

Cheddleton Parish Council - Metal Detecting Policy

1. Introduction

If requests are made to carry out metal detecting on Cheddleton Parish Council owned land, Metal Detecting Policy needs to be followed to ensure the preservation of the Council's land and assets and the safety of its users.

2. Request for permission

Prior to venturing on to land owned by Cheddleton Parish Council permission must be obtained. This can be done by contacting the Parish Clerk. All Applications are to be decided by Full Council.

Do not undertake metal detecting activity on any Council land without prior written permission.

Permission will not be granted unless you hold public liability insurance up to a value of £10,000,000 for any one incident. Cheddleton Parish Council will require sight of the relevant insurance certificate before deciding. Further advice can be sourced from the National Council for Metal Detecting at www.ncmd.co.uk

The decision (either positive or negative) on request will be given to the requester 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 landowner.

4. Permitted land

The Council will not allow the use of a metal detector on any of the following:

- sports pitches
- gyms
- formal and informal play areas
- recreation grounds.

5. Permission for Use for Metal Detecting on Council Owned Land

Do not trespass or you will be at risk of personal prosecution.

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.gov.uk at the individual's own expense.

6. General Information

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

Respect the Country Code - Do not leave gates open, and do not damage crops or frighten animals.

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.

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.

Help Keep Britain Tidy. Safely dispose of refuse you come across.

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.

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.

Remember that when you are out with your metal detector you are an ambassador for your hobby.

7. Conclusion

The policy will be reviewed every 3 years. The Clerk shall monitor changes in legislation and advise the council of any requirement for a consequential amendment to this policy.