

WEST PARLEY PARISH COUNCIL

POLICY ON METAL DETECTING ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND

Permission for Use for Metal Detecting on Council Owned Land

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Metal detectorists have been witnessed using equipment without the Council's prior permission on Parish Council owned land, therefore protocols need to be introduced to ensure the preservation of the Council's land and assets and the safety of its users.

2. Request for permission

- 2.1 You must obtain permission before venturing on to land owned by West Parley Parish Council. This can be done by contacting the Parish Clerk on enquiries@westparley-pc.gov.uk
- 2.2 Do not undertake metal detecting activity on any Council land without prior written permission.
- 2.3 Permission will only be granted to persons who hold public liability insurance up to a value of £10,000,000 for any one incident. Further advice can be sourced from the National Council for Metal Detecting at <https://www.ncmd.co.uk/>
- 2.4 On application, the customer will receive a decision (either positive or negative) within 10 working days.

3. Excluded Council Owned Land

It is illegal for anyone to use a metal detector on a protected area (e.g. Scheduled Archaeological Sites, SSSI, or Ministry of Defence property) without permission from the appropriate government authority, in addition to the land owner.

4. Permitted land

- 4.1 The Council will not allow the use of a metal detector on any of the following
Parley Wood
sports pitches
gym
formal and informal play areas
recreation ground
... without express permission of the Parish Council, for an express purpose.

5.0 Permission for Use for Metal Detecting on Council Owned Land

- 5.1 Do not trespass or you will be at risk of personal prosecution.
- 5.2 The Council cannot give permission on privately owned land as permission must be gained from the land owner. Confirmation of land ownership can be confirmed at www.landregistryservices.com at the individual's own expense.

6.0 General Information

If you have received permission to use a metal detector please ensure you adhere to the following;

- 6.1 Respect the Country Code - Do not leave gates open, and do not damage crops or frighten animals.
- 6.2 Wherever the site, do not leave a mess or an unsafe surface for those who may follow. It is perfectly simple to extract a coin or other small object buried a few inches below the ground without digging a great hole. Use a suitable digging implement to cut a neat flap (do not

remove the plug of earth entirely from the ground), extract the object, reinstate the grass, sand or soil carefully.

- 6.3 If you discover any live ammunition or any lethal object such as an unexploded bomb or mine, do not disturb it. Mark the site carefully and report the find to the local police and landowner.
- 6.4 Help keep Britain tidy. Safely dispose of refuse you come across.
- 6.5 Report all unusual historical finds to the landowner, and acquaint yourself with the current NCMD (National Council for Metal Detecting Code of Conduct) policy relating to the Voluntary Reporting of Portable Antiquities. A copy can be viewed as appendix 6 of the Treasure Act 1996 code of Practice at www.finds.org
- 6.6 Acquaint yourself with the definitions of Treasure contained in the Treasure Act 1996 and its associated Code of Practice, making sure you understand your responsibilities.
- 6.7 Remember that when you are out with your metal detector you are an ambassador for your hobby.

7. Status

This procedure is to be considered for adoption at the full Council meeting on 15th Dec 2021.

Review period : 4 years (December 2025)

Adopted

Chairman