



# **Metal Detecting and Accidental Finds Policy**

<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Metal Detecting and Accidental Finds Policy</b>
<b>Aim of Policy</b>	<b>This document outlines the Trust’s policy on metal-detecting on an NAT property, and what to do when an accidental or chance-find is made.</b>
<b>Related Organisational Aims &amp; Objectives</b>	
<b>Intended Audience</b>	<b>Council Members, Staff and Volunteers, Members of the Public</b>
<b>Approved By</b>	<b>NAT Council</b>
<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>08/02/2019 15/01/2019 11/01/2022 14/01/2024 22/01/2025</b>
<b>Review Cycle</b>	<b>3 years</b>
<b>Review Due Date</b>	<b>January 2028</b>
<b>Individual Responsible for Review</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Comments on Last Review</b>	

## **Metal Detecting and Accidental Finds Policy**

### **Introduction**

On occasion, visitors to Norfolk Archaeological Trust sites request information on metal-detecting, or objects that have come up to the surface through the activity of animals such as moles or rabbits. This document outlines the Trust's policy on metal-detecting on an NAT property, and what to do when an accidental or chance-find is made.

### **Metal-detecting**

All Norfolk Archaeological Trust's properties are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, as such they are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, and it is illegal to detect on them.

Detecting will only be permitted as part of a wider research project as agreed with the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, and for which the Trust, and/or appropriate partner organisation has gained Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic England. Detecting on an ad-hoc basis is not permitted and is against the law.

### **Chance finds (accidental finds)**

The Norfolk Archaeological Trust does not permit any excavation on its sites, unless it is part of a wider research project for which the Trust, and/or appropriate partner organisation has gained Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic England. As with metal-detecting, searching for and removing archaeological artefacts from a Scheduled Ancient Monument is illegal.

The Trust does recognise, however, that from time to time, artefacts of archaeological interest come to the surface through the action of animals.

Any artefact found by chance on a Norfolk Archaeological Trust site belongs to the landowner, usually the Trust, and should be reported to:

- the Norfolk Archaeological Trust ([info@norfarchtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@norfarchtrust.org.uk))
- the local Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Officer at Norfolk County Council (Finds Liaison Officer – Norfolk: Norfolk Historic Environment Service, Union House, Gressenhall, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4DR see <https://finds.org.uk/contacts> for up-to-date contact information)



Reporting an artefact to the local Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Officer ensures that it is entered onto the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. This is a county wide record holding detailed information on the history and archaeology of the county. This resource supports the conservation of the historic environment in Norfolk.

Where possible, finders should make a note of the location on site where the object was found. If it is possible to make a note of the location with a grid-reference, that is preferable, but a description of where it was found in relation to a visible reference is helpful.

All archaeological objects should be forwarded to the Trust.

Updated: 04/01/25