

Progressing excavation works in St George's Square, Valletta

An evaluation is currently underway into determining the importance of a discovery of a 15m passage under St George's Square in Valletta.

These passages were revealed during excavation works for a pedestrianisation project and re-designing of the square to build a one storey high parking area under this square.

Minister Pullicino has publically declared that before excavation work starts, careful evaluation and studies regarding the importance of what lies beneath should take place. As no plans in the archives exist of this square, there is no indication.

Various studies such as non-invasive testing that consists of radar-scanning at different locations in the square and slightly-invasive testing consisting of 5 small holes (coring), each 4 inch diameter wide are used. Invasive testing, regarding digging of trenches of approximately 5m long, 3m wide and 2m deep is currently done.

All studies are supervised by MEPA and SCH.

NGO Flimkien ghal Ambjent Ahjar (FAA) recently met the Minister to be shown plans for St George's Square where the importance of the 50 feet long passage leading from Archbishop Street to the centre of the square will be investigated.

The Ministry confirmed that if these studies show that this passage is of cultural heritage, the underground parking project will be abandoned and instead only the environmental improvement of the square will occur complimenting the Palace façade.

