



GPI POLICY - PROTECTION OF ARTEFACTS

Reference:

Laws of Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands.

Summary Offences Ordinance, Part IV- Offences Against Property, Section 19. (1), (2)

Rationale:

The Government of Pitcairn Islands is committed to the protection of all artefacts or cultural artefacts on Pitcairn and within the Pitcairn Islands group.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all persons whether permanent, temporary and visitors to Pitcairn Islands are aware that all Bounty and Polynesian artefacts and Pitcairn Islands cultural artefacts of historical interest are protected and to remain on Pitcairn Islands.

Definitions:

- a) **Pitcairn Islands** - refers to Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands.
- b) **Artefacts** - anything created by humans which gives information about the culture of its creator and users.
- c) **Fossicking** - to rummage or search or the use of metal detectors or any other devices.

Activities:

- a) Any person removing, defacing or otherwise mutilating or injuring any prehistoric rock carvings shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$20,000. Any person removing or attempting to removed or conspiring with any other person, whether resident in the islands or not, to remove or attempt to remove from the islands any protected artefact without the written consent of the Governor shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$20,000. In this section, “protected artefact” means items in any of the following categories: (a) any relic of the ships “Bounty”, “Cornwallis”, “Arcadia”, or “Bowden”, Stealing and receiving. Malicious damage. Causing fires. [Protected artefacts] [CAP. 5 Summary Offences 2019 Rev. Ed.] 139 (b) any artefact of the Polynesian people resident on Pitcairn prior to the arrival of the “Bounty”; (c) any coffin on Henderson Island.
- b) Any person removing, defacing or otherwise mutilating or injuring any of the prehistoric rock carvings at Down Rope or St. Paul’s shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.
- c) Any person defacing or mutilating any of the prehistoric sites and natural attraction sites shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.
- d) Any person removing or attempting to remove or conspiring with any other person, whether resident in the Islands or not, to remove or attempt to remove from the

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Date Policy due for next review: November 2023



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Islands any relic of the ship “Bounty” without the written consent of the Governor and Island Council, shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.

e) Any person removing or attempting to remove or conspiring with any other person, whether resident in the Islands or not, to remove or attempt to remove from the Islands any pre-Bounty relic, Cornwallis ship wreck, Polynesian artefacts, including stone implements whether whole or fragments or any other artefact of historical interest thereof shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.

f) Non-residents are prohibited from fossicking, on their own, or in the company of a resident on any of the Pitcairn Islands, unless permission has been granted by the Island Council.

Date Policy last reviewed: 17th November 2021
Date Policy due for next review: November 2023