Stoke Fleming Parish Council

Policy for Metal Detecting on Council Owned Land

1 Stoke Fleming Parish Council has from time-to-time requests to use a metal detector on Parish Council land. This policy is adopted to ensure the preservation of the Council's land and assets and the safety and amenity of its users, as well as found objects. It is effective from the date that it is adopted.

2. Request for permission

2.1 You must obtain permission before undertaking metal detecting activity on any land owned by Stoke Fleming Parish Council. This can be done by contacting the Clerk at clerk@stokefleming.org

2.2 Permission will only be granted to persons who hold public liability insurance up to a value of £10,000,000 for any one incident. This can be obtained through membership of the National Council for Metal Detecting at www.ncmd.co.uk

2.3 On application, you will receive a decision 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.

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

- Areas designated as sports pitches
- Play areas

without express permission of the Parish Council, for an express purpose, e.g. to find a lost item.

4.0 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.

5.0 General Information

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

5.1 Respect the Country Code - Do not leave gates open, and do not damage crops or frighten animals. Follow The National Council for Metal Detecting Code which may be updated from time to time.

5.2 When at 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 Help keep Britain tidy. Safely dispose of refuse you come across.

5.5 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 at appendix 6 of the Treasure Act 1996 code of Practice at www.finds.org. The Portable Antiquities Scheme is supported by the Council.

5.6 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.

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

April 2025

Approved by Council Parish Council Meeting 7th May 2025