



Kitasoo/Xai'xais Stewardship Authority

Kitasoo/Xai'xais Cultural Heritage Policy Discovery of Cultural Heritage Features

BACKGROUND

As a guiding principle we believe that our wellbeing as Kitasoo/Xai'Xais peoples is linked to our cultural heritage, and it is our responsibility to protect and enhance our culture and heritage. The biggest threat to cultural heritage features within Kitasoo/Xai'xais comes from activities and development within our territory (including forestry and other developments). In carrying out our responsibility to protect our culture and heritage we have identified policies and practices that must be followed by anyone who discovers cultural heritage features within Kitasoo/Xai'xais territory (Figure 1).

The BC *Heritage Conservation Act* (section 13) has provisions for the protection of heritage objects and heritage sites. These protections are limited by the definition of heritage within the act. Other provincial legislation (such as the *Forest and Range Practices Act*) includes management objectives and policies that reference back to the *Heritage Conservation Act*. For forestry activities within our territory special objectives for the identification and protection of cultural features were developed within the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) Land Use Objectives Order.

Successful protection of Kitasoo/Xai'xais cultural heritage is dependent upon the management of cultural heritage features in a way that recognizes Kitasoo/Xai'xais definitions and protocols for cultural heritage protection, while also meeting the standards found in provincial policies and laws.

PURPOSE

This policy was created to provide guidance for the management of cultural heritage features that are discovered within Kitasoo/Xai'xais territory. Following this policy will ensure that procedures for handling and communicating the discovery of cultural heritage features are carried out in a way that is respectful of Kitasoo/Xai'xais protocols, and protects the cultural heritage of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation requires that any cultural heritage features discovered within Kitasoo/Xai'xais territory will be managed in a way to protect and/or enhance cultural heritage features.

STEPS TO TAKE UPON DISCOVERY OF A CULTURAL FEATURE WITHIN KITASOO/XAI'XAIS TERRITORY

The following actions are to be taken if at any time a cultural heritage feature/artifact is discovered or becomes known while planning, designing or carrying out work within Kitasoo/Xai'xais territory:

1. Halt all operations/activities to the extent necessary to protect or conserve the cultural heritage feature/artifact;
2. Leave cultural feature/artifact in situ – do not disturb, damage, move, or remove feature/artifact;
3. Immediately complete a Kitasoo/Xai'xais Stewardship Authority (KXSA) Cultural Heritage Feature/Artifact Discovery Form including: the location, time and date of discovery, detail of the type of feature/artifact, and other relevant information (see attached), and send to the KXSA at engagement@kksa.ca.

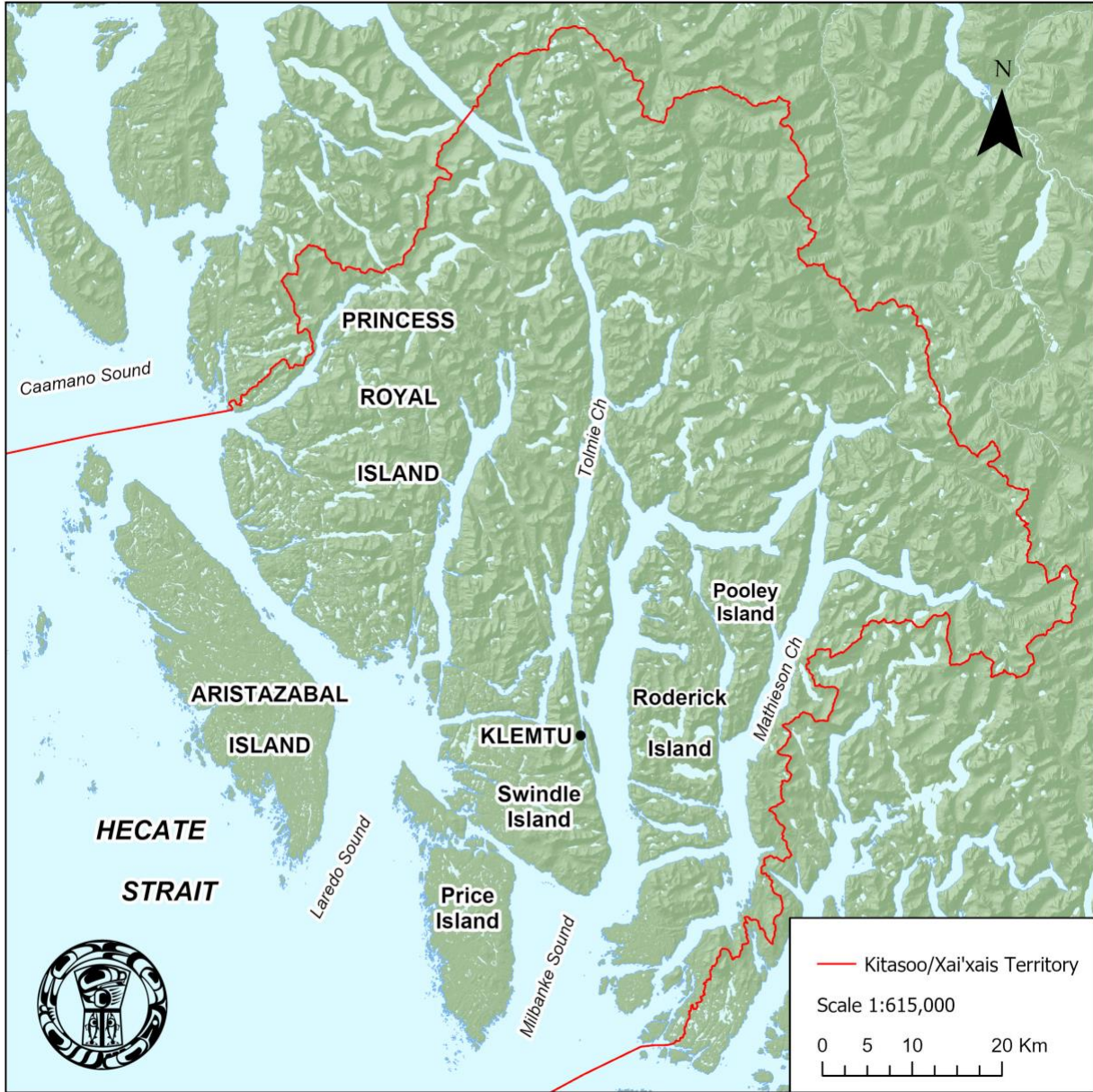
NOTE: If this discovery appears to be a burial site or human remains please refer to the KXSA Cultural Heritage Policy for the Treatment of Kitasoo/Xai'xais Ancestral Human Remains.

4. The employee or contractor, or other person who makes the discovery is responsible for reporting the discovery to the KXSA, and for providing the KXSA with a copy of the completed reporting form.
5. Maintain a stop work order for the area where the cultural feature was discovered until further instructions are received from the KXSA.
6. Work collaboratively with the KXSA to determine how to best protect the cultural heritage feature.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE KXSA WHEN A CULTURAL HERITAGE FEATURE IS DISCOVERED

When the discovery of a cultural heritage feature is reported it is the responsibility of the KXSA to review and investigate the report of a discovery of a cultural heritage feature/artifact and to determine appropriate steps for how to proceed in a way that will protect the cultural heritage feature. Unless a feature or artifact is in danger of being damaged or disturbed, Kitasoo/Xai'xais protocol is to leave the cultural feature/artifact in situ. If a feature or artifact is in danger of being damaged or disturbed, it will be removed and transferred to an appropriate repository determined by the KXSA in collaboration with the Provincial Archaeology Branch.

Figure 1. Kitasoo/Xai'xais territory





Kitasoo/Xai'xais Stewardship Authority
Cultural Heritage Feature Discovery Form

Contact Information

Name:

Telephone:

Company:

Email:

Current Date:

Description *Please attach photos if available*

Location (please be specific including UTM coordinates)

Time and date of discovery

Artifact type and description

Submit this form to the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Stewardship Authority – engagement@kxsa.ca