Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Metal Detecting Policy

5th October 2022

Adoption Date:	5th October 2022
Last review date:	26th November 2025
Date for review:	on or before November 2028

Metal Detecting Policy

Contents

1. Introduction 3

2. Permissions 3

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

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1. **Introduction**
   1.1. This Policy is effective from the date it is adopted by Redenhall with Harleston Town Council and supersedes any previous permissions or agreements concerning metal detecting that may have been made between the Council and members of the public.
   1.2. In general, metal detecting on Council-owned land (including land to which the public has a right of access) is not permitted.
   1.3. There will only be two exceptions:
      1.3.1. where detecting is part of an approved programme of archaeological research, or
      1.3.2. 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.

2. **Permissions**
   2.1. 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 www.ncmd.co.uk
   2.2. The Council cannot give permission on privately owned land as permission must be gained from the landowner. Confirmation of land ownership can be confirmed at www.landregistryservices.com at the individual's own expense.
   2.3. 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 landowner.
   2.4. All enquiries in relation to permission should be made to the Town Clerk via email to enquiries@harleston-tc.gov.uk
   2.5. Any proposal to undertake metal detecting on Council land as part of a programme of archaeological research must be approved by the Full 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.
   2.6. Archaeologists wishing to carry out such research must apply for and obtain permission in order to use a metal detector (and to undertake the necessary survey work associated with metal detecting) on Council-owned land.
   2.7. 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 permission for the use of a metal detector on its land must be followed and complied with.
   2.8. If permission is granted:
      2.8.1. Permission will be limited to surface detecting for lost items or for safety and will usually prohibit digging
      2.8.2. If permission to dig is granted this is limited to 4 inches and you must 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.
      2.8.3. You must adhere to 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;
      2.8.4. you must respect the Countryside Code www.gov.uk/government/publications/the- countryside-code/the-countryside-code
      2.8.5. wherever the site, do not leave a mess or an unsafe surface for those who may follow;
      2.8.6. 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.

2.8.7. Help keep Britain tidy - safely dispose of refuse you come across.

3. 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/treasure

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The decision of the Council on whether or not to grant a permit is final.

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council adopted the Metal Detecting

At the Town Council meeting held on 26th November 2025

Signed (Chair)

Next Review is on or before November 2028