



Horley Town Council

Metal Detecting Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** All references to the 'Town Council' in this document will include land owned, leased or managed by Horley Town Council.
- 1.2** From time to time, the Town Council receives requests for permission from individuals or organisations wishing to carry out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Council.
- 1.3** This document sets out the policy of the Town Council regarding such requests and is effective from the date that it is adopted.
- 1.4** It supersedes any previous arrangements that may have existed, and any such arrangements made between the Town Council, its tenants and/or other persons or organisations will cease to have effect from the date of adoption of this policy.
- 1.5** 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 Town Council, the use of metal detectors on such land is regulated by this policy.

2. POLICY

- 2.1** In general, metal detecting is not permitted on any land owned, leased or managed by the Town Council, including any land to which the public has a right of access.
- 2.2** No metal detecting activity or digging shall be permitted in the Memorial Gardens at Horley Recreation Ground, at any time.
- 2.3** No metal detecting activity or digging shall be permitted on the marked football pitches at Court Lodge Fields, at any time.
- 2.4** No metal detecting activity or digging shall be permitted on the allotment sites at Church Road or Langshott, at any time.
- 2.5** No metal detecting activity or digging shall be permitted at playgrounds or play areas, owned, leased or managed by the Town Council, at any time.

- 2.6** Any individuals or organisations wishing to carry out such research will need to apply in writing to the Council for permission to use a metal detector as well as to undertake associated survey work on land owned, leased or managed by the Town Council. All requests must detail:
- 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 Town Council of any area that has been subjected to any form of excavation by the activity by an agreed date from the Town Council along with a guarantee to cover any expenses incurred by the Council if the re-instatement fails to meet the standards required.
- 2.7** Any individual or organisation carrying out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Town Council shall hold a current [National Council for Metal Detecting \(NCMD\) membership card](#) showing details of their **£10,000,000 Public Liability Insurance cover**.
- 2.8** Any individual or organisation carrying out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Town Council shall hold **Public Liability Insurance to the same level**.
- 2.9** Any individual or organisation carrying out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Town Council shall always observe and adhere to the [Code of Conduct as set out by the NCMD](#) (see appendix 1) which is a condition of membership and includes reference to the voluntary Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting.
- 2.10** Any individual or organisation carrying out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Town Council shall strictly observe and adhere to any guidelines or special conditions and area boundaries, which may be set out by the Town Council and/or its tenant(s) from time to time and to any terms and conditions with respect to metal detecting access specified in any agreements which may cover all or part of the said land.
- 2.11** Any individual or organisation carrying out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Town Council must record finds on the said land with third parties including:
- the [Portable Antiquities Scheme](#) (PAS)
 - [Historic Environment Records](#) (HER)
 - Any museum service only after gaining the appropriate permission of the Council to do so and then to an accuracy of dig locations that all parties are comfortable with.
- 2.12** All parties must abide by the terms and conditions of any Agri-environment schemes that specify mandatory reporting of all finds made on land covered by such agreements with the PAS.

- 2.13** 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 found on land owned, leased or managed by the Town Council shall remain the property of the Town Council or the Town Council's landlord (as appropriate).

The rules and procedures as set out in the Treasure Act 1996 will need to be followed and complied as set out in current legislation.

- 2.14** Without specific permission from the Town Council, no excavation shall take place which is deeper than 15cms.
- 2.15** Permission will only be given on the understanding that the primary aim of allowing surveying/detecting is the gathering of information on the archaeology of the land in question.
- 2.16** A suitable digging implement must be used 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.
- 2.17** Any finds such as live ammunition or lethal objects like unexploded bombs or mines must be immediately reported to Surrey Police and the Town Council with the area in question marked if safe to do so.

3 **CONTACT**

All enquiries and requests should be made to the Town Clerk in the first instance.

Email: town.clerk@horleytown.com

Telephone: 01293 784765

Postal Address: Horley Town Council Offices, 92 Albert Road, Horley RH6 7HZ.

Adopted by Full Council: 7 March 2023

Next Review date: 2028