

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Policy on Metal Detecting on Council Land

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the Council's position on metal detecting on land owned, managed, or controlled by Telscombe Town Council. It aims to protect public assets, heritage, environmental values, and ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Council-owned and managed land, including but not limited to:

- Chatsworth Park
- Telscombe Tye
- The Copse

3. Policy Statement

Metal detecting, including the use of any electronic or mechanical equipment to locate metallic objects beneath the surface of the ground, is **not permitted** on Council land unless explicitly authorised in writing by the Council. However, this Council will not generally grant permission.

4. Rationale

The prohibition on metal detecting is in place to:

- Protect Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage sites
- Prevent environmental degradation and disturbance to flora and fauna
- Avoid damage to public infrastructure and underground services
- Reduce the risk of injury to the public and individuals engaging in metal detecting
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and heritage protection laws

5. Exceptions

Requests for permission may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Any request for exemption must be submitted in writing to Telscombe Town Council and be assessed by the Policy & Resources Committee or Full Council on a case-by-case basis.

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6. Enforcement

Unauthorised metal detecting may result in:

- Issuance of warnings or infringement notices
- Referral to relevant enforcement authorities
- Potential prosecution under applicable legislation

7. Related Legislation and Policies

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are protected and an area of clifftop, being part of Telcombe Tye, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI name - Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs).
- It is illegal to use a metal detector on a Scheduled Monument without permission from Historic England (or equivalent body).
- Under UK law there is no such thing as 'finders-keepers'. You always need the landowner's permission to detect on an area of land and to keep anything you find on their land.
- Theft – this is a criminal offence by virtue of the Theft Act 1968 – removing objects from land without the land owner/occupier's permission.

All information relating to metal detecting legally is contained on the National Council for Metal Detecting website.

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if required due to changes in legislation or Council priorities.

Policy	Policy on Metal Detecting on Council Land
Review Cycle	Every 3 years, or earlier in the event of legislative changes
Date Last Adopted	tba
Previous Adoption Dates	n/a
Responsibility	Policy & Resources Committee and then adoption by Full Council