
Talayotic Menorca (Spain) No 1528rev

1 Basic information

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Talayotic Menorca - A cyclopean island odyssey

Location

Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands

Island of Menorca

Spain

Brief description

The nominated serial property is located on Menorca, the eastern-most island in the Balearic archipelago in the western Mediterranean Sea. Nine component parts encompass a high density of archaeological sites situated in agropastoral landscapes in the Migjorn and Tramuntana regions of the island. A testimony to the occupation of the island by prehistoric communities, these sites display a diversity of prehistoric settlements and burial places. The materials, forms and locations of structures dating from the Bronze Age (1600 BCE) to the Late Iron Age (123 BCE) show the evolution of a "cyclopean" architecture built with very large blocks of stone, and of a spatial organisation that suggests the emergence of a hierarchical society. Distinct astronomical orientations and visual interconnections between prehistoric structures indicate the existence of networks with possible cosmological meanings. Together, these archaeological sites and their associated landscapes provide a window into this region's prehistoric island cultures.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of nine *sites*.

Included in the Tentative List

29 January 2013 as "Talayotic Culture of Minorca"

Background

The World Heritage Committee examined the nomination of Talayotic Minorca, Spain, at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017):

Decision: 41 COM 8B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,*
2. *Defers the examination of the nomination of Talayotic Minorca, Spain, on the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:*

- a) *Clarify the definition of 'Talayotic' and its reference to a 'culture' or a 'period.' In addition to the focus on monuments and architecture, a wider range of archaeological evidence, including stone and metal tools, ceramic vessels and other equipment, as well as faunal data and paleoenvironmental indications should be brought into consideration,*
 - b) *Reformulate the nomination to consider either larger components with multiple archaeological sites and landscape elements or a series of the most representative Talayotic sites drawn from Minorca and Majorca. In either case, the time frame of the series should be restricted,*
 - c) *Undertake a refocused comparative analysis based on the revised arguments for Outstanding Universal Value. It should be structured to look first if necessary at an internal analysis that considers sites in Majorca, then at near Mediterranean islands as far as Malta, and finally at near Mediterranean coastlines, followed by eastern Mediterranean islands and coasts, the rest of Europe and other sites around the world. As well as an emphasis on architecture, it should include reference to other types of material culture such as pottery and metallurgy, and these should be used to place the Talayotic sites in a continent-wide context,*
 - d) *Create a common management structure which will be responsible for coordination and effective implementation of the management system for the nominated property as a whole,*
 - e) *Create a Management Plan for the site, which would be distinct from the Island Historic Heritage Management Plan. The Management Plan should include a detailed Conservation Policy to guide conservation interventions, ongoing maintenance work and archaeological research. A section on visitor management should address visitor experience, controlling visitation at some components and the promotion of responsible tourism,*
 - f) *Establish a Landowners Forum or equivalent that would meet at least twice a year to provide feedback and information to landowners about the management of the site,*
 - g) *Create a regular reporting structure for the monitoring program in order to gather the results of the different monitoring activities on a periodic basis and assemble them into a common location;*
3. *Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site.*

Based on the World Heritage Committee's decision, the State Party requested advisory assistance from ICOMOS. A meeting between representatives of ICOMOS and parties responsible for preparing the nomination dossier was held on the Island of Menorca in November 2017.

Consultations and technical evaluation mission

Desk reviews have been provided by ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, members and independent experts.

Comments on the natural attributes of this nominated property, their conservation and their management were received from IUCN on 4 March 2022.

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the nominated property from 4 to 10 October 2021.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 30 September 2021 requesting further information about the revisions to the nomination, the rationale for the selection of components in the comparative analysis, the description of the component parts, protection and the management plan.

Additional information was received from the State Party on 10 November 2021.

An Interim Report was provided to the State Party on 20 December 2021 summarising the issues identified by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel.

Further information was requested in the Interim Report on protection, conservation and research, as well as management.

Additional information was received from the State Party on 14 February 2022.

All additional information received has been incorporated into the relevant sections of this evaluation report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

9 March 2022

2 Description of the nominated property

Note: The nomination dossier and additional information contain detailed descriptions of this property, its history and its state of conservation. Due to limitations on the length of evaluation reports, this report provides only a short summary of the most relevant aspects.

Description and history

The nominated serial property consists of nine component parts located on the Island of Menorca, one of the Balearic Islands in the western Mediterranean Sea. The component parts feature a high density of 280 archaeological sites, twenty-three of which have been identified as being “key” attributes. These sites showcase a diversity of cyclopean architecture – structures built of very large blocks of stone without mortar – in a wide range of typologies that illustrate the evolution of the island’s dry stone building practices for approximately 1,500 years, from the Bronze Age (1600 BCE) to the Late Iron Age (123 BCE).

These characteristic cyclopean structures include hypogea (artificial caves), *talayots* (large cone-shaped structures, generally truncated), *taulas* (T-shaped constructions formed by a large rectangular supporting stone slab and an inverted and truncated pyramidal capital), *taula* enclosures (religious structures comprised of an apsidal ground plan and concave facade), *navetas* (which display an inverted ship shape, and in some cases rounded ground plans), circular houses, and hypostyles (roofs supported by pillars). Orientations and interconnections suggest possible cosmological meanings.

Prehistoric settlements, water management systems, and natural and artificial caves used as burial and sacred sites

illustrate the interaction between prehistoric communities that inhabited Menorca and their natural environment, characterised by insularity and two distinct geomorphological regions: the topographically uneven Tramuntana in the north of the island, formed in the Palaeozoic and Mesozoic eras; and the relatively flat Migjorn in the south, carved by ravines and formed in the Miocene epoch. These distinct geomorphologies have influenced the patterns of habitation on the island, as shown by a higher density of prehistoric remains in the Migjorn region: eight of the nine component parts (C1-C8) are located here, versus one component part (C9) in the Tramuntana region.

In eight of the nine component parts (C1-C7 and C9), the settings of the archaeological sites are included within their boundaries. These cover diverse landscapes of farming and grazing land, wild olive tree forests and other characteristic vegetation (holm oaks, pines) that relate to the traditional activities of the communities on the island in the past and today. Dry stone walls dividing *llocs* or traditional farms testify to the continuous evolution of this building technique on the island.

Plains of Ciutadella (Component C1)

The settlements of Torretrencada and Torrellafuda in Component C1 exhibit diverse periods in the use of cyclopean building techniques, including four *talayots* that were later connected to circular houses and *taula* enclosures. The Es Tudons *naveta*, located in the northeast portion of this component part, is an icon of the island’s identity, having stood here since the Bronze Age.

Southwest area (Component C2)

The settlement of Son Catlar contains the largest *taula* enclosure excavated so far, with circular houses and material evidence of the life of prehistoric communities having been discovered. A quarry and eight *talayots* are located in this component part, as well as primitive settlements and funeral sites in caves. The settlements of Son Saura and La Cova are located toward the Es Prat de Son Saura wetland. This component connects the plains landscape to the sea.

Western Migjorn area (Component C3)

The village of dwelling *navetas* Son Mercer de Baix (1400 BCE) is conserved between the ravines of Trebalúger and Son Fideu. It marks the shift to cyclopean architecture on Menorca, and contains the only dwelling *naveta* with a stone roof, Cova des Moro. Cova des Pas provides evidence of collective funeral practices developed in burial caves on the cliff between 1200 BCE and 800 BCE.

Central-south area of ravines (Component C4)

Between the ravines of Torrevella and Son Boter, the villages of Sant Agustí, Torrenova d’en Jordi Marc, Santa Clara and Binicodrell de Baix exhibit remains of *taulas* and circular houses. A hypostyle hall is found in Galliner de Madona, and among twelve *talayots*, Ses Bigues de Mata stands out due to its large interior chamber. Among the

artificial caves or *hypogea* encountered in this component part, la Cova des Coloms has provided material evidence of Early Iron Age usage. The wetland Prat de Son Bou connects the pastures to the sea.

Area between the ravines of Torrevella and Cala en Porter (Component C5)

Torre d'en Galmés presents circular houses, a developed water system and silos for food storage, as well as funerary uses within the settlement. It also illustrates the relationship between the landscape and the skyscape where archaeo-astronomical studies have suggested the visual interrelationships between *taulas* hold symbolic meanings. The unexcavated Na Comerma de Sa Garita is thought to be a religious building. Cala en Porter, a ravine in the coast, showcases a large necropolis made of artificial caves. Also located in this component part is a well-preserved megalithic dolmen that predates the island's cyclopean architecture.

South-east area – Alaior (Component C6)

The settlement Torralba d'en Salort preserves a *taula* enclosure, while So na Caçana is the only excavated settlement presenting two *taula* enclosures, that could have a religious function. As well, water engineering systems such as the well of Na Patarrà illustrate the complexity of the settlements' organisation. Rafal Rubí is the only place where two burial *navetas* are located. The Calescoves necropolis exhibits artificial caves used as funeral places from the Late Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

South-east area – Maó (Component C7)

The villages of Talatí de Dalt, Torelló and Cornia Nou exhibit *talayots*, in some cases *taula* enclosures, circular houses and water works, preserving urban traits in their fabric.

Prehistoric village (Component C8)

Trepucó is one of the largest prehistoric villages on Menorca and was the first one to be excavated. It contains a *taula* enclosure, circular houses and two *talayots*. It is the only component part that does not include an associated landscape.

North-west area of Tramuntana (Component C9)

This component part has a different geological substrate than the other component parts. It forms part of the core zone of the Menorca Biosphere Reserve, and contains S'Albufera des Grau, a wetland habitat of diverse species of fauna and flora, as well as Sa Mitja Lluna in Illa d'en Colom, a prehistoric copper mine. The settlement Sa Torreta preserves a *taula* enclosure and a *talayot*.

In this revised serial nomination, the State Party has developed a substantially different rationale for the nominated serial property by reducing the number of component parts and by including the landscape settings of the archaeological sites proposed for inclusion.

The area of the nine component parts totals 3,527 ha, with the two buffer zones totalling 19,014 ha.

The primary focus of the nominated serial property is the evolution of the island's built environment from the emergence of cyclopean architecture in the Bronze Age to its development into a diversity of typologies throughout the Iron Age, until the Roman occupation of the island. Prehistoric settlements showcase the different stages of development in the cyclopean architecture and changes in spatial organisation that have been studied based on material evidence, including pottery, fabric, food, domestic tools and human remains.

According to research, Menorca was the last of the Balearic Islands to be settled. Evidence found in caves and megalithic architecture such as dolmens provide proof of a stable population by 3000 BCE. The island's Naviform period (1600 BCE to 1200 BCE) marks the appearance of cyclopean structures, notably *navetas*. They were used by people to organise themselves into stone-built settlements located in prominent areas, both in the interior of the island and on the coasts. During this period, ceramic and bronze techniques were developed and distinctive funeral practices emerged, as shown by the construction of burial *navetas* and sanctuary caves.

The occupation of the island spread to the northwest and south, with a clear preference for the Migjorn region. Collective burial sites and architecture show no sign of a hierarchical society. Around 1200 BCE, *talayots* appeared and were subsequently constructed all over the territory; 393 of these still survive. They suggest that a hierarchical organisation had emerged, articulating the landscape of the island.

The concentration of the population around *talayots* is one of the most significant traits of this period, when the coastal settlements of the Naviform period were progressively abandoned. In this new period, known as Talayotic (1200 BCE to 500 BCE), the settlements were built in high places and the funeral areas in depressions, denoting a duality in spatial organisation. Groups of people from this time practised a mixed farming-grazing economy with an increasing importance of livestock and products derived from them, to the detriment of growing cereal crops. Food production and storage started to be based on a centralised system.

Increasing external relations are documented, such as the development of sailing routes connecting the Balearic Islands to the Iberian Peninsula. The period known as Late Talayotic (500 BCE to 123 BCE) began with the transformation of the habitat into a more complex and standardised uniform space. *Taulas*, a typology specific to Menorca, were built in this period. They were surrounded by *taula* enclosures. These were connected to circular houses, all of which developed into larger villages, many of them walled. Protective wall systems seem to be associated with the occupation of the island by pirates, the opening of the island to external influences, and the larger context of the Punic Wars (264 BCE to 146 BCE).

Taula sanctuaries showcase particular orientation patterns and astronomical alignments. The circular houses include the development of water systems, with cisterns and catchment, storage and decanting pools. The later appearance of *hypogea* marks a total abandonment of burial *navetas*. The Romanisation of the island was initiated in 123 BCE with an invasion by Quintus Caecilius Metellus. The population was relocated and new planning emerged, though records confirm that the ancient settlements were in use up to the Middle Ages. At present, these prehistoric structures form part of the everyday life of local Menorcan communities, as the majority are located on private farms where livestock graze.

State of conservation

The current state of conservation of the archaeological sites and associated landscapes varies, as they have not been maintained following the same conservation measures. Materials, in the case of the prehistoric structures, and land use and land cover, in the case of associated landscapes, have undergone independent maintenance according to ownership. In general, the state of conservation of the prehistoric structures is good, depending on the building techniques and the type of stone used in relation to the location and exposure to weathering agents such as wind, water and sand, and plant colonisation. Aerial photographs comparing the component parts' landscapes from 1956 to 2015 show that the land patterns, especially the land divisions, have been maintained throughout these years, while the cover of wild olive trees has increased due to a reduction in livestock and pastoral activities.

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is good.

Factors affecting the nominated property

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the main factors affecting the nominated property are environmental pressures related to vegetation growth, rainfall, and water and wind erosion. These are linked to the island's environmental conditions and exposure to the sea. Urban development connected with tourism could potentially emerge as a detrimental factor in the future. Socio-economic changes and rural population decline are also potential factors that could affect the nominated property's landscape setting.

Wild olive tree colonisation of the landscape is noticeable in several of the component parts. Vegetation growth has an impact on views and increases the risk of forest fires in the dry season. The agroecosystem has been affected by agro-industrial intensification (Components C1 and C2) and agricultural abandonment (Components C3-C7).

Soil erosion increases in the wake of agricultural abandonment, as does a lack of maintenance of dry stone walls and hedges. The impact of visitor flow on the paths can increase erosion and flooding risks. These factors

could eventually affect the stability of the archaeological structures in the nominated property.

Wind and sea spray in the northern Tramuntana region have an impact on the vegetation and stones of archaeological sites that are exposed to the prevailing wind, forming grooves, small alveoli, and the possibility of peeling and flaking of the stone surface.

There are currently no significant impacts on the nominated property that can be attributed to climate change, according to the State Party. However, some of the above-mentioned environmental factors are projected to increase their impacts on the nominated property in the future as a result of climate change.

In its Interim Report, ICOMOS requested the State Party to clarify whether specific plans for risk management and climate change adaptation were planned to be developed, based on the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property and the potential impacts of climate change. In February 2022 the State Party replied that aspects associated with risk management and climate change are part of the management strategy for the nominated property, and that, in the event of an inscription, a dedicated World Heritage property risk assessment and management plan would be prepared. ICOMOS considers that an in-depth study of the potential impacts of climate change on the nominated property would support the development of adaptation and mitigation measures specific to the component parts. Developing climate scenarios is therefore suggested.

There is a potential for adverse impacts from urban development in traditional towns and tourist areas, especially for Components C7 and C8, which are located near urbanised areas. The surroundings of Component C7 are affected by the Menorca airport's service roads. However, there are no plans to expand the airport. In Component C6, uncompleted roadworks are affecting the Rafal Rubí burial *navetas* landscape views. The State Party indicates that mitigation actions are envisioned.

The State Party's one-hundred percent renewable energy objective for Menorca by 2050 means that wind and solar farms will be built. According to the State Party, none of these will be constructed within the nominated serial property or its visible surroundings, with the exception of small self-consumption solar facilities with little or no visual impact.

ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is good and that factors affecting the nominated serial property are largely environmental, some of which might worsen in the future due to climate change. Risk management strategies and climate change adaptation plans that are specific to the nominated property need to be developed.

3 Proposed justification for inscription

Proposed justification

The nominated serial property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- It illustrates a unique cultural process that diverged from the path taken by other cultures in the Balearic Islands and the Mediterranean Sea.
- The component parts contain the finest works of an island culture characterised by original cyclopean architecture that evolved in relative isolation. The high concentration of prehistoric archaeological sites in the nominated serial property and the continuity of the stone-working tradition exhibited in the vernacular dry stone walls represent the continuous interaction of Menorcan communities with their traditional agropastoral landscape.
- The nominated serial property possesses a remarkable and representative collection of prehistoric cyclopean monuments and sites, including settlements, burial sites, sanctuaries and sacred places that have survived in a good state of conservation. Some of these structures – *taulas*, circular houses and *navetas* – are unique to Menorca and illustrate the relationship of these prehistoric communities with the cosmos, as reflected in unique orientation patterns and alignments with the sky.

Based on the nomination dossier, the key attributes of the nominated serial property can be grouped as follows: cyclopean monuments, sites, and associated landscapes. In some component parts, intangible attributes are also described.

The subtitle of the nominated property, “A cyclopean island odyssey,” implies the concept of a journey, which contradicts the notions of a millennium-long insularity and isolation that are said to characterise this place. ICOMOS considers that a more accurate name for the nominated property could be “Prehistoric Sites of Talayotic Menorca”.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis has been developed around qualitative assessments of four main parameters: a geological/cultural context (island/insularity); a typology (cyclopean architecture); the theme of cultural astronomy; and the theme of cyclopean island odyssey. Chronological and geographical frameworks have not been restricted: properties throughout the world inscribed on the World Heritage List, sites included in the Tentative Lists of States Parties, and sites not on the World Heritage List or the Tentative Lists are compared to the nominated property.

The State Party indicates that the appropriate geo-cultural region is the Mediterranean in general, and the islands of the Mediterranean in particular, and that as an island territory the nominated property also has a global aspect. While the settlements of the western Mediterranean’s Balearic Islands initially had traits in common, Menorca

witnessed a substantial break from neighbouring Mallorca in terms of settlement layout and construction of dwellings. The islands of Ibiza and Formentera (Spain) also developed their own distinctive traits, and few parallels with Menorca can be drawn after about 1200 BCE. Elsewhere in the western Mediterranean, comparable cyclopean sites and structures can be found on the islands of Sardinia (Su Nuraxi di Barumini (Italy, 1997, criteria (i)(iii)(iv))), Malta (The Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta, 1980, criterion (iv)) and Corsica (France). In these cases, there are more differences than similarities with the nominated property, in terms of key attributes. The same can be said for the eastern Mediterranean, regarding sites such as Crete and the Ionian and Cycladic islands (Greece).

ICOMOS considers that the parameters established by the State Party are too wide to frame a well-focused comparative analysis. Included are sites that belong to different periods and/or inappropriate regional frameworks, such as the Hawaiian marine protected area Papahānaumokuākea (United States of America, 2010, criteria (iii), (vi), (viii), (ix) and (x)). The State Party used the ICOMOS thematic studies on Cultural Landscapes of the Pacific Islands (2007) and The Cultural Heritages of Water in the Middle East and Maghreb (2017), both of which relate to different geo-cultural contexts, even if they deal with some of the attributes proposed in the nomination. Furthermore, the analysis includes a comparison of vernacular dry stone walls, which are not the focus of the nomination.

The rationale for choosing the component parts, in terms of comparing them with other similar components and justifying the choices made, was not included in the comparative analysis. The State Party explained in additional information sent in November 2021 that the selected component parts contain the best representations of unique and exclusive cyclopean structures that do not exist anywhere else but Menorca, namely, burial *navetas*, *taula* sanctuaries and circular houses. Density and diversity of archaeological sites, an adequate representation of *talayots*, water culture and prehistoric mining were also considered. The series excludes areas subject to more intensive use, and buildings of recent construction. ICOMOS requested further information to clarify the rationale for selecting Component C8, which contains the prehistoric settlement of Trepucó alone, without any associated landscape. The State Party clarified that an exception was made in this case, due to the persistence of this archaeological site over time and its emblematic nature related to the history of the island.

ICOMOS considers that a comparative analysis that is based on the specific criteria and attributes proposed by the State Party, combined with the insularity that underpins the nominated property and a specific time period (Bronze Age to Late Iron Age), could have supported a better focused analysis. Nevertheless, ICOMOS considers that the existing comparison with sites located in the Mediterranean region is adequate for

the purpose of demonstrating the exceptionality of the nominated property within its geo-cultural region, based on the potential Outstanding Universal Value and the related features and attributes being compared.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (iii): *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the nominated serial property exhibits a unique testimony to a cultural tradition of dry stone building that goes back to prehistoric times. Prehistoric archaeological sites, high in density and variety, located in the nine nominated component parts illustrate the evolution of the use of the dry stone building technique with limestone – characteristic of the island’s geology – for the construction of settlements as well as sacred sites and funeral spaces.

ICOMOS considers that the high level of preservation and the density of prehistoric sites in the nominated property’s nine component parts present a remarkable illustration of the evolution of cyclopean dry stone building techniques associated with the organisation and occupation of the landscape and with particular funerary practices by prehistoric communities in a challenging environment. Some of the prehistoric structures are unique to this island, such as the burial *navetas*, circular houses and *taulas*. These typologies together with *talayots* represent an exceptional testimony to a tradition of cyclopean architecture in this particular island context for approximately 1,500 years. ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

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;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the component parts of the nominated property contain an exceptional array of works that illustrate the different stages of the island’s prehistory and display the full diversity of building typologies. Furthermore, the State Party affirms that the nominated serial property contains the most representative sample of the many *talayots* scattered across the island, and unique structures such as burial *navetas* and *taula* enclosures, demonstrating specific environmental knowledge, especially in relation to the skyline.

ICOMOS considers that the group of structures represents an outstanding ensemble of prehistoric cyclopean architecture. *Navetas*, *talayots*, *taulas* and circular houses within the nominated property illustrate an important stage in the evolution of the occupation of the

island and represent an important source of knowledge about the organisation and practices of human communities from the Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age. The distribution of the prehistoric sites in the landscape of Menorca illustrates a spatial organisation that, due to the preservation of large amounts of evidence, is still readable to a large extent, showing visual interconnections between cyclopean structures as well as potential sacred, symbolic and political connotations. ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (iii) and (iv), and that the serial approach is justified.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The integrity of the nominated serial property is based on the inclusion of all the key archaeological structures associated with the prehistoric cyclopean settlements that are necessary to express the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. These attributes include the landscapes that allow visual interconnections between settlements and therefore an understanding of the spatial organisation of the prehistoric societies of Menorca. A number of archaeological sites included in the buffer zones also support an understanding of the prehistoric spatial organisation of the nominated serial property within the island as a whole.

The boundaries of the nominated property have been drawn to encompass the elements that best contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. The selection of the serial component parts is thus justified. The component parts are of adequate size and present a diversity of environments in which the prehistoric settlements are located.

The series takes in the two Menorcan geological regions that influenced the prehistoric occupation of the island. Ravines, coastal caves and coves that prehistoric communities used as burial sites form part of each of the component parts, as do the settlements that illustrate the spatial organisation developed by the prehistoric societies. Relatively undisturbed landscape areas between the different archaeological sites allow an understanding of the relationships between the settlements and burial places within each of the component parts. The few visual disturbances, such as electrical poles and lines, are planned to be removed by the State Party in the medium term. The two buffer zones enable the visual connectivity between the different component parts to be maintained, and provide protection against urban development that could have an adverse impact on the views between prehistoric structures and on ecological processes.

Adverse effects of development are limited and controlled and do not affect the component parts except in Component C6, where partially completed road works

have a negative impact on the landscape views. These works are planned to be removed.

While recognising the existence of some specific adverse effects, ICOMOS considers the integrity of the whole series as well as each of its component parts to be satisfactory.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the nominated property is based on the ability of the series as a whole to truthfully and credibly express its cultural values through its attributes. This includes the prehistoric cyclopean structures that illustrate the evolution of dry stone buildings on the island from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

The locations, forms, designs and materials have high degrees of authenticity. The locations of the prehistoric settlements are authentic. Their settings, represented by the agropastoral landscapes included within the boundaries of the nominated property, have evolved but are believed to evoke earlier epochs. The sources of information about the sites and excavations are credible. Continued research on the functions of these prehistoric structures, their cultural meanings and their astronomical alignments, ideally in the context of a comprehensive research strategy/framework, is strongly recommended.

ICOMOS notes that some component parts have had their authenticity compromised by interventions such as the insertion of a concrete block (Component C8), insertion of a steel support (Component C4) and reconstruction using anastylosis (Component C1). These issues need to be addressed in the conservation plan for each of these component parts. ICOMOS nevertheless considers that the authenticity of the component parts and of the series as a whole is adequate.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the whole series and of the individual component parts have been met.

Boundaries

It is estimated that 140 inhabitants reside in the nominated property, and that 4,430 inhabitants reside in the two buffer zones.

The boundaries of the component parts have been defined based on archaeological evidence, visibility analyses, topography and ecological environments, as well as a delimitation of plots with dry stone walls. In five component parts (C2, C4, C5, C6 and C9) the coastline defines sections of the boundaries. In December 2021, ICOMOS requested maps of the twenty-three archaeological sites presented as key attributes by the State Party, in order to clarify that these were entirely within the nominated property's boundaries. The State Party submitted maps in February 2022 that confirm these twenty-three sites are included within the boundaries of the respective component parts. However, ICOMOS notes that the Biniedrís burial site in Component C6 is not

in the same location as shown in the nomination dossier. ICOMOS recommends clarifying the mapping of the nine component parts, and thereon indicating the three types of archaeological sites: the 23 "key" archaeological sites; the 211 important archaeological sites protected under a Heritage of Cultural Interest designation (*Bien de Interés Cultural*, BIC); and the 46 archaeological sites protected under the Law 12/1998 on the Historical Heritage of the Balearic Islands.

Two buffer zones totalling 19,014 ha are proposed to reinforce protection of the nominated property's landscape: one buffer zone encompasses component parts C1 to C8, and a second buffer zone surrounds Component C9. Both include coastal marine areas.

In additional information provided in November 2021, the State Party clarified that the boundaries of the component parts have been defined based on a study of visibility between the archaeological sites, especially those between *talayots*, *navetas* and *taulas*. Based on intervisibility studies, Areas of Landscape Interest have been designated for the component parts of the nominated property. Demarcation of boundaries has been done using topography and the delimitation of plots having dry stone walls. In those areas where dry stone walls are not present, such as burial sites, cliffs, and coastal and ravine slopes, geographical, ecosystem and scenic criteria were used to define boundaries. Adequate buffer zones support protection, connecting the wider setting of the archaeological sites.

ICOMOS considers that the rationale for the boundaries has been applied appropriately and consistently except for Component C8, Trepucó, one of the largest prehistoric settlements on Menorca and the first one excavated. Its boundaries are limited to those of the archaeological site. In additional information provided in November 2021, the State Party clarified that this choice was made in respect of the particular values of this prehistoric settlement, which is significant for understanding the series as a whole due to the importance of the structures within the settlement.

Evaluation of the proposed justification for inscription

In summary, ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis could have been better focused, but that it is adequate regarding the Mediterranean geo-cultural region and thus justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List. ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (iii) and (iv). The serial approach is justified, and the selection of component parts is appropriate. ICOMOS further considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the whole series and of the individual component parts have been met.

4 Conservation measures and monitoring

Documentation

The prehistoric structures on Menorca are well studied and documented. Several archaeological sites included in the nominated property are the subjects of ongoing research projects. There are fifteen ongoing archaeological excavations, all of which are being recorded with the use of photogrammetry, thereby providing useful baseline data for future decision-making. All artefacts recovered are considered to be in the public domain, and once properly studied are deposited in the Menorca Museum.

The Island Council of Menorca is responsible for gathering and safeguarding all information, and the Council's Historical Heritage Services Department is the coordinating unit for documentary materials. A centralised geographic information system (GIS) database is managed by the Island Council of Menorca.

An ecological land unit analysis developed for a revision of the 2020 Menorca Island Land-Use Plan will permit a better understanding of current landscape conditions and function as a baseline for monitoring and conservation activities.

In its Interim Report, ICOMOS suggested the State Party consider developing a research strategy/framework to guide future archaeological policy in alignment with the conservation strategy of the nominated property. In additional information provided in February 2022, the State Party described how the lines of research established in the management plan's research programme relate to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property. ICOMOS strongly recommends developing a research strategy/framework that is aligned with a conservation strategy to be included in an updated management plan.

Conservation measures

In the 1990s, the Island Council of Menorca established an archaeological sites conservation programme that involves clearing intrusive vegetation, particularly wild olive trees, a protected species that needs careful decision-making regarding removal. The management plan establishes a written protocol for vegetation control.

There is currently an individual, site-specific approach to the conservation of the 280 archaeological sites and their associated landscapes. A new management system proposes an integrated approach for all the component parts. A specific programme of preservation, conservation, maintenance and restoration has been developed in the management plan to address the conservation of the twenty-three sites considered to be key attributes of the nominated serial property. This includes partial reconstruction and/or reinforcement of structures in cases where the potential collapse of one element is likely to affect the stability of the remaining structure. There is a system in place to monitor the stability of the structures that still conserve their original roofing.

The Island Council of Menorca has a team of technicians who do terrain reconnaissance and help with maintenance and conservation activities. A tradition of volunteering supports maintenance campaigns that are coordinated and supervised by archaeologists. Such campaigns have taken place at Son Catlar in Component C2 and Torre d'en Galmés in Component C5.

Monitoring

The baseline for the monitoring system proposed by the State Party is the present state of conservation of the nominated property, which was determined in the process of preparing the World Heritage nomination and was last updated in 2020. The monitoring system proposes four groups of indicators: archaeological monuments, sites and settings; environmental, landscape and territorial factors; transmission of Outstanding Universal Value; and management issues. These indicators encompass the key attributes that support the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property. The monitoring system acknowledges the main threats to conservation, which relate to environmental pressures and socio-economic factors.

The Island Council of Menorca is in charge of gathering and safeguarding all information regarding monitoring. The specific indicators will be followed up by the Talayotic Menorca Agency, which is the main entity in charge of the nominated property's management. Regarding environmental indicators, different entities are in charge of surveying those related to the larger context such as the sky quality, which is under the Menorca Biosphere Reserve. The management plan has proposed a protocol and support system for routine on-site monitoring of the state of conservation, including integration of visitors' observations.

ICOMOS considers that the conservation measures and monitoring system proposed in the management plan are adequate. ICOMOS recommends developing a research strategy/framework that is aligned with the conservation strategy. ICOMOS also considers it advisable to adapt the monitoring system to allow easy integration of its outcomes into the Periodic Reporting questionnaire.

5 Protection and management

Legal protection

The nominated serial property is protected by an integrated system of environmental, cultural, landscape and territorial protection regimes overseen by the Island Council of Menorca. Two hundred and thirty-one of the 280 prehistoric archaeological sites within the component parts, including burial and dwelling *navetas*, *talayots*, *taulas*, circular houses, hypogea and caves, are protected under a Heritage of Cultural Interest designation (*Bien de Interés Cultural*, BIC), which is the highest level of protection for cultural assets under Spanish legislation, regulated by Law 16/1985 on Spanish Historical Heritage. In the additional information provided in February 2022,

the State Party clarified that, of the forty-nine other archaeological sites, the three most important will be designated in the near future, while the remaining forty-six are protected under the Law 12/1998 on the Historical Heritage of the Balearic Islands. Designations are enforced by the Island Council of Menorca.

At the local level, all of the island's town councils use a Catalogue for Historical Heritage Protection, in which all 280 archaeological sites within the nominated property are included.

The archaeological sites included in the nominated serial property and surrounding land are on private property with the exception of Son Catlar (Component C2) and Trepuçó (Component C8), both owned by the Island Council of Menorca, Torre d'en Galmés (Component C5), owned by the Spanish Ministry of Culture, and Torralba d'en Salort (Component C6), owned by the Balearic Islands Foundation, all of which are in public ownership.

Component C9 is located in S'Albufera des Grau Natural Park, which was established by Decree 50/1995 (extended by Decree 51/2003) in accordance with Spanish Law 4/1989 on Conservation of Natural Areas and Wild Flora and Fauna, enforced by the Balearic Government, and which is the core zone of the Menorca Biosphere Reserve (1993). Part of the buffer zone surrounding Component C9 is designated Nature Area of Special Interest (Law 1/1991 on Natural Spaces and Urban Regulation for Areas of Special Protection of the Balearic Islands), coinciding partially with the boundaries of the natural park. Other Nature Areas of Special Interest protect the natural values within the nominated serial property and the other buffer zone.

As stated in the Menorca Island Land-Use Plan (revised in 2020), established by Law 14/2000 on Land-Use Planning of the Balearic Islands, all nine component parts of the nominated serial property are protected as Areas of Landscape Interest. This designation involves the continuation of the land use and the preservation of dry stone walls as part of the vernacular landscape surrounding the archaeological sites. It prevents any development that may have an impact on the landscape views. In addition, the agropastoral landscapes within the nominated property, one of the buffer zones and the wider setting are protected under the Menorca Island Land-Use Plan as Areas of Agrarian Interest. Other parts of the buffer zone that surrounds Components C1 to C8 are protected as Nature Areas of Territorial Interest.

A special protection is granted to the night sky under the Regulations for the Protection of the Night Sky in the Island of Menorca (2018), which further develop Law 3/2005 on the protection of the night-time environment in the Balearic Islands, and aims to regulate outdoor lighting and prevent light pollution.

Management system

The Island Council of Menorca is responsible for managing the nominated serial property, enforcing all laws for the protection of heritage and implementing planning instruments. It has created the Talayotic Menorca Agency, a specific entity dedicated to coordinating and implementing the programmes established in the management plan, including monitoring the nominated serial property. Its creation was approved in July 2021, according to additional information provided by the State Party in November 2021. It is composed of a Presidency, a Governing Council, a Social Council, a Scientific Council and an Executive Committee. It is intended to be participatory and inclusive.

In the additional information provided in February 2022, the State Party indicated that final approval of the Talayotic Menorca Agency was granted on 20 December 2021. Its role, functions, governance and decision-making processes are described in an English translation of the original Catalan document.

The Agency is set to coordinate with an Owners and Managers Forum, which will assemble authorities, land owners within the nominated property and the organisations that manage archaeological sites and land within the component parts. The Forum, the creation of which was recommended by the World Heritage Committee in 2017, will be represented in the Talayotic Menorca Agency's Social Council. The State Party provided ICOMOS with the Forum's certificate of incorporation and registration as an association in November 2021. Its translation from Catalan has not been included in the additional information sent by the State Party.

A Heritage Stewardship and Enhancement Contract regulates the effective participation of the owners and managers of the nominated property in its conservation and public use, in accordance with the Balearic Islands Historical Heritage Law and the Menorca Island Land-Use Plan (2020). As requested by ICOMOS in its Interim Report, the State Party submitted a sample of the contract translated into English. The instrument sets out the obligations and rights of site owners regarding the protection, conservation and promotion of the nominated property, as well as the responsibility and support of the Talayotic Menorca Agency. According to the State Party, owners and managers of some of the key archaeological sites are already part of the Forum and have signed the contract.

The management plan was approved in July 2021, according to additional information provided by the State Party in November 2021, and is to be implemented by the Talayotic Menorca Agency. Other instruments in place to support management of the nominated property include master plans for selected archaeological sites, performance contracts with the private owners who have their own management system, and legal instruments associated with the protection of the property (national laws and the Land-Use Plan).

The personnel responsible for the nominated serial property's protection and management are provided by the Island Council of Menorca's Historical Heritage Services Department, including a specialist archaeologist in charge of the nomination, all of whom receive specialised training. The IDE Menorca (*Infraestructures de dades espacials de Menorca*) geographic information system (GIS) supports this work with cartographic services, as does the Tourism Development Foundation of Menorca. The Menorcan Institute of Studies provides technical and scientific capacities. The museums of Menorca also contribute to the management of the nominated property by means of their specialised staff.

The overall management plan has a ten-year horizon for implementation, with a financial plan covering this period. It proposes programmes for conservation, restoration, monitoring, visitor management, communication and research, with a number of projects. The management plan for the nominated serial property envisages a considerable investment in research, conservation and dissemination.

Master plans will be prepared for six of the individual archaeological sites that have been categorised as being the most significant and most visited. Two of these already have master plans, Torre d'en Galmés in Component C5 and Son Catlar in Component C2. In the additional information provided in February 2022, the State Party confirmed that the remaining four master plans will be completed by 2024.

Environmental impact assessments are mentioned in relation to Heritage of Cultural Interest designations (*Bien de Interés Cultural*, BIC), but are not mentioned in relation to the Menorca Island Land-Use Plan. The State Party explained in February 2022 that Heritage Impact Assessments are included in the spatial planning system of Menorca as an integral part of Landscape Impact and Integration Studies, which are mandatory for any action planned in the area and surroundings of the nominated property. ICOMOS considers that Heritage Impact Assessment processes are of critical importance in the context of the State Party's one-hundred percent renewable energy objective for the island, as well as the potential for urban development.

The nominated serial property's management plan refers to the Special Plan for Emergencies of Risk of Forest Fires in the Balearic Islands (Balearic Islands Government, Ministry of the Interior, 2018), and the Climate Change Mitigation Plan for the Balearic Islands (Balearic Islands Government, 2013-2020) in relation to risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation. ICOMOS considers that a risk management strategy and climate change adaptation and mitigation plan that address the specific situation of the nominated serial property and the attributes that support its proposed Outstanding Universal Value are necessary. The State Party has indicated in the additional information provided in February 2022 that a property-specific risk assessment

and risk management plan will be developed in the event of an inscription on the World Heritage List.

Visitor management

Almost all of the archaeological sites in the nominated serial property are signposted and have information panels, and those that are open to the public have presentation and interpretation information, both of the site itself and general information about the nominated serial property. The Tourism development plan of Menorca (2018-2025) outlines a tourism strategy for the island, but it does not have a specific tourism strategy for the nominated serial property. In February 2022, the State Party clarified that a Talayotic Menorca Sustainable Tourism Plan would be developed in the event of an inscription. Several archaeological sites have interpretation centres, some of which are planned to be renovated. Interpretation is intended to be further developed to integrate all archaeological sites open to the public in order to present a unified interpretation of the nominated serial property.

Due to the diverse ownership and management of the archaeological sites and the diversity and extent of the landscapes, ICOMOS considers that the interpretation of the nominated serial property requires a harmonisation strategy in order to deliver a common understanding of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. Besides interpretation of individual archaeological sites, an interpretation plan for each component part and for the nominated serial property as a whole is recommended.

Community involvement

ICOMOS notes that several local associations (cultural and ecological) as well as other community representatives (school teachers, owners) were involved in the preparation of the nomination dossier as members of a nomination advisory committee. They were involved in discussions regarding the nomination and informed about all decisions concerning the nomination. Their involvement is planned to be continued in the Owners and Managers Forum and through their representatives in the Social Council of the Talayotic Menorca Agency.

Effectiveness of the protection and management of the nominated property

In summary, ICOMOS considers that the legal protection of the nominated serial property is adequate. The proposed management system seems well conceived, however its effectiveness needs to be evaluated as further experience is gathered, and be adapted as required. The recently approved management plan needs to include specific objectives for each of the component parts, and to integrate a risk management strategy and a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan specific to the nominated property. A harmonised strategy for the interpretation of each of the archaeological sites, component parts and nominated serial property as a whole is recommended.

6 Conclusion

The nominated serial property comprises a remarkable collection of prehistoric archaeological sites within a well-preserved agropastoral landscape on the Island of Menorca. It displays a wide array of cyclopean structures built of very large blocks of stone by prehistoric communities over a period of about 1,500 years, from the Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age, covering the Naviform, Talayotic and Late Talayotic periods of the island. Burial and dwelling *navetas*, *talayots*, circular houses and *taula* enclosures demonstrate the continuous evolution of dry stone building techniques.

ICOMOS appreciates the substantial work done by the State Party to reformulate the previously submitted nomination, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in 2017. ICOMOS also appreciates the informative additional information provided by the State Party.

The research and documentation in support of the nomination is thorough, including the rationale for selecting the serial component parts, the delineation of the nominated property's boundaries and the creation of extensive buffer zones, all of which were key concerns of the World Heritage Committee in 2017.

The comparative analysis is extensive, though it would have benefitted from a better focus on the specific criteria and attributes proposed by the State Party. ICOMOS nevertheless considers that the comparative analysis is adequate regarding the Mediterranean geo-cultural region and thus justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (iii) and (iv), and that the serial approach has been justified. ICOMOS also considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the whole series and of the individual component parts have been met.

There is an evident commitment to the conservation of this property by the State Party and the local community. The state of conservation of the nominated serial property is good, while regular maintenance is required, especially in terms of clearing intrusive vegetation and monitoring the stability of the structures.

The legal protection based on heritage designations, natural protected areas and spatial planning system is adequate. The management system based on the creation of a participatory and inclusive coordinating entity, the Talayotic Menorca Agency, and the recently approved management plan for the nominated serial property provide a basis for the appropriate management of the nominated property.

In addition to creating a master plan for each key archaeological site, specific management objectives need to be set for each of the component parts. Furthermore, a research strategy/framework, a risk management

strategy and a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan specific to the nominated serial property and its proposed Outstanding Universal Value are strongly recommended. A harmonised interpretation strategy for each key archaeological site, component part and nominated serial property as a whole is suggested. ICOMOS also recommends that the State Party give consideration to changing the name of the property to become: "Prehistoric Sites of Talayotic Menorca".

7 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Talayotic Menorca - A cyclopean island odyssey, Spain, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (iv)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Located on the Island of Menorca, the second largest of the Balearic Islands in the western Mediterranean Sea, a series of nine component parts in the Migjorn and Tramuntana regions of Menorca encompasses a dense assemblage of archaeological sites that feature cyclopean structures dating from the Bronze Age (1600 BCE) to the Late Iron Age (123 BCE). Agropastoral landscapes recall the occupation of the island by prehistoric communities in diverse settlements and burial sites scattered across the dry tableland in the south and in the rugged hills rising in the north.

Cyclopean architecture – which consists of structures built of very large blocks of stone without mortar – in a wide range of typologies illustrate the evolution of the island's dry stone building practices. The characteristic structures include hypogea (artificial caves), *talayots* (large cone-shaped structures, generally truncated), *taulas* (T-shaped constructions formed by a large rectangular supporting stone slab and an inverted and truncated pyramidal capital), *taula* enclosures (religious structures comprised of an apsidal ground plan and concave facade), *navetas* (which display an inverted ship shape, and in some cases rounded ground plans), circular houses, and hypostyles (roofs supported by pillars).

The evolution on the spatial organisation of these prehistoric structures suggests the emergence of a hierarchical society. Distinct visual interconnections between archaeological sites indicate the existence of social networks, and astronomical orientations imply possible cosmological meanings. Together, this series of ancient stone-built settlements and their landscapes provide a window into this region's prehistoric island cultures.

Criterion (iii): The high density of prehistoric sites on Menorca and their unusual level of preservation represent an outstanding demonstration of prehistoric dry stone

building techniques. The structures unique to this island such as the burial *navetas*, circular houses and *taulas*, together with *talayots* and other dry stone structures associated with the spatial organisation and occupation of the landscape by prehistoric communities in a challenging island environment, are an exceptional testimony to a tradition of cyclopean architecture and its evolution over a period of approximately 1,500 years.

Criterion (iv): Talayotic Menorca represents an outstanding ensemble of prehistoric cyclopean architecture that demonstrates the organisation and practices of communities from the Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age. *Navetas*, *talayots*, *taulas* and circular houses within the serial property's nine component parts illustrate the evolution of the occupation of the island and represent an important source of knowledge about life during this period. The distribution of the prehistoric sites in the agropastoral landscape of Menorca illustrates a spatial organisation that, due to the preservation of large amounts of evidence, is still readable to a large extent, showing visual interconnections between cyclopean structures as well as potential sacred, symbolic and political connotations.

Integrity

Within the boundaries of the serial property are located all the elements necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of Talayotic Menorca, including prehistoric cyclopean architecture in a wide range of typologies that illustrate the evolution of the island's cyclopean building practices for approximately 1,500 years from the Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age. Its boundaries adequately ensure the complete representation of the features and processes that convey the property's significance. The property does not suffer unduly from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

Authenticity

The serial property meets the conditions of authenticity. Its cultural values are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes, including the locations and settings, forms and designs, and materials and substance of the archaeological remains, most of which have high degrees of authenticity. The locations of the prehistoric cyclopean structures and settlements are authentic, while their settings, represented by the agropastoral landscapes included within the boundaries of the property as well as the buffer zones, have evolved but are believed to evoke earlier epochs. The archaeological sites have been well documented, and the sources of information about the sites and excavations are credible.

Management and protection requirements

The serial property is protected by an integrated system of environmental, cultural, landscape and territorial protection regimes overseen by the Island Council of Menorca. All prehistoric archaeological structures are protected under the Law 12/1998 on the Historical

Heritage of the Balearic Islands, with a majority also designated as Heritage of Cultural Interest (*Bien de Interés Cultural*, BIC), which is the highest level of protection for cultural assets under Spanish legislation, regulated by Law 16/1985 on Spanish Historical Heritage. The Menorca Island Land-Use Plan (2020) further protects all nine component parts of the serial property as Areas of Landscape Interest. A special protection is also granted to the night sky.

The Island Council of Menorca is responsible for managing the serial property, enforcing all laws for the protection of heritage and implementing planning instruments. It has created the Talayotic Menorca Agency to coordinate and implement the programmes established in the management plan, which include conservation, restoration, monitoring, visitor management, communication and research. Master plans will be prepared for individual key archaeological sites that are considered the most significant and most visited. Sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property over time would benefit from each key archaeological site having a master plan, and setting specific management objectives for each of the component parts in relation to the conservation of the attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value.

Additional recommendations

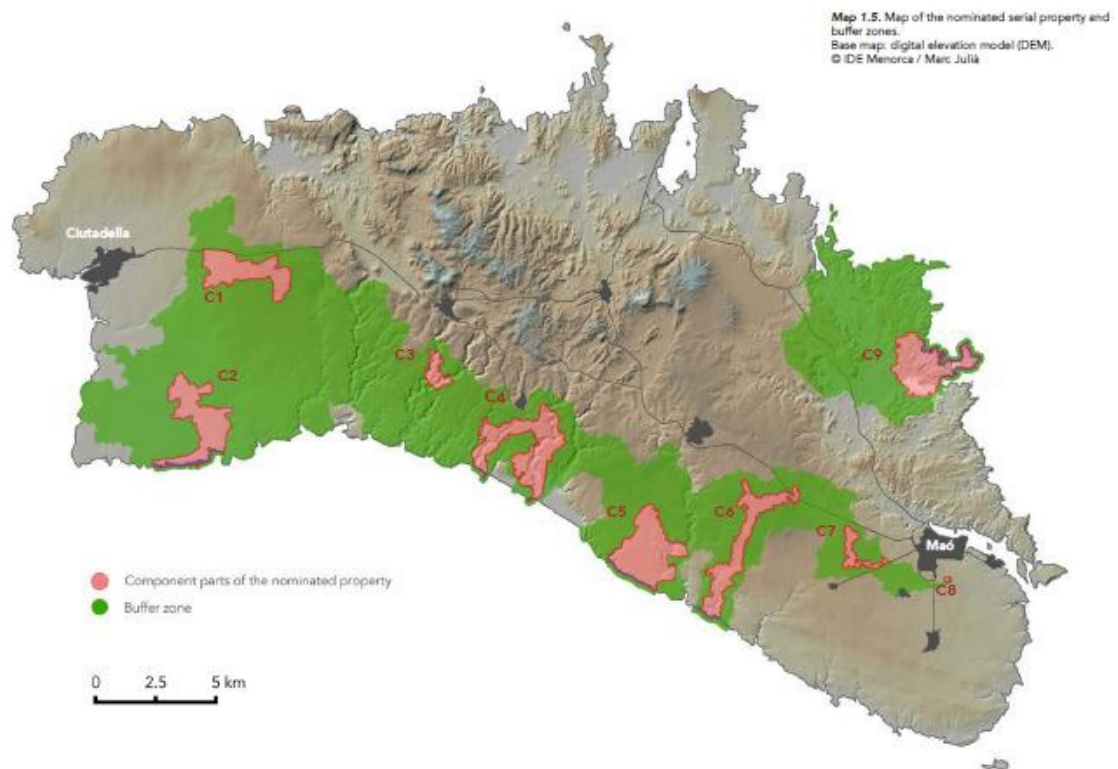
ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Completing the master plans for four key archaeological sites: Naveta des Tudons, Trepucó, Talatí de Dalt, and Torralba d'en Salort,
- b) Preparing master plans for the remaining seventeen key archaeological sites within the serial property, and setting out specific management objectives for each of the component parts in relation to the conservation of the attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value,
- c) Developing a research strategy/framework for the property as a whole that is linked to the above-mentioned detailed conservation plan and aligned with the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,
- d) Developing a risk management strategy and a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan that specifically address the property and the attributes that support its Outstanding Universal Value,
- e) Developing a tourism strategy specifically for the property that complements the Tourism Development Plan of Menorca (2018),
- f) Creating a harmonised interpretation strategy for the serial property as a whole, including each

archaeological site and each component part, in order to deliver a common understanding of the property's Outstanding Universal Value,

- g) Updating the management plan by integrating the above-recommended instruments (conservation plan, research strategy/framework, risk management strategy, climate change adaptation and mitigation plan, sustainable tourism plan and interpretation strategy),
- h) Developing definitive best-practice solutions for the stainless-steel beam supporting the pillar in the hypostyle hall at Torre d'en Galmés (Component C5), and the concrete block used in the *taula* enclosure at Trepucó (Component C8),
- i) Removing at the earliest opportunity the partially completed road works in Component C6 and the electrical poles and lines in the landscape areas between different archaeological sites that have a negative influence on the landscape views,
- j) Undertaking additional research to better understand the function of *talayots*, and the relationship of the inter-visibility networks with the social organisation and astronomical connections of the structures,
- k) Submitting to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS by 1 December 2024 a report on the implementation of the recommendations set out above;

ICOMOS also recommends that the State Party give consideration to changing the name of the property to become: "Prehistoric Sites of Talayotic Menorca".



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property