



Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council

Metal Detecting Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. From time to time, Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council may receive requests for permission from individuals or organisations wishing to carry out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Council. This document sets out the policy of the Council regarding such requests and is effective from the date that it is adopted.
- 1.2. Local authorities have the power to ban metal detecting and other activities through the use of byelaws. In the absence of any such byelaws or other specific restrictions on metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Council, the use of metal detectors on such land is regulated by this Policy.

2. Policy

- 2.1. Metal detecting is unauthorised in all areas of land owned, leased or managed by the Council (including any land to which the public has a right of access) unless in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions:
- 2.2. All requests for metal detecting must be made in writing to the Parish Clerk detailing:
 - the scope and purpose of the proposed metal detecting activity;
 - the exact location of the proposed activity;
 - the date and duration of the activity;
 - a guarantee of full re-instatement to the satisfaction of the Parish Council of any area that has been subjected to any form of excavation by the activity, along with a guarantee to cover any expenses incurred by the Council if the re-instatement fails to meet the standards required
- 2.3. Metal detecting is normally not authorised in areas consisting of closely mown and carefully cultivated turf and flower beds; play areas; dedicated sports areas; sites of archaeological, botanical or scientific interest; allotments; or areas much used by blind or disabled persons; however the Finance and general Purposes Committee may authorise one-off permission in these areas in the following circumstances;
 - a) to allow individuals to search for a particular lost object, in which case absolutely no excavation will be allowed.
 - b) for particular archaeological or scientific purposes in relation to works being executed by the Council.

- 2.4. Any permissions granted will be in writing from the Parish Council:
- a) authorising the scope and purpose of the proposed metal detecting activity, the exact location of the proposed activity, the date and duration of the activity, and any other relevant restrictions, all of which may, at the discretion of the Parish Clerk, be a more restricted location/scope and/or time frame.
 - b) outlining what constitutes full re-instatement to the satisfaction of the Parish Council along with a reminder that costs will be charged if the re-instatement fails to meet the standards required.
- 2.5. Any individual carrying out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council shall hold a current National Council for Metal Detecting [NCMD] membership card showing details of their £10,000,000 Public Liability Insurance cover.
- 2.6. Any organisation carrying out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council shall hold Public Liability Insurance to the same level.
- 2.7. Any individual or organisation carrying out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council shall always observe and adhere to the Code of Conduct as set out by the NCMD which is a condition of membership and includes reference to the voluntary Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting.
- 2.8. Where organisations that have been granted permission to carry out metal detecting, the organisation will ensure that all members understand and abide by any terms of the permission granted.
- 2.9. All finds must be reported to Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council. If live ammunition or other hazardous objects are found, the person carrying out the metal detecting activity must mark the spot clearly and report the find to the Police and Parish Council immediately.
- 2.10. All treasure as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, together with any artefacts including, amongst others, metal objects (including coins, weapons and jewellery etc.) worked flints, pottery, building materials, slags and worked bone shall remain then property of the Parish Council. The rules and procedures as set out in the Treasure Act 1996 and any subsequent revisions or amendments which may come into force will need to be followed and complied with.
- 2.11. All Councillor's will be informed by the Parish Clerk of any permissions granted.

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