the site's history for residents and visitors.

42. Conservation must always be the starting point when preserving heritage. Only when conservation measures are deemed insufficient to ensure preservation will restoration be considered. Restoration will only be acceptable and appropriate in cases where there is ample evidence of the earlier state of the heritage to be restored. In cases of heritage that has evolved with time and has several moments of significance, restoration to an arbitrary point will be considered undesirable and should be avoided.

43. Reconstruction will not be encouraged as it will not normally add to the authenticity of the heritage. Reconstruction should only proceed in very special circumstances in which it can be demonstrated that it will add value. Where reconstruction takes place the distinction between the original and the reconstructed should be clear and unambiguous.

44. The modification of heritage to suit an existing use or a new one should be avoided. Where necessary to guarantee the survival of the heritage it should involve minimal change to the significant fabric and should only be carried out after alternatives have been considered.

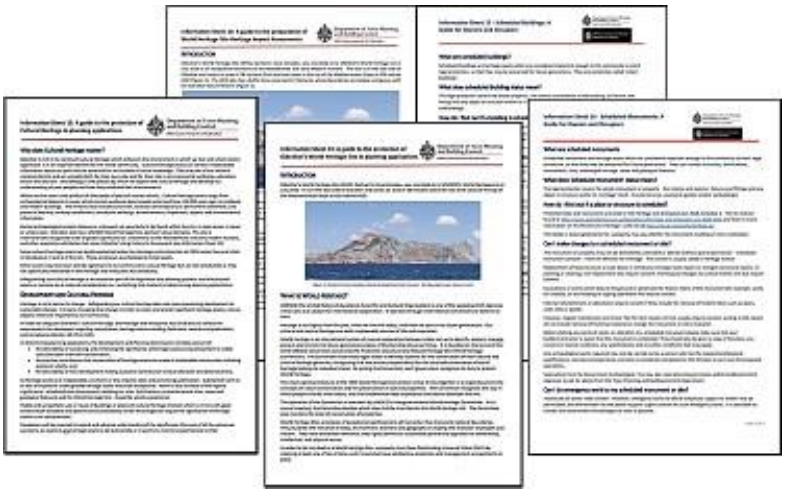
45. Additions to heritage may be exceptionally permitted, but only after it has been demonstrated that its significance will not be reduced or obscured as a result. In all cases new additions should be readily identifiable as such.

46. Government will promote the integration of creative, innovative solutions in heritage conservation and management processes, which respect the significance and integrity of heritage, safeguard continuity and memory, and ensure quality in contemporary design. Conservation-led regeneration can catalyse private sector investment. Partnerships that take the heritage into full account in developing urban regeneration schemes will be encouraged. High quality design is the key to the development of a rich heritage for the future and the planning system will promote good design and best practice in new architectural and landscape projects.

47. Managing change has a cost. It can also have significant benefits that can far outweigh the costs. In managing change and caring for the heritage, clarity of the costs and the benefits derived will be a prime consideration.

48. The HER database will be a key tool in managing the heritage, particularly in the planning process, and Government will ensure that work continues to develop and enhance the information base.

49. The Government will ensure that there is effective representation of heritage interests in the planning process and that these receive a high profile in keeping with the importance attached to the conservation of the heritage. That conservation will not be exclusive to the heritage asset itself but also to its context. The interrelationship of the combination of features that contextualize the heritage will be conserved where it is critical to the retention of its significance.



New guidance on Gibraltar's cultural heritage has been available since January on the Town Planning web site (https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/town-planning/planning-guidance). The guidance notes were developed by a team from Town Planning, the Ministry for Heritage and the World Heritage Office.

F Optimising economic potential

Heritage can and should make a positive and important contribution to the economy with consequent social benefits for the community. Care for our unique heritage will therefore form part of mainstream Government policy.

Its links with the tourism sector are particularly important as heritage constitutes by far the largest proportion of the tourism product. Gibraltar has many unique assets, not least Gorham's Cave Complex World Heritage Site, the unparalleled tunnels' network, the ubiquitous remains of 1,400 years of strategic military and naval history, and the attractive vernacular and colonial architecture of the Old Town. Gibraltar has much to offer in niche-market sustainable heritage tourism. Sympathetic and sustainable development along with sensitive, knowledge-based exploitation are the keys that will unlock this huge potential.

50. Tourism is a key facet of Gibraltar's economy and heritage is a key part of that tourism. Government will promote and manage tourism in ways that preserve the heritage resources as a fundamental asset of long-term tourism development.

51. Tourism can act as a catalyst in regeneration. In developing and promoting heritage for touristic purposes care has to be exercised on the potential impacts of visitor pressure on heritage sites. Visitor pressure on tourist sites will be monitored.

Parson's Lodge from the new promenade to Little Bay. The Victorian Battery is open to visitors on request and guided tours are provided by the Gibraltar National Museum.

52. Interpretation and access to existing heritage sites will be improved, and a distinctive 'Gibraltar Heritage' brand implemented. The highest quality of interpretation, with a strong emphasis on accuracy and authenticity, will be required from all sectors of the community involved in the projection of Gibraltar's heritage.

Gibraltar's Moorish Castle, one of the finest examples of Medieval Islamic fortifications in Iberia.

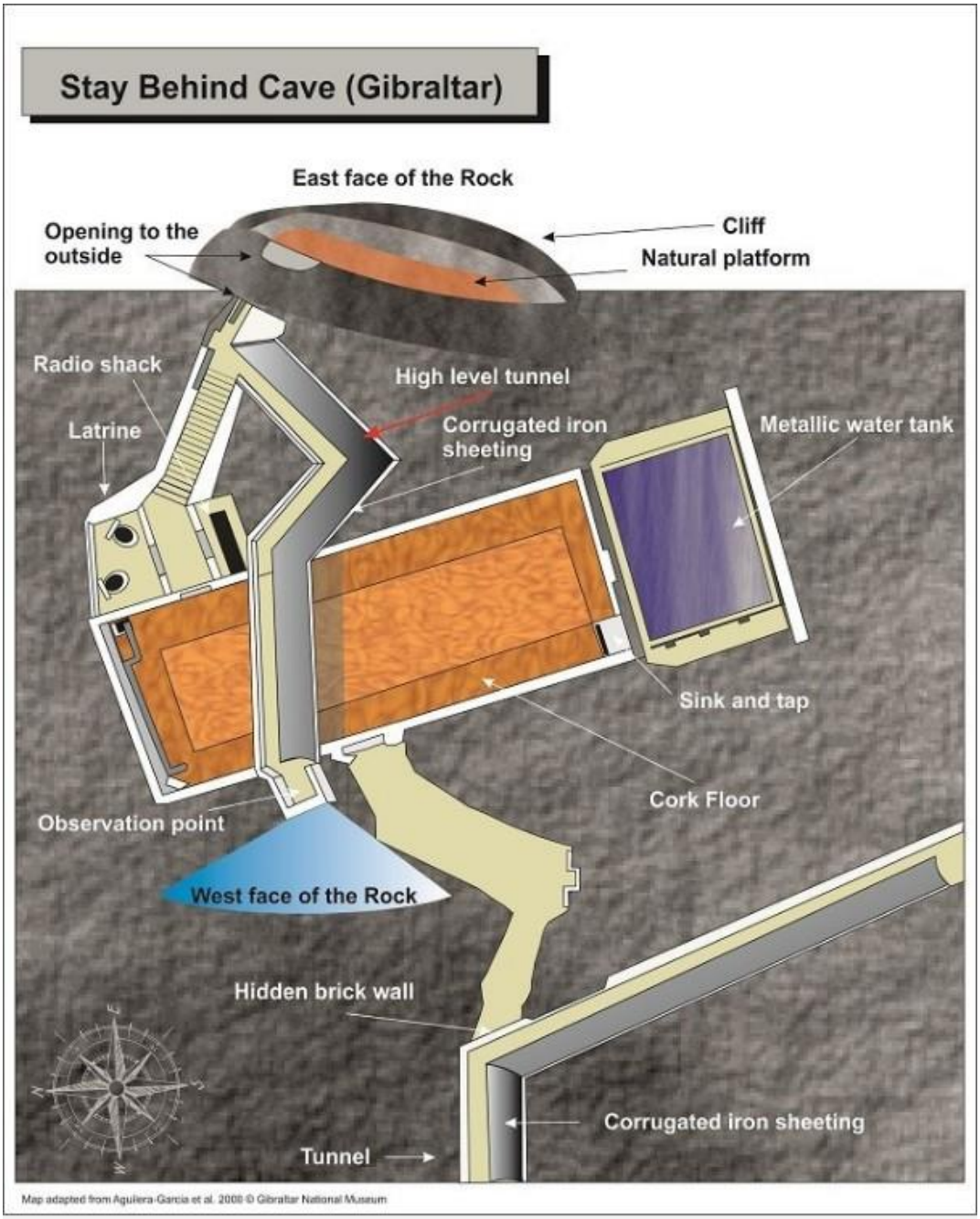
53. The integrated promotion and management of tourism will respect and enhance the integrity of the heritage and living culture of Gibraltar. Government will ensure that the carrying capacity of the various heritage assets is not exceeded to the detriment of that asset or the local community.

54. The development of new heritage attractions will be a priority. Partnerships, for example between the hospitality sector and heritage sector that seek to develop sustainable heritage tourism, particularly innovative approaches, will be encouraged.

55. The inception of cultural businesses which seek to promote Gibraltar's heritage to the international community and to the local community will be encouraged through the development of incentive schemes and assistance in producing quality experiences.

56. Government will continue to ensure that all guides to Gibraltar's heritage are suitably-qualified and knowledgeable, and explain our unique history accurately and sympathetically.

57. Government will work with the University of Gibraltar to provide heritage and conservation management or similar courses in partnership with other institutions, with a view to developing in the medium term an internationally-recognised centre for integrated cultural and natural heritage management. This will bring local benefit in developing capacity and additional income.



The facilities layout of 'Stay-Behind Cave, a covert observation post built in 1941 that would remain operational even if Gibraltar was captured by the enemy in the event of the Germans activating Operation Felix (the codename for the plans by the German High Command to capture Gibraltar by an attack from neighbouring Spain). The remains are fragile and a limited number of visitors are allowed on Museum-guided tours each year.

Safeguarding our Past, Enriching our Future

A New Vision for Gibraltar's Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar
Ministry for Heritage

Safeguarding our Past, Enriching our Future: A New Vision for Gibraltar's Heritage was produced on behalf of the Ministry for Heritage, by a heritage team co-ordinated by the Government Archaeologist and appointed by the Minister and the Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council