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
5.5km²

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
0.9hm³

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