



MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY



Groundwater Body Code

MT010

Groundwater Body Name

Marfa Coastal Groundwater Body

Reference Year

2004

General Characteristics

Location

The Marfa Ridge Aquifer block lies at the far north of Malta and ranges in height from 150m in the south west to 30m in the south east falling northwards towards sea-level. It is bounded on the south by the Ghar Baqrat Fault and to the south by the South Comino Channel. Within this area the Upper Coralline Limestone outcrops over an area of 5.75km². The coastal groundwater body in Marfa is thus supported in the Upper Coralline Limestone formation in the region where the underlying Blue Clay formation dips below sea-level. This groundwater body will thus be bounded by the Blue Clay formation from beneath and to the north by the freshwater-seawater interface.

Area	5.5km ²
Main Aquifer	Upper Coralline Limestone
Main Aquifer Type	Fractured Carbonate Media
Groundwater Horizon	1
Maximum Length	2.2km
Maximum Width	5.0km
Mathematical centre of groundwater body	441400, 3982600
Hydro-geological characteristics	
Stratigraphy	Tertiary—Miocene
Mean Annual Precipitation	524mm
Mean Aquifer Thickness	26.5m
Main Recharge Source	Precipitation
Mean Annual Recharge	0.9hm ³
Pressures	
Main Land-Use Features (Corinne Landcover 2000)	
Agriculture with significant area of natural vegetation	54%
Schlerophyllous vegetation	32%
Mixed woodland	14%
Other Pressures	
Water Abstraction Purpose	Irrigation
Artificial Recharge	Minimal
Associated Aquatic Ecosystems	None