

Harting Parish Council

Policy on Metal Detecting on Council Land

1. This Policy is effective from the date it is adopted by Harting Parish Council ('the Council') and supersedes any previous permissions or agreements concerning metal detecting that may have been made between the Council and members of the public.
2. In general, metal detecting on Council-owned land (including land to which the public has a right of access) is not permitted.
3. There will only be two exceptions:
 - a. where detecting is part of an approved programme of archaeological research, or
 - b. in the case of the War Memorial Playing Fields (WMPF), where detecting is necessary in order to recover personal items that have been lost or surface metal that would cause damage to people or machinery.
4. Detecting on the WMPF must be agreed in advance by the Chairman of the WMPF committee. It must only be undertaken to recover surficial modern metal: sub-surface intervention is strictly forbidden. Any artefacts found are the property of the Council, unless former ownership is proven.
5. Any proposal to undertake metal detecting on Council land as part of a programme of archaeological research must be approved by the Council or by a representative nominated by the Council. This policy recognises that removal of an archaeological object from its context, unless carried out by an experienced archaeologist, can cause the loss of valuable contextual information, as well as damage to the artefact itself.
6. Archaeologists wishing to carry out such research must apply for and obtain a permit in order to use a metal detector (and to undertake the necessary survey work associated with metal detecting) on Council-owned land.
7. All information requested by the Council in the application for a grant of permission must be provided. All Terms and Conditions placed by the Council on the grant of a permit for the use of a metal detector on its land must be followed and complied with. The Terms and Conditions will be reviewed from time to time.
8. If a permit is granted, the rules and procedures as set out in the Treasure Act 1996 and in any subsequent revisions to, or extensions of, the Act must be followed and complied with.
9. All artefacts of whatever date including, amongst others, metal objects (including coins, weapons and jewellery etc), worked flints, pottery, building materials, slags and worked bone found on Council land remain the property of the Council unless claimed as Treasure by the Crown under the Treasure Act 1996 and all subsequent revisions to, or extensions of, the Act.
10. For artefacts found on Council land that are claimed as Treasure by the Crown, the finders waive their right to any *ex gratia* payment that may be offered by way of reward. Any reward shall belong to the Council.
11. There will be a permit application fee which must accompany the completed application form. The fee is to cover administrative costs and is non-refundable; it will be charged even if permission to use a metal detector is refused. Payment should be made by cheque payable to 'Harting Parish Council'. Preliminary enquiries in relation to the grant of a permit should be made to the Clerk to the Council whose contact details can be found on the Council's website. The Clerk will issue an application form.
12. The decision of the Council on whether or not to grant a permit is final

Metal Detecting Policy

Adopted 21 May 2015

Reviewed 17 May 2018

Next Review May 2019