
Executive Summary



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State Party

SPAIN

State, Province or Region

**Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands,
Island of Menorca, Spain.**

Name of Property

Talayotic Menorca - A cyclopean island odyssey



Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

The attached table shows the geographic co-ordinates of the nominated property as a whole and of the geographic centre of each component part of nominated serial property. The codes can be seen on Map 2.

| Name / Code | Municipality / Place | Coordinates of the central point |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Geographical center of Menorca | Menorca | N39°57'48" E4°05'08" |
| Component C1 | Ciutadella | N39°56'54" E3°54'42" |
| Component C2 | Ciutadella | N39°56'21" E3°53'29" |
| Component C3 | Ferrerries / Es Migjorn Gran | N39°57'25" E4°00'25" |
| Component C4 | Es Migjorn Gran / Alaior | N39°55'26" E4°03'23" |
| Component C5 | Alaior | N39°53'06" E4°06'45" |
| Component C6 | Alaior | N39°53'29" E4°09'44" |
| Component C7 | Maó | N39°52'52" E4°12'58" |
| Component C8 | Maó | N39°52'26" E4°15'13" |
| Component C9 | Maó | N39°57'19" E4°15'13" |

Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

Talayotic Menorca is a serial property encompassing nine component parts on the island of Menorca. The total area of the nominated property is 3,527 ha, about 5% of the total area of the island, excluding buffer zone.

The boundaries of each component part have been carefully established to ensure that each makes a substantial contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and that, as a whole, they include all the material attributes that convey such value. The components share many attributes in common, but the way in which these attributes are expressed in each varies according to a wide range of factors, such as the representativeness of the cyclopean structures, density, typological diversity, and landscape integrity. For this reason, there is significant variation in the size of the geographical area enclosed within the boundaries of each component. The justification for the limits of each component part is fully explained in the textual descriptions in the nomination document and as outlined in the maps.

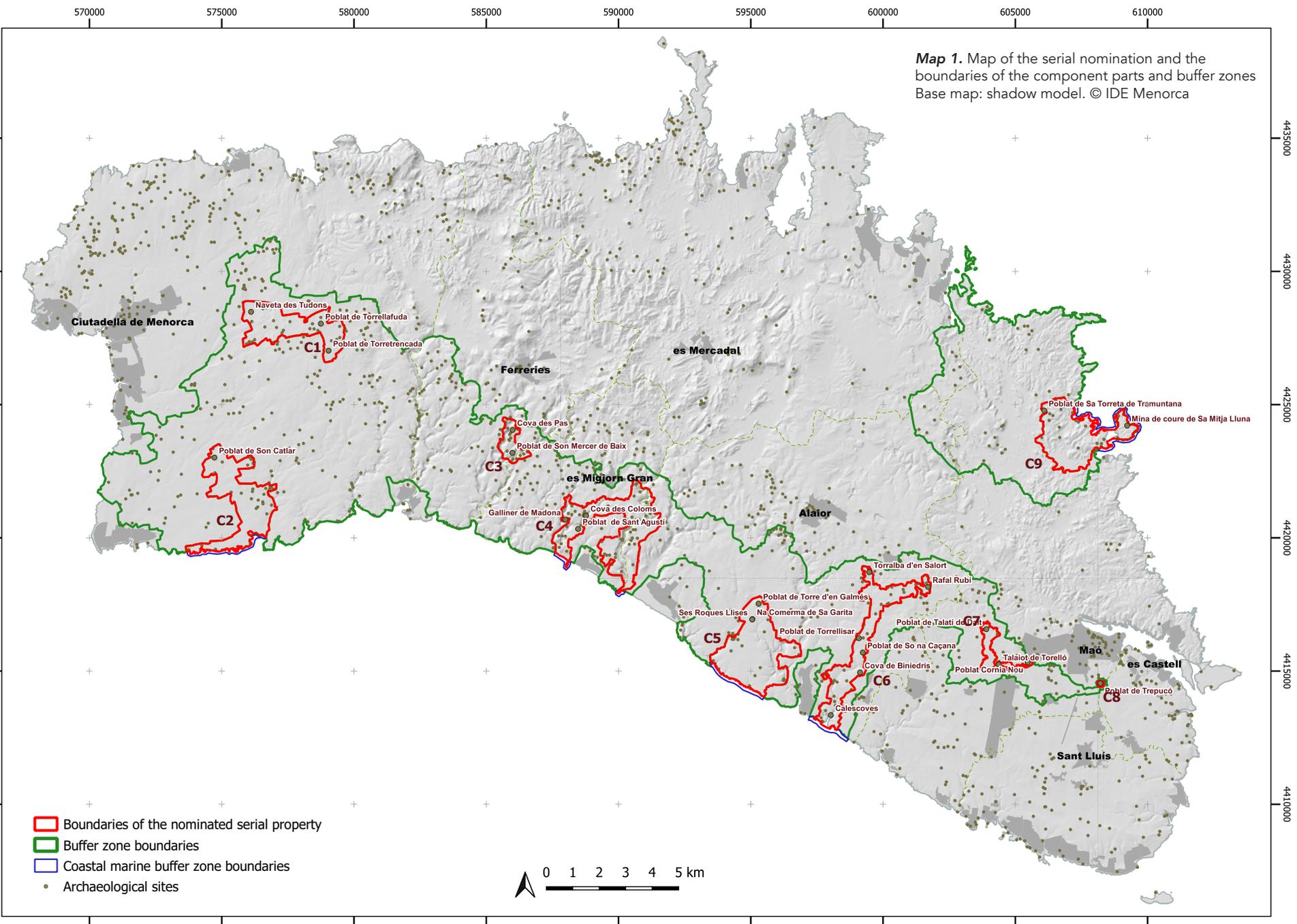
Maps of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone

Map 1. Map of the nominated serial property and buffer zones

This map shows the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zones of the serial nomination.

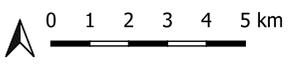
Map 2. Component parts and buffer zone of the nominated property

This map highlights the areas of the component parts and the buffer zones and includes the reference code for each component.

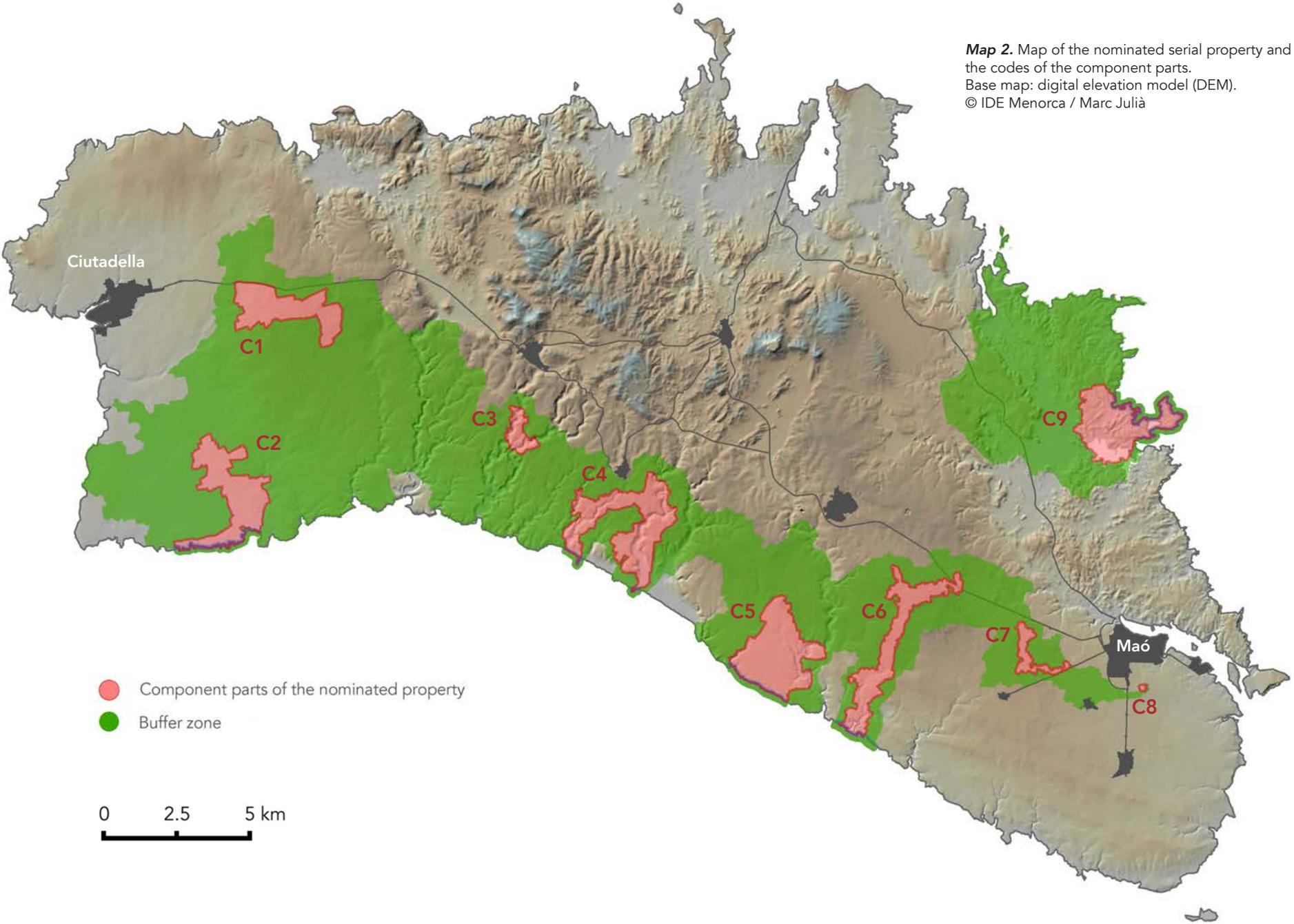


Map 1. Map of the serial nomination and the boundaries of the component parts and buffer zones
Base map: shadow model. © IDE Menorca

- ▭ Boundaries of the nominated serial property
- ▭ Buffer zone boundaries
- ▭ Coastal marine buffer zone boundaries
- Archaeological sites



Map 2. Map of the nominated serial property and the codes of the component parts.
Base map: digital elevation model (DEM).
© IDE Menorca / Marc Julià



Criteria under which property is nominated

Criterion (iii)

Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared.

Criterion (iv)

Be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

a) Brief synthesis

The nominated serial property is located on the island of Menorca, the northernmost of the Balearic Islands, in the Western Mediterranean. The island's 702 km² is home to one of the highest concentrations of prehistoric archaeological sites in an inhabited area in the world. The nine component parts of the property contain the finest works of an island culture characterised by original cyclopean monuments that evolved in relative isolation and bear outstanding testimony to human endeavour in prehistoric times on small islands trapped between the sky and the sea. As a whole, they clearly illustrate a unique cultural process that diverged from the path taken by cultures on the other Balearic Islands and across the Mediterranean; a process that happened over a long period of time and through successive phases, and which gave rise to a distinct culture that has come to be known as the "Talayotic Culture of Menorca".

The high density of prehistoric sites, the wide range of cyclopean building typologies represented in the nominated property, and the relics of material culture are outstanding testimony to the genesis and evolution of a process of cultural divergence on this island, a period that stretched from the Middle Bronze Age to the demise of the island culture under Roman occupation. The spectacular works bear witness to the colossal efforts made by the island's communities in a small territory with few resources. They are the expression of a powerful, imaginative and original tradition that attests to the collective capacity of islanders to produce outstanding cyclopean structures, unique in their kind and in symbiosis with their environment.

The nominated property possesses a remarkable collection of prehistoric monuments and sites, including settlements, burial spaces, sanctuaries, and sacred places that have survived beyond their time in an excellent state of conservation. Notable among them are certain outstanding buildings that are unique and exclusive to Menorca, such as the burial *navetas*, *taula* enclosures, and monumental circular houses, as well as the *talayots*, symbols of Menorca's distinctive heritage. Talayotic Menorca also bears exceptional

testimony to a prehistoric island culture associated with the sky. The orientation of certain monuments in the nominated property illustrate the close relationship between this culture and the skyline.

The many monuments of Menorca's prehistory have coexisted harmoniously with all the historical milestones of the island and its inhabitants. These spectacular monuments are embedded in a well preserved Mediterranean landscape mosaic that retains many similarities with prehistoric times. The property also demonstrates the remarkable persistence of successive stoneworking traditions, revealed through the extraordinary network of dry stone walls that preserve the spirit of place. Talayotic Menorca today is an outstanding example of a living archaeological and monumental landscape.

The nominated property therefore represents an exceptional expression of late prehistoric cyclopean architecture and landscape organisation in an evolutionary cultural development that has left an outstanding, unique, well-preserved testimony of the Talayotic Culture of Menorca.

a) Justification for Criteria

Criterion (iii)

Talayotic Menorca bears outstanding testimony to a Mediterranean island culture characterised by spectacular cyclopean structures illustrating a distinct cultural development on a small island in prehistoric times. The property attests to a long and remarkable process of cultural divergence in which a marked insularity was instrumental in enabling the island's prehistoric inhabitants to shape and mould outside cultural influences over the course of centuries, developing a system of expressions unique to their island and its Mediterranean context. A wealth of archaeological evidence reveals the particular human capacity for adaptation to a limited territory. Despite the extreme conditions and scarce resources, these people built unique monumental structures. These prehistoric monuments have coexisted harmoniously with all the historical periods of Menorca and with its inhabitants.

Criterion (iv)

The component parts of the nominated property contain an exceptional array of monuments that showcase Menorcan cyclopean architecture. They illustrate cultural development through stages of the island's prehistory and display the full diversity of building typologies. Together they constitute one of the most complete manifestations of this architectural style in terms of density, typological diversity, and functionality in the prehistoric landscape of the Mediterranean Basin and of island territories.

The nominated property features the most representative examples of outstanding cyclopean works, such as the burial *navetas*, the monumental circular houses and *taula* enclosures, which are unique expressions that are exclusive to Menorca. The latter two – *navetas* and *taulas* – exhibit patterns of orientation that distinguish them from other contemporaneous cultures with similar cyclopean features and are considered unique expressions of cultural astronomy. Furthermore, the cyclopean works in the property are remarkable not only for their originality, but also because, as in the case of the *talayots*, they express the adventure of a colossal collective effort in an extremely limited geographical space. In each component part of the property, the archaeological sites give form to an exceptional, well-preserved, living monumental landscape.

c) Statement of Integrity

The nine component parts of Talayotic Menorca contain, as a whole, all the interrelated elements necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property. Each component makes a specific and essential contribution to the integrity of composition of the whole series through its constituent elements, providing a varied and outstanding combination of archaeological and landscape attributes.

The nominated property contains all the elements required to represent the successive cyclopean structures that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, both in terms of the number of attributes and their typological diversity and quality. Each successive period of Talayotic Menorca is well represented and may be easily understood by visitors.

The constituent elements of the landscape associated with the archaeological sites in each component part are well preserved, exhibiting an exceptional symbiotic relationship between the monuments and the traditional vernacular landscape, the main features of which have been maintained since prehistoric times.

In terms of functional integrity, many of the features of this culture and the imprint of its works retain their identity and the legibility of their different functions in the domains of the nominated property. The stoneworking traditions, the original settlement patterns, and the spiritual functionality of the spectacular monuments reflect a distinct identity. They are a source of pride for the island and are thus kept alive in the landscape of Menorca today.

d) Statement of authenticity

All the component parts and their constituent elements are credible and truthful expressions of the building, architectural and landscape typologies for which the property is nominated. Studies and research carried out over decades show that the archaeological remains and cyclopean structures still retain their original condition, with visible signs of the deterioration of time over millennia, but without any major alterations that would undermine their authenticity. Different scientific approaches and comparative analysis have shown that certain monuments are authentic structures that are unique to Menorca.

The floral features of today's archaeological landscape are very similar to those of prehistoric times. Moreover, the component parts of the nominated property contain the most authentic representations of the unique Menorcan agroecosystem into which the nominated monuments are harmoniously integrated.

e) Requirements for protection and management

All the monumental structures and archaeological sites, with attributes that clearly convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, have been declared Properties of Cultural Interest (BIC). This is the highest level of protection under Spanish national

and regional legislation. The area of the nominated serial property benefits from a robust system of protection through various environmental and land-use planning regulations and instruments, which guarantee the integrity of the landscape and its constituent elements. It also benefits from the protection and regulation of uses established by the Menorca Island Land-Use Plan (PTIME), the most recent revision of which was carried out fully in line with the protection requirements for the nominated property throughout the nomination process.

The Talayotic Menorca Agency is at the heart of the integrated management system for the nominated property. It was created by the Consell Insular de Menorca (CIME), which is directly responsible for its management. It is a participatory management body and the instrument for implementation and effective coordination of the Talayotic Menorca Management Plan.

Name and contact information of official local institution/agency

Organization:

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