WHITEHILL
TOWN COUNCIL
Serving Whitehill & Bordon

METAL DETECTING POLICY

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Whitehill Town Council has produced this guidance for individuals regarding the permitted use of metal detectors on Council-owned land, and to offer best practice advice for use of metal detectors on privately owned land.

1. METAL DETECTING ON COUNCIL-OWNED LAND

Metal detecting is not allowed on any Whitehill Town Council land.

All applications will be refused.

2. PROTECTED OR SENSITIVE SIGHTS

It is illegal to use a metal detector on protected areas—such as Scheduled Monuments, SSSIs, or Ministry of Defence land—without permission from the relevant authority.

The council also has other locally sensitive sites where metal detecting is not permitted. These areas may change over time, and applications will be refused.

3. METAL DETECTING ON PRIVATE LAND

- Do not trespass: you could face prosecution.
- The council cannot give permission for privately owned land.
- Permission must come directly from the landowner.
- You can check land ownership at www.landregistrtyservices.com

4. GOOD PRACTICE WHEN DETECTING (WITH PERMISSION)

If you have permission to detect on non-council land, please follow these guidelines:

- Respect the Countryside Code – close gates, avoid damaging crops and do not disturb animals.
- Leave no trace – cut neat plugs, remove finds carefully and replace soil or turf properly.
- Stay safe – if you find live ammunition or anything dangerous, do not touch it. Mark the spot and inform the police and landowner.
- Keep the area tidy – take any litter you have or find with you.
- Report significant finds – tell the landowner and follow the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) Code of Conduct.
- NCMD: https://www.ncmd.co.uk
- Treasure guidance: https://www.gov.uk/treasure
- Know the law – understand what counts as “Treasure” under the Treasure Act 1996, and your responsibilities.
- Be a good ambassador – your behaviour reflects on the whole metal-detecting community.