### National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

**Property Name**: Advanced Ditch - Valletta

**Address**: Foss ta’ San Gwann, Valletta

**Town Name**: Valletta

**Property Owner**: Government

**Local Council**: Valletta

**Managing Body**: Various

**Period**: Modern (18th Century)

**Phase**: Early Modern: Knights of St John (16th Century)

**Cultural Heritage Type & Value**: Historical

**Architectural**: Outstanding

**Property Function**: Fortification

**Conservation Area**: UCA (Floriana)

**Outline Description**: Ditch

**Property Description**: Shallow but wide ditch placed in front of the counterguards all along the Valletta land front from infront of St Michael Counterguard to SS Peter and Paul Counterguard. Orginally also contained a lunette (St Madeleine’s Lunette) in the Porta Real area but this was demolished and a large section of the advanced ditch in the centre of the land front (roughly between the flank of St John Counterguard and the Salient of St James Counterguard) was filled in with rubble and its level raised. Some stretches of the counterscarp, with traces of outworks, are still visible in a number of areas, particularly along the western section of the land front.

**Scheduled by MEPA**: Yes

**Degree of Protection**: Grade 1

**G.N. No.**: 133

**G.N. Date**: 2001

**Recommended Bibliography**:
- S.C. Spiteri, Fortresses of the Knights (Malta, 2001), 268-80
Coordinates: Easting 55577 72739 Northing: Coordinates

Property Plan

Property Images